



# THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF CITU

## ALL UNIONS OPPOSE "REFORM PACKAGE" FOR BANKING INDUSTRY

□ M K Pandhe

Not a single trade union in the banking industry or central trade union organisation supported any of the proposals suggested by the Ministry of Finance in the name of restructuring of the banking industry in India in a specially convened meeting on 29th January 1994. Dr Manmohan Singh Union Finance Minister presided over the meeting which was attended by Finance Secretary, Governor Reserve Bank of India and Chairman Indian Bankers' Association. All the major unions in the banking industry as well as the Central trade unions were invited to the meeting.

Though the Ministry of Finance circulated "Discussion Paper" for the meeting it was a paper conveying information about the steps already taken by the Govt of India following Narsimhan Committee Report and proposed further measures to restructure the banking industry in India.

The thrust of the package proposed by the Ministry of Finance was on the following lines.

1. Green Signal to the entry of private sector banks in India.

2. Unrestricted entry to several foreign banks with unlimited freedom to open new branches and expansion of business operation,

3) Large scale disinvestment in public sector banks with the ultimate objective of liquidating them.

4. Withdrawal of all social objective of banking industry in the name of commercial considerations, and

5. Closure of large number of bank branches on the plea of their unviability resulting in throwing out on street lakhs of bank employees.

All these proposals exactly fit in the conditionalities imposed by the World Bank and the IMF for the Financial sector.

"The discussion paper" begins with appreciating the role played by the public sector banks in the national economy with substantial branch expansion

and mopping up of large financial resources, it criticized the operational inefficiency which crept into the banking industry. The paper however does not explain what role Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank played in improving the efficiency of the banking sector. These two agencies have been monitoring periodically the working of the banking industry. The representatives of trade unions therefore pointed out how the bureaucracy which was solely responsible for the frittering away of bank finances for political ends, is now trying to shift the whole blame on the banks for the bad performance. They pointed out how loan melas funneled huge funds to the supporters of political parties. The periodic waiver of bank loans was utilized by the rural rich to corner huge bank resources.

One of the reasons noted in the discussion paper was the size of "bad and doubtful debts" of the banking industry running into Rs.37,000 crores. Using the world bank terminology for these debts as "non-performing assets" the discussion paper criticised the banks for not providing sufficient resources for them. The govt wanted to appoint recovery tribunal to realise the money. The representatives of the trade unions pointed out that more than Rs.28,000 crores were the debts of the corporate sector. The TUs asked the Govt of India to publish the names of those industrialists who have defrauded the banks and treat it as a criminal offence so that all the money could be recovered by the banks. The Finance Ministry merely agreed to consider the matter without giving any assurance that such names who defaulted more than Rs.10 lakhs of bank funds. The secrecy kept by the Govt of India on these names is only helps the business houses to continue their fraudulent practices.

The representatives of the TUs drew the attention of the Finance Minister that the defaulter of bank loans are all richer persons and there should be no difficulty to realise the amount from other assets of t

these defaulters. If this task is done in right earnest the performance of banking industry would give a different picture and there would be no need to talk of a policy of disinvestment. Ironically, by announcing a policy of disinvestment the Govt propose to hand over the fate of the banking into the hands of those swindlers of bank loans.

The Discussion paper mentioned about the "influential borrowers" who could stop the recovery of the bank loans through interference from higher level. The TU representatives demanded that names of such influential borrowers and the persons who obstructed recovery proceedings should be made public.

The trade unions while opposing privatisation of the banking industry pointed out that 15 private banks have failed during the last 7-8 years but the discussion paper was silent on it. They sharply criticised the argument of the Ministry of Finance that privatisation of banks would lead to more efficiency.

The discussion paper was covering up the role of banking industry in the recent "share scam". The paper called it mere irregularities and merely talked about some changes in procedures and regulations. The paper completely ignored the JPC Report which criticised the RBI and Ministry of Finance for their role in the share scam. It does not even mention the scandalous goings on in Bank of Karad which defrauded thousands of crores of rupees of bank funds. The trade unions demanded that these aspects should be gone into in detail by an impartial agency so that the things are checked in time.

Though the discussion paper mentioned about disinvestment of 49% of the shares of the public sector banks the TU representatives pointed out that it was a prelude to cent per cent privatisation of the banking industry.

A joint note submitted to the Minister of Finance in the meeting by CITU, INTUC, AITUC, UTUC, TUCC, IBEA, BEFI and AIBOA categorically asserted,

"We are therefore, constrained to record our firm opposition to any private banks being set up in the country. Foreign banks whose rapacious role has been exposed in bold relief by JPC are being granted liberal entry and virtually unquestioned branch expansion, there is no justification for this velvet handed treatment. Rather there is a strong case for taking stringent penal measures against some of them as they are guilty of willful violation of regulatory rules and laws of the country".

All the TU representatives noted that profitability cannot be the sole criterion for judging the performance of the banking industry. Social

objectives should not be ignored in the name of profitability. The so called basic norms worked out for the swiss banks in the private sector cannot be the guideline for the public sector banking industry in India.

The TUs debunked the Finance Ministers argument that foreign banks were running more efficiently. They gave the example of BCCI whose scandalous performance was well known all over the world. They told the Finance Minister that foreign banks have been indulging in illegal transactions in foreign exchange resulting in loss of several thousand crores of foreign exchange to India. They observed the regular practice of foreign banks giving lucrative jobs to the relatives of senior officials and ministers to get protection in return for their malpractices. Trade unions, therefore, demanded stringent action against all these activities of the foreign banks in India.

The discussion paper further assured foreign and Indian private sector that there would be no nationalization of banking industry in future. It virtually amounted to giving them blanket permission to carry forward their black deeds to the detriment of Indian economy.

The differential rate of interest for the small sector is practically done away with. The rate of interest would be 12% up to Rs.25,000 credit but 15% if the loan is beyond Rs.2 lakhs. It means except for extremely small borrowers there would be concessional finance for the small scale sector. In the name of operational efficiency banks would be asked to deal with bigger transactions since smaller transactions give lesser income and higher service charges. The criterion of profitability means lesser emphasis on rural banking since real profits come from the loans given to the corporate sector. All the trade unions therefore demanded basic change in the policy of the govt of India towards the banking industry.

### **CLOSURE OF BANK BRANCHES**

To meet the conditionalities of the World Bank the Discussion Paper developed a new concept of "economically viable" branches of banks. A bank branch which mobilizes deposits is not viable if its loan giving operation are less. If the banks mobilises less deposits but lends more money the bank would be treated as "economically viable". The trade unions therefore opposed this concept evolved by the Ministry of Finance and opposed the closure of bank branches on the plea that they are not viable.

As per govt of India's statement in Parliament

9336 branches of public sector banks were unprofitable and earmarked for closure. The figure was likely to go to 15000 by the end of the current financial year.

If the number of employees working in these so called unviable branches are concerned it would be of the order of nearly one and a half lakhs. Though the govt of India talks of their redeployment it talks of surplus manpower in the "economically viable" branches. It is therefore clear that the talk of redeployment is meaningless and the Finance Ministry is trying to retrench large number of bank employees in the name of making banks more efficient. All the trade unions therefore resolutely opposed the measures and they warned the Finance Minister against any talk of throwing out bank employees on streets.

The discussion paper loudly mentions about the "Customer services" but in practice it is reducing the same services to those regions where the bank branches are operating.

The RBI Governor in the meeting stated that immediately 600 branches are earmarked for closure. This also TUs opposed and stated that this entire question should be discussed in the joint meeting

with the TUS so that efforts can be made to make the so called uneconomic branches viable.

The TUs agreed to give full co-operation to improve the banking services provided genuine workers participation in management is introduced in the banking industry. They pointed out that the role of bureaucracy in the banking industry is the real cause of shortcomings in the operation of our banks.

The Finance Minister merely agreed to consider the views expressed by the trade unions. He however is going ahead with his plans due to acceptance of conditionalities of the IMF.

The TUs in the banking industry along with their brothers in insurance industry are going on one day all India strike on 17th February. If the Govt of India decides to continue its policy which goes against the national interest a bigger confrontation in the financial sector is in the offing on a nationwide scale. The central TUs have already announced their full support to the struggle of the employees in the financial sector.

On behalf of CITU, the meeting was attended by M K Pandhe and Jibon Roy. The BEFI was represented by Asis Sen and Naresh Paul.

## ILO Session of Joint Committee on the Public Sector

### □ Sukomal Sen

The Fifth Session of the ILO Joint Committee on the Public Service was held at ILO Headquarters at Geneva from 26 January, 1994 to 3 February 1994. Com. Sukomal Sen, General Secretary of the AISGEF was nominated by the Governing Body of the ILO to participate in the session as a worker delegate. The Government of India also sent one Joint Secretary of the Department of Personnel as Government delegate. The main subject of the session was part time workers in the public sector.

Altogether 24 worker delegates from 24 countries and equal number of government delegates were invited to participate. In this connection, it may be recalled that in the Fourth Session of the Committee also held in 1988, All India State Govt Employees Federation General Secretary was nominated by ILO as a worker delegate.

#### Constitution of the Joint Committee:

The Director of the Sectoral Activities Department of ILO along with other ILO officials conducted the proceedings of the Session. The worker delegates formed the workers Group and the Government delegate formed the Government Group. The ILO nominated the chairman of the Joint session from its officials. The workers group elected its own

chairperson and vice chairperson. Similar was the case in the govt group. Each group discussed the issues separately and formed their own say on the subject. A joint steering committee was set up with 2 titular members and 2 deputy-members from each side with a total of eight members. Com. Sukomal Sen was elected as Deputy member of the Steering Committee from workers side. The Steering Committee was entrusted with the task of setting the agenda of the session and also to prepare draft resolutions and reports etc.

It was a 10-day intensive session beginning every day at 9.00 a.m and closing at 06.30 p.m with one and half hours' lunch break. The session was divided into Plenary Session and Group session of the workers' group and the government group separately.

#### Discussion on Action taken report of 4th Session:

The session discussed the action taken report on the recommendation of the 4th session of 1988 which discussed mainly the issues of trade union rights and other issues in public service. It was noted that many govts did not take any action on those recommendations - Government of India being one

of them.

While commenting on the action taken report on the last sessions recommendation, Com.Sukomal Sen commented in the Plenary session with regret that after the 4th session of Joint Committee meeting of Public Services many governments have not responded to the ILO recommendations.

He noted that in many developing countries the Public Service workers do not formally enjoy trade union rights. Neither the governments have established any joint machinery for negotiation for determining pay and other conditions of service.

He cited some examples of the developing countries like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, etc. where governments have not granted any formal trade unions rights to the public employees, yet under compelling circumstances the employees do go for strike or other action at the risk of massive victimisation.

He noted with regret that had there any effective machinery for collective bargaining been established, the necessity of such actions might have been minimised. But that is not to be.

He pointed out that in India for example, some sort of Joint Consultative Machinery exist at the Central Government level, but at the provincial, and local government organisations levels there is hardly any Joint Consultative machinery. This is making the situation very difficult for the employees.

Moreover, structural adjustment is being speeded up, increasing the cut back mostly in education and health care sector and privatisation of the public service is being resorted to in different spheres. As a result more and more employees are getting redundant and job security endangered. This situation requires effective negotiations between the govt and the employees for protection of the workers' service condition. Now govt is taking simply one sided action against the public service workers. It may be mentioned in this connection that ILO governing body has decided to convene another Joint Meeting of the Public Services to discuss the effect of structural adjustment on Public Service.

Moreover, in India the Government is trying to freeze wage and allowances of the public service employees as a measure of austerity. While employees protest against it and they are victimised.

He also pointed out how in flagrant violation of the recommendations of the last session on the Trade Union rights, the governments in India was resorting to massive victimisation of the employees during their agitations and strike actions. He particularly cited the latest example of the strike of the employees of Haryana and the consequent victimisation.

Question of Part-time worker:

Thereafter, discussion of Part-time workers was taken up. The question was defining what part-time work was and how to improve their service conditions. Since the subject of part-time work is on

the agenda of the 81st Session(1994) of the International Labour Conference, the Committee referred to the provisional definition included in Report IV(I) prepared by the Office after the first reading, during the 80th Session of the International Labour Conference in 1993, of the proposed new instruments on part-time work. According to this definition, a part-time worker is an employed person whose normal hours of work are less than normal hours of work of comparable full time workers; meaning by comparable full time workers those with the same type of employment relation, employed in the same establishment or branch of activity and having the same or a similar type of work or occupation as the part-time workers concerned.

In that discussion also Com.Sukomal Sen took part and the synopsis of his contribution was noted in the Report on the Terms and Conditions of Employees of Part-time and Temporary Workers in the Public Service. Following is the synopsis of Com.Sen's statement as made by ILO in their Report:

### **Vital Services in India run by Part-time Workers**

"A worker member pointed out, on behalf of his group, that there was a gap between part-time work in industrialised countries and in Third World countries. In the former it was an option, particularly for women workers who wanted to look after their families and supplement the family income. But in developing countries, such as India, people were forced to undertake part-time work because of large scale unemployment and little scope existed for moving part-time workers to full-time work. Consequently, the vital services in central government depended heavily on part-time workers. For example, over one third of Indian postal employees were part-time workers, known extra departmental workers. Postal workers had recently gone on a prolonged strike to demand that extra-departmental or part-time workers should be regularised as full time workers, but the government had not given in. Again, because of structural adjustment measures, many employees in the regular service were being reduced either to temporary status or to part-time employment. At the provincial and local government levels conditions were even worse, where many part-time workers did full-time work but were paid as part-time workers. Large number of workers engaged as home guards or village guards or women workers engaged in mother-care and child-care services sometimes did full-time work but received only part-time benefits or worse. Casualisation of the regular service was taking place at great speed, particularly as a result of the economic reform which was seriously affecting the public service and was being applied at the workers' expense."

As regards the terms and conditions of employment of part-time worker, the meeting came

to the following conclusions:

Terms and conditions of employment

Basic rights, notably freedom of association and the right to organise and to bargain collectively, equal opportunity in employment and occupational safety and health should be the same for part time and temporary workers and comparable full-time workers in the public service. Special attention should be paid so that these forms of work do not result in gender discrimination.

Condition of employment and work of part-time and temporary workers in the public service should be improved and monitored so that these workers receive the conditions and benefits accorded to comparable full-time workers, adjusted for non-permanent workers recognising their temporary status. Provisions for part-time workers are set out in the section on remuneration and other benefits.

Part-time and temporary workers in the public service should have the same rights as full-time workers to participate effectively through collective bargaining or other means jointly agreed upon, in the determination of their working conditions.

Part-time and temporary workers in the public service should have the right to establish and join organisations of their own choosing in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention 1948, (No.87), and have effective protection against acts of anti-union discrimination in respect of their

employment.

The planning and implementation of part-time and temporary work should be subject to collective bargaining or other procedures jointly agreed upon between public employers and the representatives of the workers concerned, in ways appropriate to national circumstances.

In addition to this report, three resolutions were prepared one on Trade Union right, the second of the condition of the women worker and the third on the ILO action in this regard. Com. Sen took active part in formulating these resolutions incorporating the experiences in India in this regard. In the resolution on Trade Union rights, the meeting expressed grave concern at the violation of ILO conventions and recommendations by various member states and continued victimisation of public service workers in many countries. On Women workers' questions also the meeting regretted the indifferent attitude of many member-states in adopting the ILO conventions and recommendations.

The Session was effective and lively and fruitful discussion took place. But it was noticed that the Government of India and many other government particularly of the third world countries tries little cared for the ILO recommendations. This is the pitiest part of the situation.

## STEEL WORKERS PREPARE FOR RESISTANCE TO IISCO PRIVATISATION

□ TAPAN SEN

The 4th Conference of Steel Workers Federation of India held on 23-25th January '94 at Bokaro Steel city reiterates its resolve to resist the sinister move of Govt of India to privatise the public sector steel plant IISCO. The conference concludes "To save IISCO means to save Steel Industry. What happens to IISCO today will happen to other Steel Plants tomorrow.....we must resort to more direct action by the steel workers all over the country to force the Govt of India to change its policies."

The Conference of the Steel Workers gave a call to the steel workers irrespective of affiliations to get united and create such condition in the unit level so that the unity already achieved in the steel workers' struggle against IISCO privatisation gets further cemented to prepare for firm and sustained resistance struggle against the sinister move.

The three day long conference of Steel Workers Federation of India was attended by 291 delegates

from all the steel plants all over the country.

The conference was hosted by a reception committee consisting of host of trade unions and other mass organisations of Bokaro Steel City under the chairmanship of comrade A.K. Roy.

A six members presidium headed by Com. M K Pandhe, President SWFI and consisting of Com. Jibon Roy, A Dakshi, TN Singh, P.K. Mukherjee and C H Narasingh Rao presided over the conference.

In his welcome address, Com. A.K. Roy, Chairman of reception committee expressed hope that the steel workers conference being held at such crucial point of time must deliberate on the severe fall out of the new economic policies of the Govt of India on the steel industry and the country as whole and the ways and means to resist those policies designed by the unpenalist forces through World Bank and IMF.

Com. MK Pandhe, in his Presidential Address

explained the international and National developments in both economic and political aspects and stressed the need to create greater awareness among the steel workers, so that the imperialist conspiracy to subjugate the country and the working class is understood by the movement in their proper perspective, and the whole movement gets the right direction. It was the serious deviation in pursuance of the socialist principles that led to set back of socialist systems in many of the erstwhile socialist countries and such collapse does in no way establish defeat of socialism and superiority of capitalism, Com. Pandhe explained. He further noted that the inefficiency of the capitalist system got nakedly manifested in the all out crisis and recession in the advanced capitalist countries even after the collapse of erstwhile soviet union and East Europe and their frantic bid to transfer said crisis on the third world economies including India through their agencies like World Bank, IMF and others. The present economic and industrial policies of Govt of India and their abject surrender to pressure of World Bank and IMF have to be understood in this perspective, he reiterated. The object of the new policies is to crush the industrial base of the country and convert the country into a free marketing ground for the products of the multinational and foreign capital. The Indian Steel industry, particularly those in public sector have been targeted to be placed in the list of casualties.

Com. Mrinal Banerjee, General Secretary while placing the General Secretary's report also dealt at length on the developments in the International and National scenes since last conference of SWFI held in 1988. He also dealt at length the fast deterioration of the national economy in all fronts particularly since the adoption of new economic policy by Govt of India and its severe impact on the economy of the steel industry and its workers.

The General Secretary's report while pointing out how the indigenous steel produce is being discriminated against the imported steel by none but this country's govt only by way of drastic reduction in customs duty on imported steel and increasing excise duty on domestic produce, commented that the Govt of India has been acting as an accomplice to the conspiracy of the foreign capital to capture Indian market by ruining the domestic steel producers. The report noted "For Indian steel companies, this has become a desperate struggle for survival, credit and rebate sales are replacing cash sales. Even then SAIL stockyards are presently carrying a huge unsold stockpile touching almost a million tonne. The position of TISCO, RINL and mini

steel plants are no exception to such situation."

The secretary's report also made reference of rampant corruption in the steel industry draining out hundreds of crores of rupees from the industry, in which none but one former chairman of SAIL was involved. Corrupt practices got much chronic as to make the cost of much needed modernisation projects abnormally high and its implementation thoroughly defective much to the detriment of the interest of the industry. The trade unions of steel industry must take up the issue of corruption as an important agenda of movement, the report reiterated.

The struggle of steel workers therefore has to be the inseparable part of the general struggle against new economic policies, the report stressed.

With this approach in view the report reviewed the activities of Steel Workers Federation of India during the last five years both in terms of the participation of steel workers in the countrywide movement of the working class against new economic policies and in terms of developing industry-based agitations on various issues relating to industry and workers. While the report reckoned the remarkable initiative taken by SWFI in building up total unity of steel workers movement against privatisation of IISCO, bringing INTUC and BMS in the fold of the anti-privatisation struggle leading to first united strike in public sector steel industry on 7th September 1993, it did not lose sight of its organisational weaknesses as well in effectively carrying on the message of unity and action at the grass root level with required thoroughness.

The report also ruthlessly scanned its organisational positions throughout the steel industry in terms of its membership, participation in different programmes of agitation, response to the calls for strike at the call of Sponsoring Committee, fund collection etc and stressed the need for all out initiative to overcome the shortcomings so that SWFI can play its destined role to unite the steel workers movement in defence of the interest of the country, the industry and the working class. The discussion on the report was held in two sessions. The first session deliberated on general issues in the report and the other session deliberated only on organisation and the task before us.

Total 52 delegates took part in deliberation both on general report and on organisation from different steel plants and units out of which six speakers were from women delegates. Number of delegates from the contract workers and from iron ore mines had taken active part in deliberation on the report and organisation.

While the discussion on report developed further the formulation on general situation, position of the industry and task before the steel workers, on question of united struggle, campaign against corruption etc made in secretary's report and presidential address, a living discussion on organisation of the steel workers thoroughly scanned the organisational position of different units of SWFI and also the activities of SWFI centre in monitoring the functioning of the units leading the whole movement. Many shortcomings have been brought to light and loopholes identified, which are required to be effectively overcome if, SWFI and its units are to function meaningfully to face the challenges of the situation and fulfill the task before it.

The deliberation on organisation has also brought to light the problems of unity at the grass root level making special mention of several disuniting factor like caste, religions etc playing undercurrent among the mass of workers particularly in the vast Hindi-speaking area. It has been pointed out that

SWFI units have to make conscious effort in drawing the most backward section of the workers and also those belonging to minority in the movement and take up the issues concerning them both inside and outside the workplace to block the possibility of a part of these downtrodden section of workers getting dechannelised from the mainstream of the working class movement.

The Conference, besides adopting the general secretary's report, adopted a number of resolutions of which notables are 1) Against IISCO privatisation; 2) Against Price rise, 3) Against unemployment; 4) Demanding fruitful wage negotiation; 5) Against infiltration of foreign capital and multinationals in steel industry 6) representation of RINL and CMO in NJCS,etc

From the conference, a 81 member Working Committee was elected with a team of 22 office bearers with Com.M K Pandhe as president and Com.Mrinal Banerjee as general secretary.

## JOINT RALLY BY TEXTILE WORKERS BEFORE PARLIAMENT

□ P K Ganguly

The INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS and NLO jointly organised an all India convention of textile mill workers at Indore on Feb 7 and 8. The convention was attended by 410 delegates from the National Textile Corporation (NTC), other public sector mills and the private mills from all parts of the country, representing the 6 trade unions. The convention was conducted by a presidium consisting of Haribhau Naik (INTUC), P K Ganguly (CITU), V Chitnis (AITUC), Vireshwar Tiagi (HMS) and Viswanath Satam (BMS).

The convention expressed serious concern over the growing crisis plaguing the organised mills sector in the textile industry. In the private sector about 135 mills are closed rendering over 2 lakh workers jobless. In addition to this many mills are suffering from growing sickness and are on the verge of closure. The weaving section is virtually liquidated and the mill owners under direct support from the govt are switching over to power looms for earning high profits with minimum working capital and by fleecing the workers.

So far as the NTC mills are concerned the govt had by passed the trade unions and the Tripartite Industrial Committee in Textile and formulated a Turn Around Strategy scheme for the NTC mills. In this scheme which was approved by the Cabinet, the govt

had proposed to close down 42 mills and throw out jobless 80,000 workers, officers, technicians and other employees. After a strong protest by the trade unions, the Govt made a Special Committee on NTC matters and then constituted a subcommittee of this special committee. The Govt also asked the Textile Research Institutions in the country, viz BTRA, NITRA, SITRA AND ATIRA to submit modernization schemes for the NTC mills. After full discussions, 6 trade unions in the Sub-Committee unanimously recommended a 5 point formula for the revival of the NTC mills based on the reports of the textile research institutions. The 5 point formula was as follows:-

1. The reports given by the research associations show that the NTC mills as well as taken over mills can be made viable by modernization.

2. The sub-committee, therefore, accepts the proposal of modernization of the mills. But the restructuring with modernization has to be done at each unit level.

3. If the composite character of certain mills is not possible, then they should be made viable by running spinning units. Surplus land may be disposed of to utilize the interest-free fund for modernization, working capital, etc and to make them viable.

4. Modernization/rationalisation without tears

therefore, should be carried out in consultation with the unions.

5. Professional management should be introduced both in the holding company and at the subsidiary levels and representation of trade unions should be ensured upto Board level for effective participation of workers in management at all levels from unit to holding company level.

#### **VOLTE-FACE BY THE GOVERNMENT**

The above 5 point recommendations were ultimately accepted by the sub-committee and adopted by the sub-committee as a resolution. This 5 point unanimous resolution was circulated to all members of the Special Committee, the meeting of which was convened on February 2 for a formal approval of the Special Committee. But strangely the govt went back on this unanimous resolution and wanted to make amendments. Instead of modernization at unit level after considering the conditions of each mill they wanted the modernization to be done at subsidiary level, which was meaningless. It was clear that the govt did not want modernization at all or implement the recommendations of the textile research institutions.

#### **GOVERNMENT DELIBERATELY CAUSING SICKNESS**

In this background the 6 trade unions formulated the Joint Action Committee organised the above all India convention at Indore on February 7 and 8. About 50 delegates from all states and all trade unions participated in the discussion. They narrated their experience as to how they were forced by the managements in the NTC mills to accept VRS and go. They also narrated the experience regarding corrupt practices by the top management in the NTC which were one of the major causes for sickness. There was a common complaint that the govt deliberately stopped supply of cotton and other raw materials and withdrew all financial support. Delegates were of the opinion that provided necessary funds and raw materials were provided, all the mills could be run. The technicians had also submitted revival schemes of several mills in all the subsidiaries which the govt did not accept. There was a common opinion that the NTC was in crisis and on the verge of being wound up because of the new economic and industrial policy of the govt to dismantle the public sector, being pursued under IMF pressure. The unions expressed the determination to fight the onslaught unitedly irrespective of any affiliations.

#### **DEMANDS**

The convention adopted resolutions with the following demands:-

1. Implementation of the Sub-Committee resolution on revival of the INTC mills by the govt without any amendment.

2. All the closed mills, both in the private and public sector should be reopened and made viable by providing necessary funds and raw materials. Till the units are started, the workers should be paid adequate unemployment allowance.

3. Legal dues of all employees should be paid immediately.

4. An integrated textile policy should be formulated whereby all the 3 sectors viz organised mill sector, powerloom sector and the handloom sector should be developed equally and made complimentary and supportive to each other. All the Central trade unions should be involved in formulating this policy.

#### **JOINT ACTION PROGRAMME**

The convention adopted the following countrywide joint action programme in pursuance of the above demands to resist unitedly the closure of any mill and retrenchment of workers.

1. A fortnight long joint programme of dharnas and demonstrations before the textile mills beginning from March 4, 1994.

2. A month long intensive campaign of joint rallies, marches, regional and state level conventions and submission of memorandum to the respective state govts in April 1994.

3. Massive march to Parliament on May 5, 1994.

4. Preparation and campaign for a countrywide one day strike in the entire mill sector, the date of which will be announced by the joint action committee later on.

The convention called upon all the textile mill workers both in the private sector, and NTC mills to undertake immediate steps to implement the above programme jointly. It appealed to all other trade unions to actively support the movement to save the textile industry from the ruinous policy of the Central Govt.

### **Editorial Board**

*M.K. Pandhe (Chairman)*

*P.K. Ganguly (Working Editor)*

*Niren Ghosh, M.M. Lawrence,*

## 8TH DELHI CITU STATE CONFERENCE HELD AT GHAZIABAD ON 28TH TO 30TH JANUARY, 1994.

The 8th Conference of CITU State Committee was held at Ghaziabad on 28th to 30th January, 1994. The Reception Committee consisted of 21 members was formed which was headed by Com. S.R. Bhatti. There was great enthusiasm among the workers of Ghaziabad. They collected the requisite funds for the purpose. Industrial workers colonies and various areas of the city were decorated with red flags, banner and posters.

The Conference was held at Mohammed Ismail Nagar, Aggarsen Bhavan on 28th to 30th January, 1994. The Red Flag was hoisted by Com. Bhagwan Prasad at 9 A.M. on 29th January, 1994. The presidential Committee comprised of 3 members was elected to conduct the proceedings of the Conference. 215 Delegates from Delhgi and Ghaziabad attended the Conference. The inauguration of the Conference was done by The All India General Secretary of the CITU Com. M.K. Pandhe. And the inaugural address was delivered by him. Condolence resolution was moved by the Presidium. The Steering Committee and Credential Committee were also formed.

The General Secretary of the CITU State Committee Com. S.B. Bhardwaj placed the report before the Delegates. 38 delegates participated in the deliberations of the Conference. The delegates while taking part in the deliberations put their emphasis to augment the movement of the workers and strengthen the CITU area committees and also emphasised to build the struggle based Organisation in the areas. They also made the point that concerted efforts should be made to conduct the struggle vigorously against the infirmities and irregularities taking place in the spheres of ESI, Provident Fund and political education of the workers. They raised the demand that a comprehensive planning should be evolved to ease the crisis engulfing the Textile Industry. Demand to organise the Working Women on a large scale was also raised. It was also emphasised that Unions should be formed in the big industries and Establishments. Membership of the CITU should be increased together with the capacity of mobilisation the workers. Solidarity actions in support of the struggle must be made.

Five Resolutions against the New Economic and Industrial policies of the Govt., Dunkel Draft, Communalism, to safeguard the rights of the trade Union, on the dmenads of the unorganised workers

and to raise funds from each member equivalent to his one day salary to construct a Memorial Building in the name of Com. B.T.R. were moved. All the above Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Over 8 thousands workers who came with the Red Flags and Banners from various Industrial Areas of Ghaziabad assembled at the Old Bus Stand Grounds where where an impressive Rally was held on 28th January, 1993. There were hundreds of Lady Workers among them who took part in the Rally.

Ghaziabad District General Secretary Com. K.M. Tiwari, Delhi State General Secretary, Com. Suraj Bhan Bharadwaj and C.P.I. (M) State Secretary Com. Jogender Sharma addressed the audience.

CITU All India General Secretary Com. M.K. Pandhe was the main Speaker who explained elaborately how the new economic and industrial policies of the Govt. were adversely affecting the day-to-day lives of the masses especially the working people. We exhorted the workers to fight unitedly and militantly against the Govt.'s anti working class and anti people polices. He also emphasises to fight for the rights of the working class which are under attack by the Government. He also called upon the workers to campaign effectively for the unity of the working class in all the industrial areas of Delhi and Ghaziabad including their places of abode. It should be explained to the workers thoroughly that it is high time to unite and fight for our rights pertaining to the trade union which are got to be snatched from them under the terms and conditions of the loans taken by our govt from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. He also told the workers that the working class belonging to all walks of life throughout the country would organise militant protests and court arrests against the new economic and industrial policies of the govt on 5th April 1994. Com.M K Pandhe on behalf of the CITU centre congratulated the workers of Ghaziabad for having assembled in large number enabling the said meeting a success.

A 29 members state committee of delhi was elected unanimously by the delegates. Com.Mohan Lal was elected as president. Com.Brahkjit and G K Bharadwaj were elected as vice presidents. Com.Suraj-Bhan Bharadwaj was elected as general secretary. Com.K M Tiwari, Com Pushpinder Grewal as secretaries and Com.Jagdish Manocha was elected as a treasurer.

# SEVENTH MAHARASHTRA STATE CONFERENCE OF CITU

□ ASHOK DHAWALE

The Seventh Maharashtra State conference of the CITU was successfully held at the Prabhakar Mankar Nagar at Pune from January 29-31, 1994, the venue being named after veteran trade union leader of Pune and CITU state vice President Prabhakar Mankar who passed away in May 1992. This state conference was being held exactly three years after the last one at Aurangabad in January 1991.

## INAUGURAL SESSION AND RALLY

January 29, the first day of the conference, witnessed the inaugural session and the rally as well as public meeting at the historical Shanwar Wada grounds in Pune. The CITU flag was hoisted by all-India CITY President E. Balanandan, and this was followed by floral tributes to martyrs. After the welcome address by chairman of the reception committee Prakash Patki, Balanandan released the attractive and informative conference souvenir that had been painstakingly prepared by the reception committee.

In an elaborate inaugural address which dealt with the whole range of political and economic challenges facing the working class and the country as a whole, Balanandan said, "To tide over the wave of economic depression that is plaguing the advanced capitalist world, imperialist countries and their financial agencies are making desperate attempts to capture the markets of the developing countries. The recent GATT agreement is nothing but a move to force an open global market in the interests of imperialism and its multinational corporations. The spineless acceptance of the Dunkel proposals at the GATT meet by the government of India poses a grave threat to the country's agriculture, industry, pharmaceuticals and to its very sovereignty itself." Speaking on the disastrous effects of the IMF-WB dictated new economic and industrial policies of the Narasimha Rao government, he gave a detailed account of the rising foreign debt, tremendous rise in closures, lock-outs and unemployment, the spectre of privatisation, the shocking levels of corruption as revealed in the securities scam, then dealt with the grave danger of communal forces and their conspiracies, and concluded by stressing the need

for uniting the largest sections of the working class and other toiling section for an all-out offensive against the policies of the Narasimha Rao government on the one hand, and against the communal fascist forces on the other. To this end, he called for massive participation in the joint left parties struggle in Maharashtra in February and March, to culminate in the mammoth Delhi rally before parliament on April 5.

Speaking as the chief guest in the inaugural session, West Bengal minister for labour Shanti Ghatak gave an account of the industrial scene in the state along with the steps being taken by the Left Front government in favour of the workers and to improve the industrial climate, despite the constant hurdles and discrimination of the central government. To illustrate the possibilities of a united working class struggle against the current policies, he gave the example of all unions in West Bengal, barring the BM, coming together to fight the retrograde offensive of the new polices.

Presiding over the session, CITU state President Prabhakar Sanzgiri then dwelt on the industrial scene in Maharashtra, wherein 1,40,000 jobs in Bombay and another 60,000 in Thane have been slashed; over 200 large factories and nearly 20,000 small factories in the state are either closed or sick; minimum wage is being systematically denied to lakhs of workers and agricultural labourers in the unorganised sector; the Employment Guarantee Scheme(EGS) is being watered down; a thoroughly corrupt and anti-national agreement has been signed by the state government with the American multinational company Enron to set up the notorious Dabhol Gas Plant; and the danger of the communal forces in Maharashtra continues to be grave. In the light of all this, he called for a sustained struggle against all the above, on the basis of the broadest possible unity of the left as well as all other secular and democratic forces. To make a political impact, he called for massive participation in the ensuring statewide left march in Bombay on Mar4ch 21 and in the Delhi demonstration of April 5.

The evening of January 29 saw a large workers

rally in Pune in which the delegates, as well as workers from different districts participated in thousands. They included large contingents of women workers as well. The rally, which made an impact in Pune, culminated in a public meeting at the Shaniwar Wada grounds. The rally was presided over by Prabhakar Sanzgiri, and was addressed by E Balanandan, Shanti Ghatak, Ahilya Rangnekar, Ramachandra Ghangare, K L Malabade and K L Bajaj.

The morning of January 30 began with the placing of the report by CITU state general secretary K L Bajaj. The report dwelt with the political challenges in brief, then took stock of the impact of the new economic policies on Maharashtra, then dealt with the role of the CITU in the organised sector, the unorganized sector, the position of the textile industry, the independent and united actions of the CITU during the last three years culminating in the various all India strikes, the August 19 Jail Bharo and September 9 Bharat Bandh and so on. The report then dealt at length on the organizational position of the CITU, both at the state centre as well as in various districts, which part was examined in a self critical manner. The report ended with setting out the immediate tasks for the future. While dealing with the future tasks, K L Bajaj stressed that priority be given to organising powerloom workers, beedi workers and other unorganised workers at the state level, and to state transport workers in the organised sector. He stressed on the need for launching political campaigns and conducting political education of workers, on activating the Trade Union Joint Action Committee at all levels, on making renewed efforts to organise working women, and finally on ensuring maximum participation in the Bombay rally of March 21 and the Delhi rally of April 5.

The CITU state council member Suman Sanzgiri placed a supplementary report of the work amongst working women, the struggles taken up especially by women workers in the anganwadi and beedi sectors, and the future direction of work. As many as 43 delegates participated, where they related their own experiences of struggle, and made several suggestions and criticisms to enrich the report further. The participation in discussions was from almost all CITU centres. After the reply to the discussion by the general secretary the report was

adopted unanimously by the conference amidst cheers.

CITU state secretary Udhav Bhavalkar placed the credentials committee report. There were in all 222 delegates and 18 observers. Of the 222 forms received, there were 24 women delegates; 153 were in service while 69 were not, of which 53 were CITU wholetimers. 30 delegates had been victimised, 82 had jail experience. By age group, an encouraging feature was that 125 were below 40 years of age, of which 55 were below 30 years. 6 delegates had studied upto the 4th standard, 115 were from 5th to 10th standard, 45 had completed their 12th standard, ITI or diploma, 42 were graduates, and 11 were post graduates.

The conference elected 18 office bearers and a 70 member state council unanimously. The new office bearers are as follows: President Prabhakar Sanzgiri, vice presidents; Ahilya Rangnekar, Yashwant Koli, K L Malabade, Ramchandra Ghangare, Narsayya Adam, Sadashiv Bhat, Madan Phadnis; general secretary, K L Bajaj, secretaries: P R Krishnan, Suryaji Salumnkhe, Sayeed Ahmed Uddhav Bhavalkar, B P Kashyap, Vivek Monteiro, D L Karad, P M Vartaki; treasurer, Dinkar Kadav.

To carry forward the immediate tasks set, two subcommittees were formed, one of working women with Ahilya Rangnekar as president and Suman Sanzgiri as convenor and the other on the powerloom sector, with K L Malabade as convenor.

E Balanandan made the concluding speech, where he pointed out some of the organisational weaknesses, and stressed the need to remove these at the earliest in a premier industrial state such as Maharashtra, and in view of the grave challenges before the working class and the country.

Prabhakar Sanzgiri assured the CITU centre that every effort would be taken to gear up the state CITU to meet these challenges and to strengthen it by removing the various weaknesses that had been pointed out. He also thanked the CITU Pune Committee and other comrades and reception committee members from Pune who had spared to efforts to make this state conference a success. Finally, after the vote of thanks proposed by Pune CITU general secretary Sadashiv Bhat, the conference concluded amidst enthusiasm and resounding slogans of working class unity.

## CONFERENCE OF RAJASTHAN STATE CITU

The Eighth Rajasthan State CITU conference was held at Sriganganagar from February 11 to 13. The Conference started with a big open rally which was attended by nearly 10,000 workers from Sriganganagar and the adjacent areas. The workers of various un-organised sector of industries were the pre-dominant participants in the rally. A large section of women were at the forefront of the rally. The rally was addressed among others by M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU, P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU, Ravindra Shukla, State CITU General Secretary, Hariram Chouhan the State CPI(M) Secretary and Amra Ram, the new CPI(M) MLA from Rajasthan.

The conference began after flag hoisting by Hethram Beniwal, the State CITU President and after placing of wreaths on the martyr's memorial. The conference was inaugurated by M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU. In his inaugural address Pandhe focused on the changing situation and the economic policies being pursued by the Narasimha Rao Government under prescriptions from the IMF and called for further intensification of united struggle to reverse the policies. He gave a stirring call for making the Jatha programme and march to Parliament on April 5 a big success. Fraternal leaders from AITUC, Kisan Sabha, DYFI and Janawadi Mahila Samiti also greeted the conference. Seopat Singh, the former MP and the Kisan Leader of Rajasthan also addressed the conference. 313 delegates attended the conference including six women delegates.

The delegate session was addressed by Com. P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU. Ravindra Shukla then placed the General Secretary's report. The report dwelt with the international and national situations and the state of affairs in Rajasthan under the BJP rule during the period. It briefed the various

struggles launched by the state CITU against the new economic policies and against the communal forces in the state. It also dwelt with the various aspects of organisational matters and the development of the CITU in the state. The report also pointed to the rise in membership of CITU as compared to the last conference held in 1991. Com. Gour placed the Treasurer's report.

35 Comrades from all the districts and several industries participated in the discussions on the General Secretary's report. They narrated their experience about the implementation of the new economic policies. Closures, sickness and joblessness were the most dominant features in their deliberations. They also referred to the international situation and the deepening crisis in the capitalist system. They especially referred to the communal forces led by the RSS, BJP and VHP and the communal holocaust created by them at Rajasthan. They narrated how despite being a small force the workers tried to resist the communal forces and restore and communal harmony. The delegates expressed their determination to carry forward their struggle in co-operation with all other trade unions and the other allies like the peasantry, agricultural workers, students, youth, and women, so as to make both the rallies successful i.e. the 15th March rally at Jaipur and 5th April rally at Delhi. The report of the General Secretary was adopted unanimously.

The conference adopted resolutions on the economic policy, on united struggle in textile industry, against communalism, on right to work, on bonus, on pension scheme, on Anganwadi women, on Dunkel proposals etc. P.K. Ganguly summed up the discussions and Heth Ram Beniwal gave the concluding presidential speech.

## STATE CITU CONFERENCE OF GUJARAT

The Gujarat state CITU held its 8th conference at Ahmedabad on February 18 & 19, 1994. The open session of conference was inaugurated by Com. M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU. In his address Com. Pandhe, deplored the Narasimha Rao Government for growingly surrendering the sovereignty of the country to the IMF. He pointed to series of structural reforms brought under the conditionalities of the IMF which have undermined the self reliant economy of the country. He gave examples of the dismantling of the public sector, dis-investment, amendment of FERA, MRTP, and other domestic laws, the exit policy, Narasimham committee report, Malhotra Committee report, Goswami committee report etc. which have resulted in growing closures, privatisation and virtual handing

over the vital economic and financial sectors to the multinationals. He called upon the workers for further consolidation of their unity and mobilisation for the march to Parliament on 5th April 1994. Leaders of AITUC and other mass organisations like Kisan Sabha, DYFI etc. greeted the open session.

The conference started after the condolence resolution on the sudden demise of Chiman Bhai Patel, the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Condolence resolutions were also adopted on all other leaders and martyrs who died during the period. The delegates session was addressed by Com. P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU.

After the Presidential address given by Subodh ehta,  
*Contd. on page 15*

## SYMPOSIUM AGAINST DUNKEL DRAFT

A symposium on "Effect of Dunkel Proposal of future health care system" was organised by Orissa Sales Representatives' Union at Town Hall, Cuttack on 12th December 1993. The symposium was attended by doctors, journalists, lawyers, trade unions, organisations of women, youth and students. The symposium was presided over by S.K. Padhy, President of the Union. P.K. Sinha, General Secretary outlines the danger of Dunkel Draft, if accepted, on health care including the drugs and pharmaceuticals.

Pradyamna Bal, an eminent journalist and Editor of an Oriya daily "Pragatibadi" in his inaugural address pointed out that Indian market will be full of foreign goods and Indian Industry will be ruined if Dunkel proposals are accepted. In the name of providing technical knowhow to India the Multinationals are capturing the 'potato chips' and Chura Bhaji markets too. Referring to inventions of Indian scientists in ancient India like Aryabatta till modern India - he questioned. Are the Americans going to pay royalties to those scientists? So long USSR acted as a protective shield for developing countries against the machinations of the imperialists. But after the debacle in USSR, the imperialists led by U.S. have got free hand to exploit the third world countries. He appealed to all patriotic forces in the country to oppose Dunkel Draft tooth and nail.

Dr. Basudev Sahoo, an eminent economist and Chief Guest of the Symposium stated that IMF, World Bank and GATT are dictating terms in shaping Indian economic policies. Since the 80's the central government departed from the policies of self-reliance. It is wrong to compete in International market with industrially advanced countries. Unemployment has touched all-time record, prices of essential commodities are soaring, industrial production registered meagre growth of only 1.2% in the last year, budgetary allocations for developmental work have been reduced. India has landed in a debt trap. For whose benefit have the Govt. framed its economic policies? Dr. Sahoo questioned. Compared to the per capital expenses towards health of \$400 in Japan, \$190 in U.S., 94 lbs in U.K., it is \$3 in India. Out of this, around 20% spent towards medicines. If Dunkel Draft is accepted and Indian Patent Act., is changed, the prices of drugs will increase many fold which will go beyond the reach of large section of those who can purchase medicines today. He said that in the anti-biotic group along 42%

will be under the coverage of U.S. patent. He stated that even advanced capitalist countries do not go for such liberalisation as India is going for. Dr. Sahoo emphasises on the need to increase purchasing power of the agrarian population so that Indian domestic market expands. Dunkel Draft at the behest of the U.S. hits the root of this concept.

Dr. S.N. Panda immediate past-president of Indian Medical Association, orissa Branch and guest of honour of the symposium expressed his concern about the increase in drug price in the event of accepting Dunkel proposal. He suggested for negotiation in softening the conditionalities of GATT proposals in respect of patent on drugs.

Amitav Guha, Secretary, Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Association of India (FMRAI), a member of working group on patent as the Chief Speaker of the symposium established that Uruguay round of GATT proposals is the culmination of the imperialist co spiracy to dominate the markets of the 3rd world countries. Indian Patent Act, 1970 defeat and all the conspiracies of the imperialists and replaced the erstwhile Patent Act of british days. Present Patent Act of India is by far the best amongst all Third World countries. Following this Act, India today, has become self-reliant in drug production. Guha remarked that in earlier days, Intellectual Property was inventors' right, then its converted to investor's right and now the U.S. wants to convert it as traders' right (through TRIP). Indian scientists invented 17 new drugs. Out of these, only one goes to the credit of the multinational companies, whereas rest are invented in different national drug research laboratories. Guha cautioned about the dangerous U.S. conspiracy to patent the area of bio-technology through Dunkel proposals. Many proposals of the drug curtels of U.S. and Japan have been accommodated after original Dunkel Draft was formulated to suit the interest of the MNCs. Till a couple of years ago Govt. of India successfully protested Indian Patent Act. But today under the dictates of fund bank, Govt. is increasingly surrendering before the imperialist pressure and thereby mortgaging the country's economy. If the Govt. signs on Dunkel Proposal, the dead-line of which is 15th December, it will contravene the Indian constitution too. Guha placed a set of proposals by which India can protect its own patent law without signing the Dunkel proposals.

The symposium passed a resolution for massive campaign against the Dunkel proposals.

# PATNA PREPARES FOR 8TH CITU CONFERENCE

□ Sarvodaya Sarma

The observers of political developments in Bihar are eagerly awaiting March 1994 when the 8th All India Conference of the CITU will be held in Sri Krishna Memorial Hall at Patna. About 2500 delegates from all over India; fraternal delegates from different countries Japan, Australia, China, Korea, Cuba, France, and neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and International organisations including Director of I.L.O., WFTU, Commonwealth Trade Union Congress are coming to participate in the Conference to be held March 3-7.

The Conference venue has been named after the great proletarian leader and founding president of the CITU, Comrade B.T.Ranadive.

The Conference will open with a 'Mazdoor-Kisan-Mehnatkash' maharally and a mass meeting at the historic Gandhi Maidan. It will be addressed by Jyoti Basu, chief minister West Bengal, Dasrath Deb, chief minister, Tripura, Harkishan Singh Surjeet, Vice President, AIKS, E.Balanandan, president, M.K.Pandhe, general secretary and Samar Mukherjee, vice president (all CITU), CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Sitaram Yechuri, Md. Amin, Secretary, CITU, Sukomal Sen, general secretary, State Government Employees' Federation, Hannan Mollah, Joint Secretary, All India Agricultural Workers' Union, Bimal Ranadive, Convenor, All India Working Women Co-ordination Committee. Build as a 'Workers-Peasants and Toiling Masses' maharally, this will not only be different from all the other rallies organised recently in Bihar based only on caste origins, this rally in its appeal cuts across caste barriers and is mobilising the toiling masses on the basis of their labour their class solidarities - and all sections of the people, women, youth, students, middle class employees, the professionals, etc. For this reason, preparatory mobilisation is unprecedented, as, it is expected, will be the attendance. In fact the word 'maha-rally' has now gained popular currency in political circles and among the people in Bihar, not only because of the mass contact programme now presently underway, but ever since Jyoti Basu described the 'Sadbhavna Rally' organised in the Gandhi Maidan, Patna by the Left parties and Janta Dal in January 1993 as not only a ally but a maharally. Chandi Prasad, president, J.S.Majumdar, general secretary and Subodh Ray, rally convenor told a press conference that it could truly be termed a maha-rally not only because it will bring together all the people who work with their hands and minds, not only because all segments of society will be represented, but because this move of people belong to all different castes, communities, religious beliefs and entities --- Dalits, adivasis, tribals,

Muslims, among the most socially oppressed and economically exploited. It is the coming together of all these sections that will give the real hard-hitting reply to the government, its shameless policies of burdening the poor to enrich still further the already rich and even more shameless kowtowing and knuckling under imperialist demands and multinational needs. Thus the people of Bihar will also give warning to centre against its neglect of Bihar, and to the local landlord-industrialist-police, bureaucratic-mafia combine for the growing atrocities against peasants and agricultural workers to crush the land struggle, and the democratic struggles of the youth, students, women, employees, teachers, tribals, dalits, adivasis and minorities.

To see to the conference preparations, abroad-based reception committee has been formed with Chandi Prasad, state CITU president as president, and general secretary J.S.Majumdar as its secretary aided by a network of district local level reception committees all over Bihar. Grass-roots propaganda, fund collection and series of public meetings are currently being organised. For this purpose, Sitaram Yechuri, Subodh Roy, Krishna Kant Singh, Hannan Mollah M.P, Ramashraya Singh, Rajendra Singh Mirda, Ajit Sarkar, Ramdeo Verma, Basudev Singh, Manju Prakash (all MLAs) are touring the state and have addressed meetings with attendance ranging from

15,000 to 50,000 in the more remotest areas such as Kahalguon (Bhagalpur), Jadia (Supaul), Khagaria, Begusarai, Ranchi, Rupauli (Purnea), Darbhanga, Motihari, Itarhi (Buxar), Samastipur, etc. The target of reaching five lakh people directly is nearing achievement. The public sector workers, the member of which is about seven lakh in Bihar the highest in the country have great expectations from this CITU conference. The central government's New Economic policy calls for dismantling, disinvestment closures, retrenchment and scandalous selling off of public sector shares by underpricing and as such directly affect the public sector workers in Bihar. The sword of retrenchment hangs over them. Recently four officers of Barauni fertilizer were retrenched. The officers association joined with the trade unions there to launch a struggle against the management as well as the government. Likewise the workers of Sindri Fertilizer, HEC, Ranchi, Bharat Wagon (3 units), Barauni Refinery, BCCL, CCL, Part of ECL, Bokaro Steel, INDAL, Hindustan Copper, Iron Ores and mica and other mines, NTPC are perplexed and looking for a proper direction. It is to be noted that so many public sector units were established in Bihar not because of the industrial policy of the government but

because of the vast natural resources of this region --- coal, mica, manganese, bauxite, fireclay, uranium, lignite, pyrites, lime and many other valuable minerals and metals. It is because of this that the Britishers treated this region of Chotanagpur and south Bihar plateau as a hinterland, and exploited it to the hilt, leaving behind a host of problems including land, and the rehabilitation of the poor and simple tribal people who are fighting for their livelihood, rights, identities and culture and languages.

The Congress during its long rule continued this basic policy with minor modifications. As a result the tribals are lured to separatist movements led by the Jharkhandis and are also sometimes led into conflict with workers whom they call 'Dikku' (outsiders) in their language. In fact the workers' democratic movement in Bihar must take into account the need to fight for the land, rehabilitation, language and culture of these adivasis because it is not possible to take their struggle forward unless complete unity between the native adivasis and workers is achieved in theory as well as practice.

The conditions of private sector workers are also very bad in Bihar. Tata Steel established in 1907 is not bothered about the development of ancillary industries there. Most of the inputs are brought from outside the state. Dalmianagar is sick and has been closed for long and Sahu Jain has diverted its capital for bringing out the Patna edition of The Time of India and other ventures. Mica industries are falling sick and facing closures. Most private sector owners more or less indulge in misusing government loans and public money, irrespective of the consequences on workers jobs security, etc. The Bihar government has also about 48 boards/corporations in which no new investments have been made. The workers have not received their wages for months, one lakh casual/temporary workers have been retrenched; posts left vacant have been abolished. The Congress(I)'s attitude to workers have been hostile but the state Janata Dal government has also not shown the necessary political will to prove anything different. Small/medium scale industries from Fatuha Jasidih are almost closed. Hundreds of ancillary industries in south Bihar have been closed. The khadi, powerloom, and handloom industries are also undergoing deep crisis.

In the unorganised sector, coolies, rickshaw, **tumtum**, hotel, cinema, foot path vendors, shop assistants do not get the minimum wage. The plight of domestic servants/child labour and bonded labour can only be described by a committed poet.

Some light in this dark horizon is there: the central government for instance has been forced to give in the case of the demand for freight equalisation and royalty and cess, after a long battle. The CITU on its own had called for a general strike at coal workers

which received tremendous response despite opposition from all other trade union leaders, who had entered into a shameless class collaborationist agreement with the management and the government. Likewise stone chip workers had now considerable victories after a long battle.

It is to be hoped that the Eight Conference of the CITU will not only guide the working class movement of India by advancing the idea of confederation of all trade unions and thus march forward for building a credible political alternative to the Congress(I) and BJP but also inspire, encourage and emerge at land and democratic struggle in Bihar to new heights so that the new upsurge that is visible in the length and breadth of Bihar obtains a proper working class orientation, a relevant political direction and an organisational form.

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the General Secretary's report was placed by Nagin Bhai Patel. In his report the General Secretary dwelt with the experience of the workers during the last three years of the new economic policies. Closure and joblessness were the worst effects of the policy, he said, which were being fought tooth and nail by the workers. He also dwelt with the communal and casteist situation in Gujarat which was hampering the united struggle of the workers. He especially dwelt with the threatening situation in the NTC mills, Ahmedabad where thousands of workers were faced with joblessness. He also explained the work done in the unorganised sector of industries and increase in the membership of the CITU.

10 comrades participated in the discussion of the General Secretary's report. They mostly narrated the experience on closures and sickness both in the organised sector and un-organised sector of industries. The closure of the organised industries were affecting the un-organised sector of industries also. They mostly dwelt with the condition of textile industry in Ahmedabad and showed their preparedness for joint resistance to the closure of any mill.

They also expressed their determination to fight the communal and casteist forces to safeguard the unity of the working class and the unity and integrity of the country. After reply by Nagin Bhai Patel the report was by adopted unanimously. The conference adopted resolutions on the economic policy calling upon the workers for successful mobilisation for the Ahmedabad rally on 22nd March and Delhi rally on 5th April 94. Resolutions on the united movement in the textile industry, unorganised industries and on communal harmony were also adopted. Com. P.K. Ganguly summed up the discussions and Subodh Bhai Mehta gave the concluding speech.

# CITU CALLS FOR INTENSIFICATION OF STRUGGLES

The CITU State Committee has called upon working people in Tamilnadu to intensify the struggles against the anti-people anti-labour policies of the central and state governments. It has also pointed out that various sections of the people are already going ahead with the struggles.

CITU State Committee met at Neyveli on 12th and 13th February. K. Ramani, Vice President presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed the reports presented on the economic- political situation and on the activities after the last meeting of the executive in September '93.

## DEEPENING CRISIS

It was noted that the crisis in the industrial sector is deepening. Recent price increase by the Central and State Government has further aggravated the situation.

Liberalisation of import duties and other aspects of the new economic policies have created a very serious impact. More than 10,000 workers in Magnesite Industry in Salem district are jobless at present and are threatened with indefinite lay-off leading to loss of jobs. In addition to this major industrial units in the state, like the Mettur Mills and Madras Aluminium Company (MALCO) are closed throwing out thousands of workers.

The same is the situation in other parts of the state seshasayee Industries and Neyveli Ceramics in South Arcot are on the verge of closure. In Madras, Metal Box remain closed even after directives from the High Court. Standard Motors is open on records, but only a few hundreds are getting work.

small scale sector is also facing several problems with the number of sick and closed units are going up very fast.

With the recent upwing in prices of yarn, Hand loom, power loom and Hosiery Sectors are threatened with closures and loss of jobs for thousands and thousands of workers.

Crisis in Public Sector units like BHEL, Hindusthan photo films have aggravated the situation.

Latest policy decisions of both the Central and State Governments are resulting in further aggravations.

Privatisation in power sector has begun in the state. Recent announcement was handing over a project of 250 MW at Neyveli to a USA based NRI company. This Unit was to be built by Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Central Public Sector unit for which foundation was laid in 1991. Added to this is the latest efforts to lease out Certain Power Stations of TNEB to private companies.

Pressurising workers accept ' Voluntary' retirement has become a weapon in the hands of

employers, which is being used by the employers as part of a carrot and stick policy. The State Government is actively helping in all these efforts and the State ruling party's Trade Union Wing ATP, becomes a pliable tool in the hands of employers in the state. The situation in B&C mills is the latest example in this. B&C mills management under the liquor baron Udayar has been trying for the last few years to get rid of the workers and try to sell the lands into a lucrative a real estate business. With the unified and prolonged struggles, workers could stop these efforts. Now, ATP has come out openly to break the workers union, Madras Labour Union, which is now led by CITU leaders. Madras Labour Union, the first trade union in the country is the only union for B&C workers and this is now being split by the AIADMK leadership with the blessings of the State Government to facilitate in getting rid of thousands of workers.

## State wide struggles:

Resistance to these policies are being built up all over the state. In Salem, an all trade unions committee which includes INTUC and ATP also has been formed to continue the struggle which was being conducted by the Magnesite workers and workers of closed units.

Public sector workers are going ahead with the struggle, as can be seen in Hindustan Photo Films, where a 'Save HPF' committee with organisations of officers and workers have been formed. Already Bank and Insurance employers are on struggle against government's policies.

Demonstrations and rallies are being conducted all over the state by various organisations, against price rise. More than 20,000 youths courted arrest by organising picketing and burning state ogvt order banning recruitments in state govt offices and its undertakiangs.

State electricity board has entered into an agreement with some of the unions, abolishing 52,000 posts and CITU led union in the board is going ahead with the struggle against this heinous and treacherous agreement.

All the auto rikshaws in Madras city numbering more than 20,000 will be off the road on 15th February protesting against the recent hike in price of petrol. A joint committee of various trade unniions, has given the call for this struggle.

Protesting against the price of oYarn, master weavers and hosiery employers are conducting dharnas and hunger fasts. Powerloom employers organised protest closures. Trade Unions are also jointly organising struggle.

*Contd. on page 19*

## CITU DENOUNCES GOVT. MOVE TO LIQUIDATE SICK PSUs.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions is seriously concerned at the suddenly intensified move of the Government of India to force large scale retrenchment of workers in public sector and also closure of many PSU units referred to BIFR.

The CITU has noted that immediately after the fixation of the meeting of the Prime Minister at Davos the Labour Ministry summoned the meetings of the Industrial Tripartite Committees in quick successions since the first week of February after allowing these Committees long holidays for about two years.

In almost all the cases the revival schemes prepared by the experts, managements and employees separately and jointly with financial implication of different dimensions-both high and low have been rejected by the Government on the plea of financial constraint and have proposed privatisation or liquidation. The Labour Ministry, in a most irresponsible manner wanted the trade unions to respond to the voluminous scrutiny reports prepared by different ministries absolutely from negative angles to decide on the fate of dozens of sick PSUs within a span of 2/3 hours meeting. The Committee on Engineering are having 14 units before it, the Chemical and Fertilizers have 15 units. The motive is clear. Govt want to hasten the process of liquidation/privatisations of sick PSUs. And they want to make the trade unions a party to same through tripartite committee mechanism.

Thus it is clear that the deliberate move on the part of the Government of India is to clear the dask of tripartites before the ensuing budget session of the Parliament so as to enable the BIFR to liquidate the sick PSUs. With all indications available, it is now clear that the Govt. has how, at the heel of IMF/World Bank, settled itself to hasten up the process of liquidating/privatising the sick public sector units.

The CITU representatives in all the Industrial Tripartites have demanded that as a precondition for a honest and meaningful exercise in the tripartites, the following steps are necessary:

- 1) No blanket refusal by the Govt. to remain as promoter.
- 2) Prime Minister's assurance that BIFR shall rectify the Jointly prepared revival schemes must be honoured.
- 3) Separate sub-committees must be constituted with the representatives of concerned trade unions, management, department of the ministry and financial agencies for each sick units for making detailed study and preparing revival schemes.
- 4) BIFR must not appoint 'Operating Agency' or order for liquidation till the Sub-Committee finalise its report and the same is discussed by the Industrial tripartites.
- 5) In the meantime the sick units must be provided with the required working capital for holding on operation.

The CITU strongly protests the move of the Government to liquidate the public sector units in deference with the will of IMF/World Bank, and warns that the Working Class of the country shall not be silent spectator to such anti-national move of the Govt. It may be noted that the evil design of the Govt. shall immediately throw a few lakhs workers out of employment.

The CITU while demanding of the Government to desist from this suicidal move of liquidating the PSUs further class upon the entire trade union movement to unite and prepare to launch a coun trywide movement to defeat the move of the Government

## Rice and Wheat Pices Increased under Fund-Bank Dictates

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions codemns the Narasimha Rao Government for raising the issue prices of rice and wheat to the tune of over 20 percent. This steep hike has come in the wake of similar rise in the prices of levy sugar and LPG gas for the second time in one year. These entire anti-people steps as direct measures to cut subsidies are being taken under the dictates of the IMF and World Bank, under whose conditionalities the government is lying totally supine.

As the CITU and the trade union movement had been warning, the IMF-prescribed economic policies have now started to hit the common people of the country directly, making it difficult for them even to

purchase the most essential foodgrains due to the virtual collapse of the public distribution system.

The plea given by the government that the hike was made due to increase in procurement price is untenable, as the increase in the issue prices are nearly double of that in the procurement prices.

The steep hike has exposed the hoax of the government's recent pronouncement that it will fix the prices of twelve essential commodities.

The CITU demands withdrawal of the price hikes and appeals to the mass organisations to raise their voice of protest and intensity the preparation for the March to Parliament programme which has already been taken by the platform of Mass Organisations.

## SUCCESSFUL NATIONWIDE STRIKE BY COAL MINERS

M K Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU and president, All India Coal Workers Federation, has issued the following statement to the press:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) and All India Coal Workers' Federation (AICWF) congratulates the coal miners all over India for their successful strike on 31st January 1994 as per call of the AICWF in support of the 10-point charter of demands.

Though the Five Federations jointly gave a call for strike on the day the non-CITU federations backed out and withdraw the call without achieving a single demand of the coal miners.

Accordingly to the reports received by the CITU Centre, more than 90 per cent of the workers in ECL downed their tools in support of the demands. As per call of Burdwan Dist Committee of CITU, Railways, Bus Transport, Shops and establishments were also closed in protest against the violation of the safety rules by the Eastern Coalfield management. The strike was by and large peaceful.

In Bharat Coking Coal Corporation Ltd (BCCL) successful strike was reported by the Bihar Colliery Kamgar Union. Workers in 35 mines did not report for duty in the Dhanbad Jharia Coal belt. 70% of the loading as affected in BCCL. Barring some incidents in Chasnalar Barari mines there was no opposition from the workers for strike.

In Central Coalfields Ltd the report received by the CITU Centre indicate that majority of the workers observed the strike in the Ranchi-Raingarh-

Hazaribagh area. Workers demonstrated in large numbers protesting against CIL management anti-working class policies.

In Western Coalfields more than 30 per cent of the workers went on a strike while in South Eastern Coalfields, it was 50 percent successful.

According to preliminary reports, the strike was partial in Singarani collieries and Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.

The employees in CIL headquarters and its subsidiary office observed successful strike. The CMPDIL units all over the country were also affected by the strike action. Workers in Dankuni Coal complex observed the Day through protest actions.

On the whole more than 60 per cent of the workers in all the mines participated in the strike.

The CITU and AICWF is happy to note that workers of all the organisations cooperated with the CITU unions in making the strike call successful. This clearly reflects the accumulated discontent among the coal mine workers all over the country.

The CITU appeals to that CIL management to take into consideration the strong feelings of the workers and settle their demands of the workers without any further delay. If the management fails to reach settlement earlier it will have to face more longdrawn action from the coal miners in India.

The CITU calls upon the coal miners to maintain their fighting unity and be prepared for bigger struggles to achieve their longstanding legitimate demands from the unwilling hands of the coal managements.

## CITU CONDEMNS NANJUNDAPPA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR MASSIVE MANPOWER CUT

The Secretariat of the CITU strongly condemns the recommendations of the Nanjundappa Panel constituted by Railway Ministry for reduction in manpower in Railways by 40000, among others, which appeared to have been accepted by the Govt of India.

The Committee, besides recommending for drastic reduction in manpower suggested or imposition of developmental cess @ of Rs 2/- per tonne on freight traffic and @ Re 1/- per passenger in any kind of travel. Those developmental cess both on freight and passenger traffic have been recommended in addition to suggestion for general rise in freight and fares, which would lead to severe inflationary pressure on the economy aggravating the hardships of the mass of the people.

Further the Nanjundappa Panel recommended drastic reduction in social cost being borne by

Railways and suggested for shifting a part of the development work of Railway infrastructure to State Govt which would bring serious pressure on already pressurised state budget and severely hinder the expansion of railway network in backward areas.

The CITU feels, the Nanjundappa panel report is another tutored move of the Govt of India among many others to reduce expenditure on social welfare and development of the common people at the dotted line of World Bank and IMF prescription.

The CITU calls upon the Railway workers and the concerned trade unions to take note of the onslaught being planned to be engineered on their rights and living and calls upon the working class and the people to protest against the evil design of the Govt of India. The CITU also demands upon the Govt of India and the Railway Ministry not to accept the anti-worker and anti-people recommendation of the panel.

# KISAN SABHA PROTESTS AGAINST SIGNING OF DUNKEL DRAFT

Ram Narayan Goswami, M.P, General Secretary of All India Kisan Sabha has issued the following statement to the press:

"All India Kisan Sabha strongly protests against the reported decision of the PV Narasimha Rao Government to accept and sign the GATT Trade Deal based on Dunkel Proposals without the consent of Parliament and despite widespread resentment prevailing among the people of our country, specially the peasantry. This step of the P.V. Narasimha Rao Government will make our country completely subservient to the multinational corporations and the imperialist countries, particularly USA. The peasantry and agriculture of our country will be severely hit because of forced change in our Patent Laws and mandatory import of certain amount of foodgrains every year even if we do not need them. The peasantry will have to pay heavy royalty for imported improved variety of seeds and will not be able to produce them in their own farms. Subsidies for all inputs including power and irrigation water in agriculture will have to be phased out. The Public Distribution system would be virtually dismantled. The prices of drugs and medicines will rise beyond the reach of common people. The whole population will be thrown at the mercy of so-called market forces and MNCs who will be allowed free entry also in agriculture and agro-based industry. Our indigenous industries will be severely affected which will result in sharply increasing the number of unemployed. Allocations for welfare measures like education health etc will also have to be reduced to bare minimum. Our Parliament will have no power to grant any allocation or subsidy for any section or sector or adopt any measure to encourage agriculture land industry unless approved by IMF/WB. Thus our economic sovereignty will end and consequently political sovereignty will be endangered too.

In this grave situation, the AIKS calls upon all the patriotic people and toiling masses particularly the peasantry to come forward and initiate a new wave of mighty united movement as to force this coward government to retrace its surrendering steps and protect our economic and political sovereignty.

The AIKS directs its units to take immediate steps to plan a strong protest movement, by explaining

the adverse anti-people impact of Dunkel Proposals and rouse the peasantry and other toiling sections of the masses in powerful united actions".

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**Contd. from page 16**

## **Strike in Tirupur:**

Hoisery workers in Tirupur went on a day's strike on 9th February protesting against increase in yarn prices. All the unions participated in the struggle.

## **Bandh in Neyveli:**

Neyveli township observed a day's bandh protesting against the privatisation of electricity generation in Neyveli. The bandh was complete with all shops being closed and transport services coming to a stand still. The call for the bandh was given by various trade unions and political parties. CITU LPF, HMS and other unions have served strike notices on the management demanding withdrawal of handing over power generation to private company.

## **Call for intensification of struggle:**

It was in these circumstances the CITU State Committee called upon the working people of the state to intensify the struggle.

The committee called upon its affiliates to participate in the Delhi rally on 5th April and also decided to organise state level movements along with other organisations in support of the demands formulated by the National platform of mass organisations.

## **Solidarity Action:**

Expressing solidarity with the B&C mill workers in Madras, all the CITU unions in the state will send protest letters to the state chief minister and Labour Minister.

## **Construction Workers Rally:**

Construction workers in the state under the banner of CITU will organise a rally in Madras on 21st February demanding implementation of the construction workers welfare Act, which is being delayed by the state govt to help the builders.

Beedi workers had conducted demonstrations all over the state on 5th February on their charter of demands. Many other sections of workers are also on the move in support of their demands.

All India Conference: The committee also discussed about the preparations for the all India conference and finalised the allotment of delegates.

The CITU flags will be hoisted in front of factories and offices on 3rd March the inaugural day of the all India conference. Send off meetings to the conference delegates will be organised in various parts of the state. All unions will take efforts to propagate the message of the all India conference among working people in the state.

## Consumer Price Index Numbers For Industrial BASE 1992 = 100)

Centre	Linking factor for Old Base			Centre	Linking factor for Old Base		
	Nov '93	Dec '93			Nov '93	Dec '93	
All India	265	264	4.93				
Gudur	256	257	4.33	Ludhiana	261	253	—
Guntur	269	267	5.60	Ajmer	264	262	5.01
Hyderabad	246	244	5.23	Jaipur	258	255	5.17
Visakhapatnam	257	256	—	Coimbatore	252	257	5.35
Warrangal	253	252	—	Coonor	276	277	4.80
Doom-Dooma				Madras	271	274	5.05
Tinsukia	253	248	4.05	Madurai	273	279	5.27
Guwahati	268	265	—	Salem	257	268	—
Labac-Silchar	251	244	3.96	Tiruchirapally	283	291	—
Mariani-Jorhat	260	259	3.95	Agra	253	248	—
Rangapara-Tezpur	265	265	4.29	Ghaziabad	256	253	—
Jamshedpur	257	254	4.68	Kanpur	271	267	4.69
Jharia	239	238	4.63	Saharanpur	255	253	5.06
Kodarma	245	242	5.43	Varanasi	282	278	5.12
Monghyr	269	263	5.29	Asansol	255	253	4.77
Noamundi	249	248	4.58	Calcutta	274	269	4.74
Ranchi-Hatia	267	262	—	Darjeeling	254	250	4.55
Ahmedabad	266	267	4.78	Durgapur	278	273	—
Baroda	265	264	—	Haldia	283	278	—
Bhavanagar	276	273	4.99	Howrah	293	284	4.12
Rajkot	260	262	—	Jalpaiguri	249	239	4.16
Surat	276	278	—	Raniganj	244	246	4.40
Faridabad	255	253	—	Chandigarh	258	257	—
Yamunanagar	244	240	5.53	Delhi	284	278	4.97
Srinagar	255	255	5.47	Pondicherry	293	302	—
Bangalore	257	257	5.66				
Belgaum	270	268	—	Additional series of Labour Bureau			
Hubli-Dharwar	266	268	—	Kothagudem	268	266	3.25
Mercara	256	257	—	Himachal Pradesh	255	254	3.75
Alwaye	250	250	5.19	Bhilwara	264	265	3.20
Mundakayam	253	256	4.67	Chindwara	273	279	2.59
Quilon	246	253	—	Tripura	276	270	4.37
Trivandrum	273	274	—	Goa	294	294	3.40
Bhalaghat	269	267	5.24				
Bhilai	243	240	3.49				
Bhopal	284	280	5.46				
Indore	274	274	5.18				
Jabalpur	291	290	6.41				
Bombay	283	281	5.12				
Nagpur	280	280	4.99				

Note: Figures on old base can be obtained by multiplying the Index Number on New Base by the linking factor given and rounding off the result to nearest whole number.

--Dash denotes new centres under 1982 series,

# CHINA: Employment Objectives and Strategies 1994-2000

□ By Xiao Shi

(Social Development Department, State Planning Commission, China)

China is a developing country with the largest population in the world. It has so far created about 600 million jobs and each year the country must provide employment opportunities for 12 million newly added labourers. It is fair to say that the Chinese Government has made tremendous efforts in developing national economy and solving employment problems. But the country's pressure in the employment arrangement is very strong, particularly now that large numbers of workers in the primary sector must now be reallocated as industrialisation continues.

In its Eighth Five Year Plan(1995-2000) and the development plan for the year 2000, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to employment and has made strategic arrangements. According to the plans and projections, the country must create 17 million new jobs every year between 1994 and 2000, of which, seven million will be in urban areas and 10 million in the countryside.

In order to ensure to realisation of the planned targets, the Chinese Government has adopted measures in the following six areas:

1. Maintaining rapid, continuous and healthy economic growth. In the next seven years, the growth rate of investment in fixed assets across the country will be kept at 15% a year, and the GNP annual increase rate will be maintained at more than 10%. Fast economic growth will reduce the employment pressure and it is the basic prerequisite for fundamentally solving the employment problem.

2. Deepening the reform and continuously carrying out the policy of opening to the outside world. Efforts must be made to promote collective economy and encourage the development of the private sector so as to expand employment basis. The development of the tertiary sector must be accelerated and the employment ratio of service industries must increase by three percentage points. The coverage of unemployment insurance must be expanded to all workers. China must adhere to the development strategy of bringing the country into the international business orbit so as to attract foreign investment, increase export and enlarge employment.

3. Greatly expand township and village industries. In the next seven years, the total social output of township and village enterprises(TVE) will grow by

about 20% every year. In order to accelerate the development of TVEs, the state will allocate 10 billion yuan of low interest loans beginning next year to support the development of rural industries. The establishment of township level finance will play a positive role in the provision of funds and financial management, thus directly and indirectly facilitating the development of TVEs.

4. Further exploit the employment potential of the agricultural sector(including forestry, animal husbandry and fishery). The agriculture development strategy will emphasis production diversification, high input (including labour input), and high added value. The central finance will allocate nearly in billion investment each year to develop grain production basis. Beginning next year, the central finance will increase the poverty support fund to 10 billion yuan and local finances will increase their counterpart funds accordingly. Poverty support funds will be provided mainly in the form of industrial investment in place of direct subsidy so as to facilitate economic development of poor regions and expand employment there.

5. In order to control the flow of rural labour toward secondary and tertiary sectors and population urbanisation, the Chinese government will reform the existing management systems according to the principle of "controlling the growth of large and medium cities, and promoting the development of small cities and townships." On the one hand, the resident registration system will be maintained and on the other, the control over the flow of rural population into small cities and townships will be relaxed or in some cases, such flow will be encouraged. Meanwhile, investment will be made available and policies be formulated to help accelerate the development of small cities and townships, invigorate rural economy and create employment opportunities for surplus rural labour.

6. Accelerate the development labour markets. In the next few years, a number of regional labour markets will be established. Modern management methods will be used to gather information on labour structure, overall balance between supply and demand, flow volumes and flow directions, analyse such statistics, make projections and exercise guidance. The urgent task now is to project the trend of "rural labour rush" and decide on control measures.

# IN THE CAPITALIST WONDERLAND

## **German Industry shedding more jobs:**

Jobsgloom in Germany is deepening by the months. Volkswagen (VW) the motor industry giant where talks on four day week failed wants to cut 20 percent cost designed to avoid 30,000 job losses. At KHD, the cologne based diesel engine and industrial plant manufacturer, a further 800 jobs are to go from its 11,000 workforce as part of a continuing restructuring programme. The closure of .....plant will cost 600 jobs soon. The BASF has announced plans to cut 2300 jobs are to be shed within 1994. From 1990 the company shed 13,000 jobs. At Deutsche Aerospace(DASA) 1200 jobs are to go as part of economy measures.

## **M ASSIVE JOB CUT BY FOOD AND TOBACCO GIANT:**

Philip Morris Companies Inc announced plans on Nov. 24 for cutting 14000 jobs and shut down or reduce operations at 40 manufacturing plants and other operations during the next 2 years. The giant food and tobacco company said that worldwide restructuring which will result in a 952 million dollar after tax charge against earnings, was designed to lower costs and make its brands more competitive.

## **IBM to Cut 9500 Jobs:**

Computer giant recently announced that it will speed up its programme to cut jobs in Germany, dropping 9500 workers in the next two years. About 6000 more workers will be sent out through 1995. One of the measures being effected is reduction of early retirement age from 54 to 50. IBM has also announced that if the company goals are not reached or business conditions deteriorate, employees may simply be laid off.

## **Lay-offs at Rolls-Royce:**

Jet engine maker Rolls-Royce which has already shed 3000 jobs this year, announced plans to shed 2000 by way of lay off in 1994. The company mentions

difficult conditions in the military and civilian aerospace markets as the cause of the labour shedding.

## **Boeing to cut Jets & Jobs:**

Worlds largest commercial aircraft manufacturers, Boeing is to reduce production of 737 and 747 jets from next year and shed upto 3000 workers in 1994. This is due to continued recession in world aviation industry. This is over and above cuts in production of various types of air crafts including the latest 757 and 767 jets declared earlier in 1993 involving loss of about 28,000 jobs.

## **MAN PROJECTS:**

German truck manufacturer MAN AG proposes to cut 3000 jobs by middle of 1994. The company has shrunk its workforce since mid 1991 by 88,000.

## **IN THE UK:**

270,000 jobs threatened. Owing to the cuts is public spending as proposed by the Tory Govt budget in the British Parliament, the TUC claimed that 270,000 jobs will be eliminated.

## **HIRED MURDERS FLOURISH IN USA:**

A PTI report from Washington dated Dec 6 states that murder for hire schemes appear to be on the rise in the USA, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Last year the bureau investigated 243 murder for hire plots across the nation, up from 135 in 1991.

A spokesman for the FBI's field office in Washington told reporters, " some of these people would call and ask if you could kill somebody just like I'd call to ask if I could borrow your car. The reasons run the whole spectrum-jilted lovers, estranged marital partners, insurance, you name it.

Some murderers are hired for as low as 500 dollar. Bribes have been offered to the police to make murders look like suicide or accident.

## **Support to the Mexican Uprising**

The National Platform of Mass Organisations in its meeting held on 7th January 1994 adopted the following resolution:

We, the Platform of Mass Organisations, representing millions of Indian workers, agricultural labour, peasants, students, youth, women and tribal peoples, condemn the brutal attacks unleashed

against the down trodden peasants and indigenous peoples of the Chiapas region of Southern Mexico who have risen up in opposition to the total disregard of people's rights by a government dependent on handouts of foreign bankers and unable to resist US arm-twisting. The recent uprising, led by a group of people who draw inspiration from a peasant leader of

over half a century ago, Zapata is a reminder that imperialism will continue to be resisted and be forced to retreat in the face of popular anger even in a so called unipolar world, as is evident from events in West Asia and South Africa.

The Platform demands the Mexican government immediately put a stop to the carnage it has unleashed against civilians and indigenous peoples, reverse its policies of national surrender, release the patriots it has arrested and try those troops who have murdered innocent people in summary executions or bombed civilians going about their day to day work and punish them.

The Platform further calls on the Indian people to express their solidarity with the Zapatista peasants

and support their struggle against a Government committed to backing down before US bullying and selling out their country to the multinationals with utter disregard for the living standards of the mass of people through the North American Free Trade Agreement. Today there is a global threat to the sovereignty of states, the living standards of the working people and to international organisations like the UN, posed by cartels of international money lenders backing up multinationals and awakening outdated imperialist ambitions that can only bring the world to fresh disasters and wars. The Mexican uprising is one of the struggles to defeat these designs and we must defend it.

## United Strike Preparation by Transport Workers

Shyamal Chakraborty and Divakaran on behalf of the Coordination Committee of All India State Transport Workers Federation issued the following statement:

A meeting of the State Transport Employees Unions working in various parts of this country affiliated to CITU, AITUC and HMS held on 4.12.93 in Pune. The meeting called upon the workers and employees working in the State Transport undertakings all over the country to stand up with grit and courage to face the challenge of growing privatisation programme persuaded by the Central Government and different state government.

This meeting noted that several state governments like Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu for which the workers of those states had to go on strike action. Unless this onslaught on the workers and privatisation policy is fought out, victimisation of trade union workers will be increased as well as rights earned by the workers will be snatched away.

The meeting demanded the Government of India:-

1. To stop privatisation of Road Transport Undertakings and to go for 100% nationalisation of Passenger Road Transport;
2. To implement to consensus arrived at the meeting of the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Road Transport Industry held on 13.3.93;
3. To contribute capital grant to State Transport Corpn., which has been arbitrarily withdrawn by the central govt. The meeting further

- demanded several state governments to
- a) State Transport Undertakings should be reimbursed in full the cost of social obligations in the form of concession offered to various sections of the people e.g. Free Passes/Concessions offered to handicapped students, daily passengers, wives of ex- servicemen, etc.
  - b) To reduce the taxes on State Transport Undertakings in the form of Motor Vehicle Taxes on State Transport buses, passenger taxes etc.

The committee calls upon the State Transport Unions to prepare for one day all India strike a future date. The committee calls upon the State transport unions and workers to implement the following programmes to be followed up by the one day all India strike.

- 1) A convention in each State should be organised in the month of January 1994;
- 2) An All India convention will be held on 6th and 7th February 1994 at Calcutta;
- 3) A seminar against the policy of privatisation of the State Transport Corporations will be organised in Bangalore in the last week of February 1994.
- 4) There will be a mass dharna before the Parliament House in Delhi in the month of April 1994 and a mass petition of the State Transport employees will be submitted to the Parliament

## RETURN OF THE TUS

Europe's winter of discontent is worsening. On November 29 Spain's two main trade unions said they would call a one-day general strike in January unless the Spanish government backed down from its threat to push through sweeping changes to the country's labour laws.

On the same day, Italy's engineering unions called for a one day strike to protest against rising unemployment. These calls follow a one-day general strike in Belgium on November 26 which brought the country to a standstill. All these strikes are taking place at a time when both governments and companies are trying to overhaul their finances. The tougher the overhaul, the more labour unrest it will cause.

Look at Spain first. If a compromise cannot be found, it is set for its fourth general strike since the Socialist government of Felipe Gonzalez came to power 11 year ago. The leaders of Spain's two biggest unions, the Socialist General Workers' Union and the Communist-led Workers' Commissions, said they would fix a date for industrial action (i.e. inaction) later this month. Mr Gonzalez's government is determined to push its labour reforms through Parliament.

Struck with an unemployment rate of nearly 23 per cent, Spain can no longer afford the labour-market rules that make it virtually impossible to sack workers, move them to different jobs or change working practices.

Next Belgium. Since the recent general strike there, Jean Luc Dehaene, leader of the governing coalition of Christian Democrats and Socialists, has beaten a tactical retreat, partly in a bid to avoid another strike. On November 30 he met the heads of Belgium's two biggest unions in an attempt to placate them. But Mr Dehaene will find it no more justifiable than Mr Bonzalez has done to delay his planned reforms, which are intended to cut deeply into social-security spending and to freeze real wages in 1995 and 1996. With a budget deficit equal to more than 7 per cent of GDP and a huge public debt equal to 135 per cent of it, Belgium's finances are crying out for surgery. The government has to act without delay. Failure to do so risks a new bout of speculation against the Belgian franc.

The difficulty that both the Spanish and Belgian governments face in trying to negotiate "social pacts" with the unions is that neither has much to offer workers in turn for concessions on wages and labour reforms.

"Basically, they are offering hardship or more hardship," says Peter Coldrick of the European Trade Union Confederation, a Brussel-based body.

Protests have broken out in several countries against job-cutting by state companies. These have helped unions to score some notable victories. In September, for example, after a bitter strike, employees at Enichem, a state-owned Italian chemicals maker, made the

government overturn the company's plan to sack workers at a redundant plant in southern Italy.

It is tempting to conclude that Europe's trade unions are having something of a renaissance. Tempting, but wrong. More remarkable than the new stirrings on the labour front is the relative dearth of industrial disruption in recent years, despite economic policies that have helped to push up employment across the EU as a whole to 11 per cent.

Why have unions not kicked up more of a fuss? Rising unemployment is itself part of the reason. As well as sapping unions' strength in number, joblessness has made them wary of launching strikes that could lead to even more job losses. True, industrial action aimed at preserving jobs seems to be rising, but most stoppages have been one day affairs. The worst strikes this year have been in the state sector, where companies are cutting the workforce in preparation for deregulation and in some cases, privatisation.

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The unions attitude towards business has changed dramatically. Although the Spanish brothers are still dragging their feet, most European trade unions now concede the importance of harmonious labour relations and greater labour flexibility, especially in business that face stiff international competition. Several have voluntarily negotiated work-sharing and other schemes with employers. (From the Economist: Reproduced from Business Standard, December 16, 1993).

BOOK POST