

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani, CALCUTTA - 13.

Press Communiqué

31st January 1973.

TRADE UNIONS FOR NO COMPENSATION TO MINE OWNERS

The meeting of Central trade union representatives convened by the Chief Minister on 31st January 1973 at Rotunda, Writers' Buildings at 11.30 A.M.

The meeting was attended by the following representatives.

CITU : 1) Com. Niren Ghosh, M.P., Secretary, CITU,
2) Com. M. K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU
3) Com. Robin Chatterjee, General Secretary,
Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India (CITU)

INTUC: 1) Shri Kali Mukherjee, M.P.

UTUC : 1) Com. Jatin Chakraborty

TUCC : 1) Com. Bhakti Bhusan Mandal

UTUC (Lenin Sarani):

1) Com. Sitiesh Dasgupta

HMS : 1) Com. Phani Ghosh

From the Government side, Chief Minister Shri Sidhartha Shankar Roy, Labour Minister Shri Gopal Das Nag, Minister of State for Labour Shri Pradip Bhattacharya, Minister of State for Mines Shri Shahanawaj and Designated Non-Coking Coal Custodian General of the New Corporation Shri Kumarmangalam attended the meeting.

The trade union leaders noted that the taking over of these mines has come about in the wake of unanimous demand raised by the trade unions since long. They also referred to one day all-India strike organised by all Central trade unions on 15th January last.

Trade union leaders pointed out that the mine owners in West Bengal resorted to slaughter mining, swindled Provident Fund and other arrears of workers amounting to at least Rs.30 crores failed to pay royalty to the tune of Rs. 24 crores as well as Income-tax, Sales tax and several other taxes. Even the Chief Minister was compelled to admit in the meeting that private Coal mine constituted the most dishonest sector.

Trade union representatives were unanimous in their demand for nationalisation of non-coking mines without compensation. They also opposed the payment of management compensation of 20 paise per tonne.

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The CITU, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and TUCC demanded demanded confiscation of other assets of the mine-owners for payment of all the liabilities of the mine-owners. Referring to the Chief Minister's claim that it is an advanced step towards socialism they disagreed with him and asserted that it still continues to be a capitalist sector under State management.

They referred to the total absence of trade union and democratic rights to Coal miners. In most of the areas the trade unions are not allowed to function by the Government, mine owners and the ruling Congress party. Gangsterism and official violence use of MISA, 506 Cr.P.C, indiscriminate arrests of T.U. leaders and workers have become a common affair. More than 3000 workers have been evicted from the localities and are not allowed to join their duties.

They demanded end to this violence, terror and repression, of/. restoration/civil liberties and normal T.U. rights, democratisation of the entire set up of the New Corporation, rooting out corrupt management personnel, full realisation of dues of all the workers and abolition of all contract labour and Sardari system, permanency to all casual and temporary workers. Unless these conditions are fulfilled workers will not be able to play their part in the new set up.

The Editor

For favour of publication.

MK Pandhe
(M. K. Pandhe)
Secretary.