

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the Working Committee

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**October 6 - 8, 2007
New Delhi**

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AGENDA

1. Condolence Resolution.
 2. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of the CITU Working Committee held at Bhopal on December 28-30, 2005.
 3. Presidential Address.
 4. Report of the General Secretary.
 5. Resolutions.
- Any other subject with the permission of the Chair.

PROGRAMME

06.10.2007	10.30 a.m	Flag hoisting Garlanding the Martyrs Column
	10.45 a.m to 11.30 a.m.	Condolence resolution Presidential address
	11.45 p.m. to 01.30 p.m.	Presentation of General Secretary's report Resolutions Debate on General Secretary's report
	01:30 p.m to 04:30 p.m	Lunch break
	04.30 p.m. to 05.30 p.m. 06.00 p.m. to 07.30 p.m.	Debate on General Secretary's report Debate on General Secretary's report
07.10.2007	09.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.	Debate on General Secretary's report
	12.00 noon to 01.00 p.m.	- " " -
	01.00 p.m. to 04.00 p.m.	Lunch break
	04.00 p.m. to 05.30 p.m.	Debate on General Secretary's report
	06.00 p.m. to 07.00 p.m. 07.00 p.m.	Debate on General Secretary's report CITU Secretariat meeting
08.10.2007	09.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	Debate on General Secretary's report
	11.00 a.m. to 01.30 p.m.	Reply by the General Secretary Adoption of reports Concluding address by the President

N.B: Tea Breaks: 06.10.2007 - 11:30 a.m to 11:45 a.m and 5:30 p.m to 06.00 p.m
07.10.2007 - 11:30 a.m to 12 noon and 5:30 p.m to 06.00 p.m
08.10.2007 - 10:30 a.m to 11:00 a.m

Dinner will be served at 08:00 p.m daily

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Comrades,

Since the meeting of the General Council of CITU held at Kolkata on 27-30 May, 2007 much water has flown in the international and national arena which we have to review objectively so that we can chalk out programme of action in the immediate future.

The sweep of the developments demands quicker response from us to meet the challenges posed before us. The deliberations of this meeting has great significance for our movements and organization.

The intervening period witnessed more aggressiveness of the imperialist forces in all fronts and also increasing opposition to such aggressive policies throughout the globe including from within the countries led by big imperialist powers.

Comrade Fidel Castro, the veteran Cuban leader who is recuperating from his prolonged illness felt so strongly about the contemporary world situation that he wrote recently, "The globalised planet Earth changes and transforms our concepts. Only one reality remains unchanged— the empires network of air, sea, land and space military bases, increasingly more powerful and at the same time more vulnerable."

"Let us allow everyone to mediate on the atrocious actions of repressive governments which the United States trained for Latin America during the decades in the U.S. academies of tortures and the role of drugs supported by the markets of the empires' consumer society."

The recent statement of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice at the U.S. – India Business council meeting at Washington that the Non-aligned movement had "lost its meaning" and suggested that countries like India distance themselves from the movement and work towards close relations with U.S. Though the Government of India announced its commitment to NAM, its policy framework is taking the country closer to U.S. imperialism.

The present foreign-policy position of India, if continues in the same direction, will result in erosion of its image among the non-aligned countries. It is however of paramount importance that the non-alignment movement must be strengthened to protect the interests of the developing countries. The trade union movement should campaign for preservation of the values of the non-alignment in the present day world situation.

THE CASINO ECONOMY IN DOLDRUMS

Even the spokesmen of the United Nations admit that globalization has resulted in greater poverty, inequality and social destabilization. Robert Rubin who worked as Bill Clinton's Secretary of the treasury admits that "Future financial crisis are almost surely inevitable and could be even more severe. The markets are getting bigger, information is moving faster, flows are larger and trade and capital markets have combined to integrate.... It is also important to point out that no one can predict in what area – real estate, emerging markets on whatever else – the next crisis will occur".

According to McKinsey Global Institute, the global stock of core financial assets stood at \$140 trillion in 2005, traditional commercial banks held a significant amount of global financial assets but non-

bank financial operators which have become important intermediaries between savers and investors, accounted for \$46 trillion in 2005.

Walden Bello, Professor at the University of the Philippines noted, "with stagnation, capitalists are less motivated to invest in more productive capacity and have more incentive to move their money to speculative activity, that is, to try to squeeze more value out of already created value". He quoted data which states that ratio of global financial assets to annual world output stood at 109 per cent in 1980 which went up to 316 per cent in 2005.

Martin Wolf, U.S. Columnist writing in Financial Times viewed the role of speculators in the global economy as "The new finance capitalism represents the triumph of the traditional assets over the long term producer."

Many economists who characterized these development as "Bubble economy" predict that the bubble may explode any moment since it represents unreal growth in economy.

The developing countries are realizing the dangerous implications of these developments and taking steps to protect their economy. The Government of Thailand declared its "financial independence" from the IMF by paying off its debts in 2003, vowing never to return to the fund. Indonesia has also taken a decision to pay off all its debts to IMF by 2008. The Philippines has refrained from contracting new loans from the fund. Malaysia came in open opposition to IMF by imposing capital controls in the country.

In 2006 Brazil and Argentina have paid off all their debt to IMF with a view to achieve financial independence. Venezuela under Hugo Chavez has announced that his country would quit the IMF and the World Bank. Recently Venezuela, Cuba and Bolivia visualized the idea of creation of solidarity fund for development of developing countries as an alternative to IMF and the World Bank.

People in South Korea are also now realizing the depredations of IMF and World Bank policies. In 1996 only 3 per cent of the country's population was characterized as poor but in 2006 the proportion has gone to 11.6 per cent. In this period foreign ownership of South Korean companies have increased. Samsung has 47 per cent foreign ownership, POSCO over 60 percent, Hyundai Motors – 42 per cent and LG Electronics 35 per cent.

Thus, all over the World, the countries are coming forward to oppose the World Bank, IMF dictated policies. Therefore the path of globalization is unsustainable in the long run and people are bound to rise against it.

Jeffrey D. Sach who is special adviser to UN Secretary General on the Millennium Development Goals, while criticizing World Bank policies pointed out, "This extreme free market ideology also called 'structural adjustment', went against the practical lessons of the development success in China and rest of Asia. Practical development strategy recognizes that public investments – in agriculture, health, education and infrastructure – are necessary compliments to private investments. The World Bank has instead wrongly seen such vital public investment as an enemy of private sector development". (Economic Times 30 June 2007)

Though he does not mention about public sector investment in Key sector of economy, he has noted the bias for privatization by the World Bank which was responsible for lack of development in developing countries.

He further noted, whenever the banks, extreme free market ideology failed, it has blamed the poor for corruption, mismanagement on lack of initiative. This was World Bank's approach too. Instead of focusing the Banks attention on helping the poorest countries to improve their infrastructure, It launched a crusade against corruption. Ironically, of course his stand became untenable when his own misdeeds came to light".

The official agencies are now admitting the bankruptcy of the World Bank policies which have been responsible for all the ills facing the world to-day. Government of India, instead of learning from the global experience is only trotting the bankrupt path dictated by the World Bank and the IMF.

GROWING TENSION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE WEST

The aggressive hegemonism pursued by US administration is meeting with increasing challenges. In the last General Council meeting we have reviewed the deterioration in the relations between Russia and U.S. due to aggressive designs of U.S. imperialism. The situation has further aggravated when British authorities decided to expel 4 senior Russian diplomats in the third week of July last. Russian PM, Vladimir Putin promptly reacted by characterizing the action as "pure foolishness". The refusal of the Russian Government to hand over main suspect in the murder of Alexander Litvinenko in UK has added to their tensed relations. Litvinenko was a former Russian Intelligence officer and a close ally of Russian Tycoon Boris Berezovsky who had publicly given a call for "bloodless revolution" in Russia and admitted financing to the tune of \$400 million to anti-Government reactionaries in Russia.

There has been further strained relations between Russia and U.S. as a result of unilateral announcement by the U.S. imperialists on the construction of new anti-missile bases in Czech Republic and Poland near Russian border which provoked Russia to suspend participation in the treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. The Bush administration unilaterally abrogated the Anti ballistic Missile Treaty which further compelled Russia to reserve the right to redeploy tanks and heavy artillery on its Western and Southern borders. Though U.S. Government stated that it was not against Russia but against Iran and North Korea, it failed to convince any one.

Russia's apprehensions about U.S. attempt to encircle Russia was further pronounced when the US administration blatantly violated the commitment not to deploy foreign troops and nuclear weapons in former east Germany and east Europe. However, NATO admitted 10 members from erstwhile East European Socialist countries.

Conflict of interest between Russia and U.S. was clearly seen on the issues of Iraq, Iran, Kosovo and other countries in the middle east where two countries took diametrically opposite stand.

Russia having the largest reserves of oil and natural gas, is, in a position to use this position in developing relations with neighbouring countries. One fourth of Europe's gas supplies are from Russia while 80 per cent of Germany's oil and gas needs are met by Russia through a network of pipeline. U.S. attempts to reduce dependence of these countries on Russian oil and gas failed miserably. U.S. manouvres to undermine Russia's influence in Europe has only added to the strained relations between the two countries.

Counteracting the U.S. threat, Russia launched in the second week of July a new submarine based missile accurately at the distance of 8000 km. The missile was so fast that anti-missile defence system established by U.S. in Europe could not track it.

The Russian PM, Vladimir Putin proposed to Bush for setting up a global integrated missile shield that could protect the whole Europe and U.S. However, Bush Administration is not prepared to accept this proposal since it goes against U.S. game plan of controlling the world. This led to the Russian foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to warn Condoleezza Rice that the American plan for a missile shield would turn Europe into a "power keg". Russia would also be forced to deploy medium-range nuclear missiles in areas threatened by U.S. new anti-missile defence system.

The U.S. imperialists are now creating a situation that would only give rise to a new cold war in the European continent. This has to be resolutely opposed by the progressive forces all over the world.

GROWING RESISTANCE IN IRAQ

Despite sending 30 thousand additional troops to 'maintain peace' in Iraq the situation going from bad to worse for American imperialism. In the last 3 months 331 U.S. soldiers have been killed while more than 2000 have been wounded in Iraq.

Bush administration has been trotting the idea that the continuation of U.S. army in Iraq was necessary since the local security forces were unable to maintain law and order in absence of U.S. army. In Iraq however more and more people are feeling that peace would be restored in Iraq once the U.S. army quits the country. Bush however got a fitting reply in July when its stooge Prime Minister in Iraq Nouri al Maliki stated that he was not opposed to U.S. troops leaving Iraq this year end and that Iraqi security forces were up to the task of keeping the peace. Even in U.S. more and more Congressmen belonging to Republican and democratic party are demanding withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. Democratic Party has already given the dateline of April 2008 for withdrawal of all the troops from Iraq.

However, Bush administration wants to stay in Iraq to keep control of oil in the country. The "Iraq oil law" which the U.S. is asking the puppet Government to pass aims at handing over Iraqi oil sector to Western oil monopoly houses. If this law is passed it would continue U.S. hegemony over Iraqi oil.

Majority of the suicide bombers who exploded themselves in Iraq causing large scale loss of human lives were from Saudi Arabia which gave a lie to the U.S. propaganda blitz that Iran was behind all the attacks in Iraq. Many forces in Iraq have criticized Taliban or Al Quaida which also proves that all attacks are not engineered by Taliban or Al Quaida. People's resistance to U.S. imperialism is growing day by day in Iraq.

THREAT OF INTERVENTION IN IRAN

In the month of August official spokesmen of U.S. Administration told the media that the United States Government was on the verge of declaring the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) of Iran as a "specifically designated global terrorist". Thus the army of a foreign country for the first time has been officially characterized as terrorist.

Further, the official spokesmen of the U.S. Government categorically asserted that his government was "confronting Iranian behaviour across a variety of different fronts on a number of different battlefields". The word battlefield clearly indicates a threat of war against Iran.

U.S. Under Secretary Nicolas Burns reported that he has used his influence to convince leading European banks to stop all credits to Iran while Japan Government is being persuaded to reduce

export credits to Iran.

During their visit to West Asian Countries, Condoleezza Rice U.S. State Secretary and Robert Gates Defence Secretary announced arms package worth \$20 billion to Saudi Arabia and \$30 billion to Israel to combat Iran. Rumours are floated that U.S. attack on Iranian nuclear installation is likely to take place in January 2008.

However, criticism is mounting all over the world against the U.S. move. Even The New York Times has characterized it as "amateurish". The European Union has distanced itself from the Bush adventure. The spokesman of the European Commission stated that it has no plans of designating IRGC as a terrorist outfit.

The Chief of Iranian Army has reminded the U.S. Government that Iranian missiles are capable of targeting U.S. warships anywhere in the gulf. Several Army experts in U.S. has advised Bush against any military adventure in Iran.

The worries of Bush have been further compounded due to the statements made by the serving Iraqi Government Prime Minister Nouri al Malki as well as Afghanistan President Hamid Anzai that Iran was playing a positive role in the region. The studies conducted by U.S. organizations have noted that all over the world the policies of Bush are being opposed by the people. The isolation of war mongering Bush was never so much complete as it is to-day.

The Russian army chief had given a statement that the military solution cannot settle the problem of Iran and he advocated that it should be resolved through dialogue. China has also opposed the proposal for an armed intervention in Iran and advocated that the question should be settled within the framework of IAEA.

In spite of this if the Bush administration undertakes the gamble of another war it will pay a heavy price for the misadventure.

President Bush's hegemonistic policies have become so ridicule that his servile governments at time find it difficult to implement. Despite U.S. Under Secretary Nicolas Burns's statement in Ankara that U.S. allies consider imposing sanctions on Iran over its nuclear programme, Turkey's right wing Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan noted. "Russia and Iran are Turkey's most important sources in terms of natural gas". Turkey's Energy Minister Hilmi Guler announced that he would sign a major energy deal on July 24 between Turkey and Iran.

SETBACK TO PEACE PROCESS IN PALESTINE

We have already noted about the breakdown of the peace process initiated by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. The Mecca Summit brought together both Al Fatah and Hamas group to form a single Government of Palestine. However, the process of unity could not last long and the conflict between them has resumed which only helped US. Imperialists and Israeli occupationists.

Though Hamas got clear majority in democratic elections, the Western powers never accepted the role of Hamas and they openly supported the Al Fatah President Mahmood Abbas. The exposure of the documents detailing al Fatah's co-operation with CIA has caused serious embarrassment to Al Fatah Government.

According to Palestine Human Rights Organization 655 people were killed in Gaza between 2002 and 2007 as a consequence of breakdown of security and of these 81 were children. During the same period 127 people including 30 foreigners were kidnapped.

Hamas capturing of the entire Gaza strip has given a new dimension to the problem. Despite their support to the unity Govt., not much progress could be achieved. Mahoud Abbas dissolved the coalition Government and the U.S. and Israel Government openly supported this step.

Israel decided to pay Palestinian tax money of West Bank to Al Fatah Government while starving the Gaza strip by denying them the tax money which was to be paid as per previous agreement. The economy of Gaza strip depends upon Israel since its oil, energy and water supplies are through Israel. Gaza's imports and exports have to pass through Israel. However, the blockade imposed by Israel against Gaza strip has resulted in acute hardship for the population. The matters assumed such a serious proportion that former U.S President Jimmy Carter characterized U.S. Government's role as "criminal".

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced three nation theory in the region, visualized two Palestine states of Gaza Strip and West Bank along with Israel. The Govt. of Israel has been pressurizing Fatah Government not to come to terms with Hamas which is creating difficulties towards unity of both the warring groups. The Defence Minister of Israel has threatened to use 20000 strong army against Hamas with a view to dismember their capacities. At the same time President Bush sanctioned \$60 million programme to strengthen Fatah army.

Hamas is still fighting despite several difficulties. However, no solution to the problem of Palestine is possible unless the two warring groups unite and fight for a free Palestine from the clutches of U.S. imperialists and Israeli Zionists.

TURMOIL IN NEPAL

The elections for the Constituent Assembly in Nepal were fixed on November 22, 2007 but the conditions stipulated by the Election Commission were not acceptable to Maoist. The demand made by the Maoists that prior to the Constituent Assembly elections, Nepal should be declared as a republic by overthrowing monarchy. The Koirala Government was not prepared to accept this condition of Maoists who felt that the question of Monarchy can be decided as a priority item after formation of Constituent Assembly.

Maoists argued that King Gyanendra would not allow fair elections of the Constituent Assembly and hence the monarchy should be abolished prior to the elections. As a result of this the Eight Party alliance faced a serious crisis. The Maoist withdrawal from the Government added to the gravity of the situation.

In a massive demonstration organized on September 18, the Maoist announced in Kathmandu that though they were withdrawing from the Government they were still committed to the peace process agreed by the Eight Party Alliance and would not resort to armed struggle in Nepal.

Meanwhile, some tribals resorted to agitational approach to win their rights. They wanted the Government of Nepal to take account of their onerous living conditions and take expeditious steps to improve their working and living conditions.

Despite Maoists laying down arms some other groups have taken up arms which has created some instability in the situation.

Meanwhile, the unity between Koirala and Denba groups has strengthened the Nepali Congress, the largest party in the eight party alliance.

There is urgent need to make the Eight Party accord successful if the future of Nepal is to be secured in favour of the common people. The historic achievement in Nepal should not be allowed to be frittered away and through dialogue the controversies among the Eight party alliance should be settled. The advance towards democracy can help Nepal to achieve sizable economic advance.

GROWING CONFLICTS IN PAKISTAN

The big mass movement has emerged in Pakistan for restoration of democracy in the wake of dismissal of Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhary in which lawyers took a prominent part. The campaign gained momentum day by day. Ultimately the Supreme Court ordered reinstatement of the dismissed Chief Justice which was considered as a big victory for the pro-democracy forces in Pakistan. It gave a serious setback to Musharraf's prestige and strengthened the forces who wanted to fight for ending the army rule in Pakistan.

Musharraf is now faced with twin opposition from pro-democracy elements and pro-Taliban fundamentalists forces in Pakistan. Even U.S. Government felt that Musharraf failed to contain terrorism in Pakistan.

Six months long confrontation between the Musharraf Government and the pro-Al Qaeda extremist forces led by Abdul Rashid Ghazi, who controlled Lal Masjid at Islamabad came to a head on collision in July. The Lal Masjid was considered to be hiding place for extremists all over the country with huge store of arms including rocket launchers and land mines. It became a centre of anti-Musharraf activity in Pakistan.

The trouble started when Islamabad's Capital Development Authority demolished 80 mosques and madarasas illegally constructed on public land. The students of Jamia Haqsa a prominent madarasa protested against the demolition and forcibly seized public library near the Lal Masjid. For more than 8 days the para military forces and the Lal Masjid occupants had a war of nerves from July 3.

The Government forces offered safe passage to 800 boys and 400 girls who gave up and vacated Lal Masjid. Government forces issued several ultimatums and managed to vacate some more extremist out of Lal Masjid. Attempts were also made for a negotiated settlement but could not result in any positive manner. The militants hidden inside Lal Masjid were determined for a Jihad against Musharraf regime.

On July 10, the talks broke down and the army entered Lal Masjid killing nearly 100 occupants while 12 army men also lost their life. The Lal Masjid episode explains the growing tension inside Pakistan. Some observers feel that it was an attempt on the part of Musharraf to impress upon the Western powers that he needed to stay in uniform, to deal with the rising extremism in Pakistan.

The alliance between Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif which resulted in formation of Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD) was short-lived. A conference of ARD held in London on July 7 and 8 was not attended by Benazir Bhutto which ended ARD and led to the formation of All Party Democ-

racy movement.

Meanwhile on July 27 Musharraf went to United Arab Emirate at Dubai to meet Benazir Bhutto to clinch a deal for his election as President and Benazir as the Prime Minister. It is reported that U.S. Government was behind this move. Though later Benazir mentioned that the deal would not be materialized, observers feel it was a tactics to get some more concessions from Musharraf including one that he should contest not in a military uniform.

The developments in Pakistan have adversely affected the dialogue between India and Pakistan since Musharraf was very much involved in his domestic affairs. The U.S. Government is however trying to utilize this situation to strengthen its influence in Pakistan affairs.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka Mahindra Rajapakse Government has intensified military operation against LTTE after several foreign countries have characterized LTTE as a terrorist outfit.

In the past India and Malaysia were the only two countries which have banned LTTE. Now U.S., Canada and 25 member states (including Britain and France) of the European Union have included LTTE in the terrorist list. Australia has also included LTTE in special legislation to check terrorist fund raising.

As a result of these steps several countries have taken legal action against LTTE activists which have resulted in check in their worldwide net work. From the penal actions in many countries all over the world it appears that the LTTE had its ramifications all over the world through which they used to raise huge funds and purchase sophisticated arms for their separatist activities in Sri Lanka.

Faced with worldwide penal action against several of their activists, LTTE has raised the question of human rights violation by these countries but it is not having much impact. Arrest of leading LTTE activists in various countries continues unabated.

The arrest of one drug smuggler and supplier of arms to LTTE in Thailand has given further setback to LTTE activities. However, despite these difficulties LTTE is not in a mood to find a political solution to the problem of Sri Lanka within its framework. They are still not giving up the policy of separate state for Sri Lankan Tamils.

Sri Lankan Government is also not considering the question of settlement with LTTE through negotiations. It is considering intensification of military operation which will only add to the sufferings of the people in the State.

On the eve of 62nd U.N. General Assembly session which commenced on September 20, Sri Lankan Government announced that it was prepared to halt the ongoing military campaign and hold talks with LTTE if they are ready to resume talks. This is a positive development but it would advance further only if the Rajapakse Government is advancing positive proposals for a settlement and LTTE gives up its separatist demand.

AUTHORITARIAN RULE IN BANGLADESH

The caretaker Government constituted in Bangladesh backed by the armed forces is resorting to

several repressive measures in the country. Though the caretaker Government role was to hold the elections in a democratic manner, it has postponed the elections for 18 months on the plea that the preparation of the electoral rolls has to be completed prior to that.

The caretaker Government on the plea of taking action against corrupt officials have taken in custody a large number of persons. Though corruption was rampant under Khalida Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and several billionaires have amassed huge wealth, it hit some political persons who are not agreeing with the ruling junta.

Though Khalida Zia's son was involved in several corruption cases attempt was made to send her and her son to Saudi Arabia.

Charges of corruption were also leveled against Sheikh Hasina when she was in U.S.A. She decided to come back inspite of the threat of arrest. However, she received tumultuous reception when she reached Dhaka. She was however arrested on July 16, which led to several protest demonstrations all over Bangladesh. Hasina led a 16 party coalition and the arrest was considered as a case of political vendetta resorted to by the caretaker Government.

As a matter of fact, Sheikh Hasina supported earlier several steps of the caretaker Government but criticized the policy of postponing the general elections in Bangladesh.

The emergency declaration in Bangladesh gave huge powers to the caretaker Govt. which was trying to disrupt all the established political parties.

People in Bangladesh in general are in favour of political reforms but do not approve to do them under the authoritarian regime.

The Chief of the Army staff General Moeese U. Ahmed declared that the armed forces were only assisting the civilian Government and would not take over power. At the same time he asserted, "We do not want to go back to an 'elective democracy' where corruption in society becomes all pervasive and governance suffers in terms of insecurity and violation of rights and where political criminalisation threatens the very survival and integrity of the state".

Thus, the army in Bangladesh is becoming more powerful in dealing with civilian matters. The elections are now likely to be held by the end of December 2008. Meanwhile, political uncertainty will prevail and fundamentalist forces are likely to raise their ugly head in this period in Bangladesh

DEMOCRATIC UPSURGE IN MYANMAR

Periodical popular outbursts are seen in Myanmar against the rule of Military Junta in Myanmar. On August 21 massive demonstrations were held against the rise in petroleum prices all over the country.

Faced with popular opposition, the Military Junta announced its intention to hold a referendum in Myanmar on a new constitution to ensure "discipline-flourishing democracy" and a "market oriented economic system".

The daughter of Aung San, a legendary hero of the liberation of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi is still under house arrest and there is no intention on the part of Military Junta to release her. Periodic arrest of opposition leaders during agitations however continue in the State.

National League for Democracy led by Suu Kyi and National Council of the Union of Burma are the two main political parties who are fighting for restoration of democracy in Myanmar.

All-Burma Monks Alliance has been formed recently to join the movement for democracy. More than 10 thousand monks demonstrated on September 24 in front of Swedagon Pagoda at Yangon. They were tear gassed and fired upon by the Security forces in which 3 monks have reported to have been killed and several injured.

Government of India is strengthening economic and military ties with the Junta. It has expressed desire to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue. The U.N. Secretary General has sent a special envoy to Myanmar to study the situation. The developments in North East India are influenced by the developments in Myanmar and hence India is concerned with these developments.

FRUITFUL VISIT OF VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER

The visit of the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung in the first week of July is a positive development in India's foreign relations. The economy of Vietnam is growing at a faster rate. During 2004-06 the national economy showed 50 per cent increase.

The Prime Minister visited West Bengal and had useful discussion with the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The Prime Minister was accompanied by 78 member business delegation and had several agreements of co-operation. Pointing out the significance of his visit to India, Vietnamese Prime Minister pointed out that it would provide "a good opportunity to create positive developments in politics, the economy, security, national defence, culture, education and training, and science and technology, thus taking Vietnam-India relations to a new height". The talks between two countries however excluded any discussion on strategic issues since Vietnam does not want to involve in any anti-China alliance. However, reports indicate that Vietnam has shown interest in some defence equipment manufactured indigenously in India.

Visit of Madam Binh to India has further strengthened the ties of friendship between the two countries. Her visit at Kolkata and Delhi have contributed a great deal in development of people to people relations between the two countries.

STRENGTHEN STRUGGLE AGAINST UPA GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES

The Political climate in the country is changing rapidly due to pro-U.S. policies pursued by the UPA Government. It is blatantly violating all the pro-people commitments given in the National Common Minimum Programme. The Report of the General Secretary has already pointed out the dangerous consequences of the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal and how it will affect India's foreign policy framework. The recent military exercises in Bay of Bengal involving U.S., Japan, Australia, Singapore and India involving aircraft carrier Nimitz which was used in war against Iraq, have been resolutely opposed by the Left parties. They have made it clear that they would not support the operationalisation of the deal. Despite the fact that UPA is a minority Government, its adamant policies are creating a political crisis in the country.

The economic policies of the Government are making the life of the common people miserable. The prices of essential commodities are growing rapidly despite the official statistics shows reduction in the rate of inflation. The share market was crossed 17 thousand mark but the farmers are committing

suicide due to their inability to repay the loans and the agricultural operations are becoming uneconomical. The entry of MNC's like Wal Mart in retail trade will affect the livelihood of a large number of retail traders. The liberal concessional announced in SEZ will only enhance the ill gotten wealth of handful capitalists while labour laws will not be implemented resulting in merciless exploitation of the working class. The shocking working conditions in the IT sector is adding to new forms of exploitation of the working class.

The report of the General Secretary has explained how the Bill on the Unorganized Sector workers has not given of any real benefit to the vast multitude of the low paid workers. The outsourcing and contracterisation of the workers is helping the capitalist to add to their profitability at the cost of bad living conditions for the working class.

The downsizing of manpower in almost all the industrial undertakings have added to the workload on the existing employees. Health, Safety and Environment are grossly neglected. Hire and fire policy is being pursued through the backdoor.

The social security benefits are curtailed through modifications of pension schemes, Job security is undermined at every stage.

There is no wonder that unemployment is increasing rapidly which is responsible for growing crimes in the society. The poverty conditions are deteriorating fast.

The NREGA has not so far given much material benefit to the rural workers. Migration of workforce is taking place rapidly and workers are forced to work under inhuman working conditions. The massive response to the CITU's call for nationwide strike of unorganized workers only reflects the acute discontent prevailing among the section of the working class.

The drive towards privatization is adversely affecting the policy of development of self-reliant economy. The unrestricted entry of foreign capital is ruining the indigenous industry.

The main opposition party in the Parliament, the BJP instead of voicing the concern of the people through forthright opposition of the economic policies, are playing opportunistically as usual on their communal agenda in various forms and means. The working class movement has also to expose their divisive and opportunist game plan and isolate the communal forces.

General Secretary's report has explained the details of the programme chalked out by the Sponsoring Committee.

It is of paramount importance that all CITU unions must gear up to implement the programme chalked out by the Sponsoring Committee. The task of building worker peasant alliance as decided by the 31st August Convention should also be given priority by all the unions.

I am sure the deliberation of this working committee meeting will lead to strengthening of the nationwide struggles against the draconian policies pursued by the UPA Government Which are taking the country to ruin and disaster for the common people.

With greetings,
M K Pandhe
President

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear Comrades,

The Presidential address has dealt on international developments in detail. To put in brief, the intervening period since the meeting of our General Council in May 2007 is featured by imperialist power's hell bent bid to subjugate the developing countries by muscle-flexing activities in both economic and political fronts. On the other hand, loud dissents are being voiced from various corners of the globe against the hegemonistic designs of imperialist powers. Latin America is emerging as the most important centre of opposition to US led imperialist hegemony signalling the prospect of multipolarity coming into prominence in world political scenario.

National Political Scene

The intervening period witnessed more rightward shift of the ruling polity in respect of foreign policy issues which has got serious ramification on the internal matters as well. The strategic military cooperation and joint military exercise with USA and its allies, voting twice against Iran in the IAEA just to please the US administration going against the common stand adopted by the non-aligned movement countries are clear indications of such rightward shift in violation of the commitment made by the UPA Govt at the time of drafting the NCMP. The controversy over Indo-US nuclear deal and insistence of UPA Govt to go ahead with the deal despite strong opposition by the Left parties and even a big section of nuclear scientists demanding not to operationalise the deal is a clear indication of the ruling classes subordinating India's independent foreign policy to the US game plan. This also vindicates the incapacity of the Congress-led UPA regime to resist the pressure of US imperialism to sacrifice the policy of non-alignment on which national consensus has developed in the process of the last six decades. This desperation of the ruling polity to oblige the US administration at any cost and by any means indicates strengthening of the grip of imperialist powers on the Indian rulers of all hues. This is indeed a matter of alarm for the Left and progressive forces in the country and also for the working class movement as it poses a severe threat to our self-reliance and sovereignty.

Indo-US Nuclear Deal

In this context, the real face of the Indo-US Nuclear deal needs to be exposed. The scurrilous and malicious campaign against the Left and progressive forces by the ruling classes through the print and electronic media for their opposition to operationalisation of the deal is quite natural for the Indian ruling class seeking to forge a junior partnership with the US imperialism for their narrow illusory gains. The ruling polity has failed in all their attempts to refute the charges that the Indo-US Nuclear Deal, besides compromising Indian sovereignty, is an integral part of the US game plan to establish their hegemony in the subcontinent.

The 123 agreement on nuclear cooperation entered into between the Govts of India and United States is only one part of the wide-ranging alliance that the UPA government has forged with the United States. To put it more comprehensively, it is an integral part of, rather a follow up of the overall neoliberal politico-economic policy architecture the US administration seeks to put India in, with the Indian rulers playing an obliging role. This was spelt out by the Indian prime minister and the American president in the joint statement in July 2005 in Washington. This agreement covers political, economic, military and nuclear cooperation. This alliance entails not just nuclear cooperation but talks of promoting so called global democracy, restructuring the Indian economy for facilitating large scale investment by the United States and a strategic military collaboration.

This was further confirmed by the US Ambassador David Mulford in his press conference on 24th April 2006 at Washington DC, where he minced no words in explaining as to how the US national interests have been taken care of through these Indo-US bilateral agreements and understandings, the beginning of which had been in 1990s when “genuine economic reforms” had kick-started in India incidentally by the present Prime Minister of the country. To quote David Mulford, “beginnings of fundamental changes in India in 90s...First of all, genuine economic reform aimed at opening to the world, integrating its economy more into the world. This is happening, and also transforming its policy of non-alignment and in that process, deciding they need a closer relationship with the United States. These are very, very big, and in my opinion will be lasting changes... under the new framework for the U.S.-India Defence Relationship, which was signed in June of 2005, we have built a compelling case for defence co-production and industrial participation and projects in India, and have established a new defence procurement and production group under the cabinet-level defence policy group. So, my point is we need to look at India in a new light. And this agreement (nuclear), which incidentally is not a unilateral agreement although it is unilateral in the sense that there is a law in the United States which forms the basis for the restrictions on India”.

Joining such Strategic Alliance with United States is tantamount to violation of the commitment of pursuit of an independent foreign policy made by the UPA in its National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). A close scrutiny of the Indo-US nuclear deal would reveal that so called benefit for India on nuclear fuel supply promised by the deal will be wholly dependent on US Govt's sweet will, which in turn will be regulated by The Hyde Act passed by US Congress. The Hyde Act expects India to have a foreign policy “congruent” to the United States. In the background of the Hyde Act, the US can terminate nuclear deal any time and deny nuclear fuel supply but India would continue to be bound by the provisions of IAEA safeguards and restrictions in respect of its nuclear sector in perpetuity. In totality, the nuclear deal in its present form in the context of Hyde Act may subject India to become easy victim of US blackmail not only in the matter of nuclear projects but also in wider area of US hegemonistic design. Falling into such imperialist trap will have serious ramifications on our economic independence and political sovereignty, which the working class movement can ignore only at its peril.

The major pitch being made for the nuclear cooperation agreement is that it will help India meet its energy needs. This ignores the very limited contribution that nuclear power makes to our overall energy generation which is just 3 per cent and which cannot exceed 7 per cent by 2020. To make India's foreign policy and strategic autonomy hostage to this meagre potential of nuclear energy does not make sense except for the American imperative to bind India to its strategic global designs.

The working class movement cannot be a mute spectator to the designs of the UPA government to subdue the country's independent foreign policy and sovereignty to the interests of US imperialism. It must intensify the campaign to expose the real face of the nuclear deal in the context of the desperate bid of the imperialist powers to subjugate the developing countries under its command; it must build up powerful organised opposition among the working class against such anti-national move of the UPA Govt. This has become the most crucial task before us in the background of growing political uncertainties arising out of sticking to the nuclear deal by the UPA Govt despite opposition to the same by the Left and also the majority of MPs in Parliament.

BJP's Role

It also must be noted that on the Nuclear Deal issue, after initially making a show of opposing it, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha L K Advani has now made a volte face exposing the rabid

opportunism in which the BJP and their allies are indulging. In fact BJP's so called opposition to nuclear deal also stems not from an anti-imperialist understanding but altogether from an opportunistic premise.

The six years record of BJP led Government was infamous for its hobnobbing with the US imperialists. The Jaswant Singh-Strobe Talbott secret talks, the visit of L K Advani to CIA headquarters and the eagerness of the NDA Govt to become a natural ally of the US to the extent of considering sending Indian troops to Iraq exposed their pro-imperialist credentials.

We must also take serious note of the BJP's increasing pursuit of aggressive communal agenda, camouflaged in talks of terrorism, national security etc, while at the same time, they are seeking to take advantage of gradual disenchantment of the mass of the people against the UPA combine owing to price rise, increasing unemployment and poverty and other fall-out of their anti-people economic policies. But one thing must be noted in clear terms. Despite being the main opposition party in Parliament, BJP failed to focus on the peoples' miseries, price rise, unemployment etc arising out of economic policy issues as their main agenda for opposition and preferred to harp on their divisive hindutva agenda in various forms and in different garbs. Latest expression of such game plan is their frantic effort to whip up communal passion on the controversy over the Setusamudram project taking advantage of the irresponsible default by the Govt in facing the related court case on the matter. And it is imperative that BJP would seek to whip up their communal agenda more vigorously always at the time of facing the electorate.

Rising Resentment Among People

We have earlier noted in the General Secretary's Report presented before the last General Council meeting of CITU held in May 2007 at Kolkata that the anti-people policies of the same NDA brand being pursued by the UPA Govt "resulted in people at large getting disenchanted with the present governance. The Congress party suffered humiliating defeat in the assembly elections of Uttarakhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and the local body elections in Mumbai and Delhi. The most worrisome part of these developments is that people's disenchantment with the Congress party has, gratuitously, benefited the reactionary forces like BJP and its allies, except in U.P. This definitely is a matter of serious concern for the working class movement."

The working class movement must prepare itself to play its destined role in the political struggle that would follow the political uncertainties looming large in the midst of Indo-US Nuclear Deal controversy. Our entire struggle against the neoliberal economic policies must have more vocal anti-imperialist focus. We must overcome our weakness in this regard and integrate those struggles with the anti-imperialist campaign that has already been launched countrywide by the Left and progressive forces along with the working class. The working class must fight back firmly along with the Left and progressive forces the scurrilous offensive of the ruling class that may express itself in more aggressive form aided and abetted by the imperialist agencies in the forthcoming political struggle. We must also expose the pro imperialist and pro globalisation policies of the BJP and its communal agenda, as it seeks to utilise the discontent among the people to again come to power.

At the same time, we have to build up massive mobilisation at the grass root level and unleash struggles against the disastrous fall out of the neoliberal economic policies in the form of continuing price rise, aggravating unemployment situation, widening poverty, attack on the rights and livelihood of the toiling people both in industries and agriculture; we have to expose the utter failure of the UPA Govt to implement its pro-people commitments as laid down in the NCMP on strengthening the public

distribution system, enactment comprehensive legislation for unorganised sector workers etc, through such mobilisation. We have also to expose the close link of the neoliberal policies with the hegemonistic drive of imperialist powers through our campaign and struggles.

In the Economic Front

The bankruptcy of the neoliberal economic policy regime is getting increasingly exposed with every passing day, generating serious resentment against the UPA regime. Despite the media hype on India emerging as a big economic power, disenchantment among the mass of the people is growing against the ruling polity. Growing impoverishment of the masses along with growing GDP is exposing the bankruptcy of the policy regime. The GDP is growing to touch the double digit but at the same time unemployment is also touching a new height; employment is declining in the organised sector and this phenomenon along with marginal increase in low-paid low quality employment in the unorganised sector has reduced the labour cost indicating a decline in average wage level in real terms. This means that the value creation by the working people reflected by the growing GDP numbers is being wholly appropriated by the capitalist class, both domestic and foreign. Agrarian crisis is continuing unabated. But the bank credit to agriculture has increased in absolute terms during last couple of years. At the same time agricultural distress, reflected in ever increasing incidents of farmers' suicides, got multiplied indicating thereby that the resources pumped in the rural economy is being wholly cornered by the rural rich or the hoarders' community.

Continuing price rise, besides hitting hard the urban poor and the working class in a big way, has created a paradoxical situation for the rural producers. The ongoing inflation is primarily driven by the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities and food grains, pulses etc. But the producers of such essential commodities in agriculture are not getting the right price, not even the price to get an enough margin to maintain a decent livelihood throughout the year. On the other hand the failure of FCI to fulfil its target of procurement of principal food grains and the increasing dominance of the private procurement agencies including those led by MNCs and big corporates, is being projected by the Govt, particularly the Minister of Agriculture as an indication that the farmers are getting a better price of their products. The procurement figures during last one year show that FCI's procurement has remained a negligible percentage of total production of the Rabi crops in the poorer states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh etc. Does it mean that the farmers in these states got a better price for their products from private procurement agencies and improved their livelihood? The grass root level situation reveals the opposite. Intermediate hoarders engaged by the corporate procurement agencies made the gain and grass root level producers continue to get a raw deal. In fact, the whole system has been subjected to a perversion making it a hay day for the intermediaries and traders. The Govt is indulging in liberal import of wheat in terms of several millions of tonnes at a price much higher than what is being offered to our own farmers as minimum support price. This is creating deliberate disincentive for the domestic agriculture at the behest of the corporate traders and import lobby.

The steep increase in the prices of essential commodities is not properly reflected in the consumer price index (as shown by the data for the last 6 months). CITU should take initiative to develop united struggles against fraudulent consumer price index. For example, during last ten months since September 2006 to June 2007, the consumer price index (2001=100) has moved only five points from 125 to 130 reflecting only 4 per cent rise. In reality, the extent of price rise of all essential commodities like pulses, food grains, vegetables and medicines etc has zoomed at least by 20 to 50% on the average during the same period. Introduction of the 2001=100 series was opposed unanimously by all the Central Trade Unions; yet the government brushed aside the genuine points of objections and

introduced it. The Prime Minister committed to the trade unions for constitution of the Index Review Committee one year ago. The Govt has reportedly constituted one such committee but the trade unions are not given proper representation in the same. The motive is clear. The Govt wants to artificially depress the price index numbers to show a lower inflation and deprive a big section of workers of their legitimate dearness allowances besides claiming the false credit of containing inflation.

In respect of industrial and infrastructural sectors as well, similar perversions and distortions in the policy regime is reigning supreme. Public investment in infrastructure is being discouraged and in its place, in the name of public-private partnership (PPP), arrangement is being made to supply resources from public exchequer to private sector projects. This is continuing for at least one decade, but still on date, PPP projects have negligible contribution to infrastructure development.

Government continues to sanction SEZs giving away thousands of acres of land to the big corporate houses. Already 550 SEZs have been sanctioned which pose serious consequences to our economy. But the demand of the trade unions and the Left Parties to amend the SEZ Act to ensure productive use of the entire land within SEZ, an effective and transparent mechanism for adequate compensation, rehabilitation policy and package for the land-losers and landless workers, proper enforcement of labour laws etc is going unheeded.

In the power sector, private sector companies are being encouraged out of the way putting the public sector companies at a disadvantage although private sectors' contribution in electricity generation remained negligible in successive five-year plans including the just concluded 10th Plan. In the ultra mega power projects, the Power Ministry made it a point to oust public sector's participation in the first one of its kind at Sasan project at Uttar Pradesh and compelled NTPC to quote a much higher rate thereby allowing the private sector competitor to have a cakewalk to grab the contract. In case of Ultra Mega Power Project, the Govt made privatisation of distribution agency a mandatory condition for central assistance and owing to protest and pressure by various state Govts had to relax the said condition very recently. In the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vaidyutikaran Yojana, the central assistance for rural electrification is tied up with conditionality of introducing franchisee system for revenue collection, which reflects patronage to private agencies and intrusion on the rights of the State Govts and State Electricity Boards.

After the discovery of huge reserve of gas in the country, gas is being considered rightly as comparatively cheaper and cleaner fuel for the power and fertilizer sector; but the conspiracy is on to make the gas price linked with the international price of crude oil to oblige the corporate lobby, both domestic and foreign, which would make gas also a costly fuel like imported petroleum, naphtha or LNG despite the fact that gas is mostly being produced domestically. Accordingly the Govt is colluding with the private players in the gas exploration and allocating them major number of field in each round during recent years. Moreover, the Govt is playing into the hands of the private players to allow fixation of artificially inflated gas-price by linking the same with the international price of crude oil just to ensure windfall profit for them. Recently, in the face of demand by Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) to fix the price of domestically produced gas at an artificially high level of US\$4.33 per mmbtu (million metric British thermal units), the Empowered Group of Ministers constituted by the Govt to decide on the issue has blindly accepted the RIL's unreasonable demand deliberately allowing them windfall gains exploiting the natural resource of the country, which is national property. Such high gas price will seriously affect the power and fertiliser industries in a big way and hamper the prospect of revival of the sick fertiliser plants.

In Defence sector, putting our Ordnance Factories and Defence sector PSUs at a disadvantage, the Govt is moving ahead in patronising the new-found private corporates as Raksha Utpadan Ratna through a mechanism to fund their research expenditure in the name of viability gap funding.

Reckless export of iron ore is being allowed threatening fast depletion of country's reserve and posing a severe threat to fast expanding domestic steel industry.

Despite increasing opposition against allowing FDI in retail trade sector being voiced by trade unions, small traders, social activists etc throughout the country, and the popular demand for effective regulation and control on the fast-corporatisation taking place in the retail trade, the Govt of the day has been playing the role of active patron to such disastrous process to favour big monopoly houses seeking to make fortunes over daily necessities of the common people. We must take note of various incidents of protest actions against corporate sector's entry in retail trade on daily necessities in Orissa, UP, Maharashtra etc and gauge the depth of discontent over the issue. Hoodwinking the ineffective statement of the Govt regarding allowing FDI only in single-brand retail, giant retail MNCs like Wal Mart are already making their entry through collaboration with Indian corporates like Bharati, Mittals etc. It is also noteworthy that corporatisation of retail trade to the extent it had already taken place are all centring round the trading in daily necessities of common people seeking to replace the small traders in groceries a big way and this process is closely linked with the increasing entry of private procurement agencies owned by big corporate houses deep into the rural economy through their numerous intermediaries. The fall out of such situation in food-grains sector has already been dealt in earlier paragraphs.

There are numerous examples of such perversions in the policy regime pertaining to industry and trade which is seriously harming the country's self-reliant industrialisation process and at the same time promoting reckless exploitation of common people, both as producers and consumers.

Much hullabaloo is being made over the appreciation of rupee by the exporters' lobby in the media; the response of the ruling polity to such phenomenon seeks to camouflage the truth that the speculative dominance by the international finance capital forcing the Govt towards full convertibility of rupee and dismantling of almost all regulations have led to such a situation; every response of the Govt to control the rupee value is finally benefiting the big corporate houses and also the international finance capital. On the plea that the appreciating rupee is making our exports costlier in the international market, the Govt at regular intervals, has been showering huge concession on the big export houses at the cost of national exchequer; the latest concessions declared on that account in the last month was worth more than Rs 1500 crore. On the other hand, the Reserve Bank of India has been purchasing dollars from the market to keep the rupee value within limit and the accumulation of dollars with the RBI is again being deposited in US bonds, finally benefiting the US economy. Again, in this process, RBI is pumping more idle currency in the economy, which in turn, is pushing up inflationary pressure. Ultimately, it is the common people who are made to suffer.

Similar perversion is also noticed in the volatile price fluctuation in the stock markets. When the stock markets boom, zooming the sensdex figures, the neoliberal pundits in the governance lose no time in claiming credit for their neoliberal policies. When the stock prices dip leading to sensdex crash, the same pundits claim it to be a correction-process. These rise and fall in stock markets are mostly the handiwork of international finance capital and in no way the natural ups and downs in prices generally seen in the commodity market. And the reality is that whether the sensdex zooms or crashes, the beneficiaries are always the big players and the brokers while the small investors always lose. And these transactions do not add anything in real terms to the wealth of the economy. Perversion lies in

the fact that money gets multiplied without creating any additional value or wealth quite different from the production process where capital multiplies itself through production process.

Attacks on Working People

It is the toiling people that are the worst hit by these policies. We have already mentioned the phenomenon of declining average wage level in real terms along with increasing GDP numbers and galloping profit level for the corporate lobby, both domestic and foreign. The situation is getting aggravated everyday through rampant contractorisation and casualisation of the workplace throughout the country, both in public and private sector. Several studies have exposed that although the productivity and net value creation per worker have increased across all the sectors, average wage level has gone down in real terms. Contractorisation of regular jobs in various forms has been the key instrument in setting in such perversion in the production process. And through this process, even within organised sector industries, particularly those that came up in the nineties onwards such informalisation of employment conditions is being created in a big way.

The government which was prompt in announcing Rs 1,500 crore assistance for exporters because of the appreciation of the Indian Rupee vis a vis the USD, impacting export earning, is dragging its feet to implement its commitment to enact a comprehensive protective legislation on service conditions and social security for the unorganised sector workers. On the other hand whatever social security benefits that are available to a small section of workers are being sought to be diluted and taken away.

Attack on Pension Rights

The annual evaluation of Employees Pension Scheme 1995 for upward revision of the pension benefits, as had been committed by the Govt at the time of enactment, had been discontinued long back. Now the Scheme has been amended unilaterally (para 12 of EPS 95) and retrospectively to drastically reduce the pension earning of the majority of the beneficiaries under the scheme who only avail short-service or early pension. Again in the meeting of Central Board of Trustees held on 24th September 2007 the Govt mooted a proposal to further curtail the pensionary benefit by making the pensionable age from existing 58 years to 60 years and increasing the rate of deduction in pension of those retiring before 60 years from 3 per cent per year to 5 per cent per year. It may be noted that over two third of the pensioners under Employees Pension Scheme are short service or early-pensioners, i.e., retiring before the normal age and they will be subjected to heavy loss of pension-earning by the Govt move. The workers' representatives in CBT rejected the proposal outright.

Provisions of the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill, though could not yet be passed by Parliament owing to opposition by entire trade union movement and the Left Parties, are now being executed in stages through executive orders. The Bill is still pending in Parliament, but the Govt has been deducting 10 per cent wages of a section of Govt employees, instituted Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and has gone ahead with engaging fund managers on the part of PFRDA to deploy the fund collected so far through various means including in the share market. The entire exercise that is being carried on is totally unauthorised and does not have the sanction of statute; yet, none but the Govt at the centre is indulging in such unlawful exercise.

In this context, the real import of the PFRDA Bill on the entire social security system is required to be understood by all concerned. PFRDA Bill is not just meant for the Govt employees alone. This bill seeks to usher in a contribution-defined social security regime to replace the benefit-defined system

so long in vogue. The new system seeks to generate a so called social security fund through contribution by the workers, and in turn offers social security benefits based on what that fund can earn from the volatile market and through that process seeks to provoke (promote?) deployment of that fund in the stock market operation. There being no assurance for minimum guaranteed benefit, and the interest rate for normal long term savings having gone down consistently, resulting in decline in accrual to the social security fund and thus a lower quantum of benefit, a virtually "no alternative" situation is being sought to be created by the new system for deployment of the fund in stock market. And that process would inevitably result in huge loss to the workers as the international experience of stock-market deployment of social security funds reveals till date. The ultimate game plan is to embrace all the social security and retirement benefit schemes like PF, ESI and the likes to bring them under market-driven mechanism as outlined by the new pension system under PFRDA. The gradual decline in the interest rate on PF on the plea of declining accrual in interest-earnings on the Fund is the indication of this trend. This sinister move must be resisted by all means by the working class movement. CITU's struggle against the reduction in the PF interest rate must be understood in this premise. Interest on social security funds like PF, which is as good as a long term fixed deposit with the govt, as long as 40 years, increasing at a recurring rate, cannot be market driven like other commercial deposits. Social security funds deserve a differential treatment, a different rate of interest higher than the market rate and the Govt, being the beneficiary and custodian of that fund, should bear the responsibility of the same.

Attacks on Labour Rights

Attacks on labour rights continue unabated. Although the Govt could not yet formally change the existing labour laws in favour of the employers, that failure is being sought to be made up by the ruling class through mass-scale non-implementation and violation of all basic labour laws pertaining to minimum wages, working hours, social security benefits and trade union rights. And such violation of labour laws in most of the places is taking place with active patronage of law-enforcement authority. Overwhelming majority of the trade union struggles throughout the country pertain to demands of implementation of existing labour laws and nothing more. Deliberations in the 41st Indian Labour Conference held early this year exposed these happenings where many State-Govt representatives had to admit the phenomenon of most tardy implementation of labour laws citing inadequacies in the provisions regarding enforcement in the existing laws. It is irony that in the face of such a situation the Govt of the day is still pressing for doing away with inspection machinery to replace it by "self certification" on compliance by the law-violating employers.

On the other hand, the attacks on the trade union struggles continue unabated. It has become a general phenomenon throughout the country that the demands raised by the workers in most of the private sector units for even payment of minimum wages, regulating working hours and the like is being countered by the employers through mass scale retrenchment, dismissal of union leaders and implicating them in police cases in close connivance with the state administration. The latest example of the same is mass scale retrenchment of workers in Avery India Ltd at Ballabhgarh, Haryana by the employer to counter the union's protest against vindictive dismissal of four union leaders; another has been the kidnapping and severe physical torture of the CITU leader in Jammu & Kashmir by the gangsters deployed by the contractor in Banihal railway construction project on 18th September 2007. There may be many other similar happenings which are not yet reported. In totality, the game plan of the ruling class is to secure a union-free workplace to continue with entirely a labour-law-free regime for the employers' class. Such a situation warrants that the issues of attack on labour rights and labour law violation in workplaces should remain central to all our campaign and agitations.

Struggles and its perspective

12th Conference of CITU outlined the direction of struggles; CITU should endeavour to develop in a phased manner. In specific terms, the Conference stressed upon the need for independent initiative for mobilisations that would create conditions for countrywide united struggle. Secondly, the Conference emphasised the crucial task of mobilising other sections of people in the struggle against exploitation and grievous fall out of the neoliberal regime. The Conference also directed for initiative of building up joint struggle with the peasantry and agricultural workers.

Workers' Peasants Joint Initiative

In pursuit to that direction, the All India Worker-Peasant Demands' Day was observed with much enthusiasm throughout the country on 18th April 2007 with the joint initiative of CITU, All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) and All India Agricultural Workers' Union (AIAWU). And as a follow up to that initiative, the All India Joint Convention of workers, peasants and agricultural workers was held on 31st August 2007 at New Delhi in which around 900 delegates participated from all over the country. The Convention has drawn a phased programme of joint countrywide campaign with a target of holding a massive workers-peasants march before Parliament sometimes in 2008.

In this context we must note the new prospects and possibilities to expand the horizon of struggle against the neoliberal policy regime. The land struggle in Andhra Pradesh despite brutal and murderous repression by the state administration could not be deterred and it is now fast expanding into new areas drawing lakhs of common people, much beyond our traditional area of influence. Our Andhra Pradesh State Committee of CITU played a frontline role in the said struggle involving a large section of the working class and many of our state leaders faced arrests and police repression.

Spontaneous protest demonstrations in almost all the states in the country against the police firing on the people in the land struggle in Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh reflect the urge for the workers-peasants joint struggle among the ranks as well as the potential of such joint initiative. In the background of serious agrarian crisis, mounting unrest among the rural masses is creating conditions for such joint struggles. The working class movement must harness that potential to develop a powerful mass movement throughout the country.

Countrywide Strike by Anganwadi Employees

Massive Countrywide strike by Anganwadi employees on 10th July at the call of All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers (AIFAWH) had been an important independent action by CITU led unions which could draw larger sections of anganwadi workers in the strike action beyond the membership of AIFAWH. This strike had been in continuity of massive ten day long round-the-clock dharna in Delhi last year, which was the first of its kind organised by any trade union in the country and the March to Parliament and courting of arrest in May this year.

In this context, we must take note of the immense potential of the Anganwadi movement in the country which can play a crucial role in organising the unorganised sector workers, particularly in the rural and semi-urban areas. The job content of the anganwadi workers and helpers by itself trains them in organising people. And such potential is already visible even within the CITU organisation where our anganwadi comrades have already started organising the mid-day meal workers, the voluntary health workers, the domestic workers etc in many states and in certain states they represent the frontline leadership of CITU at the district and lower levels. They have access to every house in the rural areas

and can work as political campaigners, if properly trained and equipped. Our Anganwadi Federation – AIFWAH - is by far the largest country wide organisation among the Anganwadi employees, but still a large section of anganwadi employees in various states are yet to be organised in unions. Some state committees of CITU are yet to take enough interest in organising the anganwadi employees despite consistent persuasion and by the AIFWAH Centre. In view of the expansion of the ICDS and the ongoing recruitment in this sector, CITU must accord top priority in strengthening the Anganwadi Federation by taking more initiative in organising anganwadi employees, developing leadership from among them and training and equipping them with special initiative from the CITU leadership at district, state and central levels, in view of their potential in contributing to and spreading the CITU organisation throughout the country.

Countrywide Strike by the Unorganised Sector Workers

During the intervening period since last General Council meeting, the countrywide strike action by unorganised sector workers on 8th August 2007 has been another notable independent action organised by CITU. The strike call was magnificently responded to by the unorganised sector workers in almost all the states. As per estimates around three and half crore workers took part in the strike which was much beyond the membership strength of CITU among the unorganised sector workers. The vigorous campaign organised by our unions in the unorganised sector with active involvement of most of the State Committees of CITU could carry the message of struggle to much larger sections of workers in the unorganised sector leading to such successful strike action. This also speaks about the depth of simmering discontent prevailing among the mass of the unorganised sector workers awaiting organisation and leadership for such discontent to be voiced through struggles.

The experience of the preparatory campaign for the strike in unorganised sector points to immense potential of building up a more powerful struggle if conscious efforts are made to expand our organisational activities among the new sections of the unorganised sector workers who joined the strike action. The response to our preparatory campaign has brought forth that prospect. As per reports received from various states, besides West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura where organisational structure for the campaign had been there in almost all the districts and subdivisions, in several states like Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab, the intensive preparatory campaign initiative for the strike through circulation of several thousands of posters, several lakhs of leaflets and booklets, mohalla meetings, conventions, rallies etc and response thereto led to involvements of new activists and also formation of committees up to subdivision/taluk/mandal levels in many areas; emergence of these structures at the grass root level, if consciously nursed with continued organisational initiative, possess the potential of being the instrument of organisational expansion and consolidation among the unorganised sector workers. Even in the comparatively weaker states like Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Delhi, etc, preparatory campaign could cross the usual periphery of our membership and reach the new sections of workers like rickshaw pullers, auto-drivers and other forms of private transports, street vendors, in some states rural workers under NREGA, a large section of which could be drawn to strike action and also in the mobilisations on the strike day. Moreover, the profile of participation in strike points to immense prospect of our organisational expansion particularly in private transport sector including auto-rickshaw and rickshaw-pullers, head-load workers, construction (house building) sector, street vendors, brick-kilns, oil mills and rice mills, small manufacturing, besides in other areas.

We must note in this context that the call for strike action, even in its preparatory campaign stage, could create noticeable impact on the Govt. The Govt had to constitute a Group of Ministers (GoM) reportedly to review its earlier proposal for teeth-less legislation for the unorganised sector workers.

The National Commission on Enterprises in Unorganised Sector had to retune its recommendations on comprehensive legislations for unorganised sector workers and agricultural workers broadly in line with the recommendations of the trade unions though not wholly incorporating their suggestions. And the Govt again had to call another round of consultation with the Central Trade Unions on 11th August 2007 on the same issue.

But, ultimately the government did not take into consideration even the recommendations made by the NCEUS. On 10th September it had introduced a bill to cover both the agricultural and non agricultural unorganised sector workers, with only enabling provisions for formulating some social security schemes, as suggested by the social security boards to be constituted. It is nothing but an effort to cheat the unorganised sector workers as the erstwhile NDA government did in the name of a 'pension scheme for the unorganised sector workers' on the eve of the previous elections.

Joint Trade Union Initiative

On the front of joint trade union initiative, important developments have taken place. The Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions has finalised its next phase of campaign and agitation based on 19 point charter of demands covering all sections of the working people. The programmes are:

- Joint Conventions in all the state capitals and industrial centres during September—November 2007
- All India Convention of Contract workers on 19th November 2007 to fight back the menace of mass scale contractorisation in various forms in the industries, services and other establishments throughout the country in gross violation of law of the land
- Countrywide 'SATYAGRAHA' through massive mobilisation/dharna/picketing/"jail-bharo" etc in all the states and industrial centres on 4th and 5th December 2007
- The Sponsoring Committee also called for preparing for countrywide strike action in the next phase.

Several sectoral actions are also in the anvil in the days to come. All the organisations of the bank employees including the officers associations united under the banner of United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) had decided to go in for countrywide strike on 12th September 2007 to press for their demands against mass scale outsourcing, for second option for pension and compassionate ground appointments. The strike has been subsequently deferred following assurance given by the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for early commencement of negotiations on the issues. On 27th September 2007, around 25000 employees of the associate banks of State Bank of India staged a countrywide strike action against the move of merger. The Central and State Govt Employees Organisations have also decided to organize strike action on 30th October 2007 to press for their demands and against attack on their pension-rights through unauthorised execution of the PFRDA Bill. All the major five workers' federations of coal miners, in a convention held on 26th August 2007 have jointly decided phased agitational programmes till next December as prelude to the Strike action to be decided afterwards.

Joint Initiative for Struggles in Public Sector Units

The public sector workers' unions in the country came together in an all India Convention under the banner of Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions (CPSTU) on 16th September at Nashik to decide the next course of united action by the public sector workers to press for their demands on seventh round wage revision along with fighting the menace of mass scale contractorisation. Noteworthy is

that, this time the joint platform of the Public sector workers' movement, the Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions (CPSTU), comprising CITU, AITUC, HMS, JAF, Bangalore and PSU Coordination Committee, Hyderabad has raised demand for simultaneous wage rise for the contract workers in the PSUs to bring that at least at par with the minimum wage of the regular workers. The CITU affiliated PSU unions had their separate meeting on 15th September at Nashik, i.e., one day before the CPSTU meeting.

Around 300 representatives of public sector unions, covering almost all the central Public Sector Units attended the convention and 33 comrades from different PSUs took part in the deliberation. The Convention underlined the challenges before the public sector workers' movement and decided their future course of actions in preparation to countrywide strike action to be decided shortly after reviewing the situation and the response to the programmes of campaign and agitation.

The Convention noted that the Govt has been continuing its effort for privatisation/investment in the PSUs. In the face of opposition from the trade unions and the Left Parties, the Govt has been making some of the profitable PSUs to offload part of their equity in the market in the form of initial public offer (IPO) and Powergrid Corporation, Power Finance Corporations etc are in the list for such an exercise for investment through backdoor.

The employment profile of the PSUs has also been undergoing a drastic change which is a matter of serious concern. Number of regular workers is declining and the number of contract workers, deployed even in core operational activities is increasing fast. The situation has so arisen that in many PSUs where the regular workers are becoming a minority in the total workforce vis-à-vis the number of officers and the number of contract workers taken together. Emergence of such a situation is bound to have negative impact on the bargaining strength and striking power of the public sector workers' movement. Hence the foremost task of the day is to integrate the contract workers with the public sector workers' movement and the permanent workers' union have to shoulder the responsibility to organise the contract workers and lead their struggles. Precisely with this understanding, the CPSTU has formulated the charter of demands and programmes of agitation on those demands.

The CPSTU endorsed the agitation programmes adopted by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions and also decided to observe "day long mass dharna" in all the PSUs throughout the country on 7th November 2007 on the demands of the public sector workers including contract workers in the concerned PSUs. CPSTU also decided to join the All India Convention of Contract Workers being organised by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions on 19th November 2007 at New Delhi. CPSTU also decided to participate in the programme of countrywide 'Satyagraha' on 4th and 5th December 2007.

Working Women

The 12th conference of CITU noted the necessity of making efforts to develop a unified understanding on the structure, composition and functions of the Coordination Committees of Working Women. It had decided to organise a meeting to discuss this issue and suggest measures to overcome the existing shortcomings and weaknesses. A meeting of the president/ general secretary of the state committees of CITU, the office bearer of the state committee in charge of the state coordination committee of working women and the convenor of the state ccww was convened by the CITU centre on 30th August 2007. But it is regrettable that representatives from only 11 states attended the meeting. Even out of these 11 states, neither the president nor the general secretary participated from some of the states. The meeting felt that still more efforts are needed to make progress on this

issue. The meeting reiterated the earlier decisions to form state level coordination committees wherever they have not been formed, women subcommittees in the affiliated unions having sizable women membership, to make them functional wherever they have been formed but remain non functional, and to organise trade union classes to develop women cadres. Separate classes for the Hindi speaking states have to be organised by the Centre.

During the period since the last General Council meeting of CITU, all major trade union activities have witnessed notable participation by the women workers. The participation of anganwadi employees in the 10th July strike and the accompanying programmes like dharnas, rail roko, rasta roko, burning of effigies etc was massive. Women workers' participation in the unorganised sector workers' strike and in the processions, rallies, dharnas and the road-block demonstrations on 8th August 2007 was quite high reflecting a big potential of enrolling and activating the women workers in the frontline role in the trade union movement. We must plan our activities among working women keeping in mind this potential.

On Unorganised Sector Workers' Legislation

As we have noted earlier, following the magnificent countrywide strike by the unorganised sector workers at the call of CITU, the Union Labour Minister, Shri Oscar Fernandes invited the Central Trade Unions for a meeting on the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill on 11th August 2007. W R Varada Rajan and Tapan Sen, both Secretaries of CITU, attended the meeting along with leaders of other Central Trade Unions.

In the meeting, the Labour Secretary read out the letter dated 20th July 2007 sent by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions, signed by CITU, AICCTU, AITUC, HMS, TUCC, UTUC-LS and UTUC, to the Prime Minister denouncing the draft bill on social security for Unorganised reportedly cleared by the Union Cabinet on 24th May 2007 as sheer tokenism and demanding comprehensive protective legislations on working conditions and social security benefits for the agricultural workers and unorganised sector workers through two separate Bills. The Labour Minister, Shri Oscar Fernandes, chaired the meeting and stated that in view of the reservations expressed by the Central Trade Unions, the Prime Minister had reconstituted the Group of Ministers directing the same to have a relook on the issue. He solicited the concrete suggestions and views of the Central Trade Unions on the proposed bills, to enable the Government to examine the matters de novo.

The representatives of the Central Trade Unions reiterated their views in the following terms:

1. The unanimous suggestions made by all the Central Trade Unions in concrete terms have already been sent a number of times to the Labour Ministry during last five years and every time, while making proposals or preparing drafts, the Ministry ignored the basic contents of the suggestions made by the trade unions.
2. The Bill reportedly cleared by the Cabinet and released by the Press Information Bureau had no substantive contents to extend a meaningful social security coverage to the unorganised sector workers within a stipulated time frame; it was nothing but an expression of intent without any concrete provisions and programmes for action; hence it is not acceptable to the trade union movement.
3. The Central Trade Unions have long since been demanding two separate comprehensive legislations for Agricultural workers and Unorganised Sector (non-agricultural) workers, covering both the basic service conditions, employment protection and social security benefits. Experience of last one decade clearly demonstrates that social security schemes cannot just work without any statutory backing and concrete resource allocation; the last such incident is the Unorganised Workers Social

Security Scheme launched with much fanfare in 2004, which had subsequently been folded up, as it did not benefit anyone.

4. The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) had already presented its report dated August 6, 2007 to the Prime Minister, with its detailed recommendations, evolved after elaborate consultations with the Central Trade Unions; the report included two draft Bills titled "Agricultural Workers Conditions of Work and Social Security Bills 2007" and "Unorganised Non-Agricultural Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007".

5. On a primary scrutiny of the Draft Bills of NCEUS, it is noted that the Bills should also incorporate the scientific formulation of fixing Minimum Wages for the Unorganised Sector and Agricultural Workers based on unanimous recommendation of 15th Indian Labour Conference along with the Supreme Court Judgments in Raptakos Brett and other cases, to give it a statutory force. Secondly, the National Floor Level Social Security comprising health insurance, accident benefit, pension etc to be provided to the concerned workers should be entirely funded by the Central Government, with the workers being enrolled on payment of only a token registration fee and biennial renewal fee. For this, the Central Government should allocate at least 3 per cent of the GDP. Only the add on social security benefits to be extended over and above the floor level minimum, could be linked to contribution from the workers.

6. There may be other areas of the NCEUS draft which may need further improvements and modifications. However, the NCEUS draft bills may be taken as the basis for holding further consultations with the Central Trade Unions. Such consultations may be expeditiously held to facilitate drawing up of meaningful draft Bills for early introduction in Parliament.

The Labour Minister insisted for finalising the Bill only on the Social Security aspects, while suggesting that the working conditions and minimum wages aspects could be taken up subsequently. The Labour Secretary proposed that there should be a single Social Security Bill for the agricultural workers and the unorganised (non-agricultural) sector workers, while two separate bills on working conditions for agricultural and unorganised non-agricultural workers might be taken up afterwards.

The Central Trade Unions representatives summarily rejected this proposal. It was pointed out that such an approach would mean giving a go-by to the 'comprehensive protective legislation' promised in the NCMP. This would only mean meting out a raw deal to the 93 per cent of the country's workforce, contributing more than 65% to country's GDP. As the NCEUS draft bills on comprehensive legislations are already before the Government, any delay in finalising the same ensuring comprehensive protective legislations is untenable and would reflect lack of political will. At the end, the Labour Minister stated that the views of trade unions would be taken into consideration by the Government, while finally deciding on the matter.

The Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill 2007

But the content of the Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill 2007 introduced in Rajya Sabha on 10th September 2007 betrayed even the commitment made by the Union Labour Minister for a meaningful Social Security legislation for the unorganised sector workers. The Bill introduced in Parliament is nothing but a replica of what the Union Cabinet has approved and publicised through Press Information Bureau on May 24, 2007, which was rejected by all the Central Trade Unions terming it as mere expression of pious intent without any substantive time-bound justiceable and enforceable social security measure and appropriate funding arrangement. The suggestions made by the Central Trade Unions in their meeting with the Union Labour Minister held on 11th August 2007 on the same issue have been totally ignored. The Bill only provides for constitution of "National Social Security Advisory Boards" and similar Boards at the State level, basically advisory in character, which

would recommend the welfare schemes on which the Central Govt “may formulate from time to time suitable welfare schemes for different sections of the unorganised sector workers”. The Bill contains neither a compelling provision regarding the floor level social security and its universal coverage to all unorganised sector workers, nor a clearly defined funding obligation and a time frame. Without these basic ingredients of an enactment, the Bill stands to be reduced to some pages in the statute book.

The Bill, in its statement of objects and reasons mentioned about huge deficit in labour protection and welfare measures in respect of the unorganised sector workers. But the Bill in its content totally ignored the labour-protection issues and in respect of social security, the Bill contains nothing substantive but an open-ended indication on some welfare schemes without any enforceable and justiceable measures for universal coverage, justiceability and funding mechanism. This kind of open-ended indications suits better in mileage seeking political gimmick and not in any legislation worth its name.

CITU strongly denounced such an approach of the Govt and urge upon them to reformulate the Bill for the unorganised sector workers in line with the drafts recommended by NCEUS and concrete suggestions made unanimously by the country's trade union movement. At the introductory stage itself, Left MPs voiced their strong opposition to the content of the Bill. As a follow up of the August 8 Strike, we have to further heighten the struggle for getting the content of Bill thoroughly changed to make it a meaningful legislation for the unorganised sector workers. Meantime, The CITU Secretariat in its meeting held on 2-3 September 2007 has already given call for observing countrywide demand-day on ‘comprehensive legislation’ and other demands of the unorganised sector workers on 31st October 2007 throughout the country. The working committee may decide further course of activities and agitation on the matter.

Comrade P Ramamurti Centenary Celebration

The birth centenary year of our Founder General Secretary Comrade P. Ramamurti began on September 20, 2007. The 12th Conference of CITU held on January 17-21, 2007 at Bangalore has decided to observe the Centenary year of Com P Ramamurti in a befitting manner by way of organising seminars, memorial lectures, bringing out publications, organising trade union classes and many other ways.

The CITU General Council, in its last session held on May 27-30, 2007 at Kolkata decided “to start the PR centenary celebration with a massive mobilisation in Kolkata and end with a similar mobilisation at Chennai on 20th September 2008.

The State Committees of CITU, industry wise federations, affiliated units and associated unions are requested to take initiative to organise appropriate programmes as outlined by the 12th Conference of CITU and reiterated by the CITU General Council on the occasion of birth centenary year of Com PR, an outstanding leader of the working class movement and founder General Secretary of CITU.

All the state Committees and affiliated units, who have not fulfilled their commitment, are also requested to fulfil their quota for the P Ramamurti Memorial Fund at the earliest.

International Relations

Though CITU is not affiliated with any International federation, but presence of CITU in Trade Union movement has been accepted by like minded trade unions of various countries.

During the period under review, CITU has been invited by number of Trade Unions from abroad. During 2-4 June, 2007, at the call of Communist Party of Israel and Palestine, Comrade V.J.K.Nair visited Israel and Palestine. Comrade TK Rengarajan took part in the All Greece Conference of PAME during June 16 – 17, 2007. Comrade M.K.Pandhe paid a visit to Australia during July 1 – 12, 2007 to participate in the meetings of SIGTUR as well as meetings with various other Trade Unions of Australia. Comrade Kinkar Poshak and Comrade Subhash Mukherjee participated in the International Conference against Atom & Hydrogen Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Comrade W.R.Varadarajan participated in the Asian Labour assembly on Privatisation and Regional Campaign Strategy Conference held at Pattya, Thailand during 8 – 12 July, 2007. Comrade Hemalata, Comrade Malati Chitibabu and Comrade Girija joined the International Trade Union Conference on Working Women which was organized by WFTU during September 13-14, 2007. Comrade S.Dev Roye participated in the TUI Energy Conference during September 26 – 28, 2007 at Mexico.

While CITU leaders went to participate in various conferences held in different countries, delegations from various countries visited CITU Head Quarters during this period. Delegation from VGCL, Vietnam participated in the Silver Jubilee Conference of Steel Workers' Federation of India held at Burnpur, West Bengal on 27-28 August 2007. A seven member delegation from KCTU, South Korea and two member delegations from ZENOREN, Japan has visited CITU Head Quarters in September 2007.

CITU hosted a preparatory committee meeting of International Conference of Coal Miners in CITU Centre on 22nd September, 2007, which was attended by leaders from France, Australia and Belgium. It has been decided that an International Conference of Coal Miners will be held at Kolkata during 14 – 16 December, 2007. The next Conference of SIGTUR will be held at Thiruvananthapuram on 19-23 April 2008.

Organisation

The intervening period since our 12th Conference witnessed gradual emergence of many sectoral struggles of all India character in the strategic sectors of the economy. Many more such struggles are in the offing. All these developments put forth the task of developing a stronger CITU, both in quantity and quality, competent and capable to coordinate all these sectoral struggles towards developing a common struggle of the entire working class, which can pose a real challenge to the exploiting class and their mentors in the political system.

Our task is to continuously heighten the organised assertion of the working class to the level of effective political intervention, helping the toiling people to recognise the main class enemy behind the exploitative and oppressive system, gradually elevating the trade union consciousness in the movement to class consciousness. Towards this end our organisational initiative must target to expand itself to newer areas and at the same time consolidate and strengthen our positions in qualitative terms in the large and strategic sectors of the economy and effectively combining the struggle of the organised sector with the struggle of vast unorganised sector workers. All our initiative for developing struggles and simultaneous education and re-education programmes must be directed towards this end. This is precisely the direction of the 12th Conference.

The 12th Conference has taken a decision to increase our membership to 50 lakhs by the next conference. It was very modest target and can be achieved. After about eight months since the conference was held, we can say as per reports received at the centre that some of the state committees have already planned to increase their membership by setting definite target. We have reports about the membership targets decided by West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and

Punjab. We do not yet have reports from other state committees about the planning made on membership expansion. State committees must plan membership campaigns, identify priority areas for membership expansion drive. After the encouraging response to the unorganised sector strike, it can be said that planned drive for expanding organisation in the new areas will definitely give positive results.

In this context, one thing needs attention in particular. As has been stated many times, the membership drive should not be confined to a particular period in a year. It must be integrated with our day to day activities and struggle, meaning thereby that every agitation/programme/struggle must be followed by the membership drive as a follow up to those activities to draw the new forces involved in the struggle in the fold of organisation.

The 12th Conference of CITU dealt in details on the organisational perspective and has given a definite direction. The Report noted, "Our work in organised sector must have a two pronged initiative—1) organising the unorganised sector workers within the organised sector viz., contract workers and ancillary workers operating within the organised sector and 2) reaching the newly emerging units in the organised sector itself. The trade union movement in the organised sector has to take this two-pronged initiative by identifying the area of priorities and equipping itself for the task, especially for organising the new generation workers of the units that have emerged in the post liberalisation period." Our work in the industry wise federations and the unions in major industrial units must be planned in that direction. At the same time, efforts must be made on the part of the respective state committees to develop contacts in the new industrial units in the organised sector which are practically operating with the conditions similar to unorganised sector, so far as the workers rights are concerned.

On our work in the unorganised sector, the 12th Conference noted that "Our grass root level organisational initiative should focus on vigorous drive to develop occupation/trade based unions of unorganised sector workers and to develop movement on the basic issues relating to each sector.... We (also) need to combine our vigorous workplace level initiative to organise the unorganised sector workers with national level initiative to champion their common demands for legislative protection and bringing them under coverage of various labour legislations." Our independent initiative for a countrywide strike on common demands of the unorganised sector workers and encouraging response thereto much beyond our organisational influence has brought forth before us a big opportunity to expand organisation in the unorganised sector and bring new segments of the unorganised sector workers in the organisational fold. A thorough state level review of the last unorganised sector strike will help us identify those new areas and the new contacts developed there. Our workplace level initiative has to be planned on that basis and we would definitely get a good response.

Strengthening the CITU Centre

Keeping in view the pioneering role of CITU in initiating the move for united struggle of the working class in the country along with the important task of independent activities to create conditions for such united struggle, the crucial need for strengthening the CITU centre can in no way be ignored. Despite all efforts in discharging the responsibilities, there are still many lacunas in the functioning of the CITU centre and still many of the tasks particularly in monitoring activities, organisation and movements of many important segments of strategic importance for the working class movement vis-à-vis the challenges posed by the ruling class are going unattended. There are weaknesses in collective functioning as well. The central functionaries are also shouldering work of various sectoral organisations and movements besides other responsibilities and sometimes it becomes extremely

difficult to get all the central functionaries together in the central functioning. But there is no alternative to overcoming the weaknesses in collective functioning by conscious effort by all the comrades at the centre. But at the same time given the increasing responsibilities of the Centre along with the growing organisation and movement, the Centre needs to be strengthened with more leading comrades from the States and important industries. The working committee must also consider aspect seriously.

Verification

We have conveyed to all our state committees at the time of General Council meeting the outcome of the membership verification of Central Trade Unions by the Labour Ministry. As per the provisional report of said verification CITU has gone down from third to fifth position among the central trade unions in terms verified membership strength.

One of the reasons for such happening is that unlike other Central Trade Unions, CITU did not lodge claim of membership among the agricultural workers, while other central trade unions, probably except INTUC, have inflated their claim by showing huge membership from agricultural workers which can no way be verified.

But, besides that, CITU has lost around 8 lakh membership from its total claim, mostly due to failure of our unions and state committees in producing and maintaining records despite repeated reminders and persuasion by the Centre for two long years prior to commencement of actual spot verification and record verification. And most unfortunately, we lost maximum membership in absolute terms from our stronger states, with Kerala accounting for the highest loss.

Moreover, even after we handed over the provisional report of verification to respective state committees for a feed back and documentary support for challenging the provisional report immediately after the receipt of the same and also at the time of last General Council meeting, we have not received practically any response from most of the states despite repeated reminders through letters and telephones. This speaks about extreme indifference towards such a serious issue of defending CITU's position and also may be the failure of the CITU Centre to impress upon the State Committees. This also exposed a gross weakness of our organisational perception and our failure as well as lack of realisation at all levels of organisation about the importance of proper maintenance of membership register, affiliation receipts and certificate etc and the import of such record maintenance in the very system of organisational functioning. It may be noted till September 2007, the centre has received annual returns of only 8,38, 337 membership for 2006 although it was decided to ensure submission of all annual returns and affiliation fees for the respective year latest by the end of June next year. Recurrence of these shortcomings despite reminders raises doubt as to whether the concerned defaulting unions have at all submitted their annual returns to the labour department in time; such non-submission of annual returns in time is one of the major reasons for losing membership in the last round of verification. The Working Committee must discuss the matter with all seriousness and issue appropriate direction for overcoming such serious lacuna.

The Tasks Ahead

The tasks adopted in the 12th Conference of CITU held in January 2007 and reiterated by the CITU General Council in May 2007 are still relevant to us and hence need not be repeated again. The main point is to make the working class movement the rallying point of the people from all walks of life in the struggle against grievous fall out of the anti-people economic policy regime. Many sectoral struggles

are emerging all around. CITU has to coordinate these sectoral struggles to ensure widest mobilisation in the countrywide united action by the toiling people. CITU must also continue its initiative with greater vigour to develop joint platform of campaign and agitation with the peasantry and the agricultural workers on common demands of the people.

At the same time, we have to isolate the divisive and communal forces so that they cannot channelise peoples' discontent to serve their narrow political ends. Our efforts of intensifying the mainstream struggle against exploitation and miseries have to be combined with conscious and consistent exposure campaign on the anti-people reactionary face of the communal and divisive forces.

In the background of emerging situation in the social, political and economic fronts, the coming days are bound to be eventful. The working class movement must be able to play an effective role through mobilising the mass of the populace with a class perspective against exploitation and in defence of its rights and rights of the people on the one hand and against the manoeuvres by the right-wing forces and the imperialism on the other to defame and isolate the Left forces. The anti-Left tirade by the reactionary forces have been visibly active for quite a long period as we have already noted and analysed at the time of our last General Council meeting held in May 2007.

The General Council Report noted, "We have to realise in depth the real import of and the ulterior design behind the countrywide vigorous anti-Left tirade by the reactionary forces and counter the same. We must, however, patiently explain to the common people, as many of them are confused and entertain genuine doubts as well.

The working class movement is the lifeline of Left politics and the Left forces had been consistently opposing and blockading, wherever possible, the pursuit of the anti people neoliberal policies. Left forces also championed the cause of secular democratic polity sincerely and credibly. The present political correlation of the UPA government, surviving on the support of the Left parties, has emerged in that process; it has become a stumbling block for the pursuit, without hurdles, of the neoliberal policies; in some cases, the present political correlation has become a definite deterrent for pursuing issues that are of crucial interest for the international finance capital.

On the other hand, the Left-led governments in the three states of West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura are pursuing developmental strategies towards horizontal expansion of the economy based on simultaneous growth of agriculture and manufacturing; they are upholding the democratic rights of the toiling people. They are pursuing such a line, despite all limitations imposed by the policy framework of the government at the centre. Thus, they bear the stamp of clear demarcation from other non-Left-ruled states. This demarcation is the source of their strength to resolutely fight the designs of imperialism and neoliberalism. In such a background, it is but natural that the right reactionaries, the real votaries of neoliberalism and their cronies, will not miss any opportunity of maligning the Left."

The forthright stand of the Left Forces in the debate over the Indo-US Nuclear deal is quite naturally being responded to through more vigorous malicious campaign against the Left forces by the forces of reaction; the imperialist forces are not expected to sit idle in such vigorous anti-Left tirade. The Working class movement has to combat the ever increasing malicious campaign against the Left forces by the bourgeois media and the ruling class, meticulously designed to push the present correlation of forces towards more rightward direction. We have also to simultaneously combat the sinister move of BJP and the communal forces striving for a polarisation on communal lines. The task is organisational, movemental and ideological and the primary responsibility definitely falls on CITU.

At the same time, I reiterate, the working class movement must not fail to carry forward the ongoing struggle against the neoliberal economic policy regime to a new height by rallying the mass of the people in that struggle. This task has become all the more relevant owing to the paradox of growing GDP and simultaneously growing poverty and unemployment for the mass of the populace creating serious resentment among all sections of the people. The working class movement has to give voice to that resentment through militant mobilisation of the toiling people throughout the country. We have to ensure widest possible mobilisation in the programmes already adopted by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions and prepare for a massive countrywide strike action probably during early next year.

Greetings to you all.

Mohammed Amin
General Secretary

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

The General Council meeting held in Kolkata had decided a series of actions to be carried out in the ensuing months and, for good reasons, emphasis was laid in taking the movements of unorganized and weaker sections of workers to a higher pitch.

The overall situation has worsened in this period because of the continued refusal by the UPA government to abide by their own commitment made in National Common Minimum Programme in respect of unorganised sector workers, women and agricultural workers and their social security measures in particular. UPA's general commitment towards millions of labour in the country was forgotten even before the ink dried.

Therefore the General Council had called for greater, more intensified and wide-spread actions. We have witnessed a series of activities in the intervening period.

The working class movement acquired a new dimension in the wake of 18th April joint programme of demonstration by workers and peasants. Enthusiastic response at the grass-root level has surpassed anybody's expectations. The intervening period has witnessed activities to consolidate the gains and the process of developing greater understanding among all the three organisations at all levels so as to develop the joint movement into a powerful force.

Meanwhile the India-US treaty on nuclear fuel and the joint naval exercise in Bay of Bengal with the US and its allies have forced the patriotic citizens of India to rise in protest against the spineless government's meek surrender to United States' interests, compromising the country's sovereignty and non-alignment policy. The working class also have responded magnificently to the situation. It is remarkable that CITU leadership down the line have painstakingly gone through the difficult nuances of the 123 agreement document, tried to grasp the inner meaning and explained the dangers to the common workers. This campaign has blunted the initial euphoria and propaganda blitz by the pro American media. Such an activity should go on record as an act of patriotism by Indian working class.

Major Actions in the Intervening Period

Bonus-Demand Day

At the call of CITU General Council, the All India Demand Day on Bonus issue was observed on 19th June in the major industrial centres of the country through gate demonstrations and sending telegrams to the Prime Minister and Labour Minister demanding "Promulgation of Ordinance amending Payment of Bonus act to enhance ceilings on calculation and eligibility".

Anti Indo-US Nuclear Deal Day

The CITU secretariat in its meeting held on 2-3 September 2007, decided to observe "Anti-Indo-US nuclear Deal Day" through demonstration rallies etc on 19th September 2007. A draft of pamphlet on the Indo-US Nuclear deal has been sent to all state committees by the CITU Centre. Despite short notice, the programme has been reportedly observed in all the states. As per report received at the CITU Centre:

A huge procession was held in Kolkata on the day and simultaneous processions, dharna etc were

held in the district and major industrial centres.

Rallies, street corner meetings, demonstrations etc were reported from Pakur, Sahibganj, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Saraikela-Kharswanand and Hazaribagh in Jharkhand.

In Haryana, rallies and street corner meetings were organised at Hisar and Panipat and a seminar was held in Bhiwani.

Rallies and demonstration were held in 26 places in Punjab including the state capital Chandigarh.

Reports are awaited from other states.

P Ramamurthy Centenary Celebrations begin

As decided by 12th Conference of CITU, the centenary celebrations of P Ramamurti, Founder General Secretary of CITU and a legendary leader of the working class movement in the country began on 20th September 2007. As per reports already received at the centre, a hall meeting was organised on 20th September 2007 at Kolkata to mark the beginning of the centenary celebration. At Madurai, Tamilnadu, a statue of P Ramamurti was unveiled followed by a big public rally. Kerala State Committee has reported to have drawn educational programmes and seminars on issues facing the working class movement on the occasion. A seminar on 'Expanding unorganised sector under neo liberal policies – challenges before the trade union movement' was held in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh on 23rd September as part of the Ramamurti birth centenary celebration. Reports are awaited from other states.

Workers-Peasants Joint Initiative

As a follow up of observance of all India Day on the common demands by the workers-peasants joint initiative on 18th April 2007, Kerala State Committee of CITU, along with All India Kisan Sabha and All India Agricultural Workers' Union, organised a state level joint convention on 12th May 2007 at Kochi. It has also decided to hold conventions at the district and panchayat level. Accordingly, district level joint conventions were held on 14-20th June and Panchayat level conventions were completed in July. This followed a huge workers-peasants march to Raj-Bhawan at Thiruvananthapuram to press for the common demands of the workers and peasants.

31st August National Convention of Workers & Peasants

In pursuance of the decisions of the General Council to take initiative to further strengthen the Workers-Peasants alliance, important steps have been taken during this period. After discussions with the leaders of AIKS and AIAWU it had been decided to hold a National Convention on 31st August as the first step towards forging unity among the rank and file on a common charter of demand and a common programme.

The 31st August convention at Mavalankar Hall, New Delhi was a big success. 900 delegates from the three organisations assembled and unanimously adopted a Declaration. CITU should take the responsibility and initiative to carry forward the movement. Some programmes have already been taken; the movement should be developed and strengthened to culminate in a big nationwide strike in future.

It may be noted that though the Anganwadi Workers' strike and Unorganised Sector workers' strike have different aspects specific to their own demands and conditions of work there is a kind of a diffusion or overlapping of areas between urban working class and rural workers so far as participation are concerned. Therefore building up competent leadership from amongst these emerging forces, who can work as catalysts in building unity of the workers and peasantry, is a matter of great importance. Let us take up this opportunity and work out a concrete programme of action.

Indian Airlines Workers on Strike

From 12th June 2007 midnight 1200 ground employees went on strike as the management went back from their commitment in respect of wage revision payment. The strike was total. Indian Airlines Management and Civil Aviation Ministry together did everything possible like mass scale victimisation, suspension of 23 workers and threatening a lock-out to break the strike but failed. Employees of Air-India refused to help breaking the strike. It is a unique case that the wage agreement for IA employees for the period of 1.1.1997 to 31.12.2006 could not be finalised in full 10 years. Finally it was clinched after workers scaled down a lot in the matters of payment of arrears. Yet the management refused to keep their commitment both in respect of arrear payment and Career Advancement Scheme which were crucial issues in view of the fact that in the meantime, Indian Airlines & Air India have been merged to a single company.

Ultimately on 14th June the matters were settled between the IA management and Air Corporation Employees Union in the presence of the Chief Labour Commissioner and the strike was withdrawn. CITU leadership played an important role to take up the matter with the Govt and facilitate a negotiated settlement on the issue.

Security Employees Demonstrate

CITU is taking initiative to organise the security employees engaged through private agencies. They have no fixed duty hours, no laws to govern their service conditions and being in the "Security" jobs are treated like slaves as they are supposed to do any job without protest. To highlight their problems and grievances demonstrations were organised on 18th June in many places. In Delhi region the rally was on 15th June. In Kolkata, Shyamal Chakraborty, President, CITU (WB) and Anadi Sahu MoS (Labor), WB addressed the massive rally and supported their 10-point demands.

All India Strike by the Anganwadi Workers & Helpers on 10th July 2007

India has witnessed the biggest ever strike by anganwadi employees on 10th July, 2007 when more than 8 lakh workers joined the strike at the call of All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. The strike was total in many states and near total in other areas. In Srinagar in Kashmir 10 thousand anganwadi employees, for the first time, struck work and marched through the main road. The government did their heroic work by lathi charging and using water cannon on these women employees. The leaders were also arrested. Such a strike in J&K is unprecedented.

In Punjab there was 'Rail Roko' in 5 places, in spite of lathicharge; In Assam strike was observed in 16 out of 27 districts, In other districts there were demonstrations.

In Madhya Pradesh in Rewa and all other major cities the roads were blocked and effigies were burnt. Thousands participated in demonstrations even though the leaders were arrested.

In Haryana the strike was impressive although the earlier expelled leaders tried to mislead the workers and disrupt the movement. In Himachal the strike was total and demonstrations were held everywhere. In Rajasthan workers, far beyond our membership, went on strike even in places where our union is not present. In 15 districts in Maharashtra workers closed their centres and demonstrated. In Bihar in some districts the strike was total and partial in some other districts. Strike in West Bengal, Tripura, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu were total and partial in Karnataka. A massive demonstration of 30,000 workers blocked several roads in central Kolkata. In Andhra Pradesh police and congress workers physically attacked the demonstrators injuring many of them. In Tamilnadu 'Rasta Roko' was organised in almost all district headquarters.

Some notable feature of this strike is that members or supporters of other unions broke their rank and joined the strike, State government employees and other organisations actively campaigned in support of it in many States. Another significant and important feature was that the anganwadi employees in several states including in weaker states like Uttar Pradesh, made efforts to explain their demands to the beneficiaries and gain their support.

Anganwadi workers movement has become a force to reckon with.

Fishers & Fish Workers Movement

The newly formed All India Fisheries and Fish Workers' Federation decided to join the demonstrations called jointly by the CITU, AIKS and AIAWU. In West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura and several other states, large number of fishers and fish workers joined the demonstrations on 18th April. An All India Demands' Day was observed by the AIFFWF on 15th May 2007. It was quite an impressive show in West Bengal, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamilnadu. This is their first ever countrywide programme and a good beginning to organise 75 Lakh fishers and allied workers.

Demonstrations and Other Programmes

On 10th July, Bangalore city witnessed a massive rally and a procession of 8000 workers from HAL, BEL, BEML, ITI, BHEL organised by the Joint Action Front. It was a major activity 25 years after the historic 80-day strike of 1982. They demanded that Indian Telephone Industries should be revived by the Govt. of India. They also demanded that new wage agreement should be finalised early and the tenure should be for 5-years, the DPE guidelines should also be withdrawn to facilitate an early settlement the rally also condemned the move by govt. of India to allow private entry of foreign MNCs in Indian Defence research, production and partnership with private parties, which will allow infiltration of foreign agents in our strategic area of entire defence establishment.

On 1st June Indian Oil bottling plant workers and villagers jointly demonstrated before the head office in Varanasi against the management's refusal to provide jobs to the displaced people and demanding permanency of plant loading/unloading workers.

On 6th June, in Gurgaon, thousands of workers demonstrated and sat in a dharna before the district collector's office against privatisation and outsourcing.

On 19th June 2007 – Industrial and forest workers in large numbers demonstrated before the labour department and the office of the forestry department of Haryana at Sonapat. They demanded a minimum wage of Rs. 3500/- per month, implementation of labour laws, regularisation of workers in permanent jobs, introduction of attendance registers and attendance cards, PF and ESI facilities etc.

On 3rd July in Dehradun thousands of workers demonstrated before the State Assembly demanding implementation of labour laws and regularisation of workers in permanent and perennial jobs. They included workers from G.M.V. Nigam, Jal Nigam, drivers and conductors from transport, FRI Flex Food and anganwadi employees as also co-operative industries and establishments. They demanded 8-hour work, PF, ESI, minimum wage, weekly off-day and other benefits as per law. In solidarity employees of BHEL & Sugar Mills attended the demonstration.

On 6th July 2007, joint dharna was organised before the office of Labour Commissioner of Punjab by CITU and AITUC demanding proper implementation of labour laws and revision of minimum wages for the industrial and agricultural workers which were due since January 2006. 5000 workers participated in the dharna.

On 9th July, thousands of coal workers demonstrated in Nichitpur against closure of East Basuria colliery inspite of the fact that the No.2 seam has a huge reserve of coal. This action of BCCL would make 600 regular and 500 temporary workers jobless.

On 23rd July, electricity workers in Anpara Thermal Power Plant went on a day's strike under the banner of Joint Action Committee to protest against privatisation of Anpara-C project. The workers warned that Anpara-C in private hands will create a big problem for Anpara. A&B and generation will suffer.

On 15th August 2007, anti-imperialism day was observed through huge public meeting at Ludhiana which has drawn more than 10,000 workers in the rally.

On 1st September, 2007, huge anti-imperialism rally was organised in Kolkata and other places in the State.

On 6th September 2007, 600 teachers and non-teaching staff along with contract workers of Ryan International Schools network at Delhi, Noida and Faridabad took mass casual leave to press for their demands and staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar. The management ultimately was compelled to make settlement with the union led by CITU.

Historic Strike by BSNL Workers and Executives

On 11th July 2007 a historic total strike was observed by 3 lakh 40 thousand workers and officers. They had no economic demands to pursue through strike action, but this strike has exposed the nasty and dubious role of the NDA and later on, the UPA government who wanted to cripple BSNL by all means and promote the rival private operators as dictated by the United States led cartels who wanted to privatise BSNL on the first day as they have handed over VSNL to the Tatas.

The story is long and evokes anger in every patriotic citizen. Private mobile operators were given licence but it was denied to BSNL for full 5 years. Others went ahead. Still BSNL could pick-up and came to the 2nd position. Then the govt. reduced the reimbursement of licence fee to BSNL, Access Deficit Charge (ADC) - a huge part of the income of BSNL has been reduced; it will be stopped in 2008. BSNL has to provide free connections to the Central Government but others need not, it has to form Advisory Committees, others have no such obligation. Reliance, cheated BSNL of thousands of crores of rupees by manipulating ISD/STC calls as local calls but paid only Rs.150 crores as fine. The government did not punish their "Blue-eyed boy". TRAI is by all actions only supporting private

companies and is against BSNL & MNTL, though BSNL is the only tele company that provides service to remote villages in the country.

The Recent Treachery to BSNL has no Parallel

In 2005 the Govt. declared that BSNL would add 6 crores new mobile lines. Immediately anti-BSNL forces jumped into action because in that case BSNL would become number one.

Then there was bids, re bids, court cases, change of Minister, interference by Ministry and so on for next 2 years. To-day BSNL has no new connections to provide and lines are jammed. Private companies are making roaring business. This delay will cause a loss of Rs.30,000 crores as estimated by BSNL employees' union, and naturally a similar gain to Reliance and others. Several meetings with the Minister and the Secretary of DoT failed to assure the workers and officers that the Govt. will take quick steps to save BSNL.

On 11th July, after the total strike the unions has decided to wait and watch and if necessary, there will be a continuous strike in near future.

Countrywide Strike in the Unorganised Sector on 8th August

Preparatory Campaign

The activities launched by CITU unions from State level to unit level were quite widespread and effective. Comrades took the programme seriously and as per the limited reports that have reached the CITU centre, our leadership at various levels have taken care to reach out to workers and unions beyond our influence, and new areas have been covered location wise or industry wise. This proves that the leaders' initiative and the workers discontentment have created a favourable atmosphere for the success of the strike.

As per reports received from the states following are the highlights of the preparatory campaigns:

West Bengal: Around 6 lakhs leaflets, 3 lakhs posters (in four languages), 6.5 lakhs demand-badges, 10,000 sticker-posters, 1,000 banners/festoons/hoardings were published/printed and used during the campaign. Wall writing was done in 5,000 spots. Meetings of CITU state council and district councils, working committees of state and district level unions were held to plan the programmes of campaign. More than 1,000 general body meetings were held at regional levels throughout the state which was followed by district level and zonal level conventions. Total 385 conventions were held drawing participation of around one lakh workers. Around 1,000 street corner meetings were held besides numerous processions at local/zonal level. Campaign programmes were structured through observance of demand week on 20-27 July 2007 along with badge wearing, 312 block level demonstration and submission of memorandum on 1st August 2007, solidarity demonstration by organised sector workers in all factory gates/establishments on 4th August 2007; huge rally at Calcutta on 3rd August 2007 and massive processions at all districts and zones on 7th August. Strike was observed among almost all segments of unorganised sector workers covering 57 trades/occupations except private bus services, hospitals, medicine shops, and contract workers in organised sector.

Tripura: Workers of 34 occupations/trades along with workers of several non conventional trades and all types of private commercial transports joined the strike en masse. As preparatory programmes besides holding committee meeting at all levels of the organisation, campaign was organised at local

and sub-divisional level through conventions, cadre meetings, posterings, leafleting, processions, street corner meetings etc. Many big mass meetings were held covering all districts. On 7th August 2007 in particular, colourful processions were organised in all sub divisional headquarters.

Tamilnadu: Two lakhs leaflets and 20,000 posters have been printed for the campaign. All district committees met to plan the campaign programmes followed by cadre meeting and general body meetings at district and sub divisional levels. The state coordination committee of working women also held meeting to draw campaign programmes among women workers in the unorganised sector in various districts. Street corner meetings and campaigns were organised with jeeps and vans fitted with loudspeakers throughout the state. At the initiative of construction workers' and head-load workers' federations, special issue of the Theekkadir (Tamil daily) was published on unorganised sector workers strike and 27,000 copies were sold. Organised sector unions were also actively involved in the preparatory campaign.

Assam: Around twenty thousand posters and forty thousands leaflets were printed by the state committee and the district committees together. State Committee meeting was held in early July followed by district committee meetings. District level conventions were organised in most of the districts, followed by numerous group meetings and work-spot meetings covering the state. Intensive preparatory campaign could be organised effectively among the private road transport and construction workers and on the strike day also their response was almost total throughout the state. Besides them, the strike campaign could also be taken to all sections of unorganised sector workers except beedi workers. The campaigns, group meetings, work-spot meetings had drawn enthusiastic response from the workers much beyond the membership strength. Except three districts in Barak valley, intensive campaign could be organised in all the places and response also had been much more than our expectation.

Bihar: State Committee met and planned detail campaign programme and also identified the priority areas. Beedi, auto-rickshaw and particularly railway contract workers, parcel handling workers, pantry car workers railway hawkers etc were targeted for intensive campaign. State level convention was held at Patna. District level conventions were organised in some districts. Beedi workers' union held general body meetings in all the centres throughout the state. The unions of hawkers, rickshaw pullers, head load workers, vendors, railway contract workers also met in their committees and carried on intensive campaign through numerous group meetings, circulating thousands of leaflets etc. Street corner meetings were organised in Patna and some other districts consecutively on two days on 6th and 7th August 2007. Campaign also could be carried to the new areas like footpath sellers, slum dwellers doing miscellaneous jobs to a considerable extent. Kisan Sabha comrades also assisted in the preparatory campaign in a big way.

Madhya Pradesh: State Committee meeting was held to plan the campaign. District committee meetings were also held in most of the districts. 26 district conventions were planned and most of them took place. State level convention was held at Bhopal. Intensive campaign was held in Jabalpur, Rewa, Indore, Gwalior, Guna, Nagda, Mandsaur, Neemauch etc besides all the coal-mine areas where contract workers responded with enthusiasm and joined the strike campaign. Main focus of campaign was on beedi workers, construction workers, head load workers, daily-wage workers in govt departments and contract workers in coal mines. Campaign was also carried on among footpath sellers, papad manufacturing women workers, auto-mechanics, toy-manufacturing and courier service workers.

Haryana: State Secretariat meeting was held to plan the campaign. State level conventions of state level unions of brick-kiln workers, Bhawan Nirman Mazdoor, Gramin Chowkidar and forest workers was held at Hisar on 17th July 2007. At Panipat, convention was held covering adjoining three districts

on 20th July. Campaign for strike was organised at district levels through leafleting, group meetings, activists' workshop etc.

Uttar Pradesh: State Committee met on 2nd July 2007 to plan the campaign. District level and trade level conventions were planned in certain places. Demonstration and submission of memorandum was decided to be organised throughout the state on 23-29 July and strike campaign was planned through jeep-jatha, processions, street corner meetings etc during 1st to 7th August. State Committee published leaflets and posters for statewide circulation. The strike campaign according to decision was successfully observed in Kanpur, Ferozabad, Varanasi, Saharanpur Bareilly, Bulandsahar etc.

Punjab: State and district level conventions were organised in most of the places and the participation was impressive. Industry wise intensive campaign through general body meetings, colony meetings among brick-kiln workers, forest workers, private transport workers, construction workers, contract workers in the industrial areas, part-time workers etc. was organised drawing active participation of many new workers. Leaflets and posters were printed by the state committee for circulation throughout the state.

Himachal Pradesh: State Committee meeting was held on 8th-9th June to plan the campaign. Campaign was carried on among Hydel project workers, construction workers, water carriers, mid-day meal workers through area level meetings. 5,000 posters and 10,000 leaflets were printed for the campaign.

Andhra Pradesh: Besides leaflets and poster on the strike undertaken by the state committee, campaign was broadly decentralised at the taluk and mandal level. Ongoing land struggle also helped in creating a favourable atmosphere for strike. Moreover, in October 2006, 8 jathas were organised throughout the state to organise and campaign among the unorganised sector workers and picketing were organised before the collectorates which led to developing organisational structures at 1140 mandals. That has helped a lot in organising the strike despite a brief campaign for about a week or so before the strike. Owing to land struggle and CITU's involvement in that, campaign for 8th August strike could not be made much extensive, yet the strike was broadly successful. Practically from 1st August a week long campaign through district level workshops, mandal level conventions, poster, leafleting, badge wearing etc. In Hyderabad alone, 1,70,000 badges were circulated among the unorganised sector workers. In total 9,08,000 leaflets and 40,000 posters were distributed from the State centre. Around 41,658 workers attended the district level conventions.

Kerala: Several thousands leaflets and posters were circulated. Preparation work started with the meetings of the various state level unions in the unorganised sector on 5th July 2007. District level conventions were held during 15-20 July 2007. Panchayat level conventions were completed before 31st July 2007. District level campaign was organised in various forms and response to strike was much beyond our membership and influence. The unions in organised sector also joined the campaign and rallies held in all district headquarters. Notable is the initiative taken by the state coordination committee of working women to campaign for the unorganised sector strike. The state ccww planned the campaign in its meeting held on 24th July 2007. At their initiative district level demonstrations and public meetings were organised on 6th August.

Maharashtra: The state committee met and decided the campaign programme to be conducted through district level initiatives. Besides publishing several thousands leaflets and posters, booklets on unorganised sector workers' demands and the policy of the Govt were published as campaign materials and circulated in several thousands. Industry wise campaigns through group meetings,

mohalla meetings colony level meetings were organised throughout the state focusing on the industrial centres which received unexpected response from the mass of the workers.

Andaman & Nicobar: Attempts were made to activate the existing CITU unions in the islands in the process of strike preparation. However, strike could not be organised. But conventions were organised at Diglipur and Port Blair to highlight campaign on the demands.

Jharkhand: State Committee met to plan the campaign. Accordingly, leaflets and posters were circulated in several thousands. Separate campaign note was prepared for the cadres leading the campaign. 16 regional and district level conventions were held during 11th July to 5th August where thousands of workers from the unorganised sector joined.

8th August Strike

It is estimated that 3 and half crores of unorganised sector workers all over the country went on strike on 8th August, 2007. The demand was 'Comprehensive Protective Legislation' for 94.3% of entire working force in the country who contribute 65% of our gross domestic product but have no coverage of any law and therefore work at the mercy of employers with wage as low as Rs.20/- per day with no other benefit. This is worse than a feudal system while government boasts of building a modern industrial society and making India an emerging giant economy.

This strike remains a hall-mark of CITU'S independent activity and unique in nature as the action goes much beyond the traditional area of influence. The process of empowering the weak and underprivileged has started with this strike. This strike also exposes that those central trade unions with huge inflated membership are not in command of the trade union movement in India. They have been shown their place.

Detailed reports on strike as received from different states are given below:

Kerala: Workers in private transport were completely in strike affecting normal traffic severely and the attendance in offices and other occupations. All big shops, market centres, shopping malls were closed reflecting a bandh like situation. Workers in traditional sectors and small establishments were on complete strike and organised huge processions throughout the state and demonstrated before all district headquarters. As per an estimate, more than 40 lakh workers joined the strike action.

Karnataka: Huge rally of unorganised sector workers was organised in Bangalore by Bidi workers, anganwadi workers, panchayat workers mid-day meal workers head load workers etc. In Uttara kannada, Udupi, Hassan, Tumkur, Gulbarga, Chitradurga, Koppala, Raichur Bijapur, Kodagu, Mandya, Bidar Davangere, Shimoga, Chikmagalur and other places, workers from Tiles, Beedi, Cashew, auto rickshaw etc staged militant demonstration. Workers from organised sector also joined the demonstration in solidarity.

Tamilnadu: An estimated 3.5 lakh Workers from beedi, construction, head-load, tailoring, rickshaw, auto rickshaw, light motor vehicles, street vendors, cashew and coir, and contract and casual workers from various industries took part in the strike. More than 80,000 workers were arrested in the road-blockade demonstrations organised at 200 centres throughout the state viz., North Chennai, South Chennai, Coimbatore, Thiruvannamiyur, Porur, Madurai, Thirupur etc which were led by the state leadership of CITU. Of the total arrested at various places, around 40,000 were women workers.

Andhra Pradesh: Massive response to strike action by beedi workers, private transport like rickshaw, auto-rickshaw, contract and casual workers, forest workers, panchayats, chowkidars, palledars, rice-mill workers etc were reported throughout the state. Picketing and dharna was organised before collectorates and mandal offices. Road-blockade demonstrations including rail blockades were organised in 500 centres in the state. Around 3 lakh striking workers participated in picketing and road-blockade demonstrations and around 4,42,603 workers took part in the strike in 110 towns, 881 mandals of 23 districts. A big section of workers affiliated to other trade unions also took part in the strike action.

Orissa: Workers of beedi, private transport, construction, small shops, hawkers, and various other informal sector occupations joined the strike throughout the state. In the state capital at Bhubaneswar big rally was organised by the striking workers. Contract workers of Rourkela Steel Plant, Nalco plants at Damonjori and Angul, in the entire mining area in the state joined the strike in a big way. In the entire mining area normal work was practically paralysed due to strike. Rourkela Township witnessed a complete bandh there being no transport and shops, schools and colleges remaining closed. At Sundargarh district, 3,500 workers were arrested from the road blockade demonstration. Rail-blockade demonstration was held for five hours at Bimlagarh wherefrom 850 workers were arrested. Coal workers of Mahanadi Coalfields demonstrated before the headquarters.

West Bengal: More than 65 to 70 lakh workers took part in the strike in the state as per an estimate. Workers in rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, taxis and other small transport were on complete strike affecting the normal traffic in a big way. Owing to massive strike by the shop workers, and also by the head-load workers, big shops and market centres like Burrabazar at Kolkata and similar centres in other parts of the state wore a vacant look. 12 lakhs Beedi workers were on complete strike. Private Security workers joined the strike in a big way throughout the state. Strikes in stone quarries, brick kilns, garments, tailoring, handloom, printing, bookbinding, khadi and hosiery, forest and wood workers, potteries, bangles, fireworks, rice-mills, oil mills, saw-mills, tanneries and shoe-making, bakeries, rubber-product, small plastics and ceramics etc was total. Railway hawkers, small retailers and street hawkers were on complete strike. In all, workers in 57 industry/trade/occupations joined the strike besides a large section of self-employed.

Tripura: Unorganised sector workers from 31 trades including all private transports, shop employees, handlooms, wood workers sanitary and plumbing, construction stone breaking, shops, tailoring, blacksmith, bakeries and confectionaries, handicrafts, rubber gardens, Beedi, potteries and other non conventional occupations etc were on complete strike leading to a bandh like situation in the entire state. As per estimate around 6 lakh workers joined the strike action.

Assam: Strike call received unprecedented response in all the districts and towns of Assam including Guwahati, Nalbari, Bongaigaon, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Jorhat Naogaon, and Goalpara. Strike was massive particularly among construction workers, private transport including city-buses, long-distance buses, plywood workers, shop workers, street vendors, tailoring etc. Owing to strike by private transport, most of towns in the state witnessed a bandh like situation. Demonstration was organised in all district headquarters. Roadblockade was organized in Gosaigaon in Kokrajhar district. In Guwahati, the Adabari and Platanbazar Bus station took a deserted look.

Bihar: The workers of auto-rickshaw, rickshaw, beedi, construction forest workers railway hawkers, head-load workers at Mandis, railway pantry and parcel workers etc joined the strike in a big way throughout the state. At Patna Junction station rail-blockade demonstration was organized for several hours braving the police action. Purnia town witnessed a bandh like situation. Militant demonstration

by striking workers were reported from Jahanabad, Hazipur, Mujaffarpur, Baishali, Jamui and Begusarai. At Duckbunglow Road at Patna road-blockade demonstration has drawn tens of thousands of workers which continued for several hours. Participation of women workers in the strike was substantial. In Matia and Khaira, women beedi workers stopped road traffic for 4 hours.

Jharkhand: Strike was complete throughout the state among the beedi workers, construction workers, workers in small engineering units, private transport and anganwadi, and contract workers in collieries and PSUs like HEC, IOC, IBP and Chandrapura Thermal Plant stone quarries etc. Private transport workers were on strike at number of towns in the state. Militant demonstration took place at Ranchi, Pakur, Sahibganj, Dumka, Gomia, Adityapur and other places. In all the collieries contract workers joined the strike and held big rallies joined by several thousands. Estimated 5 lakh workers joined the strike in the State.

Uttar Pradesh: Dadanagar and Panki Industrial area of Kanpur witnessed a complete bandh and the striking workers staged militant demonstration braving brutal lathicharge by police. At Saharanpur, rubber, engineering and hosiery industry got paralysed owing to strike. Varanasi and Bareilly witnessed militant demonstration. Ferozabad industrial area also witnessed bandh like situation and militant demonstration by the striking workers. Beedi, construction, private transport, carpet-weaving, glass bangles workers and contract workers in various industries joined the strike in a big way.

Maharashtra: Strike call received a massive response throughout the state. Beedi workers were on complete strike. Owing to enthusiastic participation in the strike by the contract workers of various major industrial units like Rastriya Chemical & Fertilisers, HPCL, RCC, Western Coalfields Ltd etc., normal production was affected in all the places. Bhandup industrial area witnessed bandh like situation owing to strike. Massive participation in strike and militant road-blockade demonstration by the striking workers was reported from Solapur, Kolhapur, Pune, Nasik, Ichhalkaranji, Nagpur, Thane, Sangli, Bhiwandi, Jalna etc. At Mumbai, more than 7000 street hawkers, domestic workers, Beedi, Powerloom, mathadi workers etc staged militant demonstration after a huge procession.

Gujarat: Massive Strike was reported among the private transport workers, Lorry workers, auto rickshaw, ceramics, construction etc throughout the state and demonstration was held at Baroda, Bhavanagar, Rajkot, Upleta and Juanagarh.

Madhya Pradesh: Beedi workers, daily wage workers, construction workers and anganwadi workers, workers in the small industrial units joined the strike throughout the state. 40000 Contract workers in the SECL and WCL collieries were on strike considerably affecting the normal production and transportation. In Northern Coalfields Ltd, almost in all the collieries, contract workers were on day long dharna before the head-offices In Gwalior and Shivpuri, bandh like situation has emerged. Militant demonstrations by several thousands workers from various sectors like head-load, daily wagers, contract workers, cart-pullers, Hawkers, footpath sellers, construction workers etc were reported from Indore, Jabalpur, Guna, Bhopal, Sihore, Ratlam, Chhindwara, Rewa, Sagar, Neemauch, Balaghat, Muraina etc. In Indore, rail-blockade demonstration was organized. In Bhopal a huge procession of the striking workers demonstrated before Chief Minister's residence and submitted memorandum.

Chhattisgarh: More than 80% of the beedi workers, joined the strike throughout the state. In Raipur area, strike was total among the wirehouse workers and the rice-mill workers. In Dhamtari area, Mandis closed down due to complete strike by the loading-unloading workers. Bullock-cart and van-drivers in the big markets were also on total strike. The daily wage workers in the irrigation department have also joined the strike in a big way. In the Rajnandgaon area also there was hundred percent

strike by the mandi-workers and anganwadi workers. In Korba area, hundred percent contract workers of BCPP and Balco joined the strike. In the coal mine areas of Kusmunda, Gebra, Dipika, Korba, Raigarh, Hasdeo and Chirimiri, entire contract workers joined the strike. Throughout the state, striking workers took out procession in several thousands in the respective areas and held rallies. In kakur a big procession was taken by the striking workers to submit memorandum to District authority.

Haryana: More than a lakh workers from Brick kiln and construction joined the strike in a big way. Strike was also massive among forest workers, gramin chawkidars, rickshawpullers, contract workers in textile, street vendors etc. Massive demonstration were organized by the striking workers in Hissar, Bhiwani, Panchkula, Fatehabad, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Sonapat, Jind, and Panipat. At Faridabad, striking auto rickshaw workers staged huge procession throughout city and held rally at the Mini Secretariat.

Punjab: The strike was a massive success in the state. Around 50,000 brick-kiln workers were on strike and holding demonstrations before the district headquarters at various districts. The headload workers in FCI godowns and private mandis were on complete strike leading to collapse of operation and business. Workers in small factories and contract workers in big establishments also joined the strike affecting the normal production in a big way. Striking workers throughout the state staged road-blockade demonstration in 18 places like Fatehpur Sahib, Rajpura, Sangrur, Bhatinda, Arson, Ropar, Pathankot, Batala, Manak, Ludhiana etc. Rail Blockade demonstration was organized at Hoshierpur.

Rajasthan: In Ganganagar and Hanumangarh, FCI godowns and private mandis were closed due to strike by the headload workers and palledars. Rickshaw workers, trolley and van drivers, tractor drivers were on strike in major part of the state. Contract workers in different industries were on strike in Kota, Kankrouli, Rawatbhata, etc affecting normal production there. Beedi workers and carpet weaving workers took out huge processions in Tonk after strike. Similar rallies and demonstration by several thousands of workers was reported from Hanumangarh, Ganganagar, Jhunujhunu, Kota, Jaipur, Dongarpur. In jaipur a big procession of all section of unorganized sector workers converged in demonstration before the Collector's Office to submit memorandum.

Uttarakhand: Dehradun reported demonstration by striking workers from various unorganized segment of contract workers, private transport, construction etc in three places in the city. Before the Secretariat, workers from organized sector held demonstration in solidarity. In Haridwar, striking workers from street hawkers, vendors, small shops etc brought out huge procession. In Haldwani and Panthnagar, striking workers of agricultural farms staged militant demonstrations.

Himachal Pradesh: In 12 hydel projects in the state, work was completely paralysed owing to total strike by the project workers. In all the district headquarters except Una, demonstrations were staged by several thousands striking workers from construction, PWD Contract workers, daily wage workers, mid-day meal workers, Jalbahaks etc. The Hotel workers along with others staged massive solidarity demonstration at Shimla.

Delhi: Strike call has been responded to well by beedi workers, rickshaw-pullers, contract workers of various segments, street vendors, railway hawkers etc throughout Delhi. Striking workers staged militant demonstrations at Chandni Chawk, Old Delhi Railway Station, Samaypur-Badli, Azadpur, Narela, Mangolpuri, Vikashpuri, Mahipalpur, Trilokpuri, Seemapuri and Sonia Vihar.

The above reports have reflected three major features which are;

- 1) Participation in strike is far more than our membership; that speaks about the potential for our

organisational expansion. This also reveals that wherever our campaign could reach, workers despite being non-unionised responded to the call spontaneously.

- 2) Grass-root level of workers have simmering discontent – they want leadership.
- 3) In most of the states, preparatory campaign was planned and implemented in a systematic manner with active initiative from the state leadership which led to percolation of the initiative to the grass root level. But in some states, the campaign initiative remained a victim of routinism resulting in lack of initiative and enthusiasm down the line and such weakness got reflected in the strike participation as well.
- 4) The profile of participation in strike points to immense prospect of our organisational expansion particularly in private transport sector including auto-rickshaw and rickshaw-pullers, head-load workers, construction (house building) sector, street vendors, brick-kilns, oil mills and rice mills, small manufacturing, besides in other areas. Most of the industries are common in all the states, performance may differ as of now, but potential is there to develop strong industry based movement.

The task is, therefore, to find out ways and means to reach the workers and the suffering people at large at the earliest possible time and bring them in the field of struggle. This will have a snowball effect which grows bigger as it moves on. Our immediate task is to consolidate this spontaneous action.

Joint Initiative for Struggles in Central Public Sector Units

The public sector workers' unions in the country came together in an all India Convention under the banner of Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions (CPSTU) comprising CITU, AITUC, HMS, JAF, Bangalore and PSU Coordination Committee, Hyderabad, on 16th September at Nasik to decide the next course of united action by the public sector workers to press for their demands on seventh round wage revision along with fighting the menace of mass scale contractisation. The CITU affiliated PSU unions had their separate meeting on 15th September at Nasik, i.e., one day before the CPSTU meeting.

Around 300 representatives of public sector unions, covering almost all the central Public Sector Units attended the convention and 33 comrades from different PSUs took part in the deliberation. The Convention underlined the challenges before the public sector workers' movement and decided their future course of actions in preparation to countrywide strike action to be decided shortly after reviewing the situation and the response to the programmes of campaign and agitation.

The CPSTU endorsed the agitation programmes adopted by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions and also decided to observe "day long mass dharna" in all the PSUs throughout the country on 7th November 2007 on the demands of the public sector workers including contract workers in the concerned PSUs. CPSTU also decided to join the All India Convention of Contract Workers being organised by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions on 19th November 2007 at New Delhi.

ON CONDOLENCE

This Working Committee Meeting of CITU being held in New Delhi on 6-8 October 2007 pays its respectful homage to all the leaders, Cadres and activists of the Working Class and democratic movement who passed away during the period since our last General Council Meeting held at Kolkata in May 2007.

This meeting expresses its deep sense of sorrow at the passing away of Com. Sitaram Mandrekar former General Secretary of Goa State Committee of CITU. The meeting also condoles the death of Com. Ashis Sen, former General Secretary of Bank Employees Federation of India, Com. Sridhar Malik leader of the Peasant movement in UP. The meeting expresses deep grief at the passing away of Com Bahadur Singh Dhakad, a leading figure in the peasant movement of Madhya Pradesh and Secretary of M P State Committee of CPI(M) on 19th September 2007.

The meeting also mourns the demise of former General Secretary of AITUC Com. K.L. Mahindra. The Working Committee pays its respectful homage to Sri Chandrasekhar, Former Prime Minister of India who passed away during the intervening period. The meeting also condoles the death of Sri Sahib Singh Verma, Former Union Labour Minister and former Chief Minister of Delhi.

The Working committee expresses its deepest sympathies with the innumerable victims of the flood devastations throughout the country and condoles the death of innocent people owing to the natural calamity.

On Homage to Martyrs

This Working Committee Meeting of CITU held at New Delhi on 6-8 October 2007 respectfully remembers the courageous sacrifices of those leaders, cadres and activists of the trade union, peasants, agricultural labour, women, youth and student's organization who have laid down their lives facing police atrocities or murderous assault by reactionary forces at different parts of the country. They continue to be a constant source of inspiration to the working class in their struggle against exploitation and for the cause of the people and integrity of the nation.

The Working Committee salutes and pays respectful homage to martyrs of recent land struggle at Andhra Pradesh, Banka Gopaiah, Pasupuleti Kutumba Rao, Kathila Peddalaxmi, Usikula Gopulu, Veranna, J balaswami and one other who laid down their lives braving the police firing at Khammam. This meeting also condemns the death of Raghavendra Singh who was killed by firing opened by the Security Guards of the JP cement at Rewa in Madhya Pradesh on 22nd September 2007 while participating in a demonstration demanding jobs for the unemployed and compensation for the land grabbed by the Company in connivance with the administration.

The Working Committee strongly condemns the heinous attacks perpetrated by the terrorists and divisive forces through series of Bomb blasts in Hyderabad, Assam and many other places in the country killing many innocent people. The meeting expresses its heartfelt sympathies to the members of the bereaved families who lost their kin in these acts of cowardice and demands stringent punishment to those responsible.

STATEMENT SHOWING STATEWISE MEMBERSHIP AS PER ANNUAL RETURNS RECEIVED TILL-30/9/2007

Name of the State	Unions Submitting Returns			Position of membership according to Annual Returns		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Andaman & Nicobar	9	8	3	2287(-)	2727(-)	377(-)
Andhra Pradesh	764	732	330	265237(64653)	307058(72830)	139670(15943)
Assam	77	80	62	60667(25875)	59651(28327)	42670(19184)
Bihar	11	12	2	12185(4907)	22415(9871)	3815(18)
Delhi	76	77	25	24339(1004)	29511(1333)	5504(222)
Goa	7	7	6	947(67)	551(7)	318(17)
Gujrat	18	22		8532(987)	12588(1413)	
Haryana	15	18	8	25393(8533)	48483(17543)	11742(4262)
Himachal Pradesh	31	32	3	14801(6983)	16996(7378)	382(5)
Jammu & Kashmir	2	2	1	6204(19)	6376(42)	276(35)
Karnataka	104	110	43	95865(57418)	119663(67828)	51365(26881)
Kerala	867	872	8	981279(288721)	1069652(312846)	26805(14590)
Madhya Pradesh	64	67	36	22017(3805)	24005(4673)	10770(1111)
Maharashtra	65	74	16	71857(16125)	81571(17823)	23080(14460)
Orissa	71	74	20	60997(6134)	82885(23069)	10013(828)
Punjab	83	87	72	61100(5621)	79971(13740)	43904(10930)
Rajasthan	69	82	4	30168(2623)	31228(336)	1326(-)
Tamilnadu	478	482	36	273425(29084)	330193(70337)	11037(1372)
Tripura	33	35	23	114824(35711)	134215(41959)	76218(35619)
Uttar Pradesh	81	90	44	20764(430)	25791(780)	5863(196)
West Bengal	944	952	369	1304059(163763)	1414961(196821)	392922(53845)
Uttaranchal	39	41	1	11855(2208)	15657(2703)	100(1)
Chhatishgarh	14	16	4	13871(1928)	17279(1584)	15353(748)
Jharkhand	18	26	1	36174(2151)	43634(4198)	120(6)
Meghalaya		1	0		1460(-)	0
Arunachal Pradesh		1	0		17900(-)	0
Total	3942	3999	1117	3538207(897441)	3977431(897441)	873630(200273)

Year	No. of Unions	Membership
1983	1854	1890993
1984	2005	1575655
1985	1717	1716457(132536)
1986	2412	1844273(209348)
1987	2350	1680884(206482)
1988	2618	1919280(264507)
1989	3114	2425000(247388)
1990	2934	2095550(245060)
1991	2783	2088218(291228)
1992	3343	2381012(321620)
1993	3156	2371405(306344)
1994	3198	2470131(261980)
1995	3523	2784050(358188)
1996	3645	2805127(435285)
1997	3804	2917200(506097)
1998	3502	2881478(483373)
1999	3929	3296808(550583)
2000	3754	3124996(646618)
2001	3777	3148920(600703)
2002	4107	3455055(679548)
2003	3894	3330902(636642)

COM. P.RAMAMOORTI T.U. SCHOOL FUND as on 30.09.2007

CITU, Goa State Committee	Rs.1,206.00
CITU, U.P. State Committee	Rs.32,460.00
CITU, A.P. State Committee	Rs.245,399.00
CITU, Chhatishgarh State Committee	Rs.4,151.00
CITU, Tripura State Committee	Rs.10,000.00
CITU, M.P. State Committee	Rs.14,274.00
CITU, Karnataka State Committee	Rs.53,317.00
CITU, Kerala State Committee	Rs.1,022,143.00
CITU, Punjab State Committee	Rs.76,247.00
CITU, Tamilnadu State committee	Rs.718,400.00
CITU, J & K State Committee	Rs.1,240.00
CITU, Orissa State Committee	Rs.14,491.00
CITU, Haryana State Committee	Rs.40.00
CITU, Assam State Committee	Rs.15,000.00
CITU, West Bengal State Committee	Rs.500,000.00
CITU, Jharkhand State Committee	Rs.6,500.00
CITU, Gujrat State Committee	Rs.1,000.00
CITU, Maharashtra State Committee	Rs.20,000.00
CITU, Delhi State Committee	Rs.15,847.00
Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India, W.B.	Rs.100,000.00
Association of SAIL Employees, Kolkata, W.B.	Rs.10,000.00
2nd World Conference of Oil, Gas, Refinery Trade Union	Rs.700,000.00
Central Zone Insurance Employees Association, Chhatishgarh	Rs.10,000.00
Com. E.Balanandan	Rs.11,111.00
TOTAL	Rs.3,582,826.00