

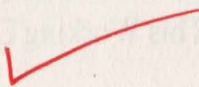
CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

SHIMLA

25th TO 28th OCTOBER, 1997

DOCUMENTS



On Condolence

This Working Committee meeting of CITU held in Shimla from 25-27 October 1997 deeply mourns the death of Com.A Nallasivan, a veteran trade union leader and a former member of the CPI(M) Polit Bureau. Com.Nallasivan, who passed away at Thirunelveli on 20th July 1997 was the founder secretary of CITU in Tamilnadu and a former Working Committee member of CITU. He was a relentless fighter for the cause of the working people and was a source of inspiration and guidance to the CITU movement for the past nearly three decades.

This meeting offers its respectful homage and dips its red flag in memory of the departed leader. The Working Committee meeting of CITU being held at Shimla from 25-27 October 1997 offers its respectful homage to all the leaders, cadres and activists of the working class and the democratic movement who laid down their lives during the period since our last conference at Cochin.

The meeting recalls the strong determination and courage with which innumerable comrades of the democratic movement have embraced martyrdom confronting the heinous and ghastly attacks of the political gangsters, the police and the employer sponsored hoodlums. This meeting in particular expresses deep anguish at the ghastly murder of Com.Leelavathi, leader of handloom workers and CPI(M) Councilor of Madurai, Com.Bhaskaran, DYFI leader from Kerala, Com Matiur Rehman, veteran Kisan leader of West Bengal amongst others. Their sacrifice will remain a constant source of inspiration in our fight against injustice and oppression. The meeting also expresses deep shock at the brutal massacre of Dalits in Mumbai, and severely condemns this barbaric action.

This meeting deeply mourns the death of Com.Harishadhan Mitra, a veteran TU leader and a long time Working Committee member of CITU from West Bengal Com.Jamuna Prasad Shastri, a veteran freedom fighter and leader of working class and peasant movement of Madhya Pradesh, Com/.N Vasudevan, President of CITU Andaman and Nicobar Committee. This Working Committee meeting pays its respectful homage to their memory.

This Working Committee meeting also pays its respectful homage to several important leaders of democratic movement who died during this period. Notable among them are Com.M Farooqui, veteran leader of the CPI and a comrade imbued with deep commitment for the cause of socialism and the working people, Com.B L Banerjee, CPI(M) leader of Andaman & Nicobar, Com.Kangsari Haldar, the legendary leader of the Tebhaga movements of the peasantry in the forties. This meeting also expresses sorrow at the passing away of veteran political leader Shri Biju Patnaik, and pays homage to the departed leader. This meeting also condoles the death of veteran freedom fighter and leader of the working class and Left-democratic movement Com.Chitta Bosu and pays homage to his memory.

The entire world was grief stricken at the sad and sudden demise of Mother Teresa, a great humanitarian who dedicated her entire life to serve the poor world over. This Working Committee meeting deeply condoles the death of Mother Teresa and pays its respectful homage to her memory.

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REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Comrades,

1.1 This is the first meeting of the Working Committee being held after the 9th Conference of the CITU at Kochi. The Conference assigned important tasks to be implemented by the CITU in the forthcoming period so that the struggles against the economic policies of the Government of India are strengthened manifold all over the country. The 9th Conference emphasised the need for strengthening the organisation of the CITU by overcoming its weaknesses and march towards increasing the membership of the CITU to 40 lakhs in a period of next 3 years. Keeping these objectives in mind, the CITU has to pay proper attention to these two crucial tasks, so that we will be able to discharge our responsibilities more effectively.

1.2 The Working Committee, therefore, has an important agenda and we have to review the developments after the 9th Conference and chalk out the course of future action in a systematic manner.

1.3 Comrades, several important leaders in the CITU, fraternal trade unions and the political movements have passed away since our Kochi session. We pay our respectful homage to these outstanding leaders.

1.4 Com.A.Nallasivan, an outstanding leader of the trade union movement in Tamil Nadu for several years, breathed his last on 20.7.97. He was the Secretary of the T.N.State Committee of CITU and played a notable role in building the CITU in the State in early years. He was also the Secretary of the T.N.State Committee of the CPI(M) and later a member of its Polit Bureau. He was a Member of Parliament for one term. He was not keeping good health for quite some time. Let us pay our homage to his respectful memory.

1.5 We also pay homage to Com.Harisadan Mitra, another outstanding leader of the CITU who passed away in this period. His role in building the CITU in Howrah District and West Bengal State was remarkable. He was active in the trade unions till he breathed his last.

1.6 We also pay homage to Com.M.Farooqi, a well known freedom fighter and the leader of the CPI who passed away on 3.9.97 His contribution to the Left movement in India and selfless devotion to its cause will ever be remembered.

1.7 We pay our respectful homage to veteran freedom fighter and leader of the left democratic movement Com. Chitta Basu who died recently.

1.8 We also pay respectful homage to Mother Teresa whose philanthropic and humanitarian work for the downtrodden in the country have earned her great respectability among the people of India. Despite the advancing age of 87, she was devoting her time for the cause of the deprived invalid and sickly persons.

1.9 While condoling the death of these departed leaders and let us take a pledge to carry forward the unfinished tasks left by them.

1.10 Com.E Balanandan, our President, in his address to this meeting has exhaustively dealt with the international situation and the tasks confronting the trade union movement and hence I do not repeat them here. I, therefore, confine myself to the national situation and review the activities that we have undertaken in the last six months.

NEW RECESSION IN THE OFFING

2.1 Despite tall claims that neo liberalism will lead to faster economic growth, Indian economy is heading towards severe all-round recession with the result that in every sector of the economy, either the rate of growth declined drastically or there has been a decline in production. For instance, the index of Industrial production between April and June in 1997-98 declined to 6.6% from the earlier year's 9%. In case of capital goods, the growth rate came down to 6.3% from 21% earlier year. With regard to intermediate goods, the change in index has declined from 11.22% to 7.4% during these two years. In case of consumer goods sector, during 1996-97 there was an increase of 9.3% but during 1997-98, it actually declined by 0.7%. Regarding consumer durables, the index declined by 6.5% compared to 13% during the last year. Regarding consumer non-durables, the growth index came down from 8.2% to actual decline of 2.9%. The automobile industry's downhill journey has commenced and in one month alone, the production declined by 9.31%.

2.2 The talk of reducing the fiscal deficit has failed to bring any outcome. It was estimated that to ensure a national growth rate of 7%, fiscal deficit has to be curtailed. However, several economists have clearly indicated that fiscal deficit this year is likely to be exceptionally high and the promises given by the Finance Minister that the fiscal deficit will be kept within 5% is not likely to materialise this year. In early years of the economic reforms, fiscal deficit was brought down from 8.3% in 1991 to 5.5% in 1995-96 by drastically reducing developmental activities. However, there is every possibility that the fiscal deficit may reach the 1990-91 level. According to a senior economist, Mr. K. R. Vishwanathan, "total dependence on foreign direct investment or by raising fiscal deficit for achieving growth beyond a certain limit will lead to another economic crisis which could be similar to one that took place in 1990-91 or even worse".

2.3 The CII, Assocham and FICCI have made an assessment that industrial growth is likely to be brought down from 6.7% in 1996-97 to 5% during 1997-98. When the Finance Minister presented the budget this year, he made a tall claim that it would lead to faster economic growth as a result of tax concessions to industrial houses worth Rs.10,000 crores. However, the experience of the current year has clearly shown that the tax concessions given by the Government have not been utilised for increasing the investments by the Indian industrialists. The result is that the benefits have been pocketed by the industrialists instead of redeploying in advancement of domestic industry.

2.4 When the foreign direct investments are increasing in the country, the external aid in India has declined. The total external assistance at the Government level which stood at Rs.553 crores in April, 1996 has been reduced to Rs.358 crores in April, 1997 indicating a sharp decline of 35.30% in one year alone.

2.5 The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy in its study of 1724 Corporate companies has drawn the conclusion that performance of overwhelming majority of Indian companies has declined drastically. Though the tax incidence in the Corporate Sector which stood at 32% in 1991-92 was brought down to 16% in 1994-95, yet the profitability of the industry declined by 10.6% in 1996-97. The major cause of this fall in performance has been ascribed to decline in the purchasing capacity. The investment by foreign institutional investors which stood at \$297.6 million at the beginning of 1997 declined to \$136.4 million in June, 1997. Though the Government of India had given substantial concessions, including majority participation, to foreign investors, the investment is not coming as expected by the official spokesman.

2.6 The export performance is also on the decline and during April-May 1997, the country witnessed a negative growth in volume of exports and the trend continued in the later period. The export target fixed for the current year of \$40 billion is not likely to materialise according to expert opinion. This reduction in exports and increase in import is likely to cause further deficit in India's foreign trade.

2.7 According to the latest quick estimates made by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the industrial growth rate declined sharply in 1996-97 to 6.7% compared to 11.9% in the previous year. The electricity and the mining which grew only by 3.8% and 1.2% respectively last year highlight the serious situation likely to develop in the country.

GROWING INDEBTEDNESS OF THE COUNTRY

3.1 The over reliance of the Government of India on borrowing internally and externally has added to the repayment liability of the Government and a large part of the revenue income has to be spent on repayment of the loans besides borrowing more money for repayment of earlier loans. The recent budget papers have given the data regarding the growing indebtedness of the country since the introduction of new economic policy.

3.2 The combined liabilities of the central and state governments were Rs.3,19,433 crores in the year 1991-92 which is likely to go up to Rs.7,98,028 crores by the end of 1997-98 according to budget estimates. This works out to 54.9 % of the GDP of the country at current prices.

3.3 The external debt of India has also grown during the same period. India's external debt which stood at Rs.2,52,910 crores in 1991-92 (\$ 85,285 million) increased to Rs.3,26,457 crores (\$ 90,852 million) which is causing heavy drain on the national economy. The repayment liability of India towards external debt is

going up at a faster rate and the decline in the value of rupee adds to the national burden. During 1990-91 the debt service payments were of the order of \$ 8,982 million which went up to \$ 14,140 million by 1996-97.

3.4 It is estimated that more than 50 % of the revenue earnings of the Central Government are used for debt servicing which leaves little funds for developmental activities.

3.5 The internal debt of the Government is growing fast due to the efforts of the government to meet the fiscal deficit through resorting to market borrowing. The Government is also utilising the small savings of the people for this purpose. The workers provident fund accumulations with the central government at low rate of interest are also utilised to meet this fiscal deficit. 3.7 % of the country's fiscal deficit is met by external finance. The budget for the year 1997-98 provides for internal and external borrowings to the tune of Rs.65,454 crores to meet the fiscal deficit.

3.6 The non-developmental expenditure of the Central Government is growing faster with the result that the proportion of developmental expenditure has gone down. During 1990-91 developmental expenditure of the Government was 54.3 % of the total expenditure but according to the 1997-98 budget the share of the developmental expenditure declined to 45.2 %. Thus the non-developmental expenditure has increased from 45.7 % in 1990-91 to 54.8 % in 1997-98 in the budget estimate. Government of India's policy decision not to spend more on developmental projects has resulted in such a stagnant economy.

3.7 Though foreign trade has increased during the last 3 years we have been importing more than exports with the result that the balance of trade has been unfavourable to India. The following table explains the position.

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE

Year	Exports	Imports	Trade Balanc (Rs.in crores)
1994-95	82,674	89,971	- 7,297
1995-96	1,06,356	1,22,678	-16,325
1996-97	1,17,525	1,36,844	-19,319

3.8 During the year 1997-98 the situation is likely to be more grim than shown in the table. With such adverse balance of trade India has to depend on more foreign borrowing or devaluing the rupee. Nearly 70 % of India's export consist of agriculture and allied products (23.9%), minerals (3.5%), Leather and leather products (4.7%) Textile Fabrics, Cotton Yarn, garments etc.(23.5%), Handicrafts (17.1%). With growing competition in the international market the growth in this area is slowing down while the advanced countries are imposing restrictions on Indian exports.

3.9 As a result of the Government of India giving up the policy of self reliance in oil, import bill increased from Rs.18,613 crores in 1994-95 to Rs.35,737 crores in 1996-97. Similarly the Government made the Fertilizer industry sick and spending for importing more than Rs.3000 crores every year. In the name of liberalisation of imports thousands of crores worth goods are imported every year by reducing the market of the domestic producers. Machine tools, steel, coal, chemicals, electronic goods industries are facing severe crisis due to reduction in custom duty and allowing import of these commodities by resorting to dumping practices by foreign multi-national companies.

3.10 Despite adverse balance of trade the country's foreign exchange reserves shows substantial increase. This however cannot be considered as a sign of progress. The Finance Minister is never tired of calling India's foreign exchange reserves as comfortable. This is largely due to huge commercial borrowing, foreign direct investment, foreign companies entering the speculative share market, entry of foreign financial institutions in Indian market. This actually points out to India's growing dependence on multi-national

companies which is also responsible for the slow economic growth or even recession in the economy. The periodic assurance given by the Finance Minister that the recessionary trend would be shortlived, the indications are clear that stagnation and recession is going to be a longdrawn phenomenon.

MNCs TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF LIBERALISATION

4.1 The concessions offered by the Government have essentially benefited the MNCs at the cost of Indian companies. According to Economic Times, a study of 91 companies for 1996 amongst whom 36 were MNCs makes a revealing observation. It stated on 15th May 1997.

4.1.1 "The poor state of overall profitability is mainly due to the discouraging performance recorded by companies other than MNCs....."

4.1.2 "While the 36 MNCs collectively recorded a net profit growth of 23 % and 37 per cent growth in sales over the previous year, the 55 Indian companies witnessed a substantial fall of 57 % in net profit though aggregate sales for this segment went up by 15 %".

4.1.3 "It is pertinent to note here that the collective performance of MNCs has a major bearing on overall fundings, as they accounted for around 77 % of aggregate turnover and 86% of aggregate net profit of the sample".

4.2 The Hindustan Liver has earned during 1996 a net profit of Rs.413 crores while MNCs like Ponds India, Reckit and Coleman witnessed 85 %growth in sales and 60 % growth in net profit in the same year. ABB, Bata India, Castrol, Knoll Pharma and Philips India have also increased their profits substantially.

CONSPIRACY TO DISMANTLE THE SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES

5.1 The Abid Hussain Committee appointed by the Ministry of Industry has recommended a gradual withdrawal of the protection to small scale industries with a view to deregulate the entire small scale sector. The Abid Hussain Committee recommendation clearly gives a green signal for the entry of big business houses in this sector which would ultimately ruin the entire small scale sector.

5.2 The small scale sector comprises 30 % of our employment and exports. With modest capital requirements it effectively increases the productive capacity of the country and contributes in making the national economy self-reliant. In their desire to capture the indigenous market the MNCs are out to enter the market of this sector and make more profit. The Abid Hussain Committee has only signed on dotted lines what the World Bank and the IMF wished to do in the country.

5.3 Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce appointed another Committee headed by T.S. Vijayaraghavan on the same subject, which recommended that the reservation for the small scale should continue but advocated opening up of 91 items and keep reservation for only 56 items, that too with some modifications.

5.4 Both these committees are hitting the small scale industries and pave the way for entry of big business houses in India and MNCs.

5.5. The Parliamentary Committee on the Ministry of Industry chaired by Ashok Mitra opposed further deregulation of small scale industries. The Committee recommended a review of the impact on the small scale industry as a result of deregulation that has already taken place in the country. It further pointed out that the reduction in custom duty in last two years' budgets which hit hard the small scale industry should be kept in abeyance. Noting the role of small scale sector in reducing the poverty, the committee noted, "It is therefore a matter of grave concern that not even 0.3 per cent of the Union Government Budget is currently targeted towards the small scale sector. It therefore recommended enhancement of budgetary allocation to small scale by 4 times and Khadi and Village Industries 6 times.

5.6 Trade Union movement in India should therefore take up the case of development of small scale sector of industry as a means to generate more employment and develop self-reliant economy in the country.

5.7 The question of implementing labour laws and ensuring higher minimum wages also are crucial for the trade unions. Hence the move to exclude small scale sector from the purview of labour legislation cannot be accepted by the trade unions.

5.8 However, there is an urgent need for undertaking a bipartite dialogue with the employers of the small

scale sector with a view to fight for more protection to small scale sector and ensure proper working and living conditions for the workers in the small scale industries.

5.9 If the working committee agrees with the proposal, the CITU can take initiative in this regard and we may take steps to open a new front in the struggles against the economic policies of the Govt of India.

PDS IN DOLDRUMS

6.1 Through the CMP provides for strengthening the PDS and the former Prime Minister gave an assurance in his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi that 10 Kg. of foodgrains will be supplied to the 80 million people below the poverty line at half the rates, the PDS has yet to give real relief to the poor people. In several states there is no proper machinery for public distribution and the foodgrains will go into hands of others. In West Bengal and Kerala there is an effective PDS for all the people and it is difficult to distinguish between people below the poverty line and those above.

6.2 Moreover, earlier ration shops were supplying 20 Kg. of foodgrains through PDS. The reduction of concessional supply would still put the poor people in difficulties since they would be forced to purchase their requirement at open market at a much higher rate. It is also a fact that a section of the poor who have no source of livelihood will have difficulties in purchasing grains from the PDS.

6.3 The Finance Minister has openly come out against subsidies in his interview to Washington Times, P. Chidambaram said, "There will always be a section of the people that enjoys subsidies and free lunches but we must overcome that".

6.4 PDS cannot be effective if it left completely in the hands of bureaucracy. Without involvement of people and their supervision over the PDS the scheme may remain in paper. Trade Unions and other mass organizations must campaign for necessary procurement drive and proper distribution through a broad-base network of outlets. The FCI which has the responsibility of procuring foodgrains is a den of corruption and pilferage through mafias is regularly taking place.

6.5 We must also campaign for supply of other essential commodities at affordable prices to the poor which alone can make PDS in the country effective means of giving relief to the poor.

INDUSTRIAL SICKNESS COMPOUNDING

7.1 The burning problem of sickness in industry both in public and private sectors is getting compounded day by day. On one hand, the revival of sick enterprises has been given a conceptual good bye by the Government. On the other, as a direct consequence of extending policy support and granting various financial concessions mainly in the matter of taxes and duties to the monopoly capital of the country and foreign MNCs. at the cost of indigenous industries, many healthy units in the country in public as well as private sectors are becoming sick. However, the most fatal step has been taken by the UF Government against the sick industries by their proposed amendment of the SICA for which a Bill has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

7.2 Ever since the public sector has been brought under the purview of the BIFR, the question of revival of sick units has attained a new negative dimension not only for public units but also for the sick units in private sector. The Government's consistent refusal to act a promoter for the revival of sick public sector units has sent a dangerous signal and has set the trend towards liquidation. Thus, it is noticed that since 1992, number of cases ordered for closure by the BIFR has been increasing. Under the guidelines of the Government, the Financial Institutions have been refusing to extend any help in implementing the revival schemes of sick units.

7.3 It is shocking to note that the UF Government is reversing the revival decision accepted in principle during the previous Government in some cases. It is against the interest of the country's economy that units producing certain essential products which are in short supply in the country are being closed down and country's requirement is being met through import.

7.4 In this connection it is pertinent to note that Government's opposition to revive the sick public sector

units is mainly not due to resource crunch but rather its commitment to the Fund-Bank dictated policy of privatising/closing down sick units. After all, the question of closure of sick units must be examined from the points of employment, replacement cost, self-reliance/import substitution, foreign exchange outgo for importing the products, price and availability in the international market. Considered on the basis of these points, there is every justification for reviving many of the sick units.

7.5 The assurance given to the trade unions that past liabilities of the sick PSUs which mostly consist of non-plan loan, interest and penal interest shall be waived off while considering the revival scheme is being dishonoured by the Government. If the Government fulfils this commitment and agrees for restructuring of the capital base, many sick units operating in core and vital sectors of the industry can be revived. Closing down such potentially viable units and to depend on imports is economic stupidity and devoid of self-reliance.

7.6 In the face of protracted united struggles of the workers and pressure of the democratic movement the Government is offering to sanction fund for revival of a few sick units. The fund offered is paltry compared to the minimum effective requirement for revival and that too under the condition of one time dispensation with a motive to wash-off their hands. It is definite that with such type of sanction the sick units concerned cannot be techno-economically revived on a sustained basis. Such nefarious tactics of the Government shall act as death-trap for the concerned sick units. It is, therefore, essential for the trade unions of the concerned sick units to be very cautious in this respect.

WORKERS IN SICK FERTILIZER UNITS TO GO ON STRIKE

8.1 As a result of protracted efforts of our comrades a joint platform called United Platform for Revival of FCI-HFC has been constituted. The Platform has given a call for countrywide strike on 11th November '97 demanding revival of all sick units of both the PSUs. The CPSTU has adopted a resolution in support of the strike.

SITUATION IN NTC

9.1 A very serious situation has resulted in NTC mills with the Govt backtracking on the unanimous agreement arrived at in 1994 to modernise the 79 sick mills and deciding to close down at least 70 mills throwing around 67000 workers out. The Finance Ministry has recommended closure of 107 mills retrenching over one lakh workers.

9.2 The Joint Action Committee of Textile Workers held a rally at Delhi on 23rd July. A joint delegation with several MPs, met the Prime Minister three times after that and held long discussions. But the stalemate continues as the Finance Ministry is adamant in not extending any financial support.

9.3 The Textile Ministry suddenly made an unilateral announcement to hand over the sick mills to the State Govts. The Joint Action Committee has opposed this move. The Prime Minister, who assured to hold further talks, has also not called any meeting so far.

9.4 The BIC mills, in the Central Public Sector, are faced with liquidation following the verdict of the AAIFR. Wages in both NTC and BIC are stopped. Thus all the public sector mills in Textile industry are threatened with liquidation affecting nearly 1,25,000 workers.

IDPL

10.1 After a long drawn struggle initiated by the CITU and FMRAI, a united movement was launched for the revival of IDPL, the giant public sector unit in drugs and pharmaceutical industry. The Group of Ministers headed by the Finance Minister himself had to recommend for revival of the company, and implementation of the revival package to be monitored by Joint Management Councils at unit levels and at apex level. Besides the shortcomings and ambiguity in the revival package, vested interests are trying to sabotage it. At the initiative of the CITU, the five major central trade unions, viz CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS and BMS have issued a joint appeal to the workers to unitedly carry forward the struggle for the revival of the company.

SICA AMENDMENT BILL

11.1 A Bill proposing to amend the SICA, '85, rather to replace it altogether, has been introduced. The

whole import of such amendment is directed towards facilitating faster winding up/liquidation of the sick units before the BIFR or wholesale privatisation whichever is earlier. The points of serious concern in the Bill are that the additions and deletions proposed are so comprehensive that it will practically change the original structure of the act and shall totally deviate from its aims and objectives. With the changed definition of "sick industries", so called sickness in industry will spread like epidemic; and the BIFR shall be flooded with referred cases. Under the proposed Act the role of BIFR is going to be reduced to that of mere "facilitator/mediator"(obviously for winding up or liquidation or privatisation as the case may be). Instead of the concept of revival and rehabilitation of sick industries, the Bill provides for "restructuring" of the sick units. The existing provisions for enquiry by BIFR as to whether a unit has really become sick and appointment of Operating Agency for preparing revival/rehabilitation scheme have been altogether deleted. Apart from these changes, many other provisions of SICA have either been removed or replaced by such provisions which are repulsive to the very concept of revival. The trade unions have been demanding amendment of SICA to remove the provisions providing for winding up of sick units without seriously considering the implications, and infringing upon the rights and service conditions of the workers. Provisions for proper diagnosis of the cause of sickness and revival of sick units referred to BIFR has also been urged. But the Bill has on the contrary sharpened the killer knife totally ignoring the constructive suggestions put forward by the trade unions. The most important suggestion of the trade union movement that public sector should be taken out of the purview of the SICA/BIFR and be dealt with by a separate forum has fallen on deaf ear of the Government.

11.2 The five central trade unions viz., CITU, AITUC, HMS, INTUC and BMS have submitted a joint memorandum to the Prime Minister urging him to intervene and withdraw the Bill and to ensure effective discussion with the trade unions. Earlier, CITU submitted a detailed memorandum to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on this subject.

CONTINUED ATTACKS ON PUBLIC SECTOR

12.1 Contrary to the commitment in the CMP that, "public sector will continue to be an important component of Indian industry", the UF Government is taking one after another steps in dismantling even the well-run public sector enterprises. Almost the total sectors reserved for public sector have been opened for private sector. Even in the core sector like Coal Mining, Oil, Power, Telecom etc. multinational companies and monopoly houses are being invited and liberal concessions are offered while the same concessions are denied to operating PSUs. Thus customs duties are being consistently slashed down alongwith rising excise duty burdens thereby putting the Indian products including those produced in public sector in extreme competitive disadvantage and affecting capacity utilization too.

12.2 Public Sector units which were established to cater to the requirement of Government departments/industries are denied orders by the Government itself. In the process BHEL, MAMC, ITI, Wagon building Factories etc. are facing serious situation. The net result is that even the non-sick and profit making PSUs are pushed towards loss and sickness.

THE NAVRATNAS & MINI RATNAS

13.1 The Government have categorised nine excellently run profit making PSUs as Navratnas and another 97 as Miniratnas by granting 'enhanced autonomy' for making them 'global giants'. The so called enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers granted are inter alia for entering into joint ventures or strategic alliances, opening branches abroad, splitting the company, winding up of branches, abolishing posts, imposing compulsory retirement on permanent workers, borrowing fund from international market.

13.2 At the same time these PSUs have been asked to make their Board of Directors broad based by inducting non-official 'professionals' and 'experts'. In the process the representatives of MNCs and monopoly houses will get berths in the Board of Directors of the PSUs.

13.3 The scheme of the Government is nothing but a step for privatising the best run public sector undertakings. It is a matter of serious concern that the Disinvestment Commission has recommended that

PSUs should be exempted from the purview of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings. The implementation of such dangerous recommendation would open the door for unchecked corruption in these PSUs.

PRIVATISING THROUGH DISINVESTMENT ROUTE

14.1 The public sector units which are continuously giving good dividend to the government have been targeted for privatisation through disinvestment. The Disinvestment Commission constituted against the total opposition of the trade union movement has been recommending disinvestment of 74% shares of well-run PSUs. The shocking situation is that the Commission has recommended outright sale of some healthy PSUs.

14.2 As on March, 1997, fifty PSUs have been referred to the Disinvestment Commission mainly from very important sectors like Oil & Petroleum, Power, Steel, Mines, Telecom, Heavy, Engineering, Electronics, Chemical Fertilizers. A total of Rs 10,500 crores has been disinvested from the selected profitable PSUs between July, 1991 to the end of 1995—96. In the current budget the government targeted to collect through disinvestment a sum of Rs 4,800 crores which has subsequently been revised to Rs 7,000 crores.

14.3 Maintaining our strong opposition to disinvestment of PSU shares, the CITU is strongly opposed to the Government's action in using the funds collected by selling shares of PSUs for meeting budgetary deficit instead of ploughing back the money for funding the revival of sick units, technological upgradation and expansion of the potential PSUs. This is against the commitment of the UF Government. In the CMP it has been noted that "such revenues will be earmarked to create an investment fund which will be used to strengthen other public sector enterprises." Even the Disinvestment Commission has also recommended that "the proceeds of disinvestment be placed separately in a Disinvestment Fund and not be fungible with other government receipts."

14.4 The strong urge of the Government to privatise PSUs has further been manifested in the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission that Government should temporarily invest in sick/loss making PSUs for making them saleable.

14.5 The overall situation is such that if the present policy of the Government regarding public sector continues and cannot be reversed, the entire public sector network would be completely dismantled, leading to liquidation of substantial production base, without least or no scope for replacement of the same.

PENDING WAGE REVISION IN PSUs

15.1 The tenure of last wage settlements in most of the PSUs expired on 31.12.96 but fresh wage negotiations have not yet started. The managements are taking the plea of non-receipt of guidelines from the Government. In the coming days discontent among the PSU workers are bound to deepen on this score.

15.2 The situation is getting complicated due to Government dividing the PSUs under different categories like sick, loss making, marginal and high profit making. The indication is that negotiations may be permitted only in the profit making units. On the other hand confusion is being created among the workers of Navratna companies as if they will now get a much better deal. However, the reality is altogether different. There are indications that the management of those Navratnas would impose more conditions detrimental to the interest of the workers, besides making strategies to delink/isolate the movement in those identified undertakings from the general struggles of PSU workers. It is a matter of serious concern that management of some PSUs have already issued their 'Charter of Demands' on the trade unions asking wage revision to be linked with productivity, reduction/abolition of existing benefits, reduction of manpower, increasing workload, imposing restrictions on TU rights etc. In the situation the current wage negotiations in PSUs are going to be very difficult.

15.3 We must take note of the fact that taking advantage of the heterogeneity in the conditions of various public sector undertakings and its impact on the concerned workers, the unity of the public sector workers' movement is being sought to be disrupted by the interested quarters and the ruling classes. A contradiction is being sought to be cultivated in the PSU workers' movement on the basis of the different categorisation of

PSUs imposed by the Government. While the workers of sick units are obviously more concerned about the survival and revival of the units, the workers in healthy units are also interested for their wage revision. However, there is over all concern for the public sector as a whole among the trade unions. The trade union movement in the PSUs must take proper stand and exercise utmost vigilance over the disruptive forces conspiring to divide the movement.

FORTHCOMING MOVEMENT OF PSU WORKERS

16.1 The extended meeting of the CPSTU was held on 19-20 September 1997 at New Delhi and had extensive deliberations on the entire situation concerning the public sector policy of the UF Government and the challenges before the PSU trade union movement. The meeting has decided a long drawn phased programmes of propaganda, agitation and action to be culminated in two days nationwide strike of PSU workers during the next budget session of Parliament.

16.2 Our trade unions in public sector must take all necessary initiative for proper implementation of the programmes of the CPSTU. It is imperative that irrespective of affiliations the mass of the workers must be effectively involved in the programmes. Our propaganda must be meticulously planned to expose the dangerous policies of the Government highlighting the game plan of the Government to liquidate the public sector.

MALADIES OF ESI SCHEME

17.1 With the arbitrary amendment of the ESI Scheme by the Government raising the salary ceiling limit for coverage under the Scheme to Rs 6,500 a serious problem has arisen. Workers in many public and private sector industries enjoying better medical benefits are brought under the enhanced ESI coverage limit, with benefits far below the medical schemes of such industries. This amounts to reduction of existing better facilities. Although in some cases at the intervention of CITU centre exemption has been obtained from the Government, generally exemption is refused by the authorities. Another serious matter is that despite objection of CITU the authorities have initiated step to withdraw the ESI (Cashew Workers') Scheme. These issues have created serious discontents among the workers of the concerned industries warranting proper attention by our unions.

17.2 Moreover, due to the awfully poor Medicare benefits of the ESI hospitals, deliberate negligence in services, rampant corruption in the administration, enhancement of the rate of subscription unilaterally without increasing the benefits and services, the workers are feeling to have been cheated and getting disillusioned about the ESI Scheme.

17.3 The other question is regarding granting effective autonomy to the ESI Corporation. Although the main sources of fund for the Corporation are the subscription of the employees and contribution of the State Governments, the investment decisions are strictly regulated by the Central Government. The result is that the Corporation does not have autonomy to invest its surplus fund to yield the highest possible rate of interest.

17.4 The Central Government is now proposing to handover the entire current ESI funds to the State ESI Corporations if they are formed. We have to consider our stand on this question so that the matters can be taken up with the Central Government and ESI Board.

17.5 We should pay serious attention on the problems relating to the functioning of ESI Scheme. The difficulties faced by the workers must receive our priority consideration and all necessary steps should be taken to mobilise the workers to launch agitation to mount pressure on the central government to respond to the issues.

REACTIVISING THE NPMO

18.1 There was some lull in the activities of the National Platform of Mass Organisations and there was urgent need to strengthen the struggles against the new economic policies of the Government of India. Accordingly a meeting of the NPMO was held in August which decided to chalk out another phase programme of action.

18.2 The meeting also called upon the constituents to hold local, area wise and state level conventions to

popularise the struggle against the economic policies of the Central Government. It is a matter of concern that such conventions were not held so far. Hence the task of holding such conventions should be planned by us so that the campaign would get momentum. The meeting decided to hold a massive dharna before Parliament on 9th December 1997 to oppose the economic policies. We have to plan the participation of our unions in the nearby region so that the programme of dharna becomes successful.

18.3 On 9th December we should organise similar dharnas in far away states so that a good mobilisation of all the mass organisations can be ensured by us. The programme in Delhi will be jointly organised by various constituents of the NPMO while in other state we can involve our friendly mass organisations. This programme will be in addition to the programme chalked out by the NPMO.

18.4 We must decide in the working committee to make advance preparation to make the programme chalked out successful so that we can prepare further programme of activities.

18.5 It has been decided by all the central trade unions and agricultural workers organisation to hold a national convention in New Delhi on 15th December and hold a demonstration before the Labour Ministry to press for introducing and passing the Agricultural Workers Bill in Parliament. We have to plan our effective participation in this convention and demonstration so that sufficient pressure is brought on the Central Government to get the law enacted positively during the winter session of Parliament.

18.6 The CITU has a responsibility to implement the programme chalked out by the NPMO. Otherwise the activity in the States do not get properly planned. All the State Committee have to pay more attention to this urgent task so that the nationwide struggle against the economic policies is properly planned and implemented.

JUDICIAL ACTIVISM AND TUs

19.1 Of late, the judiciary in India has been very active and intervening in a number of issues concerning the social-political and economic arena. Such intervention has been the result of recourse to public interest litigation by concerned parties; in some instances, even *suo moto* actions had been in evidence. Regular writ and appeal jurisdiction of the High Courts and the Supreme Court had also given the soupe for such intervention by the judiciary. Vested interests and corrupt politicians have been seen crying hoarse against such judicial activism. CITU, on the other hand, has been supportive of such judicial activism, as it has helped protecting the fundamental rights of the citizens, exposing executive failures and corruption, chasing the law enforcement authorities to pursue gross violations of law and the like. CITU is also opposed to any move, often talked about to conscript the scope of public interest litigation to contain such judicial activism. At the same time, we have to be careful and vigilant as such judicial activism, can on occasions, be in the wrong direction as well, going against the interests of the working people and democratic masses. The decisions of the courts on bonded labourers, contract workes, sexual harassment of working women and protection of environment have number of positive aspects. However, the awards against protest action like Bandhs and some decisions of Consumer Courts go against the interests of the TU movement. Every judicial intervention or verdict will have to be evaluated by us properly - case by case - and we have to respond appropriately.

THREAT OF COMMUNAL AND CASTEIST FORCES

20.1 The rise of casteist and communal forces disrupting the unity of the people has been a matter of grave concern for the working class movement.

20.2 Happenings in the last few months in several parts of the country are indicating a fresh offensive of caste violence and oppression.

20.3 The dalits and the backward classes have started asserting themselves and forces in favour of social justice have noted this as a development that needs to be welcomed and nurtured.

20.4 But the vested interests and forces of *status quo* are unable to tolerate even this small beginning of effort to fight centuries old caste oppression. They have resorted to letting loose terror and violence against the oppressed castes, particularly against dalits.

20.5 The BJP-Shiv Sena government in Maharashtra resorted to brutal firing against the dalits in Mumbai, who protested desecration of the statue of Dr Ambedkar. Ten innocent lives were ended by bullets.

29.6 In the south, Tamil Nadu has been tormenting under the impact of clashes between dalits on the one side and a section of backward castes on the other side. More than 100 have lost their lives. The killing of a dalit president of a tiny panchayat samiti, along with few others, declaring that dalits assuming some social status through democratic process will never be tolerated, is full of ominous portents.

20.7 We from the CITU are no doubt concerned about the immense harm such casteist clashes do to the unity of the working class.

20.8 But the present situation demands that CITU should intervene in this social turmoil not as a neutral peace maker but as relentless crusaders against caste oppression and its crudest manifestation untouchability.

20.9 CITU must campaign amongst the working class belonging to other communities as well on the need to join in a common endeavour to eradicate untouchability and fight all forms of caste oppression. CITU unions must take up this issue and move in coordination with the organisations of the agricultural workers and peasants.

COAL MINERS AGAINST PRIVATISATION

21.1 The seven and half lakh coal miners in the country were engaged in a united struggle against privatisation when the Government of India proposed to introduce a Bill in Parliament to privatise coal mining, a wave of resentment was witnessed all over India. At our initiative a national convention was held at Dhanbad on 6th July 1997 to review the situation. It decided to organise 3 day all India strike in all the coal mines on 28-30 July on the following demands:

1. Stop privatisation of coal mining industry including exploration and excavation;
2. Withdraw the proposed amendment to the Nationalisation of Coal Mines Act;
3. Restore the custom duty on imported coal to the level of 1989-90 and stop import of coal to protect the Indian Coal Mines Industry;
4. Reorganise the coal industry to make it unified single company with full autonomy; and
5. Restore budgetary support to the coal industry.

21.2 The Convention was jointly organised by INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS and BMS did not contain any economic demand of the workers. Yet the preparations for strike evoked very good response from the workers which forced the Government of India to discuss the issues with the leaders of the coal miners. Ultimately the Prime Minister had to meet the representatives of trade unions and agree to have a detailed discussion with trade union representative of coal workers within 2 months and not to take any policy decision during the period.

21.3 During the talks the representatives of the Government could not make out any justification for privatising the coal mines. Hence they resorted to the device of exaggerating the demand projections for the 9th and 10th plan to show that Coal India would not be able to produce that much coal. The trade unions however disagreed with the views of the Government hence talks were inconclusive.

21.4 The unions have therefore, been decided to meet on 27th October to fix up another date for 3 day strike preferably in November.

21.5 The All India Coal Workers Federation in its office bearers meeting on 2nd October 1997 decided to prepare for a nationwide strike struggle to force the Government of India to change its retrograde policies.

NATIONWIDE STRIKE AGAINST PENSION SCHEME

22.1 The struggle against retrograde Govt. Pension Scheme has reached a crucial stage. Despite support by all the major central trade unions except CITU to the Govt pension scheme, the scheme was denounced by the grass root level workers in general cutting across affiliations and campaign unleashed by CITU against the scheme could reach much beyond its boundary of its influence reflecting in wider participation of mass of the workers to the strike call of 23.2.'96 given almost singlehandedly by CITU along with its allies. There has also been several cases of workers rising spontaneously against the disastrous scheme

exemplified in a most explosive manner by the protest action of the Bhilai Steel Plant workers in December last year.

22.2 The experience of last two years' of operation of the Employees Pension Scheme, had exposed further the real face of the Govt. Scheme. During last two and a half years more than 40 lakhs workers got superannuated but pension could be offered to only 63000 workers - a mere 1.5% of the total retirees. Such a phenomenon unveils the incompetence of the Central Provident Fund organisation to administer the Scheme.

22.3 In the face of mounting resentment, govt. committed for revaluation/review of the scheme every year instead of original provision of three-yearly review, and the scheme was amended accordingly through notification. But during last two years, no review has been made, thus exposing the bluff.

22.4 Despite there being laid down provision in the scheme for granting exemption to the establishments formulating separate pension scheme, not even in a single case out of more than hundred applications, exemption has been granted by the Govt., thus reducing the concerned provision of exemption in the scheme to mere hoax.

22.5 In the above background workers in general continued to resent the scheme. The legal battle against the propriety of the scheme by various trade unions at industry/enterprises level has also reached a crucial stage when Supreme Court of India has upheld the stay order against the scheme, in respect of those industries, pending final hearing on merit.

22.6 Subsequent to the strike action of 23.2.96, CITU along with its allies in the pension struggle had initiated a mass petition campaign against the imposition of the govt scheme and demanding pension as third retirement benefit, in august 1996, to prepare for a bigger industrial action and broaden the platform of struggle. But we must admit, we could not carry the campaign to required depth and could master only around 11 lakh signatures. This means, we did not try to reach even to all of our members, not to speak of carrying the campaign beyond our area of influence. The failure is not due to reluctance of the workers to respond to the campaign, but due to the failure or reluctance of our union leaders to take that much pain to reach the grass root level workers with the mass petition proforma. Wherever, planned initiative has been taken by the unions, mass petition campaign received good response not only from the workers of all affiliations but also from the officers as well.

22.7 The Ninth Conference of CITU, after reviewing the situation decided for a rally before Parliament on 2nd September 1997. It was again a call given almost single handedly by CITU which received warm response all over. The turn out of thousands of workers even from distant states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and weaker states like Gujarat, UP, etc., in the Parliament march inspite of various hurdles, shows the real depth of discontent among the mass of the workers against the govt. scheme.

22.8 From the rally, the Call was given for countrywide strike against the govt. pension scheme and demanding alternative scheme of third benefit on 17th December 1997.

22.9 The enthusiasm demonstrated in 2nd September rally established beyond doubt the prospect of a massive strike on 17th December '97, both in terms of width and depth, provided the CITU unions at the enterprise/grass root level take up the challenge to carry the message of strike to common workers beyond its membership and influence and involve common workers in the preparatory campaign for the strike.

22.10 In the preparatory campaign for 17th December strike, our unions must strive to develop joint front/committees of common workers irrespective of affiliations to save the Provident Fund of the workers from appropriation by Govt and try to carry the campaign to cover the entire workforce. State Committees and Federations are also urged upon to draw concrete plan of action in advance and monitor the campaign work being undertaken at the enterprise lends with all seriousness.

STRUGGLE FOR MODIFICATION OF FIFTH PAY COMMISSION

23.1 Countrywide stir of the 40 lakh central govt. employees for modification of the retrograde recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission culminated the conclusion of the agreement in the early hours of September 11, between the Group of Ministers nominated by the Cabinet and the employees

representatives after a protracted negotiation. The indefinite strike scheduled to commence from 24 September was called off.

23.2 In the course of the protracted negotiation the Group of Ministers agreed to modify some of the recommendations of the pay commission and some of its own decision there on. Some recommendations were rejected in full or partially. All this meant some improvement upon the position that obtained prior to the agreement and to that extent it was, an achievement for the central govt. employees' movement. During the whole period, even on the question of a decision for continuous strike the employees organisations had shown remarkable unity inspite of different affiliation and political ideological heterogeneity. They all remained firm in their commonly agreed position during the entire course of negotiation. CITU, AITUC and HMS in joint statement congratulated the central employees for maintenance of the solid unity by dint of which they succeeded in achieving improvement in the position.

23.3 In the beginning however the Central Govt failed to respond in a positive manner. Notwithstanding the assurance given by the Finance Minister himself of prior consultation with the staff side before finalising govt. decision, the decisions came out in the press without any such consultation. A decision for indefinite strike from 24th September brought about a change in the lackadaisical attitude of the govt and to overcome the bureaucrats' effort to sabotage the possibility of an amicable settlement.

23.4 From the beginning CITU not only firmly opposed the retrograde recommendations of the Pay Commission but had always extended support to the struggle of central Govt employees for their just demands. During the current phase of agitation the President of CITU in a letter addressed to the Prime Minister urged him for his personal intervention in bringing about a negotiated settlement and jointly with other trade unions pressurised the govt. for successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiation during the last phase.

23.5 However, while there has been some achievement as far as the majority of the Central Govt. employees are concerned, the achievement should not be exaggerated. It cannot be said that all of the almost infinite number of categories in Govt. employment have received due justice. Some of them have genuine grievance. The organisations will no doubt take care of these which is important for preserving the remarkable unity achieved during the agitations. Further one cannot be blind to the fact that the central govt. employees have yet to achieve need based minimum wage, they are now quite far away from parity in wages with the public sector undertakings which was the main demand in the historic railway strike of 1974.

23.6 As usual, the Government is going to impose fresh financial burden on the people under the false pretext that it is indispensable in order to meet the increased wage bill of central govt. employees. During the course of negotiation itself the representatives of the employees effectively refuted the govts. plea. In fact like the Congress Governments, attempt is being made to use the Govt employees as scape goat to cover up their lack of political will to touch the vested interest for mobilising resources. The entire trade union movement should expose this mischievous ploy of the Govt.

FINANCIAL SECTOR EMPLOYEES STRUGGLE

24.1 The financial sector is now a major target of attack and attempts are being made to destabilise the sector in all possible ways which also adversely affect the employees. In bank and Insurance sector a struggle is going on to protect the industry as well as to legitimate demands of the employees.

24.2 In recent times in the Bank Sector, consistently with the current trend in the trade union movement in the country, all the nine organization of employees including those of the officers have come together to form the United Forum of Bank Unions. They are carrying on sustained struggle under the banner of the Forum on important common demands of Bank employees and officers, against establishment of local area private banks.

24.3 The employees and officers of the Banks throughout India responded magnificently to the call of one day strike by the United Form of the Bank unions. It was an unique event of far-reaching significance concerning trade union movement of our country that all the unions in the industry, keeping abide their

organisational and other differences have built up a common platform on certain specific issues.

24.4 In view of the lack of positive response of the Govt. even after the successful one day strike, the forum decided to follow it up with a two-days. Bank Bandh on 28-29 August. The strike brought the entire Banking system of the country to a standstill for two days. The Forum has declared that the next phase of the agitation will be in the form of strike for 3 days from 3rd to 5th Dec. 1997.

24.5 Employees in the Insurance industry, are also carrying on sustained agitation against privatisation opening, up of the insurance sector to indigenous and foreign private interest apart from struggle for their wages and other issues including restoration of the right to collective bargaining. During the past months, mainly under the auspices of the All India Insurance Employees Association mobilisation of insurance employees took place in diverse forms such as conventions, rallies etc to protest against the govt bid to enact the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill. The agitation was culminated in observance of walk out and strike for two hours in all Insurance establishments throughout the country on 29 July at the call of AIIEA. Though in the face of stiff opposition by the Left MPs and under the pressure of the employees agitation, the Bill was withdrawn by the govt, the Finance Minister has declared his intention to reintroduce the Bill. The Association has also decided to observe one day strike in case of any further attempt to dilute the present status of Insurance Corporations. Apart from various other preparatory programmes the Association has decided to organise a national convention against privatisation of Insurance at Delhi.

PROGRAMME ON CHILD LABOUR

25.1 The ILO-IPEC Programme on Child Labour, taken up on 1.1.95, has officially ended in December, 1996. However, some parts of the programme are yet to be completed practically. The ILO has asked us to complete these activities as early as possible and continue giving the usual three monthly reports with the expense statements.

25.2 At the CITU centre the child labour project was reviewed in the monthly meeting held on 7/9/1997.

25.3 The review noted:

- a) The project has helped us to lay emphasis on the Child Labour issue and sensitise our activists.
- b) Though various programmes were undertaken by the state committees as part of the project, not all the committees implemented them with the seriousness it required. The implementation was rather mechanical.
- c) The CITU Secretariat was not properly involved in monitoring the project. Even the approach paper was not fully discussed by the secretariat. Similarly there was no proper monitoring by state/district committees on the whole.
- d) The National Committee constituted for the project implementation was also not effective in functioning. It met only twice.
- e) Even after implementation of the project, we could not bring out a well documented publication on the issue to explain our basic approach to the problem.
- f) The video film produced by us was good. But the workers were not impressed.
- g) The aspect of advancing the CITU organisationally in industries /regions where child labour is predominant was not focussed.

25.4 It was also decided that the project should be completed in all respects by Dec.1997 and a meeting of the National Committee to be held before finalisation of report.

UNORGANISED SECTOR

26.1 Our work in the unorganised sector is developing gradually. The AI Coordination Committee met and a march to Parliament was planned, which may be held in the first quarter of 1998. State committees were urged to draw up agitational programmes including strike actions on the demand of minimum wage and other issues. Successful strikes were held in UP and Delhi on 11.8.1997 and in Tamilnadu on 9.9.1997. In several other states like Punjab, Haryana, MP, Rajasthan, Bihar, Karnataka, etc demonstrations, rallies, etc were organised during the period.

26.2 The Coordination Committee discussed the issue of minimum wage, and emphasised on increase in

membership and formation of State level Coordination Committees.

26.3 This vast and growing sector requires planned and systematic functioning, with the State Committees closely guiding and monitoring the work.

26.4 In Tamilnadu the state committee took initiative and organise one day statewide strike on 8th September. The response was very good among various sections of workers. Such state level struggles and organised efforts to strengthen the work among the unorganised workers are necessary in other states.

BEEDI

27.1 The AI Beedi Workers' Federation has a membership of over three lakhs now. Madhya Pradesh particularly has made a significant development. It held a big State level rally at Indore. In Maharashtra, a successful struggle was conducted at Ichalkaranji. Other States also conducted several movements during the period.

27.2 The crisis in the industry, however, is intensifying due to the encouragement given to the mini-cigarettes by the Govt. Even our prestigious cooperative Dinesh Beedi in Kerala had to resort to reduction in production and diversify. In several other states the Beedi workers are getting only 3 or 4 days work in a week. The Government of India has not initiated any action on the several demands submitted. State level action programmes in pursuance of the demands, are to be intensified.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY

28.1 As decided during 9th conference an extended meeting of the Coordination Committee was held at Calcutta on 16, 17 June 1997. But in this meeting, except Bengal, the representation of handloom and powerloom comrades from the states was very poor. Therefore no decision could be taken regarding handloom and powerloom sectors.

CEMENT

29.1 In Madhya Pradesh, Centering Mandhar Cement Plant a joint action committee has been formed comprising the units of all five major central trade unions to hold a seminar in November. At present workers are constantly fighting for regular payment and for power and water supply etc.

29.2 The UP State Cement Corporation Limited with its three units which include Dalla Cement Factory where nine workers were martyred while fighting against sale of the company to private interest, has been issued with winding up order by BIFR. Workers and management together have appealed to AAIFR where it is pending. here also all the unions have come together and CITU is playing an important role.

29.3 Another sector in cement industry which needs urgent attention is the mini plant sector where the workers are virtually at the mercy of the employers, drawing miserably low wages and working in intolerable conditions.

29.4 The dispute raised by the CITU union of JK Cement Works, Nimbahera, involving service status of 206 workmen has been referred to Tribunal for adjudication.

WORKING WOMEN

30.1 There has been some progress in the last five months. In Bihar, a state level conference attended by 800 women was held. In Kerala, the WWCC and work in Anganwadi had been revived. District conferences were held. Sale of Voice of Working Woman is planned to be raised to 1000. In Tamilnadu, the WWCC in association with AIDWA is carrying on systematic work. Conference proposed to be held in Orissa is postponed to Dec. '97. In Tripura also, the WWCC has started functioning.

30.2 In Delhi, insurance comrades held a successful conference of women employees working in insurance sector. More than 400 attended. Some work in Noida and Ghaziabad had been taken up by state CITU among working women.

30.3 The work of the Anganwadi Federation has improved. The membership for 1996 is more than 60000. For 1997, a target of one lakh membership is planned. The units of the federation affiliated to CITU in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra, Himachal Pradesh are doing good work. In Tamil Nadu, the union is affiliated to government employees' association. Punjab and Rajasthan have to pay attention to overcome

the stagnation there in this front. In Bihar a good conference was held at Naveda. The all India Conference of the Federation, due this year, has been postponed to next year.

30.4 There is a Samyukta Sangharsh Samiti(SSS) comprising various types of organisations. Call given by the SSS is implemented by our unions seriously. Proposals for action programmes including demonstration before Parliament are raised in the SSS. Those have to be discussed and planned.

30.5 Voice of the Working Woman brought out special issues on the Kochi conference and 50th anniversary of independence. Various issues of concern to women including the Supreme Court verdict on harassment of women at workplace, muslim women defying ban and offering namaz at masjids, struggles of Air India hostesses, two year strike of Hillington hospital in UK etc. have been highlighted in the journal.

30.6 Despite repeated emphasis from the CITU centre and AIWWCC, the coordination between the state committees of CITU and WWCC as a whole leaves much scope for improvement. Because of reluctance on the part of state committees/unions to meet the expenses of working woman attending committee meetings and essential campaign expenditure, issue of raising separate fund for WWCCs is coming to the fore. The state committees should pay attention to the financial needs of WWCCs so that the question of separate fund does not arise.

30.7 In the coming period, the AICCWW has to plan the following: (a) hold meetings of Anganwadi Federation and SSS to draw up future course of action; (b) hold AICCWW meeting along with the ILO workshop (c) initiate follow up action on the Supreme Court judgement on sexual harassment.

TOWARDS T.U. UNITY

31.1 The last CITU Conference emphasised the need for unity of the entire trade union movement to strengthen the struggle against Globalisation and Neo-liberalism. In this connection, the CITU has discussed these matters individually with all the trade unions with a view to come together on common issues facing the workers. The proposal of the CITU was welcomed by all the major trade unions and a preliminary meeting was held on 16th September, 1997 in the INTUC office. The meeting discussed the developments in the recent ILO Conference and the attempts made by the trade unions of advanced countries to link social clause with trade through the mechanism of ILO. All agreed that we should take initiative from India and mobilise the trade unions in developing countries so that they should be persuaded to take a firm position against the attempt to dismember the ILO and make it an appendage of the WTO. The meeting also considered the possibilities of an International Trade Union Convention of the developing countries to work out a common strategy. It was decided to meet the Prime Minister in order to pursue the matter further. The meeting also considered the agenda before the Standing Labour Committee and decided to take a common stand on all the issues. Though it was a preliminary meeting, it was decided to meet regularly once in a month to consider the common problems facing the working class and taking a common stand. The second meeting was held on 5th October, 1997 in HMS office. The meeting again discussed the issues related to social clause and need for jointly moving in the matter. It was also decided to write a joint letter to the Prime Minister asking for an Ordinance on Bonus for removal of ceiling. The meeting decided to hold a workshop on the units where disinvestment have taken place in Bangalore jointly by all the five Central Trade Unions along with other Public Sector unions in the first week of December. It was also further decided to take up the question of Consumer Price Index Numbers and Family Budget studies being conducted by the Labour Bureau and decided to demand a meeting of the Central Trade Unions to correct the 1981-82 series and to decide the methodology of conducting family budget survey in a scientific manner. It was also decided to organise an All India Convention on Agricultural Workers and rural labour and hold a demonstration before the Labour Ministry demanding immediate adoption of Agricultural Workers' Bill in Parliament. The next meeting will be held on 4th November, 1997 in the CITU office. This move towards all in trade union unity on common issues facing the working class is an important step and will lead to increase in pressure on the Govt. of India and various issues concerning the Structural Adjustment Programme and immediate problems faced by the workers. The next meeting will also discuss the question of Sick industries both in Public and

Private Sectors so that the issues can be taken up in the right earnest. The emerging unity will certainly create a sense of unity among the working class and the overall struggle of united movement will be further strengthened. We should do everything to strengthen this unity and consolidate it in the overall interest of the working class.

ACTIVITIES IN HINDI SPEAKING STATES

32.1 A meeting of senior CITU leaders from Hindi speaking States was held in New Delhi on 5.7.1997 to review the CITU activities and finalise concrete steps to strengthen the organisation in Hindi speaking States. President, General Secretary and other Secretariat Members from CITU Centre attended the meeting. It was noted in the meeting that the CITU centres in Hindi speaking States must be augmented and properly organised with a team of functionaries, proper co-ordination between the district centres and leadership to the big industrial federations in these States and the State Centre in the respective States shall have to be further strengthened and consolidated. The democratic functioning of the State Committees needs to be improved and collective leadership must be ensured. Steps should be taken to develop young cadres and programme for trade union education on the basis of centrally prepared syllabus must be undertaken.

32.2 It was decided that a status report on implementation of the tasks on organisation set forth in the Bhubaneswar document should be submitted by these State Committees to the Centre to enable the centre to prepare a consolidated paper outlining the plan of action for putting into practice the organisational tasks. It was also decided to organise a Central Trade Union school for the leading comrades of all the Hindi Speaking States. The review revealed that there has been increase in membership of CITU and it was decided to continue the membership drive throughout the year and special drive on the successful conclusion of specific programmes of struggle, signing of settlement etc.

32.3 The full Secretariat meeting of CITU held on 19-20 July reviewed the decisions of this meeting and identified various steps to be undertaken by the centre for strengthening the work and organisation in these States. The Secretariat decided that the available Secretariat at the Centre must collectively ensure constant monitoring and coordination of the work of the Hindi speaking and other organisationally weak States.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

33.1 Since the CITU Conference, our International relations have grown considerably and we have been able to play increasing role in international co-operation in the struggle against the World Bank IMF dictated policies.

THE 85TH ILO CONFERENCE

34.1 The Govt. of India nominated CITU to the ILO Conference in the capacity of advisor. We got this nomination after a lapse of 18 years. The ILO Session held from 3rd to 18th June, 1997 was of great importance since an attempt was made by the Director General of ILO to make ILO an agency of the WTO. He openly advocated in the General Report the concept of social labeling by which, through the help of NGOs, the ILO would inspect the implementations of the basic ILO conventions and give label to the products which will be accepted in the International market. If certain units and countries are found to be not implementing these aspects, the ILO will make a note of such non-compliance and WTO will be authorised to take action against such countries pointed by the ILO. This proposal, if accepted, would seriously affect the trade of the Third World countries which is already declining on a global scale after the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programme. The presence of the World Bank President and his speech openly championing the process of Globalisation, Privatisation, advocated full scale cooperation between the World Bank, IMF, WTO and the ILO. Thus, it was a blatant attempt to practically wind up the role of the ILO and making it an agency to serve the interest of the world monopoly capital. The ICFTU unions in the ILO accepted this position and in the workers group meeting, the Vice-Chairman on behalf of the workers group, Mr. Bill Brett, openly advocated endorsement by the workers group the proposal by the Director General of the ILO. The CITU took initiative in the ILO to raise the voice of the developing countries against these countries. The Indian delegation was unanimous on this question and opposed the linking of social clause

with the world trade. Several developing countries endorsed the view of opposing the stand of the Director General of the ILO who was openly championing the cause of monopoly capital and MNCs. As a result of the different opinion expressed by several trade unions in the Third World countries, the decision could not be taken in the ILO conference and it was decided that the meeting of the Governing body to be held in November, 1997 will go into the question and prepare a draft for consideration in the next Session of the ILO to be held in June, 1998. The Indian Trade Unions felt the need for mobilising the trade unions in the Third World countries so that the proposal of Director General is not approved by the ILO. It was agreed by the Indian delegation that efforts should be made to mobilise the Third World countries prior to the next conference of the ILO so that the attempt to impose detrimental conditions by the developing countries can be thwarted in the next ILO session. M.K. Pandhe attended the conference on behalf of CITU.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST GLOBALISATION

35.1 At the initiative of the Centre of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC), an international conference was organised on 6th to 8th of August, 1997 and CITU was requested to be one of the Co-Sponsors of the conference. It was possible to send a 7 member delegation from the CITU to participate in the conference. The total Indian delegation was of 17 members. The conference was attended by over 1200 delegates from 61 countries representing over 300 organisations. It was the first attempt of this kind to mobilise the working class in the struggles against globalisation. The CITU delegation participated in the deliberations of the Commission and the Conference and the CITU was also given the honour of being the Chairman of the Presidium for one day. The Conference called upon the working class all over the world to strengthen the struggles against globalisation. It was an important step to consolidate the World Trade Union movement. A number of unions affiliated to ICFTU also participated in the conference and the delegation from United States of America was quite impressive.

35.2 After the Conference, the CITU delegation had separate discussions with the General Secretary of the CTC during which an agreement was arrived at to make efforts to strengthen the bilateral ties between the Cuban and the Indian trade union movement.

35.3 The Indian delegation on the way back to India spent some time in UK and participated in the 50th Anniversary celebrations of India's independence in Birmingham. They also spoke in some meetings organised by Indian Workers Association on this occasion. The CITU delegation visited the office of the National Union of Miners and had a detailed discussions with Com. Arther Scargill of wide ranging topics. The delegation also visited Liverpool and expressed full solidarity with the 500 Liverpool dockers who are fighting against termination of services and privatisation by the management.

35.4 The CITU delegation visited the office of the CTUC and held discussions with Stephen Faulkner, Education Officer. They also met the General Secretary of Trade Union Congress and the Head of the International Department of the TUC on strengthening of the bilateral relations. The delegation also visited the spot where the Hillington Hospital employees were agitating against privatisation and victimisation.

35.5 At the invitation of the All China Federation of Trade Unions, a four member delegation led by Com.W.R.Varada Rajan, Secretary, CITU, which include Manik Sanyal (WB), K.Hemalata (AP), U.K.Vellingeri (TN) from 28th July to 6th August, 1997. The delegation had long ranging discussions with top leadership of the Chinese Trade Unions which has resulted in the strengthening of the friendship between the CITU and ACFTU.

35.6 At the invitation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) for their Conference from 16th to 19th September, 1997, the CITU nominated T.K.Rangarajan, Vice-President, CITU, to participate in the conference. His active participation in the Conference led considerably strengthened to the relations with the trade union movement in the South Africa .

35.7 Tapan Sen, Secretary, CITU, participated in the Workshop organised by the Asian Productivity Council in Tokyo. He presented a paper in the Workshop and participated in the discussions on several topics. He also took the opportunity to meet the leadership of the Zen Roran and other organisations in

Japan and held detailed discussions on problems of mutual interests.

35.8 CITU also nominated a two member delegation consisting of GMV Nayak, General Secretary, Canara Bank Staff Union (BEFI) and Naresh Lal of Air Corporation Employees' Union for the Conference against Nuclear Weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki from 4th to 9th August, 1997. GMV Nayak addressed the Conference and later the delegation also visited trade unions in Japan and held discussions of mutual interests.

35.9 K.Hemalata, Secretary, AP State Committee of CITU, was nominated for a Workshop organised by the Committee of Asian Women(CAW) in Hongkong from 5th to 10th August, 1997. 24 persons participated in the Workshop from 12 countries in Asia on the question of Structural Adjustment Programme, Globalisation, Privatisation and Neo-liberalisation. She explained the CITU standpoint and opposed the Globalisation and pointed out its consequences. The Workshop gave a call for further intensification of the struggles of working women to protect their legitimate rights.

35.10 At the invitation of the Construction Workers Unions of Australia, the Construction Workers Federation of India nominated one delegate and CITU nominated Debenjan Chakravarty, General Secretary of the Constructions Workers Federation. This Federation also nominated two comrades for International Conference of the Building Constriction Workers being held in Spain in November, 1997. 35.11 A two-member team of CGT France, consisting of Com.Jean Francois Care; Member of Federal Bureau in-charge of Internatinal Activities, Federation of Metallurgical Workers (FTM-CGT) and Com.Pascal Nonat visited CITU headquarters at Delhi on 23rd August, 1997 and held discussions with General Secretary and available members of CITU Secretariat on issues of mutual interest. The visit made positive contribution for the further promotion of our fraternal relations.

35.12 Alexander Zharikov, General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), visited the CITU office on 15th October, 1997 and held discussions with the members of the Secretariat on the question of strengthening the cooperation with WFTU and the CITU.

35.13 On behalf of Steel Authority of India, M.K.Pandhe, Vice President, Joint Committee on Safety in Steel Industry (JCSSI), was nominated for the International Symposium on Safety in Iron and Steel Industry held in Barcelona from 20th to 22nd Oct'97.

35.14 Due to extreme shortage of manpower difficulties are faced from time to time to paying more attention to international relations. Yet the Centre is making all efforts to take up international questions and strengthen the relations with fraternal organisations all over the world.

JOB DISTRIBUTION IN THE CITU CENTRE

36.1 The report to the Kochi Conference dealt with our orgnaisational weakness, particularly the functioning of CITU centre. Many delegates who spoke in the conference also dealt with those weaknesses. Those were further discussed by the Secretariat at its meeting on 24.7.1997.

36.2 As decided at the Kochi conference, the Tamil Nadu CITU has since relieved W.R. Varda Rajan, who has joined the centre during July 1997. Efforts are being made to induct one comrades each from West Bengal and Kerala in the CITU centre.

36.3 The available members of secretariat had several rounds of discussions on the issues of centre functioning and allocation of work amongst the secretariat members.

36.4 The following decisions had been taken on improving the functioning of the CITU centre.

36.5 The outstation programmes of the Centre-comrades shall be finalised at the centre meetings only. The programmes have to be decided keeping the overall needs and priorities of the centre in view.

36.6 Besides the daily meetings in the morning, two meetings in a month, attended by all the secretariat members working at the centre shall be held: one, to review the work in the current month and plan for the next month, the second one to discuss office policy matters, review etc.

36.7 Secretariat members before going to attend meetings of the state committee or industrial federation shall discuss the matter to be taken up there in the daily meetings and on return, shall circulate a feed-back

report in writing for follow-up discussion.

36.8. Review of the functioning of state committees, industrial federations, working women. The Working Class, CITU Mazdoor Child Labour Project etc. shall be taken one at a time, on the basis of written reports to be presented by comrades concerned.

36.9 It was also decided that Com. E. Balanandan will attend CITU office in the evening on all days, while in Delhi and Com. R. Umanath will attend twice a week while in Delhi.

36.10 Aspects relating to ensuring collective functioning and implementation of decisions were also specifically decided.

36.11 Allocation of work among the secretariat members has also been decided which are as follows.

36.12 M.K. Pandhe, as General Secretary will be overall in charge and W.R. Varada Rajan, Secretary will assist him in general.

36.13 The work by the state committees will be looked after as under:

Gujarat : P.K. Ganguly, Jibon Roy.

Himachal Pradesh: Balwant Singh, Tapan Sen.

Rajasthan : S Dev Roye

Jammu & Kashmir : M K Pandhe

Haryana : Ranjit Basu, Vimal Ranadive

Delhi: M K Pandhe, P.K. Ganguly

Madhya Pradesh: Jibon Roy, Tapan Sen

Uttar Pradesh: Kanai Banerjee, W R Varda Rajan (P.K. Ganguly to assist for some time)

Bihar : Samar Mukherjee, M.K. Pandhe

Assam: S Dev Roye and Kanai Banerjee

Karnataka : W R Varda Rajan

Orissa : Chittabrata Majumdar, (M K Pandhe will assist for some time)

Tripura : Chittabrata Majumdar (Other states - need based)

36.14 In respect of Maharashtra one special meeting of the State Committee will be attended by Com. E. Balanandan and Com. M.K. Pandhe and the report thereon will be discussed by the secretariat.

36.15 Industry-wise Federation and Coordination Committee will be looked after as follows:

Industry-wise Federations:

Steel : M K Pandhe, Tapan Sen

Coal: M K Pandhe, Jibon Roy

Construction: M K Pandhe, W R Varada Rajan

Water Transport: M K Pandhe, Kanai Banerjee

Road Transport: M K Pandhe, Kanai Banerjee

Fertilizer: S Dev Roye

Plantation: Vimal Ranadive, S Dev Roye, Chittabrata Majumdar

Beedi : P K Ganguly

Sugar : P K Ganguly

Anganwadi : Vimal Ranadive, Ranjit Basu

Electricity: E Balanandan, S Dev Roye

FCI : To be decided

Co-ordination Committee

Working Women : Vimal Ranadive

Unorganised Sector : P K Ganguly

Textiles : P K Ganguly, W R Varda Rajan

HSCL : Samar Mukherjee, M K Pandhe

BHEL: Tapan Sen

NTPC : S Dev Roye

Cement: Kanai Banerjee

Non-Coal Mines : Ranjit Basu

Oil & Petroleum : S Dev Roye

Public Sector : M K Pandhe, Jibon Roy (Convenor, CPSTU), Tapan Sen, S Dev Roye and W.R. Varada Rajan.

36.16 Tapan Sen will be in charge of office administration and staff. He will also ensure periodical meetings of the staff, report to them on the movement, discuss their problems etc. Two meetings of the staff have since held.

36.17 To improve the standard of the CITU monthly journal, "The Working Class," the secretariat decided to reconstitute the Editorial Board as under:

M.K. Pandhe(Chairman), W.R. Varda Rajan (Working Editor), P.K. Ganguly, Vimal Ranadive, Jibon Roy, S. Dev Roye, Tapan Sen.

36.18 It is proposed to constitute a separate Editorial Board for the Hindi monthly journal CITU Mazdoor, including some leaders of the Hindi speaking states.

36.19 Subsequent to these decisions, the daily and monthly meetings are held with more regularity. A separate note on organisation is being circulated in this meeting for consideration by the working committee.

ON VERIFICATION

37.1 During last conference, publication of the verification results carried out on the 1989 membership was reported. INTUC went to the court challenging the result and demanded stay. During pendency of the dispute they had demanded 1980 results to be in vogue for ascertaining representation in various national and international bodies. Since CITU was also made a party to the case, our lawyers during their oral submission made it abundantly clear that though the whole mechanism was faulty and unscientific leading to enormous delay in completing the entire exercise making the result irrelevant still CITU cannot accept such a position of reverting back to 1980 verification results which was all the more faulty and irrelevant. CITU therefore, demanded that since the next round of verification is already overdue, the govt, after discussion with the central TU's should immediately initiate the process of fresh verification. The court it is reported, has upheld the CITU view and fresh verification may be started on the basis of 1996 membership. Last time, although we ranked third, still 25% of our claims were turned down mainly because our unions could not produce proper records, It is, therefore, very important that one office bearer of the state committee should be made in charge of monitoring the entire matters pertaining to verification, submission of affiliation fee/ annual returns etc. This office bearer should ensure that all unions in the state maintain their membership register properly, with records of payment of membership fees. The counterfoils of the receipts issued by the unions, the proof of submission of annual returns to the respective office of the registrar of TU's, the receipt against payment of affiliation fees and working class subscription to the CITU centre, should all be preserved and kept ready for verification. The affiliation certificate, registration certificate etc. should also be maintained properly. All these are necessary to ensure that our unions can present proper records at the time of verification, when asked for. Considering the above, our State Committees should take this task in right earnest and seriously to prepare ourself for the fresh round of verification. The next round of verification is likely to be based on 1996.

CITU JOURNALS & PUBLICATIONS

38.1 An important area which requires our attention are our journals, 'The Working Class', 'CITU Mazdoor' and the 'Voice of the Working Women'. In the past we have discussed several times about improvement, in design, quality etc. to increase the readership and sales. But not much was done. Of late, some changes have been made. It has been decided to revamp and reorient our approach and give a new look to our journals. In this effort our state committees also have a role to play. Inflow of reports from the states on a regular basis about, important developments, struggles, will help in making our journals more informative

and interesting. State committees will also have to suggest and implement ways and means to increase the sales of the journals in their states. Regular payment of bills and collection of previous dues should be ensured. Unfortunately efforts in this area is the weakest and requires immediate correction. The annexure (Annexure 3&4) to this report will give an idea of total sales statewide and outstanding dues.

38.2 The over all cost escalation on printing, postage, cost of paper etc. coupled with poor sales and increasing outstanding dues virtually put a tremendous pressure on the CITU funds. Moreover, heavy subsidy is needed to bring out the journals. The total cost per copy of Working Class, CITU Mazdoor and the Voice of the working women on an average works out to Rs. 2.26, Rs. 2.37 & Rs. 2.45 respectively, while the copies are priced at Rs.2.00. With the discount provided on 5 or more copies, the total cost per copy will be around Rs.3.00. This apart, considering the impending changes to improve the journal quality wise as also the trend of the increasing costs the price of our journal requires revision. The price of the journals was increased to Rs.2.00 in 1987 at the Calcutta Working Committee Meeting. It is proposed to increase the price of the journals from Rs.2 to Rs.3.50 per copy and the annual subscription from Rs.20.00 to Rs.40.00. This increase may be effected from 1998 January.

ON MEMBERSHIP

38.1 Keeping in view that 1995 was the Silver Jubilee year of CITU, the Patna Conference of CITU had taken a decision to increase the membership of CITU for the year 1994 to 30 lakhs.

38.2 Again in the last conference held at Kochi we have decided, as one of the future task, to raise the membership of CITU to 40 lakhs in the next three years.

38.3 Consolidation of our existing membership by activating and revamping our unions and drawing newer members and unions under the banner of CITU will help us fulfil this task. Towards this end we all have to work seriously. Our unions will have to submit the annual returns and affiliation fees in time, our state committees will have to continuously monitor this job by exclusively establishing a sub-committee for the purpose. CITU centre also shall send periodic information to the states in this regard. Now that we have decided that non-submission of affiliation fees and annual returns to the centre in time will invite disaffiliation, we hope this will bring to an end this chronic organisational weakness. However, inspite of similar decision in the past, there are still many unions who are yet to pay the 1995 affiliation fees. The last conference decided delegation on the basis of 1995 membership. Even then many unions are still defaulters. We have proposed to disaffiliate those unions.

38.4 A statement showing statewide fully paid membership as per the annual returns received till 15th October '97 is annexed with this report. (Annexure-I). Although as per state committee reports CITU membership has reached 30 lakhs, its reflection is not there in the table. The state committees are yet to ensure submission of returns and remittance of fees to the centre. Again as we approach the fag end of the year, the 1996 affiliation fees and annual returns received so far present a dismal picture. Uptill now annual returns for only 3 lakh membership has been received, though Kerala, Tamilnadu & West Bengal has made some advance payments against which returns are awaited! Every state committee must take immediate steps to see that 1996 collections are cleared by 31st December '97.

ON BTR MEMORIAL TRUST

39.1 During the last Conference at Kochi the Model of the BTR Memorial building was on display and it was reported that the plan has been presented to the Delhi Development Authority for sanction. The matter is being pursued and it is expected that within this month we may get the plan approved. Therefore, an appeal was made for a collection drive on warfooting and for completing the task of fund raising before Com. BTR's next birthday which falls on 19th December. Once the construction work is commenced, it should not be stopped for paucity of funds. Therefore, we should take up this task seriously. The state committees should fulfil the quota allotted to them and remit the money by 19.12.1997. For this a week or a fortnight long fund collection programme all over India can be undertaken. This Working Committee meeting should take a final decision in this regard. Details of the collection received so far is given in the

FORWARD TO BIGGER AND UNITED STRUGGLE

Comrades,

40.1 The review of our activities since the last conference of CITU underlines our achievements as well as weakness in this period. Though we have been able to take some positive steps to strengthen our struggles, the sweep of these struggles had not been adequate to meet the challenges of the situation. Though due to various factors there were some difficulties in undertaking some of the tasks. We could have been more active in mobilising larger and larger masses in the united programmes we have undertaken. It must be admitted that all state committees were not active in all the programmes of action. This weakness should be overcome by us so that we can make the mass actions more effective

40.2 In this period the centre has taken steps to strengthen its activities and improve its coordination. However, there is need to fully ensure the task of implementing all the directives given to the CITU Centre in our Report on Organisation.

40.3 A new wave of the struggles of the working class is in the offing in the country and the CITU has to play more important role in these struggles. At international level also the need for better coordination is being felt by the trade unions in various countries. The CITU has to contribute its mite in the task of such international cooperation.

40.4 In the forthcoming period we have to pay more attention on a priority basis for imparting education to our cadres so that they are equipped to meet the tasks more effectively. Unless we fulfil these tasks the advance of our movement itself will be at stake. We have been discussing this question from time to time but the progress in the matter has been extremely tardy.

40.5 Today, the responsibilities on our shoulders are increasing more and more with each passing day but we are organisationally not prepared to take over these responsibilities as a result of which some of jobs are going by default. The existing centre within its limited capacities is making efforts to meet the challenges of the situation. These capacities can be improved to some extent. However, without increasing the strength of the Centre and some leaders from outside the centre coming forward to help in implementing these tasks, the same cannot be fulfilled effectively.

40.6 At the same time objective conditions are becoming favourable for more and more struggles by the working class in the country. The discontent among the workers is fast increasing and they are coming forward for movements. The deteriorating economic conditions and falling real standards of living are forcing them to join the struggles and the urge for unity among the working class is increasing day by day.

40.7 We have to seize the opportunity and do our best to mobilise millions of workers in the action programmes which alone will result in developing nationwide powerful movement on pressing issues facing the working class.

40.8 This will also help in strengthening the activities of the NPMO and all the mass organisations participating in it. It is only by leading these struggle the role of the working class in them can be enhanced.

40.9 Comrades, the Working Committee has an important task of guiding the whole organisation in deciding its priorities so that we can discharge our responsibilities in a befitting manner. I have no doubt that the deliberations of the Working Committee meeting will lead to improvement in our capabilities of more effectively leading the movement in fighting against the capitalist onslaughts against the working class and common people in the country.

Long Live the Unity of the Indian Working Class!

Long Live the CITU!

Workers of the World Unite!

M K Pandhe
General Secretary

Annexure - I

STATEMENT SHOWING STATEWISE MEMBERSHIP AS PER ANNUAL RETURN RECEIVED TILL 15 Oct. 1997

Name of State	Unions Submitting Returns				Position of Membership According to Annual Returns			
	1993	94	95	96	1993	94	95	96
Andaman & Nicobar	3	6	5	1	760(-)	1440(-)	1525(-)	144(-)
AP	475	406	554	447	132152(10342)	123680(14890)	148755(14744)	125934(31427)
Assam	50	75	86	49	24535(7139)	37417(10809)	40269(9770)	31109(9869)
Bihar	17	27	28	7	13714(1658)	67374(6646)	82393(8992)	6100(74)
Delhi	29	63	51	13	30969(1062)	45671(2344)	52039(2220)	3984(250)
Goa	6	7	7	-	970(151)	2864(172)	3529(199)	----
Gujrat	14	17	21	2	11444(388)	11222(182)	16333(641)	1280(22)
Haryana	16	11	30	-	4481(510)	4444(868)	20036(3146)	----
HP	19	25	21	-	3684(49)	4920(51)	5903(1922)	----
J&K	1	1	1	1	507(4)	914(8)	602(9)	550(9)
Karnataka	46	71	101	8	39957(13135)	54915(17854)	85618(20696)	3490(540)
Kerala	833	754	836	-	614178(147408)	640553(48300)	730058(163274)	----
MP	50	57	61	30	22421(1753)	21366(1545)	29452(2817)	7303(2363)
Maharashtra	24	34	40	7	30897(3087)	37021(4963)	39662(8146)	6668(3859)
Nagaland	1	-	-	-	1184(-)	----	----	----
Orissa	38	34	26	1	27972(4470)	31935(4086)	28461(3883)	210(-)
Punjab	68	72	103	19	48675(278)	58071(340)	6328(685)	27106(20)
Rajasthan	24	63	61	6	7714(233)	26343(274)	32362(352)	4796(2)
Tamilnadu	345	376	424	1	169210(1223)	190035(12482)	227176(7817)	327(-)
Tripura	14	21	22	3	25798(5962)	27350(5110)	43654(5884)	19950(3018)
UP	40	93	69	41	10628(79)	23661(233)	24840(162)	22205(139)
WB	1042	985	941	99	1149452(96399)	1058435(130823)	1111114(101123)	44500(1652)
	3155	3198	3488	735	2371302(306344)	2470131(261980)	2787042(356482)	305655(52644)
Year Wise	Total No of Unions Submitting Annual Returns & Membership As Per Return							
1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
1854	2005	1717	2412	2350	2618	3114	2934	2783
1890993	1575655	1716457(132536)	1644273(209348)	1680884(206432)	1919280(264507)	2425000(247388)	2095550(245060)	2088218(291228)
								2381012(321628)

Figures in bracket indicates female membership

Annexure - II

Details of the total contributions as noted above according to the remittance by the State Committees and other organisations/individuals till 15th Oct. 1997

1.	Right To Work Convention/Durgapur	1,00,000.00
2.	CITU Central Funds against Collections	14,01,000.00
3.	WB State Committee of CITU, Calcutta	8,65,000.00
4.	Hindustan Steel Employees Union, ASP, Durgapur	1,00,000.00
5.	United Contractors Workers Union, Durgapur	2,20,000.00
6.	Hindustan Steel Employees Union, DSP, Durgapur	1,00,000.00
7.	Alloy Steel Plants Contractors Employees Union	15,000.00
8.	All India Avery Employees Federation	50,000.00
9.	Swaraj Mazda Workers Union, Punjab	5,000.00
10.	Lala Jhanda AFCON Mazdoor Union, Punjab	3,000.00
11.	WB State Committee of CITU(Cheque and Cash)	1,20,000.00
12.	G Janardhana Rao, Hyderabad	200.00
13.	Hindustan Steel Employees Union, Durgapur	1,00,000.00
14.	Township Contractors Employees Union, Durgapur	22,682.00
15.	DYFI Ispat Nagar Zone-A LC, Durgapur	500.00
16.	DYFI Ispat Nagar Zone-B LC, Durgapur	600.00
17.	Through W B State Committee, ASP Durgapur	1,00,000.00
18.	Lal Jhanda Punjab Bhatta Mazdoor Union	15,500.00
19.	Ghaziabad Dist Committee of CITU	6,900.00
20.	Through CITU (T N State Committee, CITU)	2,64,890.00
21.	Assam State Committee of CITU	15,000.00
22.	T Mukunda Rao, Hyderabad	502.00
23.	Suner Marble & Granites Union, Udaipur	5,000.00
24.	Assam State Committee of CITU	9,000.00
25.	Rajasthan State Committee of CITU	1,62,615.00
26.	Rajasthan SC (Rajasamand)	50,000.00
27.	ASP, Durgapur (Through WB State Committee)	25,000.00
28.	WB State Committee of CITU	8,00,000.00
29.	Karnataka State Committee of CITU	17,750.00
30.	CITU Centre (Kerala State Committee)	6,00,000.00
31.	CITU Centre (Assam State Committee)	5,000.00
32.	Com. Iruthya Raj (BEL)	200.00
33.	MP State Committee (Indore District Committee)	1,700.00
34.	Com. G Janardhana Rao, AP	100.00
35.	Haryana State Committee (APL Workers Union)	4,550.00
36.	Haryana State Committee(HHenan Ind Workers)	2,000.00
37.	CITU Centre (HP State Committee)	2,726.00
38.	CITU Centre (Punjab State Committee)	3,600.00
39.	TN State Committee of CITU	1,50,000.00
40.	CITU Centre (Total Collections till date)	8,76,957.00

41.	WB State Committee of CITU	1,00,000.00
42.	Com. Vimala Ranadive	3,000.00
43.	Punjab State Committee of CITU	6,482.00
44.	ACC Babcock Employees Union, Durgapur	1,00,101.00
45.	Tamilnadu State Committee of CITU	22,290.00
46.	Delhi State Committee of CITU	5,000.00
47.	Bihar State Committee of CITU	4,000.00
48.	WB State Committee (Hindustan Steel Employees)	7,000.00
49.	CITU (Dewas, MP)	250.00
50.	Mumbai Sramik Sangha (Maharashtra SC)	40,000.00
51.	United Contractors Workers Union, Durgapur	4,620.00
52.	Punjab State Committee of CITU	31,000.00
53.	District Committee II Punjab	2,100.00
54.	NCOEA (Bokaro) KSP Phase II	2,350.00
55.	Samar Mukherjee, Vice President, CITU	17,000.00
56.	Punjab State Committee of CITU	52,430.00
57.	CITU Centre (Against Collection Upto Dec.'96)	36,900.00
58.	UP State Committee of CITU	10,000.00
59.	WB State Committee of CITU	4,00,000.00
60.	Karnataka State Committee of CITU	34,000.00
61.	Punjab State Committee of CITU	38,000.00
62.	Punjab District Committee of CITU	1,920.00
63.	CITU Centre (Against Collection)	10,000.00
64.	IEI Employees Union, Kanpur	95,000.00
65.	UP State Committee Of CITU	5,000.00
66.	CITU Nagda, MP	1,761.00
67.	Com. Laxmi Sahgal, Kanpur	5,000.00
68.	Com. Gurudas Chatterjee, Bihar	500.00
69.	Varanasi Metal & Engineering Mazdoor Sabha	5,100.00
70.	Dukan Adhistan Karmachari Union, Varanasi	1,500.00
71.	Vikrant Tyre Employees Union, Karnataka	50,000.00
72.	Orissa State Committee of CITU	5,000.00
73.	Kerala State Committee of CITU	1,50,000.00
74.	Assam State Committee of CITU	5,000.00
75.	J K Tyre Karmachari Union, Rajasthan	50,000.00
76.	Thenu Dam Workers Union, Punjab	1,00,000.00
77.	P S T C, Punjab	20,000.00
78.	Punjab Roadways	5,000.00
79.	CITU Chandigarh, Punjab	3,000.00
80.	BGML Employees Union, Karnataka	2,000.00
81.	AP State Committee	1,00,000.00
82.	UP State Committee	3,000.00
83.	Maharashtra State Committee of CITU	69,655.00

84.	Bhilai Steel Employees Union, MP	5,000.00
85.	UP State Committee of CITU	12,500.00
86.	Com. Gargi Mukherjee	10,000.00
87.	CEL Employees Union, Sahibabad (Delhi SC)	41,000.00
88.	BEFI, Calcutta	5,000.00
89.	CITU District Committee Ludhiana, Punjab	3,000.00
90.	Syndicate Bank Staff union, Madras	10,001.00
91.	Bank of India Employees Union, Calcutta	2,001.00
92.	Com.Harcharan Singh, Punjab	200.00
93.	Varanasi Metal & Engineering Mazdoor Sabha	1,100.00
94.	Dukan Adhistan Karmachari Union	1,900.00
95.	CITU District Committee, Meerut	350.00
96.	CITU Tadepalligudam Town Committee, AP	10,000.00
97.	Chedbrolu Rice Mill Workers Union, AP	1,000.00
98.	NCOEA Kathwa Coal Washery, Bokaro	600.00
99.	Ramanathan-Air Corporation Employees Union	1,700.00
100.	Mineral Workers Union, Kiriburu, Bihar	1,070.00
101.	Dharamnath Ram, Bihar	170.00
102.	Goa State Committee	50,000.00
103.	G Janardhan Rao, AP	200.00
104.	Bihar State Committee of CITU	3,660.00

79,87,383.00

Details of FDR/Cash in Bank

1.	FDR	56,75,000.00
2.	Bank	15,850.00
		56,90,850.00
3.	With the CITU Centre	44,540.00
		57,35,390.00
4.	Withdrawals/Exp.	22,51,993.00
		79,87,383.00

BTR MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

(Details of contributions towards the BTR Trust Fund received till 15.10.1997 is furnished here. From the table below, we can see how the State Committee have responded so far)

	Amount Received	Committed Amount
WB	44,82,615.00	1,00,00,000.00 (+)
AP	1,50,368.00	15,00,000.00
Assam	40,680.00	5,00,000.00
Bihar	17,981.00	8,00,000.00
Delhi	63,400.00	2,00,000.00
Kerala	13,50,000.00	50,00,000.00
MP	13,242.00	2,00,000.00
Orissa	15,119.00	5,00,000.00
Punjab	4,47,152.00	10,00,000.00
Rajasthan	3,00,615.00	5,00,000.00
Tamilnadu	4,62,580.00	13,00,000.00
Tripura	5,280.00	5,00,000.00
Karnataka	2,03,750.00	7,00,000.00
HP	2,726.00	2,00,000.00
Haryana	6,550.00	2,00,000.00
Maharastra	1,11,182.00	10,00,000.00
UP	1,45,450.00	5,00,000.00
Goa	50,000.00	1,50,000.00
Gujrat	----	1,00,000.00
Individuals/Union	1,18,693.00	
	79,87,383.00	2,48,50,000.00

STATEMENT OF THE WORKING CLASS JOURNAL

State	Aff. Subscribers No. of Copies	Ind. Subscribers No. of Copies	Agency No. of Copies	Total Copies
Assam	91	7	78	176
Andhra Pradesh	676	14	123	813
Arunachal	6			6
Bihar		4	71	75
Delhi		14	13	27
Gujrat		1		1
Goa		8	22	30
Haryana		2		2
J & K		1	10	11
Kerala	900	34	29	963
Karnataka	130	10	261	401
Maharastra		8	47	55
Madhya Pradesh		6	59	65
Orissa	53	19	25	97
Punjab		5	5	10
Rajasthan		4		4
Tamilnadu	416	20	96	532
Tripura	24			24
Uttar Pradesh		2	20	22
West Bengal	1036	18	367	1421
Total	3340	191	1204	4735
Foreign Complimentary		48		48
Indian Complimentary		142		142

STATEMENT OF CITU MAZDOOR JOURNAL

State	Aff. Subscribers No. of Copies	Ind. Subscribers No. of Copies	Agency No. of Copies	Total Copies
Assam			18	18
Andhra Pradesh		3	10	13
Arunachal		1		1
Bihar	34	5	400	439
Delhi	92	2	80	174
Gujrat	24		35	59
Goa		15		15
Haryana	30	11	110	151
HP	31	8	60	99
J & K	3	1		4
Maharastra	44	5	64	113
Madhya Pradesh	64	15	1103	1182
Orissa		1	10	11
Punjab	118	6	75	119
Rajasthan	67	202	205	474
Uttar Pradesh	130	17	401	548
West Bengal		6	1257	1263
Total	637	298	3828	4763
Complimentary				35

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Comrade President & Comrades,

I am presenting a report on the receipts and payments for the period, January to September '97 and position of CITU funds.

After the Kochi Conference as because both the outgoing treasurer and the Accountant, due to their serious illness, had to stop coming to CITU office, the formal takeover-handover of the charge could not be done. As a result, our new accountant had to face extreme difficulties in updating the accounts. However, whatever documents/vouchers etc. were available, was recorded and a statement has been prepared. I hope at the end of the year, the Internal auditors will be able to reconcile the account prior to it being placed for auditing. Nevertheless, on the basis of the statement, I would like to draw your attention to certain aspects which requires serious consideration.

1. The Central Office Expenses to-day is more than Rs 1 lakh a month. On an average Rs.35,000 is the wage bill for 25 whole timers and office staff, who work at the centre, 15,000 is the telephone/fax bill, 15,000 is being paid against house rent/water & electricity bills, printing/stationary, postage, conveyance, meeting expenses and miscellaneous expenses is around Rs. 35,000.

To meet the normal office expense we require around Rs, 12,00,000 annually and our membership fee being the only source of income will have to provide this. This will be possible if only our unions/state committees pay the affiliation fees to the centre regularly. This is precisely one of the reason why emphasis is laid in the G.S. report on this aspect. If the state committees do not take this seriously then the entire central office functioning will be in jeopardy. The practice of paying affiliation fees every year, therefore has to be enforced strictly. In the coming days some more comrades will be joining the centre, add to this the cost of rising prices and the pressure on the CITU funds is bound to be acute.

2. Secondly, the outstanding dues towards CITU journals and publications has been a chronic problem. Instead of recovering the dues, the outstandings are increasing and this inspite of the fact that in every meeting a reference is made to see that appropriate steps are taken to minimise the dues. Comrades, you will appreciate that already a heavy amount of subsidy is being given for the journals as has been mentioned in the G.S. Report. Add to this the amount of money spent towards CITU publications. Both are putting heavy burden on the CITU funds. Things would not have been difficult had the journals and publications were utilised and sold and the money deposited back to the CITU funds. But what is happening is just the reverse. Neither there is much effort for increasing purchase and sale of journals and publications by our state committees/unions nor there is much concern for paying back the money for copies taken. As a result a large sum of money is blocked, a good quantity of stocks of the publications remain unsold and we are in great difficulty. Our State Committees will have to take some positive steps immediately. The heavy outstandings will have to be cleared and concrete decisions for the future will have to be taken.

3. Thirdly, for organising a central programme, even in a restricted way we have to spend minimum 60-70 thousand rupees. If it is an all India programme where delegates from all states are required to participate in large numbers around 1.75 to 2 lakhs of rupees are spent and that too for minimum arrangements of stay and some other expenses. In the coming days we may have to organise more and more all India programmes on various issues. With its restricted source of income and the increasing expenditure for normal functioning the central funds will not be in a position to take on the burden. This aspect, therefore, requires to be discussed here. I would like to suggest that all the states should contribute some funds as would be decided by the secretariat for each such central programme.

Comrades, these are the three important issues which needs your immediate attention. In the coming days with newer comrades joining the Centre the expenses will further increase. If no corrective measure is taken now then the Headquartar's functioning will be facing a serious problem.

Ranjit Basu

STATEMENT OF RECEIPT & PAYMENT ACCOUNT
FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.07 TO 30.9.97

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS		
Opening Balance				
To	Cash in hand	48079.55	Audit Expenses	8259.50
"	Cash at bank	109431.61	Bank Charges	3140.90
"	Add.	31438.50	Conveyance	24336.80
		140870.11	CITU meeting	
Less		<u>7215.00</u>	GC	26569.50
		133655.11	WC	2870.00
"	Affiliation fees	1496680.60		29439.50
"	A P Flood relief	4707.00	CITU Mazdoor	122411.00
"	BTR trust	44540.00	Delegation	3618.00
"	BTR book	3630.00	Electricity & W/C	57959.00
"	Donation	10400.00	FDR	500000.00
"	Mis. receipts	51145.00	Fixed Assets	120040.00
"	Publication	21876.50	IORTUC	31182.00
"	Working Class(Directly)	62182.00	Joint Meeting	
"	Working Class A/C	115000.00	CPSTU	18563.00
"	CITU Mazdoor(Directly)	15509.00	NPMO	6354.50
"	CITU Mazdoor A/C	20000.00	IISCO	3300.00
"	Bank Interest	17592.00		28217.50
"	Contribution	300.00	Loan & Advances	6449.00
			Medical Charges	8387.55
			Misc. Expenses	42295.20
			N P Periodicals &	
			Books	16489.50
			Phone bills paid	96377.00
			P&T Expenses	24177.00
			Pension Rally	68101.00
			Rent & Taxes	50744.00
			Service & Maint.	22612.00
			Sty. & Ptg.	50407.00
			Tea & Tiffin	18807.85
			Travelling Expenses	42405.00
			V W W	7373.00
			Vehicle Maint.	17767.25
			Wages	267350.00
			Working Class	144406.50
			IXth Conference	45960.00
			Suspense	3320.50
			Cash in hand	16607.80
			Cash at bank	166655.41
		2045296.76		2045296.76

WORKING CLASS
(Monthly English Journal of CITU)

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
To	Opening Balance		
	Cash 1762.70	Conveyance & Cartage	113.00
	Bank 52585.68	Binding & Packeging	918.00
"	Subscription 21156.75	Postage	4598.00
"	Spl. Working Class		
	Advertisement 71500.00	Misc. Expenses	349.50
"	Bank Interest 3050.00	Sty. Expenses	162.00
"	Suspense A/C 3000.00	Bank Charges	140.00
		CITU A/C	115000.00
		Cash in hand	7908.20
		Cash at bank	23866.43
	153055.13		153055.13

CITU MAZDOOR
(Monthly Hindi Journal of CITU)

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
To	Opening Balance		
	Cash 901.35	Postage Expenses	3992.00
	Bank 49739.43	Conv. & Cartage	27.00
	50640.78	Binding & Pkg.	1002.00
"	Subscription 64562.50	Misc. Expenses	170.50
"	Bank Interest 2360.00	CITU A/C	20000.00
		Cash in hand	15348.35
		Cash at bank	77023.43
	117563.28		117563.28

VOICE OF WORKING WOMEN

Receipts		Payment	
To	Opening Balance		
	Cash 1121.75	Postage Expenses	550.00
	Bank	Binding & Pkg.	100.00
	Bank of India 16730.18	Conv. & Cartage	45.00
	Syndicate Bank 3527.00	Cash in hand	4783.75
	21378.93	Cash at Bank	22469.68
"	Subscription 5863.50		
"	Bank Interest 706.00		
	27948.43		27948.43

Resolution

On Countrywide Strike on 17th December against Govt Pension Scheme

The Working Committee meeting of CITU being held on 25-28 October 1997 at Shimla stresses the urgency of carrying ahead the struggle against retrograde Govt Pension Scheme imposed on the workers inspite of all out opposition to the particular scheme by the grass root level workers in general.

The Working Committee also upholds the call of countrywide strike on 17th December 1997 declared by the Delhi Rally of 2nd September against the Govt pension scheme. The meeting recalls that from the very stage of the initiation of the scheme, common workers cutting across affiliations resented against the scheme which is nothing but a design of perpetual loot on workers provident fund in lieu of pittance as pension. In fact such resentment against the Govt scheme was reflected by massive countrywide strike on 23.2.96 organised by CITU and its allies in the pension struggle which was participated by mass of the workers all over the country including those affiliated to those particular central trade unions who are supporting the pension scheme. It is also notable that besides organised strike action there have been many spontaneous protest actions by the workers against the implementation of the Govt scheme, like the action of the Bhilai steel plant workers during December last year.

Last two years of operation of the Govt pension scheme has exposed the disastrous character of the scheme and also the motive of the Govt. Out of around 40 lakhs retired workers only 63,000, i.e. 1.5% of the total retirees could be offered pension, which establishes beyond doubt the incompetence of Central Provident Fund organisation to administer the scheme. The laid down amended provision for revaluation/review of the scheme every year stands shamelessly flouted as no review has been done despite passage of more than two years from the date of effect/implementation of scheme. Not a single establishment/institution has been granted exemption by the govt inspite of there being specific provision in the scheme for such exemption to the companies/establishment formulating separate pension scheme. All the commitments of the Govt regarding improvement of the Scheme have been turned into sheer bluff to working class.

The meeting also notes that legal battle is also going on against the scheme in various high courts of the country and also the upholding of the stay order against the operation of the scheme by the Supreme Court of India in respect of certain industries.

The massive workers rally before the Parliament on 2nd Sept 1997 against the loot on workers provident fund and demanding pension as a third retirement benefit and submission of mass petition to Lok Sabha signed by millions of workers' has demonstrated the urge among the workers to carry the struggle against pension scheme to further height, through massive countrywide strike on 17th December 1997.

The Working Committee meeting of CITU expresses in clear terms that CITU has to shoulder the responsibility to voice the resentment and anger of the entire working class against the design of loot and the just demand for pension as third retirement benefit without encroaching the provident fund, particularly when a section of Central Trade Unions have lent support to the retrograde govt scheme.

The Working Committee meeting also appeals to the workers irrespective of affiliations and also to all the trade unions of the country to appreciate and understand the dangerous face of the Govt scheme and enormity of the loot imposed on the workers and join the strike of 17th December 1997 en masse to make it a massive working class action to compel the govt to accept the just demand of workers for pension as a third retirement benefit and save the provident fund of the workers from encroachment and appropriation in the name of illusory pension.

On National Platform and mass Organisations' call for struggle against economic policies.

The National Platform of Mass Organisations comprising major central trade unions, industrial federations and the organisations of the peasantry, agricultural workers, students, youth and women, has decided to

continue with more vigour the struggle against the disastrous economic policies pursued by the government of India.

Price-rise, unemployment, job losses, dismantling of public sector, liquidation of sick industries through the SICA Bill, reluctance to enact the statues concerning agricultural workers, reservation for women, secret ballot for TU recognition etc., continued attempts to impose burdens on the people etc. are the issues identified by the National Platform of Mass Organisations emphasising the urgent need for intensified resistance to the Government policies.

Besides a phased programme of holding statewide conventions, rallies etc., the National Platform of Mass Organisations has called for a massive day long dharna before Parliament at New Delhi on 9th December 1997.

The Working Committee of CITU meeting at Shimla from the 25th to 28th October, 1997 calls upon all affiliates and state committees to massively mobilise the workers and other constituents of the NPMO for the Delhi Dharna and make it a signal success. The CITU also calls upon the state committees in far flung areas to organise similar dharnas in their states on 9-12-1997

ON THE FORTHCOMING STRUGGLE OF PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

The Working Committee meeting of CITU being held at Shimla from 25th to 28th October, 1997 extends full support to the two days' nationwide strike by all central public sector workers during the next budget session of Parliament to be preceded by phased programmes of intensive propaganda campaign and agitation.

The Working Committee denounces the policy pursued by the successive Central Governments in dismantling the public sector network through various policy measures under the Fund-Bank prescribed regime of liberalisation and privatisation. It is deeply deplorable that the areas of activities reserved for public sector have been completely opened to the private sector. The Government is showering special favours including allowing various financial concessions to the Indian monopoly capital and foreign MNCs denying the PSUs concerned level playing field while pitting them against unhealthy cut throat competition with private sector. The mad drive for privatisation of public sector is being materialised inter alia through the sickness route, disinvestment of shares and in the name of granting so called autonomy to, and under the grab of professionalising the management of PSUs.

The Disinvestment Commission constituted by the Government despite united opposition of trade unions is rather providing the blue print for privatising the public sector units both sick and healthy as well. The Government has already announced its decision to disinvest 74% shares of about three-fourth of the total public sector units.

The so called autonomy granted to the public sector categorised as 'Navratnas' and 'Miniratnas' is designed to provide window for the monopoly houses of the country and the MNCs to enter the Boards of the PSUs. As per report, the 'Search Committee' constituted by the Government to find 'suitable professionals' to be inducted in the Boards of 'Navratna' PSUs have prepared the panel for the non-official Directors and all of them *are believed to be in the private sector.* Now once these 'non official directors' are inducted in the Board it is (the Board) empowered to enter into joint venture or strategic alliances, opening branches abroad splitting the company in the name of restructuring, wind up permanent posts, compulsorily retire employees, borrow fund from national and internal market. Now it is not difficult to visualise as to how such 'autonomy' shall be utilised by the Boards packed with the representatives of private sector.

It is shocking that let alone taking any positive step for reviving the sick PSUs as per commitment in the CMP, the UF Government is, on the contrary, reversing the revival decision accepted in principle during the

SHIMLA 25th To 28th October, 1997

previous Government in some cases.

In view of the dangerous policy pursued by the Government to liquidate the public sector in compliance with the directive of World Bank and IMF, the Working Committee directs the state committees and the trade unions in public sector that the forthcoming struggle of the public sector workers must be implemented with all seriousness.

ON NATIONWIDE COAL MINERS' STRIKE AGAINST PRIVATISATION

The historic All India Convention of coal workers held at Dhanbad on 6th July 1997 gave a clarion call to 7.5 lakh coal workers to organise 3 days strike on 28-30 July on the following demands:

1. Stop privatisation of coal mining industry including exploration and excavation.
2. Withdraw the proposed amendment of the Nationalisation of Coal Mines Act.
3. Restore the custom duty on imported coal to the level of 1989-90 and stop import of coal to protect the Indian coal mining industry.
4. Reorganise coal industry to make it a unified single company with full autonomy.
5. Restore budgetary support to the coal industry.

The coal workers all over India unitedly responded to this appeal by Federations of INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS and BMS. As a result of this remarkable unity achieved by the workers, the Government of India had to come down. The Prime Minister met the central TU leaders to assure that the policy measures in coal industry including the proposed Bill to privatise the coal mines would be kept in abeyance and talks would be held to evolve a common understanding within 2 months.

However, discussions between trade union representatives and the central govt failed due to fixed mindset of the Government spokesmen. The representatives of the Government produced exaggerated figures of demand for coal to make out a case that Coal India would not be able to meet the demand.

Despite promise given by the Prime Minister that no policy decision will be taken by the Central Government, and even when the talks were going on, the Minister of Coal Ms Kanti Singh went on publicly making statements regarding privatisation of coal mines.

The government of India is going ahead with this anti-national Bill. It is proposed to allow upto 74 % equity holding to foreign companies. This will practically hand over Indian mines to the foreign companies to make profit.

- The Government of India is refusing to extend budgetary support to the coal industry.

The restructuring of Coal India as demanded by the trade unions in coal industry in order to run the industry more efficiently is not agreed to by the Government of India.

The Central Government has drastically reduced the custom duty on coal to less than 20 per cent with the result that domestic coal production became non-competitive. The Ministry of Coal accepted the rationale of the demand to restore the duty to 1989-90 level but the Ministry of Finance refused to concede it and the talks could not progress further.

Thus, not a single demand raised by Dhanbad convention has been accepted by the govt. This has roused anger among the workers of all affiliations.

In this background, the All India Coal Workers Federation has decided that the united movement of coal workers must launch another round of struggle to force the Government of India to change its retrograde policies. A meeting of all federations in the coal mining industry, affiliated to CITU, AITUC, HMS, INTUC and BMS, being held at Asansol on 27.10.97 is expected to finalise the dates for a three days' nationwide strike.

CITU warmly greets the coal workers of the country for their resolve to carry on united struggle to defeat the privatisation move of the Government of India. CITU extends full support to the strike in the coal industry and calls upon all trade unions in the country to rally massively to express their solidarity with the strike by coal miners.