



# THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

## Editorial

### **Raise Higher the Banner of October Revolution**

The seventy fifth anniversary of the Great October Revolution will be observed by the revolutionary working class and the people all over the world with more determination to assert conviction in the ideals of socialism. The CITU unions in all corners of the country will observe the day in a fitting manner and take a pledge to carry forward the glorious traditions of the October revolution.

The spokesmen of imperialism who proclaimed from the ivory tower that socialism was dead are now more cautious in making their comments. They are now finding that after dismantling of socialism the economies of former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries are now in shambles. The protagonists of market economy are now unable to explain why there is acute shortage of all consumer goods in these countries and why the prices of all essential commodities have gone up to unprecedented heights. Those who talked about lack of democracy in socialist system are now engaged in suppressing working class struggle for protection of livelihood from the erosion of real wages.

Yeltsin and company who promised moon to the people after overthrowing socialist regime are now in deep waters. The so called Commonwealth of Independent States is in total disarray. The unity of the former Soviet people is in danger and civil wars are breaking out. Ethnic riots are becoming more common. The servility of the new rulers to imperialist masters has been now clear to the world. Big begging bowl held by Yeltsin received only paltry aid from the US and EEC aid givers.

Working class and the people of former USSR are now seeing through the game of the new rulers from their own experiences. Big demonstration and strike struggles are emerging against the deteriorating living conditions. Photographs of Lenin and Stalin are appearing with more frequency in these demonstrations. The struggles against growing unemployment and decline in real wages are now assuming

serious character. The withdrawal of earlier social security benefits is adding to the already high level of discontent among the mass of people.

The crisis in all capitalist countries has become sharper while unemployment is reaching alarming proportions. The prophets of capitalism are unable to assess how long the present recession will continue. To overcome the crisis, attempts are being made to pass on its burden on the third world countries who are under ferocious attacks. The people in the countries are resisting the imperialist blackmail and the resistance is bound to become more powerful in the days to come. Without this struggle the third world countries cannot achieve self-reliance.

Under these circumstances the achievements of socialist system after the October revolution are showing the path to the people for liberating their economy from imperialist shackles. The role played by the Soviet Union in building a powerful socialist state and heroic role played by the Red Army in defeating fascism cannot be obliterated by any falsifier of history.

On this October Revolution day on 7th November 1992 the CITU unions will explain to workers that it was not socialism that failed in USSR but distortions that have taken place in building socialism have led to a critical situation in the socialist system. Correction of this mistakes is the way out—giving up socialism will only make the matters worse for these people. The CITU is confident that the working class and the people of former Soviet Union will realise this and fight relentlessly for the restoration of socialism.

The people of Asia, Africa and Latin America who have learnt through bitter experience the true nature of colonial rule are determined to fight against all forms of colonialism. Therefore, socialism is still

*(Cont'd on page 16)*

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**Join The 25th November 'March' In Lakhs**

## CITU Secretariat Calls for Massive Participation for March to Parliament on November 25, 1992

An extended meeting of the CITU Secretariat was held at New Delhi on October 12. The meeting was attended by the President and General Secretaries of the State Committees apart from Office bearers. The meeting was presided over by Com. E. Balanandan, President, CITU.

The meeting took reports from all the State Committees about the preparations for statewide jathas followed by March to Parliament on Nov. 25, 1992. The meeting noted with satisfaction that after the National Trade Union Convention Against the Economic policies of the Central Govt held at Delhi on 13 September, all the Constituents of the Sponsoring Committee have geared up their organisational activities for mobilising maximum number of workers for the march.

The Sponsoring Committee in its meeting held on 8 October at Delhi took stock of the things and finalised the preparations for the march. The CITU Secretariat noted with satisfaction that the reports made by the various central trade unions and the industrial federations in the Sponsoring Committee projected that about one million workers will participate in the biggest ever rally at Boat Club on November 25. Arrangements for their accommodation in camps near Red Fort and other arrangements for preparation for dias, mike, etc at Boat Club are being made.

The Secretariat further noted that other mass organisations like organisations of peasants, agricultural workers, students, youth and women will also attend the rally responding to the appeal made by the Sponsoring Committee.

Preceding the rally, preparations are being made to commence statewide jathas from the last week of October to be completed by 3rd week of November. The Secretariat called upon all its state committees, unions and industrial federations to participate in the jathas in each State mobilising maximum number of workers. At the same time full contact and co-ordination is to be made with the other mass organisation of peasants, agricultural workers, student, youth, women and other professional workers organisations including central and state government employees so that lacs of people can be mobilised in the jathas. As the jathas will commence from various parts of the states and proceed to the respective state capitals, massive meetings should be organised on the way to mobilise opinion of the people against the dangers of the IMF dictated economic and industrial policies. The campaign should be strengthened by posters and leaflets in regional languages.

Regarding public sector it was reported that there was a growing resentment among public sector workers against the unilateral actions of the govern-

ment going ahead with dis-investment in the profit making units and refering the sick units to the BIFR. It was a matter of serious concern that budgetary support has been stopped to the units referred to BIFR despite the assurances given by the Govt to continue the same. In several units even wages of the workers were withheld. In NTC 86,000 workers were threatened of joblessness. With the arbitrary constitution of the National Renewal Fund the Govt was going ahead imposing the voluntary retirement scheme on the workers of various units. Apart from above the ban on wage negotiations in the public sector units was continuing. The Govt is still sitting idle over the implementation of the slab system with regard to DA, thus violating the decisions of the Tripartite DA Committee held on 23rd July last. Similarly the Govt had remained silent on the issue of removing ceiling on bonus and gratuity.

The Secretariat further noted with satisfaction that the Committee of Public Sector Unions (CPSTU) in its extended meeting held at Delhi on 12 September unanimously decided to prepare for countrywide strike action, the detailed programme of which is going to be chalked out in the extended CPSTU meeting to be held at Hyderabad on 3-4 December. The meeting also endorsed the decision of the CPSTU to organise a National Seminar on the New Economic Policy and the Public Sector Undertakings in Bombay at the end of December. The Secretariat called upon all the public sector workers in the country to make full preparations for the march th Parliament and strike action.

In preparation of the march to Parliament the meeting further noted that State level joint conventions are being fixed in different states apart from regionwise and industrywise conventions which would be addressed by central leaders also.

The meeting discussed various organisational matters also and decided to gear up the organisational activities of the CITU from the central level to the state, district and union levels to meet the challenges and offensives being launched by the Narasimha Rao Government through the new Economic and Industrial policies at the behest of the IMF and World Bank. It decided to hold a Working Committee meeting of the CITU at Delhi on November 28 and 29. A special General Council meeting will be held at Bangalore from December 16 to 18 to discuss specifically organisational matters in the background of the new challenges. The meeting also decided to observe the birth anniversary of Com. BTR on 19 December throughout the country. The Central celebration will be held at Bangalore on the date.

# Make 25th November Parliament March A New Turning Point of Resistance

—Jibon Roy

Delhi is getting prepared for the Workers March to Parliament on 25th November, 1992, when one million workers are expected to join the march. Workers in Delhi are preparing themselves to give a colourful and befitting welcome to the marchers.

The Govt of India's dogged determination to pursue the disastrous economic and industrial policies dictated by the IMF has made the Sponsoring Committee to voice the strong resolve of the working class to resist the govt's designs through this mighty march to Parliament. When a government decides to disregard the opposition of its own people against the policies of a foreign power despite the all round negative impact it has created on the economy, there remains no other way but to rouse the people for resistance. The conditions imposed on the economy by the IMF/World Bank has already created condition for the Narasimha Rao government to continue to crawl before the IMF/World Bank for further loans.

## Worsening Economic Situation

In the last two years, the Indian economy has been brought to the brink of virtual collapse and has thrown the poor and the middle class to untold miseries. The country's GDP growthrate having been dropped to a mere 1.5% in the year 1991-92 from the level of an average of 5 to 6% during eighties. Practically no recovery was noticeable during the first six months of current financial year. Stagnancy in the manufacturing sector had sent alarm signals, but it has shown no recovery despite complete liberalisation of imports. Food production has shown a negative growth rate despite good monsoon in 1990-91 and there is no signs of a covering up possible during the current year. Food stocks have slipped to an all time low level of 12 million tonnes during last March endangering the vitality of the public distribution system. All programmes of rural development is being abandoned in a clandestine manner. The price levels are soaring, the consumer price index for industrial workers going up by 8.6 percent between May 1991 and July 1992. The increasing prices alongwith the legalisation of closures, lockouts and retrenchments has brought a dooms day for the poor.

Against the projected 10 percent export growth, the year 1990-91 has recorded a negative export growth of 1 percent while the massive liberalisation of trade in 1991-92 has already taken the trade deficit to 150 percent higher till August. The economy is kept alive on foreign loans which has already

jumped to 2.25 lakhs crores of rupees from 1 lakh crores one and a half year back. The debt trap is not a future event, it is a reality of today.

## The March to Parliament—A further Consolidation of our Ranks

The Sponsoring Committee which has emerged as the broadest united platform of Indian Trade Union movement has been responsible for leading two massive nationwide general strikes in the course of last one year against these atrocious policies of the govt. The plight of the economy has vindicated our stand today. It is now all the more clear that if the trend is not checked the very economic sovereignty of our country will be in peril. The Sponsoring Committee of Indian Trade Unions have therefore called upon the working class to make the 25th November March to Parliament the biggest ever march seen by the capital. It is expected that all the Central trade unions will bring largest possible workers detachment in the march.

It is an welcome feature that all Central Trade Unions and the National Federations have taken up the programme as a challenge. All prevailing enthusiasm is seen amongst the State and Central Government employees, bank, insurance and railway employees. They alongwith employees from Airlines, fertilizers etc organised under the banner of independent unions will join the march in tens of thousands. The Professional Workers Trade Union Centre of India has announced that large number of Executives and professional managers will join the march.

## Massive Support from other mass organisations

In response to a call from the Sponsoring Committee. The All India Kisan Sabha and a number of democratic organisations of youth, student and women have responded to the call and decided to join the march. The march is set to open the broadest united platform of all sections of the toiling masses.

## CITU Unions to Play Leading Role

The CITU secretariat has called upon its affiliated unions and allied industrial federations to throw all of their weight and energy to make the 25th November March an important landmark in the Indian Trade Union movement and to bring mightiest detachments to Delhi. The real test lies at the capabilities of CITU unions to associate the toiling and democratic masses with the purpose the march to Parliament is sought to focus. The extent

CITU unions could really be able to enthuse the toiling masses and democratic opinion larger number of workers will be ready to participate in the march and will feel that they really represent the people.

### Massive Preparation All Round

With all available information, the preparation for the march itself is turning into a movement. Joint Rallies and conventions are being organised all over the countrr. Street corner meetings, posters and jathas are being organised. In these preparations different democratic organisations are joining hands with the trade unions. All possible arrangements are being made so that lakhs of people join the march from the states surrounding Delhi. This time workers will join the march even from the far off provinces. In Kerala and West Bengal, CITU has called for massive mobilisation. In Tamilnadu a bandh has been declared to protest against the Central Govt's policies and atrocities perpetrated by the state govt.

### Industrial Federations too coming forward

Industrial federations are also supplementing the preparations in a big way. Unitwise conventions are being organised and attempts are being made so that every state units of All India Federations participate in separate colums with their flags and festoons. CITU has called upon each union to demonstrate atleast one festoon on specific slogan. Festoons and placards will highlight defence of SELF RELIANCE AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, defence of RIGHT TO TRADE UNION AND STRIKE besides other derogatory aspects of the new economic policy.

The Steel Workers Federation has decided to bring out a pictorial brochure highlighting the anti-national aspects of the new policy. Similarly, All India Coal Workers Federation have decided to bring Hundreds of coal miners to march with their working dresses. Number of other Federations including FMRAI, Fertilizer Workers Federation, of India Waterfront and Construction Workers Federation, etc have joined the preparations.

### Delhi is preparing

In Delhi, arrangements for the rally is going on in a rapid pace. The Sponsoring Committee has taken up on elaborate programme of campaign. Delhi State committee of CITU has made elaborate arrangements for decorating Delhi and give a rousing welcome to the marchers.

Constituents of the Sponsoring Committee is making camps for the stay of participants from their respective organisations. Delhi State Committee of CITU has come forward to shoulder the responsibility for accommodating the participants from

CITU. A tent township is being built with all facilities including electricity, water supply, sanitation, etc.

The stage is set for a million strong workers march to parliament on 25 November 1992, which will open new horizons for unity and united actions, for a militant resistance to the disastrous policies. It depends on our own leaders and cadres as to how best we prepare ourselves and the working class for the task ahead.

## For 'March to Parliament' on 25th November 1992 Some Important Points to be noted

- \*All the participants from CITU and friendly trade unions should report CITU camp behind Red fort.
- \*All unions should bring their flags and festoons. Each should bring atleast one festoon on a slogan specially circulated for the March.
- \*Those who will be coming from distant states should try to reach Delhi by 24th November, evening.
- \*Participants joining the march from adjoining states should reach by 6 AM of 25th.
- \*Those who will come by bus will deboard near camp. They will board the bus after the march in the parking being arranged for the purpose near India Gate.
- \*Delhi will be cold in November. Participants should bring some warm clothing.

Please Note : Procession will Start at 10 AM. Line up will Begin at 8 AM

—CITU

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# The Road to Foreign Bondage

E. Balanandan

The dangerous consequences of the Fund-Bank dictated economic policies pursued by the Government of India is unfolding itself adversely affecting the life of every section of our society. The claim that this policy will result in overcoming the foreign exchange crisis, help to increase agricultural and industrial production, growth of exports, economic progress, expansion of employment and reduction in inflation etc. are proved to be wrong through the experience of the last one year.

In the Foreign Exchange front our position today is said to be comfortable since, we are having a reserve of 5.6 Million dollars, while we had only 2.2 Million dollars during 1990-91. On closer scrutiny we get a disturbing picture. The month to month inflow and outflow of foreign exchange reveal the outflow is greater and therefore the danger of depletion of this reserve to dangerous levels cannot be ruled out. Though the reserves have been made up through borrowed money the same trend is continuing. The '92-93 budget concessions further caused an import surge. It is higher by 7% for the last 4 months, April-July 1992. The trade deficit for this period is 2.1 Billion dollars while it was only 0.8 Billion dollars for the same period in 1991. If the claims that the foreign exchange position is so comfortable why go for further bigger loan? However the government has to tell the IMF that there has been a 'fundamental deterioration' in the country's balance of payments though this fact is hushed up from our people.

The Reserve Bank of India's annual report says that the Indian economy faced a distinct slow down during the year '91-92. The increase in gross domestic product (GDP) was less than 2 per cent and it was lowest since 1979-80 while the growth rate in 1990-91 was 5.6 per cent. In the agricultural production there was a fall of one per cent and in the industrial production there was near stagnation with only a nominal growth of 0.1 per cent. The industrial growth is moderate 4 to 5 per cent which was 8 per cent in the recent past. The report also said that the economy continues to be haunted by the scenario of diminishing job opportunities, high level fiscal deficits and massive government expenditure etc. Food grain production is expected to register a lower growth rate, against the target of 183 million tons for the year 1992-93 and advised the government to keep watch of its foreign exchange for improving essential supplies like cereals and pulses for ensuring domestic supply. The country's balance of payment would continue to be under pressure with current account deficit of 6-7 billion dollars, which necessitate the exceptional financing to the tune of 3 billion dollars in the current year. The external debt stands on 31st March this year at 70

billion dollars (2,05,000 crores rupees) which according to RBI will create difficulties if aid flows are reduced.

Therefore, it is evident from the above, that Mr. Manmohan Singh's expectation did not come true and quite the contrary was the result. The Government is forced to go for bigger loans (amounting 9 billion dollars) agreeing to more adverse conditionalities with the hope of getting out of the woods which will put the country into perpetual bondage.

The steps which are being taken by the government to reduce the fiscal deficit as per the loan conditionalities are working havoc in the life of our people. The budget allocation for health and human welfare, education, rural employment, small agro and village industries, civil supplies, public distribution system etc. was Rs. 7766 crores for the year 1991-92. A cut was effected to the tune of Rs. 703 crores and the amount was brought down to 7063 crores. Rs. 403 crores cut was effected in the rural employment programme in the 1992-93 budget besides further slashing down the allocation for education, industries etc. Thus in order to bring down the fiscal deficit to 6.5 per cent in the 1991-92 and 5 per cent in 1992-93 drastic reductions were being made in the welfare amenities of our people. The Health care available has been made nominal and education facilities are being limited to the fortunate few, besides the curtailing of rural employment generation etc. Due to the drastic reduction proposed in the fertilizer subsidy the retail prices of many items of fertilizers have gone up to two to three times and large sections of our peasantry cannot use the chemical fertilizers which, in turn, will affect our agricultural productions especially the production of foodgrains. Together with this, the government further liberalised fertilizer imports by slashing down the custom duty of several items which will adversely affect the indigenous fertilizer industry and many of them will be forced to put down their shutters. The FACT, the biggest public sector fertilizer plant in Kerala, is facing crisis and they have declared closing down of their Ammonia Plant. Pradeep Phosphates Ltd, Godavary Fertilisers (Andhra), and Mangalore Fertilisers Karnataka also are closed down. While our own fertilizer industry is being made sick, we will be forced to depend on imports for our fertilizer needs. The cost of rice and wheat will go high and we are increasingly dependent on foreign imports for our food needs. The agricultural operation for the middle and lower strata of the peasantry will become uneconomic and will lead to further pauperisation of large sections.

The hike of Petrol and Petroleum products was a further attack on the people. The cost of every-

thing of daily use were pushed up, consumer and industrial goods become dearer. Many industrial units which were using naphtha and fuel are faced with increase in production cost & lost their competitiveness in the market and, subsequently, many of them facing liquidation. The captro-lactum plant of FACT which recently started production is facing serious crisis. Thus so-called re-adjustment programme for reduction of fiscal deficit has not only increased the miserable conditions of the people but paved the way for multinationals penetration into our markets leaving our own industries at serious disadvantage.

The so-called globalisation process is in full swing. All controls and restrictions against the foreign multinationals are being removed and in many cases they are being offered most favoured treatment than their Indian counter parts. For foreign goods, custom duties are being cut down and removed while excise duty is jacked up for Indian products which we have seen in the case of certain items of chemical fertilizers. In the case of taxation also foreign multi-national companies working in India are being offered equality besides they are allowed 100 per cent equity participation.

In the World Bank and IMF agenda the first priority is the demolition of the public sector. Whatever we have built during the last four decades for the strengthening of our independent self-reliant development is sought to be destroyed. Since the government is again going for a bigger loan they are doing everything to placate the Fund-Bank authorities, inspite of the massive protest by the working class and the people. Privatisation process is on by selling the public sector companies' shares at throw away prices. The claim made by the government that these shares are sold only to unit trusts and public sector banks is only to bluff the people. Every body knows that these shares were sold in the market and the highest bidder is the owner today. In this game, Harshad Mehtas and Krishnamurthys were operating with official connivance which came to light only because of the sudden plunging down of the share market. Now the 2nd instalment sale is being organised with the claim that only a limited share is allowed to be sold and the companies will continue to be under government control which is also a lie since the government is out to privatise the public sector. In other words, the public money invested in the public sector amounting to one lakh thirty four thousands crores which is worth to day more than 100 times is quickly being transferred to private capital—Indian and foreign. To facilitate this, many methods are being adopted. Budgetary supports for the public sector is withdrawn; they are denied finance from the public sector financial institutions which is allowed for the private sector; and also they are not even allowed to go to the market on the same terms allowed to the Indian and Foreign Private investors. In the case of some companies the dues from the state and central governments are not being paid

too. The public sector company products which are qualitywise and pricewise competitive are not allowed to be bought by the public sector units—shipping corporation of India and Railways are examples. Thus attempts are being made to create difficulties in the working of public sector companies. In the process they will become sick, not able to compete in the market which is flooded with foreign goods—transfer it to private hands or go for liquidation.

Let us see what is being done in the energy sector which needs special mention. In the oil sector the ONGC has played a commendable role. Our crude oil production which was only 7 million tons per annum went up to more than 33 million tones in 1990 i.e. we could attain self sufficiency up to 73%. It has been pointed out that India is very much under-explored, in the matter of exploration of Hydro Carbon. According to the study by experts, out of 1.72 million square Kilometer of potential Hydro Carbon bearing areas located both at off shore and on shore only 20% areas are some what explored. The perse reserve to production ratio is 23 where as 15 is acceptable. Therefore, there is an ample scope to increase the production from the established fields. Instead of strengthening our Public Sector oil companies for achieving self sufficiency attempts are afoot to dismantle the ONGC organisational set up and hand over oil explorations and refining to the foreign and Indian private capital. 28 blocks are offered to be taken over by foreign and Indian companies while the activities of ONGC and OIL are being restricted by creating many hurdles. Last year crude oil production was 32.5 million tons. This year the government has signed MOU with ONGC for the production of 25 million tons thus the production will be less by 7.5 million tons, consequently, the oil imports may go up further and the foreign exchange drain will be enormous.

The foreign multinationals and Indian companies will explore oil and our domestic needs can be met from the same, This is the argument being advanced adding that the government's financial position does not permit strengthening public sector oil companies.

Our public sector companies were able to supply crude oil at less than 1000 rupees a ton whereas the international price for the same was more than Rs. 4500. Thus our cost was about 1/4th of the international price. Now the so-called "efficient" multinationals are given the field while purposely weakening (if not destroying) our public sector oil companies. The Multinationals will finally decide the price of "our own oil" which according to World Bank theory is to be raised to the "global standards" In short the low cost oil energy available to the country is being done away with and foreign multinationals domination in these vital energy sector is being imposed.

In the power sector too, the policy being pursued

is the very same. During the last 4 decades we have made remarkable progress in power generation though we require sizeable increase to meet our growing needs. We were able to build an infrastructure including a competent power equipment manufacturing industry BHEL which is capable of catering to the needs of our power development. Our machines are of world class and cost effective. Out of 66,000 Mega Watt of installed capacity 43,000 Mega Watt is our own machines. The unit cost of power in India is only 1/3 or 1/4 of the developed world. In the name of resource crunch foreign multinationals are invited with 100% equity participation with a guaranteed profit of 16% on cost plus basis. Naturally they will bring their costlier machines into the country which will displace our indigenous capacity and ultimately taken over by the multinationals. The skill and efficiency we have attained will be lost. Power will be costlier by 3 or 4 times and it will become a luxury for our people. Our products, industrial and agricultural will be costlier and will lose market competitiveness. The only gainers will be foreign multinationals.

The other energy sector-coal-is also going to be handed over to the private sector, foreign and Indian. Mr. Sangma, the Minister for coal has stated that in the forthcoming session of the Parliament minerals and metals regulation act is going to be amended in order to facilitate the same. He said that there is a resource gap of 6500 crores during the 8th plan period in the coal industry. Since the budgetary support is going to be discontinued fully from next year, there is no other way other than to go for privatisation to meet the needs of coal development.

The public sector coal companies could meet most of our demands for coal. Only less than 10,000 tonnes were being imported. The coal was sold at less than the production cost by these companies under government direction. Therefore, they could not make surplus for their expansion and therefore the need for budgetary support. However, now in the name of resource crunch the private sector is allowed to enter the field and finally they will be allowed to control this industry too. Thus power, petrol and coal, the basic energy sectors of the country will be allowed foreign multinational domination and the cost of these would be raised to the so called "world standards" which adversely affect India's total development.

Recently the secretary of Ministry of Steel has declared that the govt has taken a policy decision to privatise the steel industry. Steel is the life line for industrial development. Steel industry has made impressive progress during the last 4 decades. Production has increased to 15 million tonnes in 1991 from 1 million tonnes in 1947. The Steel Authority of India has made a target of 12% production growth during the year 1991-92 and 40% during 8th Plan mainly through resources from within. But under the new policy private sector has been given opening in the steel sector. Automatic clearance for

foreign investment up to 51% and even 100% for export oriented companies. The disinvestment policy of selling shares to private sector is also applicable to steel. Since government has declared to privatise this industry the main beneficiaries will be the foreign multinationals.

Privatisation in all vital sectors, like Railways, Telecom etc. is on. A process of deindustrialisation and deskilling is also at work. Many industries in the public sector are being made sick, thousands and thousands of jobs are being butchered. In the name of restructuring in the government departments too (state and central) workers in lakhs are rendered surplus. In sum, million who are employed today in the government departments and public sector undertakings will lose their jobs. The managerial and supervisory personal, who are highly qualified and trained-Engineers-Scientists, finance experts, other technical and administrative staff are also becoming surplus pushing many of them to serve the multinationals.

The loan which was negotiated and drawn under Bank-Fund conditions with optimism did not relieve the country from economic difficulties. In spite of this the government is going for a bigger loan with harsher conditionalities. Which will only end in strengthening the foreign bondage.

USA, the gendarme of world reaction, in its drive for a new world order, has been utilising the international financial and trading organisations to transnationalise the world economy under its hegemony. With this objective it utilised the IMF/World Bank to compel India to frame its economic and industrial policies as per their dictates. With the same objective it is utilising the GATT, in which it is the most dominant partner, blackmailing India to surrender to the proposals of Arthur Dunkel, the Director General of GATT. Simultaneously at bi-lateral level it is utilising its own trade laws-Super and special 301 to subjugate the country. The pressure to sign to NPT, sanctions against ISRO are all parts of the same game. All are with the objective of dominance to the extent of changing the domestic laws of the country and tilt its policies to give absolute power and positions to the multinationals to conduct the economic governance of the country and subvert its sovereignty. Surrender to such pressures will take the country to the pre-independence days under foreign bondage.

Stormy resistance is bound to develop against this policy of surrender. The government is out to attack the democratic rights of the people in order to weaken this developing resistance. In the next session of the Parliament an industrial relations law is going to be brought forth with provision for restricting the right to strike among other things. Wage freeze is also being contemplated. The working class is the special target of attack.

This process has to be stopped by the strong intervention of the working class at all costs. The patriotic forces are to be mobilised to fight back this journey to foreign bondage. This is the priority task today.

# CITU Unmasked Krishnamurthy 15 years Ago

[V. Krishnamurthy once highlighted with all available superlatives in the vocabulary of the media as 'management genius' 'Industrial wizard' etc. has been ultimately turned out to be a topper in the list of greatest manipulators and scammers. Investigation into his involvement in the security scam has brought to light that this 'dramatis personae' did more to fatten his own exchequer than the country's and lost not a single opportunity even by mistake to mint fortune for himself and his family exploiting the power and position he held either in the public sector or in the Govt.

CITU unveiled the real face of this 'charismatic' swindler at least 15 years ago when it exposed the shady BHEL-Siemens deal authored by V. Krishnamurthy as Chairman, BHEL during 1974-76, mortgaging the interest of the premier PSU to West-German multinational company. P. Ramamurti, the then General Secretary CITU authored a book "STOP BHEL'S DANGEROUS TRUCK WITH SIEMENS" in 1978 exposing the shady deal by V. Krishnamurthy. We are reproducing here a chapter from the said book which has not lost its relevance till date. —Editor]

## Key Men Behind Collaboration with Multinationals

The two key men behind the proliferation of collaboration deals with multinationals are Mr. V. Krishnamurthy, former Chairman of BHEL and at present Secretary (Heavy Industry) in the Ministry for Industries, and Dr. H. N. Sharan, at present Director (Engineering) of BHEL.

Mr. V. Krishnamurthy is just a licentiate in engineering, who worked in the Madras State Electricity Board in a very junior post and later joined the BHEL. His rapid rise to top positions in BHEL is rather mysterious.

Soon after he came to a key position in the Tiruchi Plant, he exhibited his zeal for foreign collaboration. He was instrumental in the first collaboration with Combustion Engineering of U.S.A. It is noteworthy that after he went to the United States and negotiated the agreement, Mr. O. S. Murthi, who was Chairman, and Mr. S.V.S. Raghavan went to the United States and brought down by 15 per cent the monetary payment to Combustion Engineering negotiated by Mr. Krishnamurthy.

After he became the Chairman and Managing Director of BHEL, Mr. Krishnamurthy perhaps felt the need for someone who could be passed off as a person with a great deal of expert knowledge in electrical equipment manufacture. He brought in Dr. Sharan, who was working with Sulzer Brothers of Switzerland, in 1974 on very special terms. He also

inducted a Mr. Shukla, who was working in the United States, and appointed him Marketing Officer in the Deputy Manager's grade in 1975. Within a year and a half, Mr. Krishnamurthy gave him a double promotion to the Senior Manager's grade. Mr. Shukla has been going abroad almost twice a month in the name of sales promotion. Why sales promotion in foreign countries should have been necessary when BHEL's order books were full with orders to be executed inside the country, is indeed a mystery.

Mr. Krishnamurthy, after he became Chairman, appointed an English consultant, Mr. John Marsh, as a management consultant to BHEL on a substantial payment. This Englishman used to make occasional visits to India at the expense of BHEL. There are reported to be no written reports of his available at BHEL. He used to deliver occasional lectures to the management personnel. Most of those who have come across Mr. Marsh scoff at his claiming the competence to give any useful advice on management. In all likelihood, Mr. Marsh was a contact man useful for entering into collaboration with multinationals.

Mr. Krishnamurthy's successor as Chairman and Managing Director politely terminated Mr. Marsh's connection with BHEL within a few months of his assuming office.

But Mr. Krishnamurthy, in his capacity as Secretary (Heavy Industry) in the Ministry for Industries under whose charge BHEL also falls, in response to a demand made by Mr. Marsh invited him to come to India and undertake a study of the 'organisational dynamics' of BHEL. The Board of directors of the BHEL was not consulted before inviting him, but the entire expenses were charged to BHEL.

What study Mr. Marsh made of BHEL's 'organisational dynamics' and what report he submitted is not known to anyone in the BHEL. It is not known whether the permission of the Minister was obtained for inviting this gentleman.

Mr. Krishnamurthy, apparently, is so enamoured of everything foreign that he went in not only for importing foreign technology galore from multinationals, but also sought foreign assistance in management, when there are so many well-known institutes of management in the country. No other public undertaking in the country seems to have sought consultancy service in management from foreign countries.

It is noteworthy that just as it was during his tenure as BHEL Chairman that the numerous agreements with multinationals were arrived at, it was  
(Cont'd on page 20)

# 25 Nov. March to Parliament : Railwaymen Preparing for Massive Participation

The 3 major trade unions of railwaymen, All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF), All India Railway Employees Confederation (AIREC), and All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) have been carrying on rigorous campaign over the past weeks to ensure massive participation of railway workers in the ensuing March to Parliament on 25 Nov at the call of the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions for struggle against Central government's economic policies. All the three organisations are constituents of the Sponsoring Committee. All of them had in meetings of their respective national forum decided to make serious endeavour to mobilise railwaymen on a massive scale for the March to Parliament programme and called upon their units to take necessary steps for the purpose.

**AIRF:** The 65th Annual Conference of AIRF held in Madras towards the end of August deliberated on the importance of participation of railwaymen in this major action of the working class of the country and called upon the delegates and observers attending the session to start preparation for its success in right earnest. Since then the leaders of AIRF as well as those of its units at various levels are carrying on campaign from all meeting and conference platforms.

The Central Council of Eastern Railwaymen's union an affiliate of the AIRF which recently met at Mughalsarai had in its main resolution directed its branches "to mobilise their strength at the call of AIRF...to make the programme of 25 November successful". The Council resolved to make "full endeavour...to rally largest number of railway men before the parliament on 25th Nov at the call of the Sponsoring Committee".

Similar call has been issued from the annual general council meeting of the National railway Majdoor Union, Central Railway held recently at Mathura. Many other zonal units of AIRF are also carrying on campaign for mobilising railwaymen on the occasion.

**AIREC:** The Central Working Committee of AIREC in its meeting held on 14 Sept thoroughly discussed the serious implications of the Government's economic policies to the railway system of the country and particularly the railway workers and decided "to continue its active support to the working class struggle against these policies". The Working committee resolved to ensure massive mobilisation of railwaymen "for participation in the mass rally at New Delhi on 25th November against the anti people and anti labour economic policies

of the Govt". In a circular to all the units the Secretary General of AIREC urged them to "participate with maximum strength of workers under the banner of AIREC.

**AILRSA :** As a constituent of AIREC the AILRSA is making utmost effort to effectively implement the AIREC decision to ensure maximum possible mobilisation of railwaymen for the March to Parliament programme. It is carrying out an elaborate programme of campaign among railwaymen. A circular issued by the Secretary General states "several lakhs of workers and people from all walks of life is joining the rally. Railwaymen's participation in such a rally is positively very significant". He has also impressed upon LRSA workers that they should work not only for participation of loco running staff but extend helping hand in mobilisation of other categories of railwaymen as well.

**Outstanding demands of railwaymen :** Apart from programme for mobilisation of railway workers for 25 Nov rally before the parliament the national fora of these major trade unions have also discussed about the long pending and urgent demands of railwaymen. The 65th annual AIRF conference adopted a charter of important and urgent demands of railwaymen and has revised its earlier decision for strike ballot in case demands are not fulfilled. Report on the strike ballot decision was published in our October issue.

The AIREC in its working committee strongly condemned the prevailing inordinate and undemocratic and unfair industrial relations policy pursued by the railways. While expressing serious concern at Government's obstinate refusal to reinstate the workers dismissed/removed under rule 14 (ii) more than a decade ago. The meeting demanded their immediate reinstatement. The meeting also demanded, inter alia, raising of the ceiling in regard to productivity linked bonus. The committee deplored the dilatory tactics of the govt. in regard to the demand for wage parity with public sector and merger of DA with pay by referring the issue to HN Ray Committee. It took a number of decisions to strengthen its organisation.

The LRSA working committee has decided to stage a mass demonstration at Boat club on 24 November to press its longstanding demands specially the demand for reinstatement of activists removed dismissed under rule 14 (ii). The AILRSA will observe a safety campaign fortnight from 1 Nov to

15 Nov. The working committee has decided to make all endeavours to prepare the organisation for direct action in view of the govt's adamant attitude.

**Railway Coal Ash and Transshipment Workers Conference :** All India Coal Ash and Transshipment Handling Mazdoor Union (CITU) held its 15th Conference at Maldah on 25-27 Sept. About 500 delegates attended the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Samar Mukherjee MP. The largely attended mass meeting held on the first day of the conference was addressed by Samar Mukherjee MP, Basudev Acharya MP and S K Dhar Secretary General AILRSA. Dhar also delivered opening speech in the delegate session on the second day. The conference elected the executive committee for the next term with Satyanarayan Sarkar as President, Dibas Chowbey as General Secretary and Bimal Gupta as treasurer.

**AIREC Conference : NF Rly**

The second zonal conference of AIREC, NF Railway was held from 16th to 18th October at New Bongaigao, Assam in a very tense atmosphere resulting from several murders and bomb blasts in the area by divisive forces. About 600 delegates from different parts of NF Rly attended the conference.

The conference was inaugurated by Samar Mukherjee MP and was addressed by S K Dhar and the leaders of Joint Committee of Trade Unions. The open session presided over by A K Bhattacharjee, President AIREC, NF Rly and attended by about 5000 workers and local people was addressed by Samar Mukherjee MP and Harmohan Das, Zonal Secretary, AIREC, NF Rly.

## Steel Workers Prepare for Parliament March of 25th November '92

Steel workers all over the country are preparing to join in thousands the Parliament March programme on 25th November 1992 against the disastrous economic policy of Government of India at the call of Sponsoring Committee of Indian Trade Unions.

The meeting of the Working Committee of Steel Workers' Federation of India held on 15-16th October 92 at Calcutta planned for initiating intensive campaign in all the steel centres spread all over the country from Bhilai in M.P. to Vizag and Bhadravati in the South for rallying steel Workers from all the corners in the Massive March to Parliament —on 25th November '92.

The meeting was presided over by Com M K Pandhe, President SWFI and was attended by Members from all the steel centres. Com. Mrinal Banerjee, General Secretary, SWFI submitted report on functioning of Federation and general situation including that in steel industry and steel workers' performance in different movement programmes including all-India Industrial Strike on 16th June 1992. It was

noted that although participation of the steel workers in the strike of 16th June and allied campaign programme marked notable improvement vis-a-vis the earlier strike, serious organisational shortcomings are still there in many places, and vigorous efforts has to be taken to overcome the same.

The Working Committee also reviewed the performance of different Units in Fund Campaign in solidarity with Cuba, fighting against the economic blockade of US imperialism. It was noted that albeit weaknesses of many Units, steel workers all over the country could contribute Rs. 1,78,300/- in the Cuba Fund.

The Working Committee also decided to hold the 4th all-India conference of Steel Workers' Federation of India on 23-25 January 93 at the Steel township of Visakhapatnam. The Working Committee decided to invite delegation from Trade Unions of Iraq, China, Australia and also the representatives from Embassy of Cuba, PLO and ANC.

The Working Committee called upon all the Units to prepare vigorously and take all organisational steps for making the all-India conference a total success.

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## CITU mourns the death of Col. Sehgal

CITU expresses its deep grief at sudden passing away of Colonel P. K. Sehgal at New Delhi railway station on the night of October 16. Colonel Sehgal was a close associate of Subhas Chandra Bose who motivated by the highest ideals of patriotism left the British army and joined the Indian National Army in 1942. He was a commander of one of the first battalions of the Azad Hind Fauj.

He was tried by the British in the Red Fort along with Shah Nawaz Khan and Dhillon in the famous INA trial in 1942. Their courage and patriotism roused the people of India to fight British rule more doggedly.

CITU mourns the loss of this outstanding patriot and freedom fighter. It conveys its heartfelt condolences to his wife Lakshmi Sehgal and his daughters Subhashini Ali, Aneesa and other family members.

## Com. Bhalchandra Trivedi

CITU mourns the death of veteran trade union leader & Vice President of AITUC who died recently at Baroda. Com. Trivedi was also the General Secretary of State AITUC. CITU sends its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.

## Com. K.M. Mathews

CITU mourns the death of Com. K.M. Mathews the General Secretary of All India Defence Employees Federation who has passed away recently. As a constituent of Sponsoring Committee the AIDEF under his leadership played an important role in the recent 16th June Strike.

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# World Bank Team Visits CITU Centre

A team of the World Bank consisting of Mr. Stephen L. Mangum, Consultant, Dr. Josef Stadlbauer, Sr. Economist and Ms. Jian Mei Gan, Financial Policy Analyst came to CITU Centre on 8th October 1992 at their own accord. The purpose of the visit was obviously to know the views of CITU across the table on the New Economic Policy of the Government.

Com. M. K. Pandhe briefly explained the stand of the CITU. He categorically said that CITU is totally opposed to the policy and particularly to the practice of taking loan from World Bank/IMF by mortgaging the economic sovereignty of the country, because such practice will throw the country into the debt trap. Com. Pandhe cited the example of the 1981 IMF loan and also the experience of many under developed and developing countries in this regard. He also critically dealt with the New Industrial Policy and pointed out as to how the country's public sector units are being dismantled by the government. The National Renewal Fund (NRF) and the so called Golden Handshake Scheme also came under sharp criticism during the discussion.

The team tried to advocate the concept of NRF. But they were informed that all the trade union centres have rejected the same. It is really not meant for National Renewal but in fact it is National Retrenchment Fund. The talk of retraining and redeployment is nothing but a hoax. On enquiry about the reference of the sick units of public sector to BIFR, the team was told that such step will not serve any purpose and more so the track record of BIFR is not at all positive. In India sickness of industries has become a profitable business and BIFR is not at all positive. In India sickness of industries has become a profitable business and BIFR is used rather as an instrument for this purpose. Further, BIFR is sarcastically called as Board for Industrial Funeral Rites.

When the delegation tried to paint a negative picture on the performance of the public sector, Com. Pandhe told majority of public sector units have been earning profit. But some units could not function well because of the apathy of the Govt. which is not giving orders/jobs to its own public sector units and have been preferring to Indian and foreign private companies. The cases of BHEL, HSCIL, NBCC, EIL etc were cited as instance. Again there are taken over sick units from the private sector. Further, the bureaucratic functioning and corruption are also causing great hindrance in the way of efficient functioning of the PSUs.

The team was informed as to how the trade union

movement in our country have been united to fight the policies of the government and the last two nationwide strikes and the preparation for the great march to Parliament on 25th November 1992.

At the end of the discussion the team opined that views of CITU have appeared to them quite assertive and forthright and forceful too.

## Meeting of the PWTUC

The Professional Workers' Trade Union Centre of India (PWTUC), a central organisation of the officers' associations of different sectors which was formally launched on 4th June 1992 had its first national Council meeting at Bangalore on 26-27 September 1992.

The written report submitted in the meeting reviewed various important developments in the international and national arena. The New Economic and Industrial Policies of the govt have been sharply attacked in the report. Important issues like Bank Scam, corruption, price rise, Dunkel Draft Text etc also figured. The role of the Sponsoring Committee of trade unions has been highlighted particularly with reference to the two one-day strikes of 29th November and 16th June. It has called upon its constituents to fully participate in this forum for struggles against the new economic and industrial policies. The meeting has adopted resolutions issues of national importance. It has also taken a nine points future plan of action.

## Sale of Spinning Mills Opposed

Bhubaneswar : 14.9.92, Several Thousands of Spinning Mills workers from Aska, Baripada, Sonapur & Jharsuguda marched in a procession to demonstrate before the Governor for intervention against the sale of mills to private parties. The rally to Raj Bhavan was led by Sri Pradeep Das & Naba Kishor Mohanty of CITU, Gobinda Moharana of UTUC (LS), Bijay Jena of AITUC. Leader of Central Trade Union Sri Lambodar Nayak, Sri Duti Krushna Panda, Sri Krushna Candra Patra & Sambhunath Nayak Submitted a memorandum to the Governor for immediate intervention against sale. The demonstration was addressed by Pradeep Das, Gobinda Moharana, Lalit Mohan Das, Krushna Chandra Patra, Duti Krushna Panda, Lambodar Nayak, Nitya Nanda Pradhan, Prasan Kumar Panda, Parsuram Panda and Sambunath Nayak.

# World T.U. Movement at Cross Roads

M.K. Pandhe

Significant changes in the world T.U. Scene are taking place which have far reaching consequences. The future of the world trade union movement largely depends on how the trade union view these developments and adopt policies to meet the emergent worldwide problems.

The dismantling of socialism in the Soviet Union and East European countries have considerably weakened the trade union movement. The All Union central council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU) was dissolved and split up into two organisations. One is the General Confederation of Trade Unions which practically disaffiliated from the WFTU and the other body Confederation of Independent Trade Unions formed which believed in market economy. Many independent organisations were formed in different states leading to fragmentation of trade union movement. Some trade unions realising the fallacy of the new economic policies pursued by the new capitalist rulers have embarked upon the path of struggles to protect the interests of the workers. The rising inflation and unemployment in the economy have made the standard of living of working class extremely difficult. The ICFTU was prompt to take advantage of the situation and established an office at Moscow. A high level ICFTU delegation also visited some states to develop contacts.

The Conditions in East European countries have also deteriorated further. Most of the trade union centres in these countries except Poland have left the WFTU and some of them even applied for affiliation with the ICFTU.

## weakening of the WFTU

As a result of these development WFTU has been considerably weakened. The WFTU had to vacate its headquarters in Prague and shift to a smaller place. The staff of the headquarter was drastically reduced and it has to manage the central office with barest minimum staff. The monthly journal 'World TU Movement' ceased its publication due to financial difficulties and the periodicity of other publications drastically curtailed. The trade unions in former socialist countries were the main financial supporters of the WFTU and their going out of the organisation literally crippled it financially. It had to decide to decentralise its activities by forming regional offices in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America etc and WFTU Secretaries operated from these offices. In Delhi an office has been established by the WFTU to co-ordinate the activities in Asia.

WFTU had 13 trade union internationals but many of them also are facing financial crisis. Some had to shift their headquarters while some of them

are practically inactive. Proposal for merging some of them is under consideration.

The vindictive attitude of the reactionary government of Czechoslovakia has created problems of suitable functioning of the WFTU headquarters. The govt. issued notices to WFTU to leave Czechoslovakia. The CITU in its last conference had protested against the eviction notice and demanded its withdrawal. However, the Czech Govt. is creating obstacles in its functioning and WFTU is challenging the Czech Govt's order in the court of law. If the court decision goes against the WFTU it may have to find an alternate Headquarters.

Recently, the Secretary General of the WFTU Com. Alexander Zarikov came to India and paid a visit to CITU office. We discussed with him the international situation. He explained the difficulties faced by the WFTU due to financial problems and wanted CITU to cooperate with the WFTU. The CITU assured him full co-operation but emphasised the need for WFTU to become more assertive in international issues. The CITU expects the WFTU to take firm anti-imperialist positions and firmly support all the National liberation movements. The CITU noted that the appeal of the WFTU will be more in the third world countries and WFTU should re-orientate its activities in that direction.

Nonetheless, the WFTU is the only international organisation where left and progressive forces in the TU movement are working. We have to extend whatever help necessary to strengthen and improve the activities of the WFTU so that the anti-imperialist forces emerge stronger in the world to-day. It is worth noting that none of the WFTU affiliates in third world countries have left this organisation since the set back in former Soviet union and Eastern European countries. With co-operation of all WFTU will be able to overcome the present difficulties and emerge as a force to be reckoned with.

## Offensive of the ICFTU

The weakening of the WFTU is being fully utilised by the ICFTU to strengthen its activities. It is campaigning against the WFTU that it has become a non-existent organisation and has no role to play in the international TU movement. It is campaigning against socialism with more vigour and oppose militant trade unions. After the Tienanmen square incident in China the ICFTU has directed its guns against People's Republic of China and raised the question of human rights in China in ILO. The ICFTU is openly taking the cause of reactionaries who wanted to subvert socialist system in China. The All China Federation of Trade Unions replied

to all their points but the pernicious campaign against a socialist country still continues unabated.

It is reported that about 20 independent trade union centres have joined the ICFTU from Africa in the recent past. Several TU centres from Latin America have also joined the ICFTU in this period. The ICFTU is doing its best to focus its image as the sole international centre of the TU movement.

The workers group in the ILO is dominated by the ICFTU affiliates and generally ICFTU constituents in the advanced capitalist countries are controlling the policy making apparatus of the ICFTU. Naturally the problems of the Third World countries do not find proper focus in the ILO activities.

The anti-communist stance of the dominant leadership of the ICFTU is coming in the way of building the international unity of the working class all over the world. There are many problems to day on which unity of all sections of the working class is possible. The problem of peace, disarmament, role of the multinational companies, unemployment, problems of development, introduction of new technologies, skyrocketing inflation etc are some such issues on which unity in spite of ideological differences is possible to develop. There is a need for a worldwide debate on these issues and possibility of development of common understanding. These issues can be attempted. However, the stance of the ICFTU leadership is coming in the way of these development.

#### Anti-Unity Stance

The anti-unity stance of the ICFTU was clearly seen when the ACFTU organised an Asian symposium in the second half of 1991 at Guangzhou on employment and development. When all the ICFTU constituents were invited to the symposium a specific circular was issued by the ICFTU directing its affiliates not to join the symposium. However most of the ICFTU constituents invited joined it because of the need of unity on common issues facing the working class. The success of the symposium only underlines the need to have some rethinking of the ICFTU leadership on the question of unity.

The positive initiative by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) to hold a conference of trade unions in Indian Ocean region in first week of December at Perth by inviting unions of all affiliations, was an important step in the direction of building bridges between trade unions holding different views. Such occasion gives opportunity to exchange opinions. On problems facing the trade union movement. Even if it is not possible to remove all differences in one go such attempts develop better understanding between organisations which paves the way for a united understanding at a later stage. Several trade unions in Asia, Africa and Latin America belonging to ICFTU have participated in national level united actions and increasing awareness is visible in their thinking to develop united movement of the working class. It may be

possible that the unions in developing countries will become more assertive and favourable atmosphere for international trade union unity can be created all over the world.

Those who oppose the force of unity in the trade union movement have no arguments to justify their stand. Therefore to side track the attention of the working class they are trying to bring forward pleas to keep the unity in abeyance. This stance is bound to receive set back in long run and the prevalent urge among the working class for unity will ultimately prevail.

#### Decline of Capitalist TUs

The trade union movement in Western Capitalist countries is facing a new situation. The recent OECD report stated the fall in TU membership in all European countries except in Sweden. One of the reasons given to explain this decline is the reduction of workforce due to introduction of new technology. The data clearly indicate reduction in employment in the manufacturing sector while there is marginal rise in the employment in the service sector. The steeply rising rate of unemployment in all the advanced capitalist countries due to acute recession is adding to the army of unemployed and causing drastic reduction in the overall workforce. The membership of British Trade Union Congress has declined by about a million and last year the TUC has to stop publication of its monthly bulletin due to financial stringency. Some unions had to merge with others due to declining membership. In USA the class collaborators AFL-CIO leadership is getting isolated from the workers and the official statistics of TU membership shows a rate of unionisation at its lowest ebb of 16 per cent only. A decade ago the rate of unionisation in USA was estimated to be 31 percent of the total workforce.

It is observed that the labour aristocratic leadership of several trade unions in advanced capitalist countries have signed agreements with the monopoly houses providing for reduction in workforce as a result of computerisation and introduction of new technology. The working class was thus betrayed. This also is one of the reason why the working class of the advanced capitalist countries was losing faith in the class collaborationist trade union leadership.

#### Emerging Struggles

The working class in advanced capitalist countries however is adopting path of struggle. The long drawn strike of public sector workers in Germany was hundred percent and ultimately forced the German Government to concede to the demands of the workers.

The recent strike of British coal miners and massive demonstration organised by the coal miners in London put the John Major Govt in doldrums. In Japan several spontaneous struggles have broken out recently against the policy of retrenchment and

closure despite anti-working class agreements signed by Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo). The Japanese are also very much concerned at rising cases of death from overwork (Karoshi) which has exceeded 10,000 per year.

The deteriorating working conditions has caused several health hazards in advanced capitalist countries. The Safety Director for the Food and Commercial Workers in USA stressed the urgency of a standard for repetitive trauma disorders. "The magnitude of increase in repetitive trauma disorders over the last few years is astounding" She said, "The number of reported cases has more than doubled in the past two years, and increased by more than 550 percent in the last 10 years." Despite union leadership's refusal to launch the movement the workers have spontaneously resisted these harrowing working conditions.

The campaign launched by CGT France against Maastricht Treaty was well received by the French workers and it played an important role in the French referendum on the subject. The left trade union in Denmark had vigorously campaigned against Maastricht Treaty which contributed to get majority in the voting against the treaty.

In former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe the working class is realising the fallacy of the new capitalist rule and coming forward to join the movement against the anti working class policies of the new rulers. Recently 1.2 million workers has formed a strong union in Ukrain which has sharply come out against the Government's policies and initiated several struggles of miners. In other states in the former Soviet Union gradually militant trade unions are being formed and some of them have expressed a desire to keep contacts with the WFTU.

In Poland the notorious Solidarity Union is increasingly getting discredited from the workers and the workers are coming forward to join the struggles conducted by Central Council of Polish Trade Unions. In Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria trade unions opposed to the Government's capitalist policies are merging and gaining ground albeit gradually. Those who were talking that socialism failed in Eastern Europe are now admitting that capitalism may not succeed in these countries either.

The trade union movement in China, Cuba, Vietnam and North Korea is expressing its firm resolve to build socialism and continues to be a source of inspiration to the working class all over the world. The heroic working class of South Africa under the leadership of COSATU organised militant strikes against apartheid and expressed their firm determination to fight till they win. The working class of Palestine and Iraq are also carrying their struggles against imperialist machinations despite heavy odds.

The working class in South Korea has recently fought many battles against the dictatorial regime

and are increasingly becoming aware of the need to unity of the fatherland. The trade unions in South Korea have developed friendly relationship with their counterpart in the North which is a positive development in to-day's situation.

In Nepal after restoration of democracy the trade union movement emerged as a force and asserting for the rights of the working class.

After the set-back to socialism in Europe, the imperialists have launched ferocious attacks on the third world countries as a result of which attacks on trade union right of the workers have become more pronounced. The trade union movement in these countries are growingly participating in the struggles to protect their TU rights.

Those who dreamt that the revolutionary TU movement is dead have now come to grief. New forces are emerging to carry forward the class struggle with more firmness and determination.

### New Perspective Emerging

When the working class all over the world will be observing the October Revolution Day they must re-assert the doctrine of socialism and defeat of imperialism. The trade union movement, despite set back in Eastern Europe is once again regrouping its forces and despite frantic attempts made by the anti-unity forces the urge to unify the militant movements is growing day by day. A new corelation in the trade union movement is bound to emerge sooner or later and sense of solidarity in the working class is bound to grow all over the world.

The problem of inflation and price rise, role of multinational companies and their attempt to control over the economies of the third world countries, the introduction of new technology and sky rocketting unemployment, attacks on T.U. and democratic rights, struggle against imperialist machinations for global domination, growing militarisation of economies of capitalist countries and the struggle for disarmament and peace are some of the issues on which common international action of the working class may emerge in the near future.

The rising struggles of the Indian working class is a part of the world wide phenomenon of growing urge for unity of the working class. The offensive of the reactionary forces is showing signs of petering in the face of united working class struggles.

On 7th November this year, while noting the spectacular achievements of the October Revolution, the working class of India should also take into account the new emerging situation in the trade union movement in different parts of globe. We should take a pledge to redouble our effort to develop united movement of the working class based on class struggle, self-reliance, anti-imperialism and world peace so that Indian working class can play its honourable role in building international solidarity in the struggle against imperialism and for socialism.

## FACT Workers to Launch Joint Movement

The Caprolactum plant of public sector Fertilizers and Chemicals, Trivancore (FACT) is on the verge of closure due to the pro-multinational policy of the Central Govt.

Prior to introduction of the New Economic Policy the price of caprolactum produced at FACT used to be Rs. 60,000.00 per tonne and that of imported Rs. 82,000.00 per tonne. But under the NEP the cost of production of FACT has gone high due to devaluation of rupee and increase of duty on import of inputs. On the other hand the price of imported caprolactum has gone down due to reduction of customs duty from 80 percent to 50 percent by the Govt. The net result has been that the imported caprolactum is driving out the indigenous product from the market of the country.

The trade unions including INTUC functioning at FACT have constituted a committee called—'Save FACT Action Committee' to conduct joint movement with all sections of workers of the plant.

The meeting of the committee held at Ernakulam has finalised several programmes to force the Govt. to change its anti-national policy which is threatening the very existence of FACT, the biggest public sector unit of Kerala.

The meeting was addressed by K.V. Thomas, M.P (Cong-I), Viswanathan Menon (CPI-M), V.P. Maraikkar (INTUC), S.C.S. Menon, K.A. Rajan (CPI), Thamban Thomas (HMS), V.R. Krishna Iyer, etc. K. Chandran Pillai narrated the details of the crisis on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting has decided to observe 'Save FACT Day' on October 26, 1992 and stage a dharna before the Parliament on the opening day of the monsoon session. It was also decided to collect signatures of all the M.Ps and M.L.As from all political parties of the state to be submitted to the Prime Minister. In order to mobilise the support of the people in the struggle, it was also decided to hold a massive rally at Ernakulam.

In the meantime Fertilizer Workers' Federation of India has extended full support to the decisions of the Action Committee and has directed all of its affiliates to launch solidarity action programme,

## Public Sector Workers Observes CPSTU Programmes

The Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions in its extended meeting held on 12th September 1992 at Delhi gave call to organise Food boycott at work place alongwith demonstrations at the factory office gate and protest telegramme to Prime Minister on 8.10.92, burning of effigie of IMF/World Bank conditionalities, Exit Policy, NRF etc on 12.10.92 and Half an hour's demonstration and marking of attendance late by half an hour on the same day.

According to the reports reaching us, the programmes have been observed with enthusiasm and vigour by the public sector workers at various industrial centres. Hundreds of telegrammes have been sent to the Prime Minister. Upto the time of going to the press, reports have reached us from BHEL, Steel, Shipyards, BHPV, LIC, Fertilizer, Coal industries, on massive participation of PSU workers in the CPSTU programmes on 8th and 12th October 1992 in protest against the economic policy of the govt.

## 8th Annual Meeting of Asia-Pacific National Safety Council

The 8th Annual meeting of the Co-ordination Committee of Asia Pacific National Safety Council was held from 21st to 26th September in Xian, historic capital of ancient China. Cheng Yingxue, Secretary General Chinese Society for Science and Technology of Labour Protection presided over the meeting. Representatives from Australia, China, Taiwan, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Newzealand and Thailand, participated in the meeting. On behalf of India KC Gupta, Director General, National Safety Council and, M K Pandhe Member Board of Governors NSC participated in the meeting.

The meeting heard the reports of the work done in the matter of Safety by various countries and considered the development of multilateral cooperation between member organisations. It also adopted the constitution of the Co-ordination Committee. The name of the organisation was finalised as "Asia Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organisation."

A one-day symposium attended by about one hundred participants on Occupational Safety and Health in the Asia Pacific Region was organised on the eve of the meeting on 21st September. More than 50 papers were submitted in the symposium.

The next meeting of the organisation will be held at

Medan, Indonesia in September 1993.

After the meeting M K Pandhe met Wang Hong, Vice Chairman, All China Federation of Trade Unions and senior leaders of the International Deptt of ACFTU and discussed at length the question of further strengthening the ties of friendship between the CITU and the ACFTU.

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the guiding star for overwhelming majority of the world population living in these continents.

Let there be no confusion—capitalism is bound to be defeated. Socialism will triumph in the long run.

Long live the glorious traditions of October Revolution.

## CITU Secretariat Calls for Observance of October Revolution Week

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions greets the working class of all countries on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the October Revolution, and calls upon all the state committees and unions to celebrate this 75th Anniversary of the October Revolution from November 1 to 7, 1992.

The week should be observed holding demonstrations, processions, rallies, gate meetings, seminars, conventions, postering and publications of leaflets, etc. Resolutions should be adopted holding high the banner of the Great October Revolution and highlighting the gigantic achievements under socialism and exposing the mounting crisis under capitalism including in the erstwhile socialist states which are now reeling under the so-called market economy.

While denouncing the role of US imperialism to create a new world order under its diktats the occasion should be fully utilised to expose the designs of imperialism to undermine the economic and national sovereignty of the country and take it to the pre-independence days under foreign bondage. The observance week should be fully devoted as a part of mobilisation of workers, peasants, agricultural workers, etc for the statewide jathas and the march to Parliament of November 25 to carry forward the united struggle against the IMF dictated economic policy of the Government and free the country from the imperialist conspiracies and make strides for self-reliance.

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and increasing grip of foreign capital on the economy.

On the other hand a falling real wage level, as assumed by IMF brand economists did also not contribute to increased employment as well as evident from all round increase in unemployment. As the World Labour Report 1989 (ILO) observed, "During 1980-85, employment-wage elasticity for manufacturing sector in Latin American countries was positive meaning thereby reduction in employment together with reduction in real wages, which seem to suggest that lack of demand rather than uncompetitive labour cost was the real cause of reduced employment—level".

Wherefrom the demand will generate? In the face of increasing unemployment, steep fall in real wages, conversion of regularly employed workforce to contract labour, precipitous fall in Government expenditure on social welfare heads—all leading to widening of disparity in distribution and gross inequity, effective demand cannot grow to give sufficient fillip to domestic industrial growth.

### Reform to Gear up Disparity And Inequality

The increasing disparity in distribution got further geared up by IMF-monitored programme packages and has created reality of contraction of domestic market and increased impoverishment. Available data revealed that in the entire Latin American region lowest 40 per cent of the household's share in total household income in only around 12% whereas the top—20% households enjoy more than 52% of the total household income and the top 10% families account for 39% of the country's total household income. This position is even worse than India where lowest—40% of the household account for 20.4% of household income whereas top 20% account for 41.4 per cent of course, now, that IMF is operating on Indian soil, and the trend is already set towards Latin American direction.

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Hence, there is much difference between the propaganda and the real destiny of the Indian economy and the fate of the Indian people, if the IMF sponsored operation be not stalled.

It would be interesting here to quote a political commentator on Latin American development "Tension between rich and poor, between external debt liabilities and domestic social needs are nearing the breaking point. Many of the adopted economic policies budget cuts, privatisation, trade opening, financial orthodoxy—are not producing desired result. Obviously democracy and hyper-inflation are not compatible. One destroys the other. The only question is which will be destroyed first...The debt—versus democracy syndrome is the real problem lying ahead of all civilian government."

## Clarion Call to March Ahead

Rathin Sen

The third All-India conference of Electricity Employees Federation of India was held in a historic battlefield of our first war of independence against British imperialism, Barrackpur, West Bengal from September 26 to 29.

About 20 km north of Calcutta, Barrackpur is a prosperous town situated at the hub of industries. It witnessed the war cry of the sepoys against the British rule in the year of 1857 which Karl Marx rightly described as the first war of Indian independence. From then on, Barrackpur has seen many a battle against anti-people policies adopted time to time by the authoritarian rules.

On September 26, at the beginning of the conference at Sukanta Sadan, E. Balanandan, president of the Federation and of CITU, hoisted the red flag. Delegates offered floral tributes at the martyr's column. The conference was chaired by E. Balanandan.

On behalf of the reception committee, Tarit Topedar, MP, greeted the delegates in his welcome address. He hoped that this conference of electricity workers would discuss the problems confronting our people at present, and, in this backdrop, discuss problems of electricity workers.

In his presidential speech, E. Balanandan said the working class is passing through a very critical time. The international events since the second conference that needed attention was the dismantling of socialism in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe. The Soviet Union has been sabotaged from within. The bourgeois ideologues are boasting that the developments in the Soviet Union and erstwhile socialist countries conclusively proved that socialism is no more valid and capitalism is the only way out. But it cannot be denied that the fear of repetition of global crisis or depression has been haunting the world capitalist system through out the eighties.

E. Balanandan strongly criticised the role of Narasimha Rao government which is surrendering the independence and self-reliance of our country to the multinationals. Any attempt to privatise the power sector at the dictates of World Bank and IMF would come across stiff resistance of the working people of India, he warned. He invited the conference to take a pledge to carry forward strong opposition to the attempt of imperialist domination in any part of the globe in any manner.

D. Janakiraman placed the general secretary's report. It dealt with the problems of power sector in India. Since the second conference of the Federation

held at Hissar, Haryana, in 1987, the organisation has come out today as the centre of the powermen in our country. In its uninterrupted struggle to safeguard the interests of the electricity employees in particular and working class as a whole, the EEFI has spread its wings from strength to strength and achieved unmistakable recognition in all corners of our country. Since the second conference, seven important unions of power sector have joined the organisation while six other unions intimated their willingness to affiliate with EEFI. Its organ *Voice of Electricity Workers* has achieved enormous prestige among scientists, engineers and technicians as well as general electricity workers.

As many as 370 delegates, representing 29 unions in the power sector of the country, attended the conference while 26 of them took part in the deliberations.

The deliberations in the conference were lively, spirited and full of conviction. It was clear that the continuous attack on the working people by the central government at the dictates of IMF and World Bank could not relinquish the firm belief in social progress held by representatives of the electricity workers.

The conference in session adopted a greeting message and sent it to the conference of All India Kisan Sabha held on September 27 at Hissar, Haryana.

The conference collected a fund of Rs. 25,000 in a whisker after being intimated of the oppression and threats unleashed upon the fighting electricity engineers of Rajasthan by the BJP led government of the state. The collected amount was handed over to them by the president, E. Balanandan. CITU leader and transport minister of West Bengal, Shyamal Chakravarty, also greeted the conference.

The third conference of the Electricity Employees Federation of India adopted some important resolutions, viz., 'homage to BTR', 'against the new economic policies', 'solidarity with the fighting engineers of Rajasthan' etc.

After the general secretary's reply and observations by the president, the conference unanimously elected a working committee with 71 members keeping E. Balanandan as its president, D. Janakiraman as General secretary, and Shyamal Chakravarty as one of the vicepresidents. Rathin Sen was elected

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# Durgapur Employees Donate Car to African National Congress

On 27th of September 1992 a Maruti Van, a WEBEL Computer alongwith a Printer, among other things, were presented in a function at the Nehru Stadium, Durgapur Steel Township to Dr. Nelson Mandela through Mr Mpehle, the Chief Representative of the Delhi Diplomatic Mission, African National Congress. These gifts were presented by the Friends of the African Society, Durgapur as a mark of solidarity with the people of South Africa who are fighting against the tyrannical white minority rule and for true democracy, Com. MK Pandhe initiated the idea and the Friends of the African Society accepted it and did all other formalities.

Dr. Ashoke Mitra, a noted economist, was present in the occasion as the Guest-in-Chief and presented the Car to Mr Mpehle under thunderous applause. Com Dilip Majumder, MLA and the President of the Friends of the African Society and also the working President of Steel Workers' Federation presided over the function and presented the Computer received as a donation from WEBEL, a Govt of West Bengal Undertaking, to Mr. Mpehle for the

ANC's Diplomatic Mission Office.

Dr. Ashoke Mitra told the audience that the material value of the presents is insignificant but this gesture will go a long way in strengthening the bonds of the friendship between the peoples of the two countries and will provide inspiration to the South African fighting people.

Mr. Mpehle in his long and powerful speech described the situation of the South African movement, its global importance in the background of the present international situation and told that the victory of the vast majority of the people for democracy is not very far. He called upon the people to solidly stand by the people of Cuba who have established Socialist Society and earned the wrath of the American imperialism. He reminded that Cuba stood by Vietnam, Angola, Mozambic, Venezuela and many countries during their struggle for freedom and democracy. Several hundred officers from the DSP and ASP and Govt Officials participated in the function. Over 5,000 workers also were present on the occasion.

## Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers

(Base 1982 = 100)

Centre	June, 1992	July, 1992	Linking factor for Old base								
ALL-INDIA	236	242	4.93	Belgaum	242	246	—	Varanasi	256	261	5.12
Gudur	229	234	4.33	Hubli-Dharwar	246	253	—	Asansol	221	224	4.77
Guntur	238	245	5.60	Mercara	228	234	—	Calcutta	235	241	4.74
Hyderabad	228	231	5.23	Alwaye	218	222	5.19	Darjeeling	216	216	4.55
Visakhapatnam	238	243	—	Mundakayam	228	230	4.67	Durgapur	239	244	—
Warrangal	238	239	—	Quilon	228	227	—	Haldia	244	252	—
Doisom-Dooma-				Trivandrum	246	247	—	Howrah	249	255	4.12
Tinasukia	216	217	4.05	Balaghat	234	245	5.24	Jalpaiguri	219	221	4.16
Guwahati	235	237	—	Bhilai	215	221	3.49	Raniganj	218	219	4.40
Labac-Silchar	221	219	3.96	Bhopal	246	255	5.46	Chandigarh	234	237	—
Mariani-Jorhat	228	230	3.95	Indore	256	259	5.18	Delhi	244	249	4.97
Rangapara-Tezpur	226	230	4.29	Jabalpur	254	256	6.41	Pondicherry	253	263	—
Jamshedpur	224	228	4.68	Bombay	258	266	5.12				
Jharia	218	221	4.63	Nagpur	254	264	4.99	<b>Additional Series of Labour Bureau</b>			
Kodarma	213	213	5.43	Nasik	258	268	—	Kothagudem	241	251	3.25
Monghyr	229	236	5.29	Pune	254	259	—	Himachal Pradesh	221	226	3.75
Noamundi	229	230	4.58	Sholapur	264	270	5.03	Bhilwara	241	241	3.20
Ranchi-Hatia	231	236	—	Barbil	234	238	5.00	Chindwara	243	245	2.59
Ahmedabad	240	246	4.78	Rourkela	216	216	3.59	Tripura	237	236	4.37
Baroda	242	245	—	Amritsar	217	221	5.19	Goa	259	266	3.40
Bhavnagar	245	253	4.99	Ludhiana	216	220	—	<b>Other Series of Labour Bureau</b>			
Rajkot	239	244	—	Ajmer	245	251	5.01	<i>Centre</i> <i>Base</i> <i>Mar.</i> <i>Apr.</i>			
Surat	257	260	—	Jaipur	226	232	5.17		1990	1990	
Faridabad	224	233	—	Coimbatore	224	230	5.35	Ammathi	1960	873	895
Yamunanagar	214	223	5.53	Coonoor	242	249	4.80	Chickmagalur	1960	887	894
Srinagar	229	231	5.47	Madras	236	242	5.05	Kolar Gold Field	1960	910	914
Bangalore	229	233	5.66	Maduri	237	241	5.277	Gwalior	1960	1022	1025
				Salem	218	224	—	Sambalpur	—	—	—
				Tiruchirapally	235	242	—	Berhampur	—	—	—
				Agra	233	236	—	Cuttack	—	—	—
				Ghaziabad	238	244	—				
				Kanpur	241	249	4.69				
				Saharanpur	229	233	5.06				

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

—Dash denotes new centres under 1982 series.

# A. P. State CITU Council Meeting

A meeting of the Andhra Pradesh State Council of the CITU met at Vijayawada on the 26th and 27th of September with Comrade Parsa Satyanarayana in the Chair. Condolences were paid to the departed leaders, Comrades Manoranjan Roy, Kamal Sarkar, K. Madhusudanarao and others. 103 out of 178 attended the meeting.

An interesting discussion took place on the report submitted by Comrade Nandury Prasadarao. What is patriotism in today's contest? After detailing the disastrous policies being pursued by the Central Government, Comrade Prasadarao said that working class is to pay exorbitant the highest patriotism by fighting against the anti-national policies being pursued by P. V. Narasimharao Government which is bartering away our hardwon national freedom and sovereignty to American imperialism and its handmaids, the IMF and World Bank. He said, quoting Government documents that sickness of industries in A. P. is the result of the Govt. policies in purchasing its necessities from the open market, ignoring the products of its own public sector industries. The case of IDPL in Central sector and Allwyns in the State sector are glaring examples of this. The entire House endorsed the report.

The Council discussed the situation in the State which is deplorable. Govt. is not functioning, the administration has been turned into an instrument of the ruling party, nay, the ruling clique of the ruling party; prices are spiralling; huge crop failure is stalking; corruption at highest level surpassed all previous records.

Taking all these issues together, the Council decided to mobilise at least 15000 workers to participate in a massive rally to be held in Hyderabad on the November Second, on the call of the CPI(M) and Praja Pandha. It also worked out the campaign against the policies of Central Government and mobilisation of workers to participate in the March to the Parliament on November 25. It was decided that squads consisting of workers, peasants, agricultural labourers, youth, students, women cultural workers etc should be formed and campaign should reach every nook and corner of the State. It was decided that about 2300 workers should be mobilised to participate in the Delhi March to Parliament.

(A meeting of the State Units of the Central Trade Unions and Federations met in Hyderabad on the 10th October and decided to hold District Conventions to mobilise the working class for Delhi March.)

The Council extended full support to the strike going on in Chittivalasa jute mill from September second demanding the abrogation of anti-worker agreement entered into by Sri Gangadharareddi of CTU. The agreement changed the DA formula adversely, cut down piece wages, increased by 20-25 per cent workloads and cut down sick leave etc.

CITU is playing a leading role in the strike and all the 6000 workers of the mill, including the members of CTU Union with their leaders, excepting Gangadharareddi, who had resigned and fled from Chittivalasa, and the AITUC Union. Majority of the workers refused to receive the wages under the agreement, and more than 2000 workers staged demonstration before the Labour Department in Visakhapatnam on a call given by the CITU Union. The strike is still continuing.

The Council condemned the recommendations of Biju Patnaik Sub-Committee of the National Development Council as anti-workers and demanded their rejection by the NDC.

The Council also condemned the recent order of the A. P. State Electricity Board which treats even one day absence from duty without leave as DIES-NON and demanded its repeal.

The fixation of minimum wages in Schedule industries is not yet done in about 20 per cent of the industries; in the industries where they were fixed, they were not gazetted, in many industries, the managements started litigation and got the wage fixation stayed; so far as D. A. which was for the first time fixed by the Government was stayed by the High Court. As a result, overwhelming of the workers in these schedule industries are denied wage revision. Even the minimum wages fixed by the Govt. for the contract workers—Rs 30, Rs 40, Rs 50 per diem for the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled, were not gazetted in all cases and so, in many industries very meagre wages of Rs 14 per diem are being paid. So, the Council decided to observe October 20 as the Minimum Wages Day throughout the State, and appealed to all other Trade Unions to join it in the observance of the Day.

The Council appealed to all Unions to observe November 7th Russian Revolution Day in a big way and hoist red flags at all places. It appealed to the workers to observe it as Anti-neo-colonialism Day.

The Committee decided to campaign for enrolling more subscribers to Karmika Lokam for a fortnight to conclude on December 19th the Jayanti of Com. B.T.R.

The Council congratulated the A. P. Anganwadi Workers & Helpers Union (CITU) in holding a big demonstration in Hyderabad on the 16th September demanding higher pay and criticising the Centre's enhancement in a beggarly way.

The Council congratulated the women of Andhra Pradesh in launching a massive, Statewide struggle against the arack auctions and sales and called upon the C.I.T.U. Unions to lend full support to that movement.

# CITU Express Solidarity with British Coal Miners

The Secretariat of the CITU has issued the following statement to the press on 20.10.92 :

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions condemns the Tory Govt. in Britain for its move to close down 35 of the 50 coal mines. It expresses solidarity with the British Coal miners in their struggle against the policy of Jhon Major's conservative Government to throw out thousands of miners out of employment in the name of expanding the market economy. The Tory Government has opted to depend on cheaper imported coal from underdeveloped countries instead of running the mines in their own country which the Government felt is incompetent in the globalised international economy dominated by the multinationals.

The mounting offensive against the working class even in the developed nations on the pretext of introducing competitiveness shows the international character of accelerating offensive against the working class and the need for broader international co-operation in the trade union movement. It is all the more important in view of the growing working class resistance and people's support to it.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions congratulates the British coal miners for their massive united resistance against the John Major Govt's atrocious desision. Their mighty resistance has compelled the Tory Govt to retreat temporarily, faced with a threat to their own government and has imposed a 30 days moratorium on the decision. The CITU feels that the National Union of Miners has rightly rejected the Govt's proposal of such moratorium as a manouvere to phase out the closure.

The CITU calls upon the working class in India to organise solidarity actions in support of the British Coal Miners and against the policy of closing down the industries at the sweet will of the employers. This solidarity is integrally connected with their struggle against the New Economic Policies being introduced by the Narasimha Rao Government at the behest of the IMF and World Bank.

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soon after Mr. Krishnamurthy became Secretary (Heavy Industry), that the application to grant a license to the Tatas to import equipment for a 500 MW project in Maharashtra, which had been held up for some years, was cleared.

The decision to switch over from the present design for 200 MW steam turbines to KWU design was also taken after he became Secretary (Heavy Industry).

# Special Session of the General Council, Bangalore, 16-18 December, 1992

Attention Council Members

You are aware that Com. BTR's birthday is on 19th December. It is standing decision that 19th December every year will be observed by all CITU unions in a befitting manner. Last year the central observation took place at Calcutta. The CITU Secretariat has decided that this year it will be observed at Bangalore. Anticipating that the General Council Members will be attending the Central celebration of Com. BTR's birth day there on 19th December, their stay and other arrangements are being extended. You are, therefore, requested to plan your return journey from Bangalore accordingly.

—General Secretary

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editor of the Federation's organ *Voice of Electricity Workers*.

The open session was held at the Anandpuri Ground of Barrackpur on September 29 where thousands of working people of this area offered warm welcome to the delegates. Shyamal Chakravarty, chairman of the reception committee, presided over the meeting. D. Janakiraman, the newly elected general secretary EEFI, explained the decisions of the conference.

Subhas Chakravarty, the sports minister of West Bengal, and Tarit Topedar, MP, also addressed the meeting.

Jyoti Basu, Vice persident of CITU and the chief minister of West Bengal, also addressed the rally. He said it was a matter of great pride that we have such an organised force of electricity employees whose representatives have come from all the corners of our country and have taken some decisions for the welfare of entire toiling masses. Jyoti Basu criticised the central government for surrendering our country's sovereignty to the multinationals. The central government is obstructing all the efforts of the state government to instal power projects. He hoped that the working class of our country would play its role in right earnest.

The conference concluded with enthusiastic slogans. The tremendous success of this conference of electricity employees is an indicator that the working class of the country is poised for a breakthrough in the struggles ahead.

# MP Workers Ask Patwa Govt. to Quit

Badal Saroj

THOUSANDS of working people staged rallies all over Madhya Pradesh on September 28 to press for their demand that the Patwa government must quit. The call was given by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions to observe the day as a day of protest all over the country against the BJP state government. The rallies, for one thing, brought out the fact that the toilers in the state were united against the anti-people government of the state.

It is to be recalled that September 28 this year was the first death anniversary of labour leader Shankar Guha Niyogi whom the hired assassins of some capitalists had murdered last year with the compliance of the state government. In this one year, the state government not only did not arrest the culprits nominated in the FIR; it even helped the main accused, Chandrakant Shah, the capitalist who masterminded the crime, escape from the hospital where he was lodged for 'treatment' after his arrest by the CBI. This way the state government proved to what extent it could go to shield the criminals. Then came the firing on Bhilai workers, killing 16, which further exposed the state government.

**Chargesheet Against MP Govt.**

These are, however, only major events; the list of the BJP government's crimes being quite long. Murders of workers and their leaders at Amanpur, Indore, Bilaspur, Bhopal, Raigarh and Rajnadgaon lathicharges even on women at Chhindwara, Gwalior, Mandsoor and even in Patwa's home town, arrests of trade union leaders all over the state, open use of police against workers' agitations, patronage to criminal activities of capitalists including those who planned the murder of a CITU leader at Malanpur, refusal to implement labour laws, steps to render labour courts virtually ineffective, conversion of labour department offices into pro-capitalist bodies compliance with steps to render about 25,000 textile workers jobless, open support to Birla conspiracy of retrenchment in J.C. Mills of Gwalior, involvement in closure of the only jute mill of the state at Raigarh, retrenchment and wage freeze of thousands of daily wagers, lockout of sewing centres of Bhopal meant to rehabilitate women gas victims, thereby rendering 2,300 women jobless, powerful drive for contract system and refusal to revise minimum wages, stop to payment of crores of rupees to harijans and adivasis engaged in tendu leaf collection, imposition of a heavy professional tax on government employees—these are some of the crimes committed by the BJP government in just two years of its existence. Nay more, the labour department was instructed not to waste its time in assisting the unorganised palledars and hammals (loaders).

The state government is also going ahead with

its drive of privatisation. The thermal power plant of Chhindwara has already been handed over to the Birlas. Several jobs in the electricity board, water works, PWD, irrigation department etc have been handed over to private contractors and a number of public and joint sector units are in the process of being handed over to private hands.

Oppression of weaker sections and women is on the rise. Speculation has been encouraged by launching of as many as six daily lotteries. The public distribution system has already been rendered meaningless by handing it over to RSS-controlled cooperative societies. Planned communalisation of administration is going on. Rampant corruption is crossing one limit after another of which not only the opposition has accused the state government but which even several BJP leaders have confirmed.

These were the points made in the chargesheet that the memorandum given to the governor on behalf of the Sponsoring Committee contained. The memorandum also put forward a ten accused and stop to repression on toilers.

## Procession & Rally at Bhopal

In Bhopal, a big procession came out on the day from the Central Library grounds in which, apart from the CITU, AITUC and HMS, dozens of employees' organisations as well as unions of gas victim women also participated. The CITU activists came in a procession from their camp in Aishbagh Stadium to join the common procession. The latter culminated in an open rally at the Lily Talkies.

The main speakers at the rally were Samar Mukherjee (CITU), Indrajit Gupta (AITUC) and Kamla Sinha (HMS) apart from leaders of the state units of these organisations and employee's leaders. They criticised the suicidal economic policies of the central government being dictated by IMF-World Bank and the BJP government which shows itself to be more loyal than the king in so far as implementation of these policies is concerned. The speakers also called for massive participation of workers and employees in the proposed November 25 march to Parliament.

## Shahad at Rally

On the day a huge martyrdom procession was also organised at Bhilai in which over 20,000 workers and peasants, including a large number of women, participated. Having gone around the steel town, the procession converted into a rally at Civic Centre. It was addressed by about a dozen speakers including CITU leader, Badal Saroj. It was made clear that

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# Punjab : Massive Strike For Minimum Wages Revision

Charan Singh Virdi

More than two and a half lakh industrial workers and employees of Punjab, covered under the minimum wages act, observed a strike on October 9, 1992, to protest against the callousness of the Beant Singh government which is delaying the revision of the minimum wages already due since the last two years. The strike was jointly called by Punjab state units of the CITU, AITUC, BMS and HMS.

The sweep of the strike was virtually total in industrial centres of Hoshiarpur, Patiala and Amritsar districts. The road construction workers of Afcon, brick kiln workers and FCI workers also participated in sizeable numbers in this action. Rallies and demonstrations were held by the workers everywhere. The thundering slogans raised and massive participation of the workers are symptomatic of the pent-up anger against the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities which have eroded the purchasing power of their meagre wages, and also the irritating drift of the state government in the revision of minimum wages.

The rallies were addressed, among others, by state CITU leaders Balwant Singh at Rajpura, Chander Shekhar at Ludhiana, Raghunath Singh and Gurmesh Singh at Hoshiarpur, Vijay Misra at Amritsar and Ranbir Virk at Batala. The leaders strongly condemned the anti-working class attitude of the state government which is succumbing to the pressure of employers. In this context they exposed the anti-workers, anti-people and anti-national retrograde economic and industrial policies of the Narasimha Rao government as well, which are playing havoc with the living conditions of the people and compromising the economic sovereignty of the country.

The leaders warned the state government that if the wages were not revised immediately, the joint struggle will be intensified for which the whole responsibility would be of the government.

The demands included that minimum wage be revised to Rs. 1650 per month for unskilled workers with a differential for semi-skilled and highly skilled ones as per the central minimum wage board recommendations, that DA be paid at Rs. five per point rise instead of existing Rs. 2.30 (base 1976=100), that exemption given to factory owners of Mohali from adherence to labour laws be withdrawn for it hits the interests of the workers, and that effective steps be taken to check the prices of essential commodities.

Some of the noteworthy features of the strike action were as under. Despite the official opposi-

tion of the state INTUC leadership, at a few places INTUC unions and their following also participated in the strike. Secondly, no doubt, the atmosphere on October 9 was somewhat charged due to the hanging of Sukha and Jinda, but the working class, full of anger over the callousness of the government in wage revision and also being galvanised by the joint call of the four trade union centres, defied all terror and held rallies and demonstrations everywhere.

Thirdly, it was unfortunate that AITUC leadership remained non-serious and played a negative role at places. In Ludhiana, its following did not strike, instead, its local leadership participated in a parallel rally of a few workers along with the splitters. At Chandigarh Mohali, dams and in milk plants also, the role of AITUC leadership was not constructive.

Fourthly, in DCM Aeron, the management declared holiday on October 9. But the workers foiled their game by striking on October 11. Finally, in Mahabir Spinning Mill of Hoshiarpur, a monopoly house concern, 100 per cent strike was observed. It was led by CITU union and their leader, Ganga Prasad, who has been elected a municipal councillor in the recent municipal elections. Here also, AITUC's role was negative.

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the agitation for arrest of and punishment to Niyogi's murders and against repression on workers would continue undeterred.

## Statewide Satyagrah

On October 12, CPI(M) units in all parts of the state organised demonstrations and other forms of action at various power houses to protest against the hike in power rates. It is the second time during the last nine months that the state government has hiked the power rates. This time the hike ranges from 15 paise per unit in case of power supply for domestic use by common men.

The action was called for by CPI(M) state secretariat in its October 1 meeting at Gwalior.

The secretariat has also chalked out plans for an October Revolution ceremony from November 1 to 7, and programmes for mass actions on various issues.

## Latin American Experience

Tapan Sen

Much blowing up trumpet is there by the Indian ruling polity over the philosophy of IMF led structural Reform Programmes being presently pursued in India. An over optimistic bright picture is being sought to be presented before the people by them regarding the forthcoming future, the country's economy is being directed towards, through Fund-Bank monitored adjustment programmes.

But reality is something else. Even without going into the rationale or logic of the Fund-Bank packages being experimented on Indian soil mere introspection into the ground-reality of the countries already pursuing the Fund-Bank reform package during the past decade would unveil the truth that Fund-Bank reform package is designed to remould the economies of the third world countries into complete subservience to the interest of the real operators, Developed industrialised nations, particularly the US and by no means for the self-reliant development of those countries at the receiving end.

The experience of the Latin American countries, whose economies have long been married with the Fund-Bank Structural adjustment programmes during the 1980's, if weighed against the declared perspective of such restructuring programmes exposes the real face of the adjustment policies. Impact of the same set of policies can in no way be different for India either.

### Declining Economy—Facing Debttrap

It would be better to start the introspection into the Latin American reality with the observation made in the press release of 17th September 1992 issued by none but International Labour Organisation on the tripartite regional conference of the Latin American and Caribbean countries held on 30th September 1992 at Caracas, Venezuela.

The ILO press release noted "The region is pulling out of a decade of crisis in which per capita GDP fell by 9.1 per cent by 1991, annual inflation reached a record high of 1,186 per cent, net transfer of resources abroad totalled some US\$25000 million a year and debt serving slashed export earnings by one third on average. The social cost, in unemployment and poverty has been heavy".

The ILO press release dated 21st September '92 could not help mentioning that "Slow economic growth and Structural adjustment policies are among the causes of the crisis. They have double consequence of reducing funds available for social

policies and at the same time increasing the need for social protection".

The declared and propagated objective of the IMF led structural adjustment programme is to strengthen the countries economic and industrial base and to generate a sustainable process of development. But in reality the fund that flows into the debtor countries from IMF and World Bank alongwith dictated programme-package is so planned as to draw out much more than the amount of inflow and designed not to sustain the development but to sustain permanent indebtedness and subservience of the debtor countries. As 'WORLD LABOUR REPORT 1989' published by ILO observed, "The debt problems and consistently inhospitable international environment has propelled most-Latin American economies down a path of continuous economic decline. In 1988 Latin America transferred almost US\$ 30,900 million abroad representing almost a quarter of total exports and almost 4 per cent of GDP. Most of these transfers were debt payments made by Govt. to its creditors abroad.

### Colonial Character of Export

Not to speak of attaining a sustainable industrial growth, the Fund-Bank reform programme succeeded in pushing the industrial economy of Latin America towards more and more colonisation process. The colonial character of Latin American export during the 1980's reveals the fact. The export performance of the Latin American region during 1980-90 demonstrates not its industrial might but its succumbing to process of colonisation. Manufacturing played a little role in Latin American exports which was practically dominated by despatch of food and primary raw materials to developed nations at a cheaper rate. During the last decade food and primary articles represented 67 per cent of total Latin American exports. For countries like Honduras, Bolivia, Chile, Venezuela the same was above 90 per cent of the total exports, and for Guatemala, Peru, Bahama, Costa-rica, El-Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago it was more than 76 per cent.

A decade's religious implementation of IMF-sponsored programme in the Latin American soil had its disastrous immersion in other branches of the economy as well. External indebtedness has increased manifold reaching at the level of 257.4 per cent of the Region's total export in 1990 and around 45 per cent of total GNP. Average debt-service ratio of Latin American countries exceeded 25 per cent in 1990.

### Falling GDP, WAGE Rates : Rising inflation & Unemployment

During 1980-88, annual average growth rate of GDP in all the Latin American countries was mere 0.7 per cent. If whole decade of 1980-90 is taken into account—the annual average GDP growth rate was little over 1 per cent against 6 per cent growth rate in the previous decade. Among them Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago experienced negative growth. If this negligible GDP growth in absolute term is weighed against population growth of 2.5 per cent a year during the decade, the per capita GDP has actually declined by more than 6.6 per cent.

Albeit the inflation—management being one of the Stated targets of the IMF Sponsored reform programmes, the pursuance of the said programme contributed much to the inflationary pressure during the decade throughout the length and breadth of the region. As observed by ILO in 1991 the annual inflation reached a record length of 1,186 per cent. The inflation was around 200 per cent in 1987 and 470 in 1988 and got almost trippled in another three year period.

On the employment and real wages front, the impact of the structural adjustment policies can be best understood from the observation of ILO made in its Press Release dated 17th September '92. "A significant decline in employment & income level in the public sector has taken in most countries... This has been accompanied by the spread of precarious employment in the form of short term contracts, jobs not protected by laws on minimum wages, social securities and working conditions. No longer restricted to informal sector, precarious employment is now increasingly common in the formal sector and Agriculture" The World Labour Report 1989 (an ILO publication) observed that between 1980-83 unemployment grew @ 15% a year; the urban unemployment rate rose from 6.5% in 1980 to 8.9% in 1986 and 6.6% in 1987. And whatever new jobs generated throughout the decade (1980-90) have been largely temporary or casual employment.

Between 1980-87 real wages fell on average between 7 and 16% and it is noteworthy that these decline did occur not only during recession of 1980-83 but also during subsequent expansion. In the manufacturing sector, which was the concentration point of the IMF sponsored development (?) programme, real wages fell more rapidly. Average annual growth rate of earnings per employee in the manufacturing sector was negative throughout the decade of 1980-90 in almost all the Latin American countries barring a few exception. During 1980-87 real wages fell by

more than 30% in Mexico, by 50 per cent in Peru, by 50 percent in Bolivia, by 20 percent in Equador, by 30 percent in El salvador and Guatemala and there is no sign of reversal of the trend till date, as pointed out by World Development Report 1992 (World Bank).

### Mistaken (?) Premise of Development Strategy

The World Labor Report 1989 (ILO) commented "The decline in real wages constitute one of the basic elements of the adjustment policies followed by most Latin American Governments". Behind such policies lie the IMF philosophy that reduced labour cost and social overheads improve the country's competitive position and capital formation and also the country's capacity to create employment. However, the ground reality showed the opposite way. Consistent decline in real wages in manufacturing has not at all added to country's manufacturing strength and country's export is still being dominated by the non-manufacturing primary sector. During the entire 1980-90, the Gross Domestic investment of almost all the Latin American segments demonstrated a negative annual growth rate notable being at Guatemala (-19.7 per cent), Panama (-12.8 per cent), Argentina (-8.3 per cent), Uruguay (-8.2 per cent), Trinidad & Tobago (-7.5 per cent), Peru (-5 per cent), Mexico (-3.4 per cent), Venezuela (-5.4 per cent), Brazil (0.2 per cent), and the Latin American annual average was -2 per cent. (World Development Report 1992). Such negative growth in gross domestic investment implies contraction in the domestic capital formation

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