

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the General Council

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January 8 - 11, 2011

Nasik, Maharashtra

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

General Council Meeting

8-11 January 2011, Nasik

AGENDA

1. Condolence Resolution
2. Presidential Address
3. Report of the General Secretary
4. Future Course of Joint movement
5. Special Discussion on organisation
6. Report of the Credential Committee
7. Concluding remarks

PROGRAMME

08.01.2011	10.00 am – 11.30 am :	OPEN SESSION Flag Hoisting & Homage to Martyrs Welcome Address, Condolence Resolution Presidential Address
	12.00 noon – 1.30 pm :	Introduction of General Secretary's Report, Treasurer's report
	03.30 pm - 05.30 pm :	Discussion on General Secretary's Report, Fraternal Greetings, Resolutions
	05.30 pm :	Public Meeting
09.01.2011	9.30 am - 01.30 pm :	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	04.00 pm - 7.30 pm :	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	7.30 pm – 8.30 pm :	Presentation of the Report on Organisation
10.01.2011	9.30 am - 01.30 pm :	Discussion on Organisation
	04.00 pm – 07.00pm :	Discussion on Organisation
11.01.2011	9.30 am - 01.30 pm :	Report of the Credential Committee, Reply to Discussion, Adoption of Reports, Resolutions, Concluding Remarks.

(Tea Breaks : 11.30pm - 12 noon & 05.00 pm - 05.30 pm)

(Lunch Break : 01.30 pm to 04.00 pm)

**Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)
General Council Meeting
8-11 January 2011, Nasik**

Presidential Address

Dear Comrades,

This is the first meeting of the General Council elected in our 13th Conference held in Chandigarh. Our 13th Conference, as you all know was very successful and I take this opportunity to thank our Punjab State Committee and all others who had done their mite to make it successful.

On behalf of the Central Secretariat of CITU, I extend to all of you, the General Council members and the special invitees from our fraternal organizations, and through all of you to the members of CITU and fraternal unions, warm greetings of a new year!

During the last 9 months we have lost some of our leading Comrades and also some of the Veteran leaders of Maharashtra State like Com. Krishna Khopkar a senior leader of AIKS, Com. G.V. Chitnis, Senior leader of AITUC. The attack against left led organizations in West Bengal is continuing and we have lost more than 150 Comrades, men, women and Children to barbarities of Maoists-Trinamul Combine, after our Conference in March 2010.

CITU pays homage to the memory of all these Comrades who have laid down their lives; and also to the leaders of CITU and other leaders of mass movements, who are no more with us.

There have been lot of loss of lives in accidents at work places also in natural calamities in various parts of the country and also in other countries including our neighbours like Pakistan. CITU shares the grief over the loss of lives and properties.

CITU shares the happiness and salutes the heroic endurance of the 33 Chilean Miners, who came out of the depth of mines, after 69 days. Whole world heaved a sigh of great relief when one after another they came out of the aptly named rescue vehicle 'phoenix'. The expertise from different countries were put together to save them. At the same time, let us not forget that workplace safety has become a big causality in the pursuit of higher and higher profits of the employers and the ruling classes' support to these efforts are endangering the lives of workers. We have to raise our voice to ensure safety at workplaces. The lessons of various accidents and also catastrophes like Bhopal Gas should be learnt by all.

We have assembled here after a successful strike on 7th September 2010. This strike has created a new history by participation and also by the spread of it. The unity achieved through this massive action led by the Central Trade Unions and National Federations will have to be further carried forward and strengthened.

The 23rd February March to Parliament should be the next opportunity to show to the ruling classes and their henchmen that the working people of this country are determined to go ahead with their struggles to have a change in the policies so as to safeguard the interests of the toiling masses in our country.

Comrades,

The second decade of the millennium has begun. The euphoria created at the beginning of the millennium, with declarations like Millennium Development Goals have evaporated. The Goals remain only in paper and the perils of hunger, malnutrition, ill-health, unemployment has really increased in all parts of the capitalist world.

The first decade of this century, has seen the most severe crisis of the capitalist system. Every one, including those who accepted various theories of 'end of history', 'undoubted supremacy of capitalism' agree that the crisis that engulfed the world from 2007 has been a never before situation. But, they are not prepared to accept that it is not the greed of a few in the high echelons of power in the corporate world, but the basis of capitalist system itself which has created this situation of capitalist meltdown, at Global level.

Our Chandigarh Conference in March 2010 and also our first Working Committee meeting after the Conference on 15th – 17th July 2010 had noted that the crisis is continuing and the talk of recovery continues only to be an expectation of the apostles of capitalism.

Situation in US

With increasing unemployment, income disparities and poverty. USA reflects the deepening crisis of the capitalist system. 43.6 million people in the country, or more than One in Seven, were poor in 2009. This was an increase of 3.8 million compared to 2008. 19 million of them, or 43 per cent of these poor are living in extreme poverty which is 50 per cent of the official poverty line. The top earning 20 per cent who are earning more than \$ 100,000 a year received nearly half (50.3) of all income generated in US, compared with 3.4 per cent scraped together by those below the poverty line, newly released census figures show. Top 5 per cent received 21.7 per cent of all income. US income inequality is at its highest level since the census began recording household income. The share of residents in poverty climbed to 14.3 per cent in 2009. It was 13.2 per cent in 2008. There were 8.8 million families living in poverty in 2009, including one child in every five!

US census report also show that the massive elimination of jobs over the past 2 years had a devastating effect on health care coverage, which in the U.S. is largely employment based.

The dispute regarding poverty line is also growing in US. One report in September 2010 said that the poverty line is also grossly out of date, since it is based on a 50 year old formula derived from a period when food was the single largest expense in family budgets. As at today, it under states the impact of rising costs for health care, education, child care, transportation and other necessities.

It is under such circumstances the people of U.S. are frustrated and this frustration has been reflected heavily in the elections held in November 2010. The hallow around President Obama has waned. It has been made use of by the Republican Party, with a campaign based on a clear rightist Agenda.

After the setbacks in the Congressional elections in November 2010, Obama has changed his stance and wants to follow the austerity measures as being followed in Europe.

A report on 1st December says – "U.S. President Obama has announced a far reaching freeze on pay of all Federal Govt. employees for the next 2 years. Obama said the freeze would save \$ 2 billion over

the rest of this fiscal year and generate \$ 28 billion in cumulative saving over the next five years. He also did not fail to declare that "they (employees) are patriots who love their country and often make many sacrifices to serve the country." So, it is the employees, who are Patriots! Those who have declared to themselves millions of dollars as incentives, utilizing the bailouts from the exchequer do not come under this category of Patriots! After regaining their financial strength through these bailouts, the finance capital has started exerting pressure on their Governments to change their policies implemented after 2008 and go for austerity measures; involving cuts in public spending and deficit reduction.

Crisis deepens in Europe

The situation in Europe reflects these changes in policies of the Government.

At the time of our 1st Working Committee meeting after Chandigarh Conference we had noted "The later developments (i.e. after our Chandigarh Conference) have only confirmed the spread of crisis. It has developed in to a full fledged sovereign debt crisis in Greece and had its impact in countries like Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Italy and even in Britain though it is not a Euro country".

With deepened crisis, dwindling Govt. revenues resulted in fiscal deficits shooting up and the resultant crisis impacted the whole Euro world.

The Greek authorities in May 2010 and Ireland in November 2010 entered into agreements with European Union and IMF to implement drastic austerity measures. These measures included wage cut, reduction in Pension benefits, reductions in public employment all of which amounted to huge cut in public expenditure.

Portugal and Spain are also in line with Greece and Ireland. Portugal has decided a 5% cut in public sector wage bill and an increase of 2% in VAT (Value Added Tax) to 23%, the highest in Europe. Here, the notable feature of crisis in Ireland is that the Government had given sovereign guarantee to the Banks in the country, which had now collapsed and the Government is forced to pay back the money from the exchequer!

We have to take note that it is not only the lesser developed of the capitalist world, which are prowling upon the lives of the poor and working people. The right wing Govts, in major economies of Europe like Germany, France, Italy and UK have also gone ahead with a series of austerity measures.

The new Tory-Liberal Govt. in United Kingdom has taken up a massive austerity programme involving 81 billion Pounds in spending cuts and an estimated loss of 500,000 jobs in public sector.

With unemployment increasing everywhere, the working people are facing the drastic impact of all these policies. The unemployment rate was 9.6% in this US in October 2010 and 10.1% in Euro Area in September 2010. In the 33 advanced capitalist countries of OECD, the unemployment rate was 8.5% in September 2010, with the total unemployment level reaching 4.5crores.

All indications are that the much talked about hopes of recovery by the end of 2009 and in early 2010 has been belied.

The world economic outlook released by IMF in October 2010 refers to "a temporary slowdown during the Second half of 2010 and the first half of 2011". The same IMF had claimed earlier seeing light at

the end of tunnel. An assessment made by OECD in September 2010 also confirms this. While confirming "Slow down in pace of recovery of world economy that is some what more pronounced than previously anticipated", the report also says "it is not yet clear whether the loss of momentum in the recovery is temporary." In these circumstances, the U.S. imperialism is trying their best to brow-beat the third world countries including those who are now being categorized as emerging or as already emerged, to open up more and more their market for enlarging their trade.

The much trumpeted visit of U.S President Obama, to India was only to ensure the expansion of their trade and also increase in the employment opportunities at home.

Big pressure is being built up to ensure a lions share of markets in India and other countries alike.

With aggregate demand not increasing, all out efforts are being made by every developed country to increase their share of International Trade. This is seen in what is being termed as currency war among leading economies world. With every country trying to depreciate its currency vis-à-vis the others and through that improve their exports, confrontations are increasing.

US is pressurizing China to revalue its currency which they are resisting. G-20 meeting in Seoul in November 2010 saw resistance of other countries against US efforts to impose caps on export. G-20 meeting concluded with very vague statements and 'the agreement was to disagree' on many important issues raised in the meeting.

To sum up, the global scene to day is that of continuing economic crisis and its severe manifestations affecting billions of people all over the world.

In International Labour Conference, The President of Switzerland, Ms. Doris Leuthard in her opening speech said "the crisis will not be over as long as unemployment and under employment prevail". She also said "as the Global economy seems to recover from the crisis, let us not be blinded by encouraging signals and indicators. Let us not succumb to the temptation to return to business as usual. Unemployment remains a major concern of Governments, and we must strive to eliminate the damage caused by the crisis on the labour market". Director General of ILO, Somavia said – "put jobs at the centre of recovery". ILC with representatives Govts employers and employees of 183 members countries of ILO, "expressed broad concern that the Global economic recovery remained fragile and unevenly distributed and many labour markets yet to see job recovery".

With more and more attacks on the livelihood of working people, the resistance is also building up. This is reflected in the streets of whole of Europe. No country is an exception. Starting from May 2010, Europe has witnessed waves of strikes in various countries and massive demonstrations with participations of millions. Greece, France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, England, Belgium, Bulgaria, Austria have all been rocked by these struggles during the last few months.

The reports of these massive struggles, emanating from Europe, has caught the attention of the working class all over the world. "We will not pay for their crimes" has become a powerful slogan.

"We do not want a republic in which powerful interest groups decide the guidelines of politics with their money". This was from head of the largest German Trade Union – IG Metall; addressing a rally of 100,000 workers.

In London, in addition to massive demonstrations and strikes by workers, more than 50,000 angry

students participated in militant demonstration.

France witnessed the biggest of working class actions, reminding every body about the volatile situation in 1968. There were 3 country wide strikes in a month totaling six strike actions in 3 months. Average turnout of demonstrations was 3 million!

Italy has seen huge demonstrations in all the major cities. Italian government is under great pressure. In U.S., more than 200,000 people marched through Washington streets on 2nd October demanding Job, Peace and Justice.

10 million workers, nearly 70 per cent of Spanish workers took part in a general strike, with 100 per cent participation in many sectors. This action in November 2010, was the most powerful strike in the country encompassing all major sectors, including media. "Open your eyes, change the policies" was the call of this action.

Portugal witnessed massive strike on 24th November with participation from all sectors.

Even with the Govts. underplaying the effect of the strike actions, the impact was felt world wide.

WFTU's call for world wide action on 7th September, the day on which historic united strike was organized in India, resulted in massive movements in different countries.

Increase in unemployment, reduction in wages, increase in retirement age, curtailing pensions – These are the main issues that are threatening the European workers now. With cuts in Public funding, health and education sectors are also facing serious crisis. Lakhs of students joining the massive strikes and demonstrations in France and Britain has further widened the platform of action.

Another aspect of the crisis has been the falling living standards of the working people and expanding gulf with the upper and lower stratas in almost all countries. The Millennium goals set by various summits on eradication of Poverty, continues to be elusive and distant and shifting of posts are continuing. UN Food agencies have warned of chronic hunger and resultant upheavals world wide. The continuing Global Economic Crisis is further endangering the lives of working people.

While the working people are continuing their struggles and militant movements, the political spectrum is moving towards right in many of these countries. The expectations of some changes under social democratic Govts have been belied. With deepening economic crisis, various slogans are being raised by reactionary forces, which in turn are helping the rightist forces and even neo-Nazis getting strengthened in different countries.

What we are witnessing today is a situation " where capital fights back, seeking to preserve profits and to transfer the burden of its crisis on to the Working Class by intensifying exploitation based on gender and age, the urban and rural poor and a wide range of middle strata. " Unless the Working Class is able to ideologically reorient its movement and organisation, the present day challenges can not be faced effectively.

Latin America

Latin American countries and Bolivarian alternative movements has got strengthened during this period, despite the imperialist efforts to destabilize various progressive Governments.

In the elections to Venezuelan Parliament Chavez's Party PSUV won 58.18 per cent of Assembly Seats, with 48.2 per cent votes. By losing their two-third majority PSUV will not now be able to pass legislations on its own involving basic changes.

Brazil has elected a woman President, Dilma Rousseff, representing the Workers Party of the incumbent President Lula Da Silva. The new President has a tradition of militant struggles against the military rule and served 3 years in prison. She has declared that she will follow Lula's path.

Another country with a progressive President, Ecuador, saw an attempted coup by some police officers acting in concert with right wingers. The coup failed with army officers rescuing the President Rafael Correa from the clutches of the rebellious police officers.

This attempt came, immediately after the coup in Honduras. All these reminded of the earlier efforts of imperialist backed forces in Venezuela.

With various Govts. continuing their efforts to fulfill the assurances given to people and acting tough against MNCs and other monopolies, efforts of destabilizations are continuing. At the same time Bolivia, Venezuela and other countries are nationalizing various core industries to safeguard the interests of the people.

With Cuba taking various steps to strengthen its economy by making changes in the economic system, a campaign has been let loose by anti Cuban forces all over the world that Cuba has decided to give up socialism. Cuban authorities have made it clear that, the "changes are to ensure that our Socialist System is sustainable on the basis of rational and effective use of work force." They also have said that "we are re-organizing work force, not firing workers. We are directing them to other areas of work vital for the economy".

Cuba is under blockade for the last 48 years and the barriers on trade at the juncture of Global Economic Crisis, has created serious problems for Cuban economy.

While 187 countries have once again voted in the UN General Assembly, against Cuban blockade, US, under Obama, has increased prohibitions on companies doing business with Cuba. The direct economic damage to Cuba, due to the US led blockade from 1962 to December 2009 has been according to conservative estimates 2309 crores of Dollars.

Wikileaks

With the whistle blower site, Wikileaks, releasing millions of secret documents of US relating to Iraq, Afghanistan and the latest bunch on diplomatic communications, the real face of US imperialism and its behind the scene activities have been exposed.

The most undemocratic and inhuman activities of US administration, under the Nobel Peace Prize winner Obama has been exposed. It has now been confirmed through these exposures that US neither respects the sovereignty of other countries nor the international bodies like UN. That the US Embassies have become centres of Global espionage has been confirmed again!

It has also been confirmed that US do not want to make amends, but wants to shut out the exposures through various acts of coercion and suppression. The nature of 'democratic' functioning of US has

come to light. The efforts of US hegemonism have to be exposed and fought against!

These leaks also have exposed the Government of India succumbing to the pressure of US imperialists and the way US officials in Delhi like those of FBI violate all norms in their 'operations'.

Other Developments

Developments in the Korean Peninsula in recent period, brought out the danger of US war machinery being utilized to endanger peace.

With South Korean – US military exercise, there have been firing across the sea between Northern and Southern Korea. While US has rushed its Naval forces, Peace loving countries have demanded the six nation negotiations on Korea to continue. Any effort to settle the unsettled issues between countries through military actions have to be opposed by all peace loving sections.

In Myanmar (Burma) the military junta has conducted elections, after prescribing the main opposition party and registered a victory. The contest was between parties supporting the military rule. After the elections, Aung Suu Kyi has been released from her house arrest raising hopes of restoration of democratic process.

Pakistan faced the fury of devastating floods, killing large number of people and displacing lakhs of people. Pakistan continues to be severally affected by terrorist activities. It is estimated that more than 25,000 people were killed in 2009 alone due to terrorist and ethnic violence.

The US army and NATO forces in their anti-Taliban operations have been hitting Pakistan areas also killing civilians. In Afghanistan, US-NATO forces continue their operations but without any headway even after adding 30,000 US soldiers.

In Bangladesh, there have been lot of struggles by workers. Garment workers struggle, in which almost all garment workers in the country participated, has brought out the cruel exploitation in the export oriented industry being run by MNCs.

In Nepal, the deadlock on election of a new Prime Minister continues and the country is being administered by a caretaker Govt. The expectations of people for changes for strengthening democracy has been sullied.

In Sri Lanka, with the victories for Rajapakse in elections, all his efforts have been to strengthen the Presidential powers; and not to reach a political settlement to the ethnic problems. The rehabilitation of the displaced people has not been complete. The urging by Govt. of India for speeding up rehabilitation and on political settlement has also not been successful.

Dear Comrades,

In the background of these international developments. We have to look into the situation in our own country. General Secretary's report will carry the developments in details.

The strike on 7th September and also the struggles in different part of the country during this period has brought out the anger and resentment of the working class against the Government. These struggles also highlighted the necessity of rearranging our priorities.

Unemployment continues to be a serious threat to our society. With 9.4% unemployment, job opportunities continue to be a great challenge.

Other recent developments, mainly the corruption issues, brings out to an extent the 'liberal' part of the Govt's economic policies. Making big money at any cost has been made the motto. The year 2010 saw a big list of Scams, which may only be the tip of iceberg. And look at the list of those who have been involved. Central Ministers, Chief Ministers and Ministers in various states, Members of Parliament and State Legislatures, Members of Judiciary, Beurocrats at various levels, police officials and even high officers of the defence forces and the latest addition in the backrooms were the Journalists as the power brokers along with lobbyists of the top corporates!

The Supreme Court had to recently say that "some thing is rotten in the Allahabad High Court" and "the dependants of some Judges turning into millionaires in short span." Violations have become the norms almost at all levels.

In addition to the corruptions involving lakhs of crores of Rupees, another aspect has been the illicit flow of money to outside the country. Washington based Global Financial Integrity has assessed the present value of the outflow as US\$462 billion (Rs.2079,000 crores). Our current external debt is US\$230 billion. They have also assessed that the rate of this flow from tax evasion corruption and crimes has increased after 1991.

Even after all these, it is reported that US think tanks are advising Govt. of India, for more liberalization including capital account liberalization; so as to eradicate corruption! US President Obama and French President Sarkozy also have pressurized India to further opening up retail Trade and Insurance Sector.

Every pillar of the democratic system has been corroded. The much talked about Politician – Beurocrat-Corporate Nexus has been strengthened by other sections also joining. It is for us, the working people of this country to expose the misdeeds and also to properly link up these corrupt practices to its roots – The neo-liberal policies that are being implemented.

The loot of our natural resources – Minerals, Metals and Natural Gases – though being done both legally and illegally has to be taken up by us. Added to this is disinvestment and privatization of public sector undertakings, another aspect of the loot of public properties.

Various struggles in different parts of the country against denial of Trade Union rights and against large scale victimizations have been conducted. The struggles in Hyundai, Foxconn and other Units in Tamil Nadu and also the struggle in Allied Nippon in Ghaziabad expose another facet of the nexus – The Corporates – Governments and Anti-socials.

Notable countrywide and Industry wide struggles against Govt.'s policies of privatization has that been of the Coal workers and BSNL officers and employees. Insurance employees went on a walkout strike against unilateral imposition of New Pension Scheme.

On the issue of increase in Prices of Cotton and Yarn, the textile sector employers – Garment manufactures went on a countrywide strike on 19th November. A two day strike of employers, Traders and workers was organized in Tamil Nadu before the nationwide strike. In Kerala, there was a day's State wide strike by Handloom workers on the same issue.

Social Security of workers continues to be a serious issue. The recently released survey by Govt. of India says that only 163 persons per 1000 benefit from various social security covers. Social Security of Unorganized sector workers is one of the five demands of the Joint Trade Union struggles. Another important issue is the EPS 1995, which as of now does not qualify to be called a Pension Scheme. We have to take up a countrywide campaign on this for better changes. Govt of India has already given up the Pension Scheme of Govt. employees and thrust market oriented NPS on the Govt. employees and also in the financial sector.

The recently concluded Indian Labour Conference, made it clear that neither the Government nor the employers are prepared to do anything to mitigate the suffering of the working people in this country. Even the Prime Minister was approving the demands of the employers to make the Contract Workers Act more flexible, while the unions have been demanding its implementation and amendments to make it more useful.

The situation in rural India continues to be grim. In addition to the sufferings due to natural calamities, the policies the Govt. is also heaping suffering on the lives of our rural masses in different ways. India ranks 67th in the list of 122 countries in the Global Hunger Index. We also know that 42% of underweight children in the world one from India and 18.3 lakhs of children in India die every year due to malnutrition!. Even then Govt. is not accepting the demand of Universal Public Distribution.

Another sordid situation has come out. While it was the Kisans and Agricultural Workers who committed suicides due to debt burdens, this time the shocking happenings are from two other centres. Those members of SHGs, who have taken loans from Micro Finance Institutions in AP had to commit suicides as they could not pay back usurious interest rates of MFIs; in many cases more than 30%! We should not fail to note that only West Bengal and Kerala Govts ensure loan to SHGs at 4%, the State Govt. subsidising the balance.

Other heart rending cases are from Tirupur, the textile town in Tamil Nadu which is known as Dollar Town due to it being the foremost textile export centre. In 2009, it was 491 suicides in the Municipal Town and in 2010, it is 489 in first 10 months. 356 of them were below 40 years. 164 were women, 342 of those who committed suicide were local workers and other migrants – 139 from other districts and 9 from other states. Surveys made after the shocking revelations on suicides have noted the reasons as unemployment, underemployment, increasing medical expense burdens - all economic reasons for such a situation.

In a country, celebrating increasing number of Dollar Billioners – From 52 in 2009 to 69 in 2010 – these suicides never make news! And this country of half naked Mahatma can boast of 1.76 lakh crores scam in one Department and also a 176 meter tall, 27 storey house for a family of six people and 600 staff to serve the six! The building has 3 helipads, hanging garden, a two story health centre and parking space for 168 cars and one floor exclusively for automobile maintenance!

Dr. P. Sainath senior journalist, recently noted that our Indian Parliament had a full day's discussion on an issue related to two brothers and we never had a one day discussion on Agriculture in Parliament! We should note that none of the Indian Peasant is in the Forbes list of Billioners and a house like that of Mukesh Ambani.

Added to this is the Social oppressions continuing even after 63 years of Independence. Various forms untouchability are still in existence and huge number of people are forced live like slaves. Attack against women and even children continue unabated. Our working people should be able to

involve deeply against social oppressions.

Central Govt. has brought a bill against harassment of women. The proposed bill should be taken up by us for proper amendments to be made so that it become a real source to safeguard women at work places.

With Communal forces of various shades and colours being active, the challenge has to be met by the working people and unity and integrity of the Indian People maintained.

Dear Comrades,

The year, 2011, has just begun. It is going to be a year of great challenges to the working class in the country.

We all know, that the left movement in the country has been the real source of support and even mainstay for the working people.

The left parties and the left led State Governments in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura has been outposts of Indian democracy as Com. B.T. Ranadive, our founder President used to call them. CITU considers the defence of these Governments, as they are guardians of working class and their interests. The records of these Govts. are unparalleled. For the Workers, Peasants, Agricultural Workers, Small traders and small entrepreneurs, these Governments are beacons of hope. The way they stood in the forefront of struggles against the anti-people policies of the Indian ruling class has to be properly understood by us and taken to the masses.

We all know, that only the left parties have an alternate policy line in regard to the Neo-liberal policies of the Indian ruling class. Our struggles during the last 20 years have taught us that the left parties alone can fight these policies effectively.

And it is for this reason, the left is under attack – Ideologically, Politically and physically. Hundreds of our Comrades, have laid down their lives in defence of the left during the last 2 years. West Bengal, being the strongest base of left is facing most severe attack. All forces inimical to left has come together to attack the left and the Govts, led by the left.

With elections to the State Assemblies of West Bengal and Kerala along with Tamil Nadu and Assam within 3-4 months, the anti-left forces are sharpening their weapons and strengthening their attacks.

CITU has a big responsibility in this great struggle in defence of the left. We should be able to mobilize all sections of working people and all the democratic sections, educate them on the importance of the left in the struggle to defend the interests of the people as a whole.

While we prepare our selves and involve in this struggle, we have to keep in mind the call given in our 13th Conference, to further strengthen the United movement of the working people and to strengthen our organization!

The follow up call to the historic strike on 7th September - the March to Parliament on 23rd February should equally be another milestone in the mobilization of working people in the streets of capital.

Let us raise our voice; the voice of working people to uphold the democratic, secular goals to march forward to free our country from all kinds of suppression, oppression and Exploitation.

Comrades,

This General Council will, as a continuation of our discussion in Chandigarh Conference discuss about strengthening our organization; so that CITU gets more strengthened in the coming days to meet the challenges ahead.

I would like to once again convey my greetings to all of you on the occasion of New Year, PONGAL and other festivities.

Long Live CITU

Long live Working Class unity

**A K Padmanabhan
President**

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)
General Council Meeting
8-11 January 2011, Nasik
Report of General Secretary

Dear comrades,

The CITU General Council is meeting here at Nasik at a crucial situation facing the country and the working class.

1.1 In the international scenario, the world capitalist order continues to be in deep crisis following the global financial meltdown. The global economic crisis and its fall out on the economy of USA and other countries in the west have made imperialism more aggressive. In the background of such crisis, the imperialist forces have become all the more desperate to pursue their hegemonic strategy both on economic and political front more aggressively in order to rope in the developing economies including India as capitulating partners to their neoliberal design. This has become extremely urgent and imperative for the imperialist powers to facilitate the early recovery of their crisis-stricken economy at the cost of the developing countries. The role of US imperialism and the advanced industrialised nations in various multilateral agencies on trade related and climate related issues is testimony to such strategy of imperialist forces. And the latest event of shameless capitulation by the Indian rulers to such imperialist's hegemonic and maneuvering strategy is seen in the recent climate related multilateral talks in Mexico where Govt of India has agreed to consider accepting legally binding provision for emission cut for the developing countries as well in the face of developed countries still violating the binding provisions of Kyoto Protocol agreed to the them about a decade ago.

1.2 In the face of such a strategy of imperialism, the Indian ruling class is being seen to capitulate to US imperialist's design both at foreign, political and economic policy fronts. In the post Parliamentary elections situation, in the background of weakening of the Left forces in Parliament, the ruling combination led by Congress has become more aggressive to push through the neoliberal policies of total deregulation hitherto hurdled by the Left and the working class movement during the UPA-I regime. On the other hand, the same desperation is also being demonstrated in the hot pursuit of building a wide-ranging strategic alliance with the US imperialist power by the UPA-II regime much to the detriment of our self reliance and sovereignty. This pernicious rightward shift in the policy regime of the ruling polity, if not contained or halted, would put at jeopardy the entire democratic political system and institutions as such.

1.3 The Left forces in the country are the only opposition to such pro-imperialist and anti-national designs of the ruling class and the working class movement is the lifeline and manifestation of such opposition. And that is why the post elections scenario in the country is witnessing the hell bent effort of the forces of right reaction to engineer grievous all round attack on the Left through administration, media and all the agencies of capitalist order. And the imperialist agencies are actively abetting this move aimed at marginalising the Left forces from the political scenario. The anti-Left tirade is expected to mount its offensive further in the days to come in view of the forthcoming assembly elections in early next year in the Left ruled states of West Bengal and Kerala along with Assam and Tamilnadu.

1.4 The working class movement has to play a frontline role in the forthcoming political battle in

support of the Left forces since the aspiration of the working class finds its natural expressions in the visions and policies of the Left on pro-people economic policies and defence and expansion of the democratic rights of the people. CITU, no doubt has to take the pioneering initiative in mobilising the people in exposing the atrocious face of capitalism under neoliberalism and projecting the alternative policies which would inevitably coincide with the alternative being projected by the Left. The weakening of the Left is synonymous with the weakening of the working class movement as well as the democratic polity and thus the historic task of fight against the anti-Left tirade inevitably falls on the class conscious segment of the working class movement alone. The General Council has to deliberate in depth on this crucial task of the time and prepare CITU at all levels to fight this forthcoming political battle and mobilise mass of the working people in the same.

1.5 It is in the above framework that we have to note and analyse the developments in the political and economic fronts and adopt our organisational and movemental tasks.

2.0 NATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION

2.1.1 The intervening period since the last working committee meeting of CITU held in July 2010 witnessed the continuity of the same right ward tilt in the policies and activities of the UPA-II Govt.

2.1.2 The Continuing turmoil in Kashmir valley since last five months is one of the most disturbing developments in the intervening period leading to mass agitation and resultant shut-down situation and a high death toll owing to police firing. Mass of the people appears to have been completely alienated giving rise to vigorous assertion by the disruptive and separatist forces. Democratic movement and the working class movement in particular got severely affected owing to such prolonged disturbance and turmoil. With the drastic reduction in militant activities and violence, the security structure prevalent in Kashmir with heavy presence of BSF and military enforcement is proving oppressive to the people. Popular opinion should be built up to make the Central Govt reduce the involvement of army. There must also be serious attempt to initiate political dialogue with all sections of people to instil confidence among them along with increased central assistance to revive developmental activity and employment generation. The excesses and violation of human rights by the security forces should be investigated and the guilty brought to book and genuine grievances of the people of both Jammu and Kashmir valley need to be properly addressed.

2.1.3 Another notable event has been the pronouncement of the Allahabad High Court judgment on Ayodhya Dispute which mocked at the basic tenets of the judicial propriety by according primacy to religious belief and faith over and above facts and record of evidence thereby setting a dangerous precedent for the future. The criminal offence of demolition of Babri Masjid and the assault on the secular principle appear to have been sought to be legitimised by this mockery of judgment.

2.1.4 The working class must condemn this unequivocally and firmly stand against the ploy of the communal forces and the Hindutva brigade in particular to reap political advantage out of this development. And this task has assumed greater importance and urgency when evidences have been pouring in about the linkages of RSS bandwagon with terrorist activities like in Malegaon blast incident, Ajmer dargah blast incident and other cases as exposed by recent arrests and charge-sheets. We have to intensify the campaign against this new dimension of Hindutva communalism where extremist Hindutva elements are resorting to terrorist methods. Our campaign against all varieties of communalism should thoroughly expose their growing interconnection with terrorism and their divisive impact on the working class movement.

2.1.5 The visit of US President Mr Obama and the issues surfaced in that connection is another noteworthy event during the intervening period. The visit of US President in India took place in such time when US economy is severely reeling under recession and accompanied by high unemployment situation. Therefore, the main agenda of Obama was to get the Indian market widely opened further for the US business and commercial interest and also get the policies both in economic and political front more congruent to US politico-economic strategy and priorities. Whatever so called concessions, both on economic and political front Obama indicated during his visit has been conditional to such congruency as made clear from the joint statement issued and speeches made by Obama in various forums.

2.1.6 US's immediate economic interests, or for that matter, the priority agenda of the imperialist powers on India have been to get the financial sector, the insurance sector in particular further deregulated, unhindered entry of MNCs and FDI in retail trade sector and higher education and further opening of agricultural sector for exploitation by foreign companies. In fact immediately following Obama's visit, the French President Nicholas Sarkozy during his India visit echoed the same demand for deregulation and unhindered entry of FDI in financial sector and retail trade. In defence and security related matters, much closer relationship between USA and India has been conceived of and reflected in the joint statement which clearly means buying US weaponry on larger scale and toeing US dictates on foreign policy matters. The euphoria over Obama's apparently favourable comments on India's permanent membership in UN Security Council has been set at rest by the comments of US Secretary of State a few days after which clearly indicated that US's stand on the matter depends largely on India's remaining supportive of US's hegemonic design in the foreign policy matter and its aggressive politico-military strategy.

2.1.7 The bondage of so called strategic alliance with US imperialist designs on the part of Indian ruling polity, completely unconcerned of the national interests and sovereignty is getting exposed in full bloom as the UPA-II Govt has assumed its charge. The Indo-US Nuclear deal had itself been an act of surrender to US imperialist manoeuvre. The suppliers' liability clause in the Nuclear Liability Act has been openly resented by US officials and diplomats but the Indian rulers did not utter a line in protest. President Obama openly opined against outsourcing of the IT related projects to India, but the Indian rulers did not dare to utter a single word against such "protectionism" in the joint meet of US President and Indian Prime Minister and even the officials level meet held parallelly. Nothing has been mentioned about the USA's responsibility to make the US company undertake the obligation for relief and rehabilitation of Bhopal gas victims and clearing up poisonous waste at Bhopal. But Obama did not mince word about his priority of generating employment in USA through business deals in India. And such strategic alliance is going to dictate every aspect of policy measure in Indian soil in US's political and economic interests. This desperation of the ruling polity to oblige the US administration at any cost and by any means indicates the hardening of the grip of imperialist powers on the Indian rulers of all hues which is indeed a matter of alarm for the Left and progressive forces in the country and also for the working class movement.

2.2 Role of Left Forces

2.2.1 As we have noted earlier, the Left movement and the working class struggles together have been the only stumbling block to such hegemonic project of imperialism with the Indian ruling polity capitulating to such design. The pursuit of strategic alliance with US with all its ramifications in the economy, on the rights and livelihood of the people and on political and foreign policy front and their linkage with one another is being firmly opposed and exposed by the Left forces alone through countrywide campaign which is attracting other non-Left political forces as well in the opposition to

such policies, albeit with all vacillations. The working class opposition to neoliberal policies finds its voice reflected in the visions of the Left and the rising opposition by the working class to the ruling polity's game plan of deregulation, speculation and privatisation is being voiced only by the Left forces at the political level.

2.2.2 On the other hand the Left Front Govts in West Bengal and Tripura and Left Democratic Front Govt in Kerala, in the face of anti-people policies of the Central Govt and their grievous fall out in the form of terminal price rise of essential commodities, massive unemployment and joblessness etc, have been taking various pro-people measures despite severe financial limitations. In the background of almost dismantled public distribution system in most of the states in the country, the PDS has been much better administered in the Left ruled states giving some relief to people despite non-cooperation of the centre in making foodgrains available. Relief and social security benefits given to unorganised sector and agricultural workers, increased relief for the workers of closed industrial units etc are some of the examples of such pro-people policies of the Left ruled Govts. When privatisation has become the buzzword of central govt industrial policy measures, the turn-around of Kerala state-PSUs is a classic example of how a committed Govt with political will can take initiatives to revamp state-owned enterprises. As against 12 state-owned operating companies making profit in 2005-06, 32 state owned companies out of 37 turned around to profit in 2009-10. In addition 10 more units are going to be started in public sector in 2010-11 involving an investment of Rs 170 crore. These measures demarcate Left ruled govts from other non-Left state Govts as well as reflects pro-people demarcation in economic policy approach of the Left forces vis-à-vis other non-Left govts at the centre and the states. We have to focus such demarcations of the Left before the mass of the people through intensive campaign.

2.2.3 Despite all attacks, the Left forces have been carrying on its activities remaining among the midst of the people. In the recent Municipal and Panchayat elections in Kerala, Left forces have been able to improve upon from the position of last Parliament election. In West Bengal, in various school committee elections in West Bengal, Left forces could improve its position substantially and in the latest Primary School Council election, Left candidates could achieve a decisive win. And in the recently held municipal elections in Tripura, Left front could maintain its absolute dominance.

Attack on the Left Forces

2.2.4 The physical onslaught on the Left and the democratic movement by the so called Maoist and Trinamool Congress combine in West Bengal has been still continuing taking away precious lives almost every day. During the intervening period there are numerous incidents of offices of CITU other democratic organisations having been attacked and activists of trade union and democratic movement killed or severely injured. Anganwadi employees have been kidnapped and gang-raped before being killed brutally. The entire project of the right-reactionary-extremist combine is to continue to create and nourish a situation of unmanageable anarchy and discredit the Left forces and the Left front Govt in the state. The so called Maoist-Trinamool Congress are the direct frontline operators of such project of the right reaction while their electoral partner playing role of silent accomplice. Since last Lok Sabha Elections till 19th December 2010, 337 comrades working in various mass organisations of workers, peasants, agricultural workers, women, students, youth, teachers etc were brutally killed by the so called Maoist-Trinamool attacks.

2.2.5 The attack on West Bengal is an integral part of the project of the forces of right reaction aided by imperialist agencies to marginalise and weaken the opposition to neoliberal and pro-imperialist policies. The intervening and deterring capability of the Left is crucial for defending the national

economy from the imperialist's grip, saving the country's national assets and resources from the greedy targeting by the international finance capital, for building resistance to capitulation by the ruling polity to US imperialist's politico-economic hegemonist strategy and for defending the rights of the working class thereby defending democracy as such.

2.2.6 In this context we have to take note of certain basic issues. The malicious campaign against the Left Forces and the Left Front Govts are initiated and mainly being built up even by the right wing parties, media and a section of so called intellectuals in the veil of so called left wing slogans which need to be exposed while combating such attacks. The so called Maoists in India have since long been indulging in nefarious activities like extortion, robbery and money laundering and individual assassination. Their so called "liberation struggle" never raised finger against worst violator of human rights of the workers and tribal residents in the widespread mining areas of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh or Madhya Pradesh by the private contractors and mining operators because they are their source of finance. In fact, all of those activists of Left and mass organisations who were killed by Maoists were all poor people, tribals, agricultural workers, anganwadi workers, primary teachers etc. Reports are coming the Maoists are also building a link with the divisive forces in Assam and north-eastern areas.

2.2.7 In the veil of ultra left postures these so called Maoists are actually serving the interests of extreme right reaction governing the world capitalist order and seeking for corporate-take over of the Indian economic and political system. They are acting for weakening the mainstream Left which alone can build up resistance struggle against neoliberal imperialist format of the present capitalist order. In that sense, the so called Maoist are ultimately serving the interests of neoliberalism and abetting the project of imperialist agencies against the mainstream Left.

2.2.8 The real anti-people face of the so called Maoist mouthing the pro-poor slogans and postures need to be exposed. The so called Maoists have to be fought on ideological front as well. We have to organise and campaign among the people and combat the extremist menace along with the people. In fact, our comrades are laying down their lives in organising peoples' resistance against the maoist-trinamool vandalisms and killings and attained some successes during the intervening period in isolating them in certain areas of their operation. And the resistance struggle is going on. In such a situation, vigorous solidarity campaign on the one hand with the struggling comrades and democratic people of West Bengal and political struggle against the conspiracy of the right reactionary and the so called ultra-Left combine must continue countrywide and the working class movement has to take the lead.

2.3 Massive Corruption-Offshoot of Neoliberal Economic Regime

2.3.1 The most distinctive feature of UPA-II regime has been the explosion of unending flow of multi-thousand crore corruptions and scams with the active involvement and patronisation of those in governance. The multi-thousands crore IPL scam with visible involvement of number of Union Ministers and number of corporate biggies led to only resignation of only one minister of state and the perpetrators of grave economic offence have gone still unpunished.

2.3.2 Then came the Commonwealth Games Scam where the initially conceived project of Rs 1899 crore got multiplied to more than Rs 70000 crore outgo through multiple agencies like Delhi Govt, MCD, and Central Govt agencies like DDA, CPWD, DMRC etc and the CWG Organising Committee and the public money has been recklessly frittered away to chosen contractors and suppliers in lieu of huge kick-backs as the expenditure of each construction project and supplies was provenly inflated

many times than the actual cost. And while carrying on such loot Rs 700 crore was diverted from the allocations for welfare of the deprived sections both by the Central and State Govt. The Govt tried to guard the scamsters in the governance just by making Chairman of the CWG Organising Committee Suresh Kalmadi resign from his political post as Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Committee and arresting some officers who are merely the executors of the corruption and not the real operators.

2.3.3 The Adarsh Housing scam at Maharashtra again exposed the nexus politicians, bureaucrats and regrettably top defence service officials in Army and Navy. Defence land was handed over to a promoter of housing society on the plea of building flats for Kargil widows and war veterans indulging in crass irregularities and circumventing all laws of the land in lieu of huge unlawful gratifications and facilities. The Congress party and the Maharashtra Govt are closely involved in this gigantic loot and corruption. The Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan resigned following the exposure of the corruption but again the perpetrators and operators of this corrupt exercise spread over both in Central and State Government are most likely to escape the punishment they deserve.

2.3.4 The BJP led Yedurappa Govt of Karnataka is also embroiled in a series of corruption scandals like patronising mining mafias to loot through illegal mining and a series of land scandals involving ministers including the Chief Minister and his close family members.

2.3.5 And of course, the 2G Spectrum Allocation Scam in telecom sector which, as observed by a Supreme Court Judge "will put all other scams put together to shame." The scam in allocation of 2G telecom spectrum from 2007 onward which as per the CAG report caused a loss to public exchequer to the tune of Rs 1.76 lakh crore while the private companies which got the allotment of spectrum at dirt cheap rate already minted huge premium by further trading on the allotment. Those responsible for such allotment and those allowing such process to move unhindered in the UPA Govt have all benefited of course through illegal gratification. The telecom Minister A Raja had to resign owing to continuing protest by the opposition but the minister has not yet been even questioned by the investigating agencies in spite of consistent queries by the Supreme Court. Instead, the Secretary of the Telecom Ministry involved in defending the corrupt allotment process of 2G spectrum has been promoted to the constitutional position of Chief Vigilance Commissioner(CVC). Again, in this mega scandal the telecom minister cannot be the only villain since the matter of allotment of 2G spectrum had moved through number of ministries and ministers including the Prime Minister before the final process of allotment on first-come-first-served basis at a throw away price had taken off. The movement of files and correspondences in the matter between various ministries and PMO before the commencement of the allotment process has been thoroughly exposed by the CAG report and all those agencies cannot shirk off their responsibility of the corruption involved in the 2G spectrum case. The Prime Minister is also maintaining a stark silence over the issue. The entire opposition has demanded the constitution of Joint Parliamentary Committee to go in to the depth of the corruption in the winter session and the arrogant denial of the UPA-II Govt in order to guard the scam-sters at the top of governance has led to total stalemate in the winter session of Parliament.

2.3.6 The corruption and scams have attained a new dimension in the neoliberal regime. It is not merely the question of a batch of politicians or top bureaucrats indulging in corruption in utter abuse of the position and power they hold in governance, it is the system, rather the paradigm that governs the system which breeds corruption. In fact the entire economic and political management of the governance have already got affected by this degeneration where public property is being looted with impunity. Even before pre-liberalisation era there was corruption but the post liberalisation, the system in place always seeks to legitimise the corruption in various ways. In a system where gambling with public money is legitimised in the guise of various modes of speculative transactions, which by

itself a corrupt economic practice of multiplying money directly, without creating any wealth, widespread corruption have to be a natural phenomenon where corrupt politicians in governance are seldom punished despite receiving bribes and indulging nepotism.

2.3.7 And in the said system corporates take over the government right from the appointment of ministers to allotment of portfolios through their lobbyists converting the bourgeois and petty bourgeois political parties having potential of forming government an open shop for trading by the corporates as revealed by the leaked tapes of telephonic conversation of the corporates/lobbyist/ industrialists, media editors/anchors, politicians and middlemen and power-brokers. Things have come to such a stage that the latest scandal of over Rs 1000 crore in "cash for loan" scam to Real Estate developers through bribing of top officials in Insurance and Banks, is being called "minor" by Planning Commission's Dy Chairman. The recovery of the huge loot of public money from the real beneficiaries of scam and corruption, i.e., the corporates, the fly-by-night operators and the middlemen still remains elusive.

2.3.8 At the onset of neoliberal regime, the process is set for corporatisation of politics and governance and that finally lands into rampant briberisation and brokerisation infiltrating and capturing every aspect of economic and political governance including awarding of lands and contracts, taxation, pricing, credit, incentive and disinvestment regimes. People are looted, public property and natural resources are held in ransom and public exchequer is frittered away and handful of politicians in governance, brokers and corporates make the fortune.

2.3.9 With money power dominating almost everything right from elections to cabinet formation, policy formulations, pricing of sensitive products and even opinion building in media, the so called Civil Society etc, the democratic polity got vandalised in the process of "corporatisation of politics" during last two decades. The working class movement cannot allow such subversion of democratic system as a whole and they have to come to the forefront to lead a sustained struggle against this neoliberal assault on democracy.

2.3.10 And if this continues unabated the entire democratic system and institutions are put in jeopardy. Trade union rights also cannot be protected if democratic system becomes a subsidiary of "political business" run by domestic and foreign capital. Corruption thus has to be fought back comprehensively together with fighting the system and the policies that breed the corruption.

3.0 ECONOMIC SITUATION

3.1.1 In tune with the noise being made by the international finance capital and their agencies on the recovery of the world economy from deepening crisis, Indian rulers are also boasting of increase in the GDP growth rates which is expected to reach around 8 per cent. But what does it mean to the toiling people of the country who are actually contributing to such growth in GDP rates ?

3.1.2 Despite the claims of being the second fastest growing economy in the world, India has the dubious distinction of being the country with the largest number of hungry people. As per Global Hunger Report, 2010 published by UNDP indexing the hunger status of the countries on the basis of three important indicators - prevalence of child malnutrition, rate of child mortality, and the proportion of calorie deficient people, India has been ranked 67 much behind Sri Lanka at 39th, Pakistan at 52nd, Nepal at 56th position. India alone is home to 42% of the world's underweight children. The situation also exposes the precarious level of food-insecurity of the mass of the people at a time the Govt is making so much noise about food-security legislation.

3.1.3 The latest Human Development Report published by UNDP also placed India behind Bangladesh and Pakistan in education and healthcare. Eight Indian States are home to 421 million multi-dimensionally (education, health and income) poor people, more than the figure of 410 million in 26 poorest African countries.

3.1.4 During the same period the GDP has grown, people turn poorer as the gains of GDP growth was wholly appropriated by the capitalist lobby. Never before such wild distortion in distributive mechanism was visible. The startling facts that out of 10 richest people in the world, 4 are Indians or during last three years period the number of Indian dollar billionaires has doubled to 52 expose the glaringly obscene inequality totally impermissible in any civilised society. The fact that in a country of 120 crore people, only 100 richest Indians could corner huge wealth equal to one fourth of Indian GDP seen in contrast to another glaring fact that 84 crore people (77% of population) are living a sub-human life with less than Rs 20/- a day demonstrates the system of loot and plunder being promoted by those governing the economic management of the country. Virtually a prehistoric conditions of slavery and anarchy is being sought to be imposed on the people taking advantage of alarmingly rising unemployment and joblessness.

3.2 Rising Unemployment

3.2.1 One of the main facilitators of the continuing loot and exploitation of the working people is the phenomenon of rising unemployment. The vast army of unemployed, which is increasing consistently at rate more than the rate of growth of population and labour force is pushing down the quality of employment and thereby increasing the profit phenomenally as pointed out in the foregoing paragraph.

3.2.2 The employment data maintained by the Govt agencies and the methodology of surveys made for the purpose grossly underestimate the incidence of joblessness in the country. Widespread underemployment situation is not generally accounted for. And moreover nobody affords to sit idle in a poor country like ours as they are to survive and thus a big section of the genuinely unemployed are not counted as unemployed in the official employment data. Despite such limitation and imperfections in the employment related data, whatever partial information are available according to Employment/Unemployment Survey conducted by Labour Bureau portrays an alarming picture. Overall unemployment rate reached almost a two digit figure at 9.4% even at GDP growth level of average 7 to 8 per cent. In urban areas it is 7.3% and in rural areas it is 10.1% and among the women the unemployment is 14.6%.

3.2.3 The above situation calls the tall claim of UPA Govt made in its first report on unemployment in July 2010, of having achieved a high rate of employment generation at 2% per year a total bluff. Rather, the latest NSS Report (64th round) portrays a dismal picture of employment generation during the entire UPA-I regime despite respectable growth in GDP. During 2005-08, employment generation remains at 0.17% per year, in absolute term it was 2.4 millions in three years. After 2008, following the global crisis and recession, situation worsened further. According to survey made by Ministry of Labour in selected sectors embracing a large part of the economy, employment declined by half a million between October to December 2008 which was gross underestimation. Subsequently it recovered to some extent but on the whole the labour Ministry Survey estimated employment generation to be around 1.3 million during the one year period from December 2008 to December 2009. This reflection again completely refutes the projection made in the Labour Ministry Survey about 1.3 million employment generation per year till 2015.

3.2.4 It is now clearly established that GDP growth by itself does not ensure employment generation. So, instead of harping only on 8% or 9% GDP growth rate and talking in general terms about export promotion and infrastructure development. Present pattern of growth is not going to solve the employment problem. For a genuinely inclusive growth, an employment intensive growth and development strategy have to be adopted. CITU demanded the following basic features of such a growth strategy in the recent Indian Labour Conference namely:

- ◆ Release employment data along with quarterly GDP estimates (every three months); Stop releasing unemployment data once in 5 years; NSSO (National Sample Survey Organisation) and Labour Bureau should collect and publish regular data on employment/unemployment both for the organised and unorganised sector. This should be as crucial a figure as the GDP growth to count the success of development strategy

- ◆ Lift ban on recruitment and abolition of existing posts in different Central and State Government departments and PSEs; Make public status of all vacancies in Government departments and initiate fresh recruitment; Stop outsourcing, contractorisation and recruitment of retired employees in permanent jobs.

- ◆ Implement 8 hours working day for all unorganised sector workers. This will create additional jobs immediately.

- ◆ Expand public investment by CPSEs for expansion and modernisation using Rs. 5 lakh crore reserves and surplus of CPSES in sectors like power, railways, oil and gas, steel, coal, telecom, defence, Research and Development etc.

- ◆ Unlock the lands of closed factories in public and private sectors by removing legal hurdles for setting up new industries

- ◆ Expand the scope of the NREGA to all individuals (not only to households) and enhance the cap of 100 days; Increase minimum wages to at least Rs. 160/- per day.

3.3 Continuing Price Rise

3.3.1 And every aspect of economic governance is being directed to promote such process of loot on the people. Continuing price rise of essential commodities is the burning example. Onion prices above Rs 80 per kg in the domestic market as against Rs 25 per kg in the export market and a big gulf between the wholesale and retail price in the domestic market itself is the symbol of present Government's total insensitivity to the plight of the people of the country. As has already been noted by the 13th Conference Report, the current spat of rising prices of food-grains and other essentials continuing since last couple of years is not of usual cyclical type or caused by merely shortage in supplies. This is being promoted by the neoliberal policy regime by way of simultaneously weakening and restricting the public distribution system on the one hand and promoting speculative trade in commodity market on the other. That is why the trade unions have jointly demanded for universalisation of PDS and a complete ban on speculation in commodity market as being the only way to contain price rise. But the Govt of the day is arrogantly refusing to take those steps just out of their commitment to the corporate traders lobby in the commodity market.

3.3.2 In addition the Govt-decision to deregulate petrol prices in June 2010, in immediate succession to hefty hike in diesel and petrol prices through hike in customs and excise duties on crude oil in the

Budget has led to rise in petrol prices four times during last six months. And latest for fifth time again another hefty hike in petrol price has been announced by the Govt on 14th December 2010 by Rs 2.96 per litre and actual impact of petrol price will be more than that owing to tax-element. This is also adding to inflationary pressure on the prices of essential commodities.

3.3.3 So long the Govt has been stoutly arguing that futures trade in commodity market has no impact on prices of essential commodities citing the tutored report of the committee appointed by the Planning Commission. But now the Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Right to Food who reports directly to UN General Assembly vindicated that speculation was a major cause of price rise; the Report noted in no uncertain term that “a significant portion of the increases in price and volatility of essential food commodities can only be explained by the emergence of a speculative bubble. In particular, there is reason to believe that a significant role was played by the entry into markets for derivatives based on food commodities, of large, powerful institutional investors such as hedge funds, pension funds and investment banks, all of which are generally unconcerned with agricultural market fundamentals. Such entry was made possible because of deregulation in important commodity derivatives markets beginning in 2000. These factors have yet to be comprehensively addressed, and to that extent, are still capable of fuelling price rise beyond those levels which would be justified by movements in supply and demand fundamentals. Therefore, fundamental reform of the broader global financial sector is urgently required in order to avert another food price crisis”.

3.3.4 In fact the Govt while talking through its Prime Minister that serious efforts are being made to moderate prices, has been actually supervising the process of keeping the price level of essentials high in order to ensure continuous windfall gains for their masters and patrons in corporate governed trading in commodity market. That is why with a span of less than one year from April 2009 to January 2010, the volume of trade in commodity market have grown by 102.59 per cent although their production has grown merely by 3 to 4 per cent during the same time-span. Any body may guess the alarming intensity of speculation from such vast difference in growth of production and growth in volume of trade. And just to facilitate such perversion in the commodity market, the Govt is not allowing the huge stockpile of food grains in FCI go-downs to the extent of 570 lakh tonnes to come to market or channelised through public distribution system because if that is done, price will fall and profit from speculation in commodity market will also decline. A peculiar situation has been created where high price of essentials provokes speculation and speculation further pushes up the price level. In fact hunger is being traded by the speculators in the commodity market riding on the wave of high prices of essentials scrupulously nourished by those unscrupulous in the governance. This is how neoliberalism operates, where speculation is the driving force.

3.4 Deregulation of Petroleum Product Pricing

3.4.1 In the midst of relentless price rise of essential commodities Government first increased the taxes on petroleum products and then deregulated pricing of petrol with the intention of deregulating the pricing of diesel, LPG & kerosene in phases, thus exposing the common man totally to the vagaries of global speculative oil prices. Since deregulation, within six months the price of petrol has been increased six times. Coupled with irrationally high taxes on petrol and diesel, the frequent petroleum product price rise is having a serious cascading impact on overall inflation which is making the life miserable for the working class. The major objective of deregulation is to allow private oil companies like Reliance and Essar to enter domestic oil retail market on their term which mean no government control and windfall profit. The government oil companies like IOC and ONGC are being disinvested with the ultimate aim to leave the core sector like petroleum entirely in the private domain of oil corporates both domestic and foreign. This will lead to cartelisation and price-rise at the cost of

people of this country. In the process the energy security of the country also will be jeopardised.

3.5 Micro Finance Loot

3.5.1 Essential feature of neoliberalism is that it loots the poor even through the instruments and system it launches in the name of helping the poor. Working of the Micro Finance companies is the novel example. These micro finance companies set up with active patronage of the Govt agencies and supported by the neoliberal intellectuals and many NGOs in order to expand the small credit facilities to the poor and self help groups has been actually looting the poor through exorbitant rates of interests ranging from 50 to 150 per cent and using strong-arm methods in recovering the interests and loan. Suicide of more than thirty women members of self-help groups in Andhra Pradesh within a span a few months exposed the exploitation and coercion by the micro finance companies to surface. Suicides have also been reported from Orissa for the same reason.

3.5.2 The idea of micro finance system has been encouraged by the protagonists of neoliberal policies and the Govt and propagated by many NGOs in the name of reaching the credit facilities to the poorer sections and self-help groups but the real design is to weaken and finally dismantle the linkages between the institutional credit system and the poorer section of the people and make the bank-credit a preserve for the well-off and affluent. The Govt is patronising this exploitative extraction of the poor by the micro finance companies by refusing to cap on the interest rate and strictly regulate their transactions on the one hand and making bank loans difficult to avail by the poorer sections and self help groups on the other. Even when the Left Front Govts in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura have given a subsidy to ensure only 4 per cent interest for bank loans to women self help groups, they are unable to get full benefit of this subsidy because of the policy hurdles created by the banks in giving loans to them. We must expose this game of micro finance companies and demand a cap on interests rate at 4 per cent and stringent regulation and control on their functioning. Simultaneously, Govt policy must be retuned to ensure that the public sector bank extends loans to the self help groups at 4% interest.

3.6 Succumbing to Imperialist Pressure

3.6.1 As a junior partner in the strategic alliance with US, THE Govt of India has been capitulating to every pressure of the imperialist forces and the international finance capital, which would put the national interest at jeopardy. US has been putting a lot of pressure on the Govt to open up retail trade for its companies like Wal Mart. From the movement of commerce ministry it is understood that the Govt is like to oblige by opening up retail trade sector to foreign companies and going to allow FDI in multi-brand retail trade sector. Equally alarming is the reported ongoing talk on Free Trade Agreement with European Union as revealed by various media/press, which is basically targeted to introduce zero-duty on export of 90 per cent agricultural products, besides further liberalisation of India's market for industrial commodities as well. Similar surrenderist attitude on the part of the Govt have also been noticed in the recently held climate talks in Mexico where the India's Environment Minister has already conveyed consent to consider legally binding obligation for cut in the carbon-emission which goes against the commitment made by the Govt in both the houses of Parliament.

3.7 Desperate Drives for Deregulation and Disinvestment

3.7.1 It must be noted as to how situation has changed after the Fifteenth Lok Sabha elections with the installation of UPA-II regime and weakening of Left forces inside Parliament. During UPA-I Govt which had to depend on Left support, despite all out effort by the Govt, disinvestments could not

proceed even an inch. The programme for disinvestments in BHEL, NALCO and Neyveli Lignite Corporation had to be abandoned owing to forthright intervention by the Left parties in the background of militant strike struggle by the workers. The UPA Govt had to declare that Navaratna Companies would not be disinvested.

3.7.2 But immediately after getting relieved from the dependence on the support of the Left, the UPA-II Govt made a volte-face and has now been demonstrating such haste and obsession in selling out public assets through disinvestments in blue chip PSUs as if they have no time in their hands. The Govt is refusing to take lesson from the recent financial meltdown and its world wide impact and also from the fact that the strong existence of public sector in the financial sector and also in all the strategic and sensitive sectors of the economy could save the country's economy from the inevitable disaster.

3.7.3 The Govt of the day, under the bondage of strategic alliance with the US imperialist power, has become so much unconcerned over the basic interests of the national economy, that it is aggressively promoting further deregulation of the financial sector while over-actively pushing through the process of disinvestments.

3.7.4 So far as the deregulation drives are concerned, the Govt has been actively pushing through the LIC Amendment Bill, Insurance Law Amendment Bill –both aimed at completely deregulating the Insurance sector and facilitating unrestricted entry private sector –the foreign companies in particular in this sensitive sector of the economy setting in the process of phased privatisation of the public sector General Insurance corporations. Side by side, as announced in the last Union Budget, the Govt has decided to promote unrestricted entry of private sector in the banking segment through liberal issuance of licenses to private entities. The discussion paper circulated by Reserve Bank of India has virtually recommended the big industrial houses to start new banks and also consider taking over the rural banking segment. Implications of these damaging exercises are quite loud and clear. With a fairly high savings rate of around 34% prevalent in India, the Govt of the day, as per the wishlist of their senior partners at Washington, seeks to divert a major share of the peoples' savings to private and foreign banks. The Nationalised Banks will be put under pressure and disadvantage and the direction of credit flow will be faster towards big corporates, institutional speculators and the small scale sector, agriculture, the small and petty agriculturists in particular and the poorer section of the people, who are already severely discriminated in the matter of institutional credit, will go further high and dry.

3.7.5 So far as the disinvestment front is concerned, the Government wants to exceed its target of disinvestment fixed at Rs.40,000 crores for the Financial Year 2010-2011. In the current phase, disinvestment has been done in Sutluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, EIL, NMDC, NHPC, NTPC, REC and Coal India Ltd. Government's next targets are Power Grid Corporation Ltd, Manganese Ore India Ltd(MOIL), Shipping Corporation, Hindustan Copper to be completed within December 2010. And next in the pipeline are the follow-on offers of IOC, ONGC and SAIL targeted for the fourth quarter of the current financial year. And the total amount the Government targets to garner out of all these disinvestment is Rs.59,000. crores for the current financial year itself. And in respect all these blue-chip companies' shares already disinvested, shares have been sold much below the prices prevailing on the days of disinvestment owing to fixing of reserve-price at a much low-level by the Govt. Hence, the disinvestment process is not merely selling the Govt shares in PSUs to private hands, but frittering away national assets at a throw away price to the advantage of the private corporate sector and institutional buyers who cornered the overwhelming majority of the shares disinvested.

3.7.6 Another major compulsion for the Govt to go for hasty disinvestment is the huge financial burden the Govt had to undertake, of course out of the public exchequer, to fund the stimulus package for the big-business and corporate sector on the plea of financial crisis. And budget deficit so incurred owing to such liberal giveaways to big business and corporates is now being sought to be bridged through mass-scale disinvestments which has again become a bonanza to the same big business and corporate bosses of those in governance at the center. In fact the disinvestments of shares of blue chip PSUs and the manner it has been conducted so far by the UPA-II Govt is itself a stimulus to them in a different form at the cost of national interests.

3.8 Marginalisation of Public Sector

3.8.1 Apart from disinvestments and privatization, the Govt of the day has been acting overtime to drastically reduce the predominant role of public sector in strategic and infrastructural sector of the economy through the route of deregulation and denial of access and entry of the public sector to green-field/new areas and projects in respective fields through behind-the-scene political manipulations. The example of BSNL and Air India is before us. Their market share had been drastically reduced to minimum by way of allowing unrestricted preferential entry of private sector on the one hand and not allowing the concerned PSUs on the other, to expand their capacity in time through calculated interference by the concerned administrative ministry. In the process, the bargaining capacity of the unions there got substantially eroded. In the field of natural gas production, RIL has already superseded ONGC. In the field of crude-oil production, if the Rajasthan Oil field presently under M/s Cairn starts full production, private sector will be predominant over public sector. In power sector, of the ultra-mega power projects (4000 MW), five projects have already gone to private sector, since NTPC was not allowed to seriously compete through behind-the back interference by Power Ministry. If the other two projects also are bagged by private sector, then NTPC will lose its predominance in power generation. Deregulation of petroleum product pricing is going to make the IOC, BPCL and HPCL totally vulnerable vis-à-vis Reliance and Essar.

3.8.2 On such vital policy issues also, it is only Coal workers' movement did raise the voice of protest when such a threat in the form of selling new coal blocks to private sector was announced. Appropriate and adequate response from the unions/federations in power and petroleum sector on such policy-hostility to marginalize the PSUs is the urgent need of the hour.

3.9 Loot of Workers

3.9.1 The Govt of the day has been trying to justify all their misdeeds on the economy policy front by citing the growth rates of GDP averaging out around 7 to 8 per cent. But the gains of GDP growth is being wholly appropriated by the employers class with active patronage of the Govt. Not only that, under neoliberalism the entire governance system has been tuned to promote consistent suppression of wages or the workers' share in value addition to create such perverse distortion in the economy so that growth in GDP is accompanied by simultaneous decline in wage level on the average. Despite reflecting various imperfections and underestimations, the data released every year by Govt of India through Annual Survey of Industries exposed such process of loot on workers despite consistent increase in their contribution to wealth generation through continuous rise in their productivity on the average. As per that survey, wages' share in gross value added in the organized manufacturing sector has been continuously declining every year from 20.5% in 1991-92 to 15% in 2001-02 to a further dip to 9.2% in 2007-08. Side by side the profit's share in gross value added has been consistently shooting up every year from 14.5% in 1991-92 to 19% in 2001-02 to further by more than two and half times to 53.8 in 2007-08. Please read this with the observation made in the report on survey

of Indian Private Corporate Houses made by Centre of Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) which shows that within seven years' period, gross profit as a percentage of total wage cost has risen high from 44% in 2001 by more than four times to 176% in 2008. This means a consistent decline in average wage level, in many cases in absolute term. This also means continuing replacement of regular workers by contract/casual/temporary workers at one tenth of wages payable to regular workers besides frequent wage-cuts through lay-off, shut-down and various other means, mostly unlawful. And this is the picture only in organized manufacturing sector. In the unorganized sector and the mushrooming service sector of miscellaneous kinds mostly manned by contract labour sometimes camouflaged as self-employed etc, situation is even more precarious demonstrating the monumental and the most atrocious loot on the workers who are keeping the entire economy in motion and contributing to GDP growth.

4.0 ATTACK ON LABOUR RIGHTS

4.1 And such loot and atrocities is being carried on under neoliberal order through consciously promoting violations of all basic labour laws and making the state administration and law-enforcement machineries almost a domestic subservient to the employers' class, to the capitalist class, both domestic and foreign, thereby unleashing a repressive regime in most of the states. In fact ninety per cent labour related disputes going on in the country pertain to violation of various labour laws on minimum wages, maintenance of employment registers, deployment of contract labour, working hours, social security etc and jungle raj is going on in most of the workplaces in the country in most of the states, particularly in private sector. And major events of repressions on labour arose out of employers' arrogant intolerance to any form of trade union activities including formation of trade unions. And in the matter of attack on trade union rights, the private sector employers and those in MNCs in particular are in the forefront.

4.2 The most notable events of onslaught on labour rights during the intervening period is the incident at a multinational company Foxconn at Sriperambudur, Tamilnadu, where three hundred workers including the General Secretary of Tamilnadu State committee and also national Secretary of CITU, A Soundarrajan were arrested from a peaceful dharna and produced before Court with hand-cuffs and detained for more than a fortnight behind the bar. Practically in almost all the MNCs in Tamilnadu, trade unions are being attacked with mass scale victimization and intimidation by police as soon as the union is formed and notified. In Hynduai factory at Tamilnadu, workers have still been struggling against unlawful victimization including termination under the leadership of CITU while the state administration has been actively patronizing all the unlawful acts of the employers. In factories of Nokia, BYD and some other private sector establishments, similar situation is being sought to be created by the employers-administration combine. In another large private sector factory with foreign collaboration, M/s Allied Nippon at Ghaziabad, local hoodlum was appointed as manager to threaten and intimidate the workers and even wielding of firearms in the shop-floor which led to scuffle with the workers leading to injuries to many workers owing firing and unfortunate death of the manger inside the factory. Immediately thereafter FIR was lodged against the Secretary of Ghaziabad district CITU who was no where near the spot of incident along with the entire three hundred regular workers of the factory. The factory is being now sought to be run by the contract workers which was the ultimate aim of the employer. Similar incidents of repression were also reported from various places of Haryana, UP, Uttrakhand and other places.

4.3 Above situation reflects a clear trend. The employers are desperately violating all labour laws in order to minimize labour cost with the active support of the Govt and that has resulted in continuing decline in wage level despite rising profit even during period of recession. Any opposition by the

workers and their unions are being sought to be mired with brutal repression and the law and order authority have been practically acting as security guards of the employers in the event of any labor-capital dispute. And in such a background, the Govt of the day have been actively pursuing legislative action to legalise those labour law violation through granting liberal exemption to a large chunk of establishments from the obligations under almost all basic labour laws. A Bill is ready for introduction in parliament which aims at exempting all establishments employing up to 40 workers from the purview of most of the labour laws. For the manufacturing sector alone, if this Bill is legislated, more than 50% workers will be out of the protection of most of the labour laws. For the mushrooming service sector, the proposed law will throw almost the entire workforce at the mercy of the employers. It is a big challenge before the working class movement.

5.0 PENSION SCHEME

5.1 It has now become clear that Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 which was opposed by CITU when it was legislated, is not at all beneficial to the workers. Within the framework of defined benefits, EPS 1995 can be made beneficial only through enhancement of employer's as well as government's share without affecting the present rate of contributions in the EPF as well as enhancing the wage ceiling. All withdrawn or curtailed benefits i.e. the benefits of Return of Capital and Commutation of Pension and enhanced rate of reduction for early pension are required to be restored immediately. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour in its 39th Report has also strongly recommended that the formula regarding rate of contribution should be revised at periodic intervals wherein the rate of contribution from the government should at least be fixed at half of the rate of contribution which is being made by the employer. The Committee has also recommended restoration of the withdrawn/curtailed benefits. CITU demands that in line with the recommendations government/employer should increase their contribution to 6% minimum. A booklet has been issued by CITU on the issue.

6.0 43RD SESSION OF INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE

6.1 The 43rd session of Indian Labour Conference held on 23 – 24 November 2010 discussed global financial crisis, contract labour and employment generation and skill development as the major agendas. AK Padmanabhan, Tapan Sen, Hemalata and Kashmir Singh Thakur represented CITU. Though unanimous recommendations were made by the conference committees on global financial crisis and employment generation, the committee on contract labour could not come to a common understanding due to the obstinate stand taken by the employers' group who refused providing equal wages, holidays, hours of work, social security and other conditions to the contract workers doing the same or similar jobs as permanent workers.

6.2 The Prime Minister who inaugurated the 43rd ILC talked about the rigidity of some labour laws, and urged for the necessity of introducing flexibility through legislative changes. He did not utter a single word about mass scale violations of labour laws by the employers with impunity or sharp decline of workers' share in the gross value added as glaringly revealed by the data published by Govt itself. Nor did he speak any thing about fast growing income inequality. All the representatives from the workers' group demanded equivocally concrete action by the Govt to contain price-rise and ban speculation in commodity trade, strong punitive action against the employers for violation of labour laws and strengthen the law enforcement machinery, regularisation of contract workers engaged in permanent jobs and payment of regular workers; wages to contract workers, universalisation of social security benefits for unorganised sector workers and provision of adequate funds for the same and stoppage of disinvestment in public sector units. The suggestion of the workers' group that in the event of abolition of contract labour under section 10 (2) of the Act, the workers should be absorbed/

regularised was agreed to by the state governments' group but the employers' group did not agree to it.

7.0 UNORGANISED SECTOR WORKERS

7.1 Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board – The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board constituted under the Act has unanimously recommended that floor level social security benefits should be applied to all the unorganised workers irrespective of their BPL or APL status and that the necessary funds should be mobilised by levying cess on income tax. But this has not been accepted by the Govt. The government has accepted the recommendation that the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana should be made applicable to all NREGA workers who have worked for 15 days. It has also been decided to implement RSBY to all the construction workers. The UWSSB has also recommended extension of the welfare schemes like Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension scheme, RSBY, Jan Shree Bima Yojana etc to some categories of workers like NREGA workers, anganwadi employees, ASHAs, etc. In the last meeting, it has recommended formulation of a legislation covering working conditions and providing social security benefits to the domestic workers.

7.2 The government has allocated only Rs 1000 crores for the Unorganised Workers' Welfare Fund Act in the last Budget but till now the schemes on which this amount would be spent has not been decided.

7.3 Several state governments have formulated rules and constituted state level social welfare boards under the Act. Our state committees should make efforts that the unorganised workers are enrolled as members of the boards, get the identity cards etc. We must ensure that the unorganised sector workers, including the construction workers, beedi workers etc get all the existing welfare benefits due to them. We must also utilise these efforts to strengthen our organisation among the unorganised sector workers.

8.0 MAJOR STRUGGLES

8.1 General Strike of 7th September

8.1.1 During the intervening period, the countrywide general strike of 7th September 2010 and the preparatory activities throughout the country have been the major event and activities. All the Central Trade unions of the country except BMS and almost all the independent all India federations of employees across the sectors had given the call for countrywide general strike on five point demands covering the entire gamut of the economic policy issues and it was an historic event in the annals of the trade union movement in the country. The strike was a massive success throughout the country and across the sectors despite there were certain limitations and shortcoming too.

8.1.2 It is necessary to note certain experiences of the preparatory campaigns of the strike and its reflections on the strike action.

8.1.3 Although BMS did not join the all in united strike call, the five point demands highlighted by the strike action were jointly formulated by all the Central Trade Unions including BMS and unanimously adopted from the National Convention of Workers held on 14th September 2010 in which BMS was also a party. Therefore, not much opposition to strike action was visible from the BMS unions at the ground-level barring certain rare exceptions.

8.1.4 Secondly, the Working Committee meeting held in July 2010 at New Delhi called upon the CITU unions to take initiative for joint campaign with other trade unions both at state and industry level besides carrying on independent campaign to popularize among the mass of the workers the five point demands and the strike decision.

8.1.5 As per reports received from the states and industrial federations, joint conventions were organized in most of the states and all the constituents including INTUC joined the state level conventions. Only in West Bengal INTUC did not join the state level joint convention although they took part in preparatory meetings for the convention. In many states, particularly in most of the hindi speaking states and at Karnataka, comrades from CITU Centre attended the state level conventions. Joint conventions were also organized at district levels in many states which also facilitated joint campaign for the strike through meetings, rallies etc at grass root level. This could create enthusiasm among the common workers widening the coverage of the strike to many un-reached areas.

8.1.6 About the industry level joint campaigns, initiative was taken by our federations and industry-level coordination committees in certain sectors with mixed results. In steel industry, initiative for joint campaign was taken by our federation but not much response was received. In BHEL, in two centres, at Hardwar and Ranipet joint campaign and joint strike notice was issued. Report of joint campaign was also received from state transport sector in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan which resulted in almost total strike in state transport in these three states. Also besides West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura which witnessed a completely paralysed transport system, public transport was severely affected owing to strike in Assam, Orissa and to some extent in Jharkhand also. In petroleum sector also, joint convention of all the federations were organized at national level and joint statement and notice for strike was issued. In plantation sector also some joint initiative could be taken in certain states like West Bengal, Kerala and Assam. As a result, for example, the local leaders of INTUC in some of the tea gardens of Assam did defy and ignore the last-moment backtracking from strike decision by the one state-level leader of INTUC associated with plantation unions and stuck to the strike action. In many major private sector industries in Rajasthan, Haryana, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, joint campaign by the all the trade unions or at least most of the functioning trade unions there resulted in total strike for the first time. For example, all the major cement plants and textile mills in Rajasthan were completely closed owing to strike. In Gurgaon industrial areas in Haryana, hundreds of factories, many of which are having no trade unions, witnessed complete strike and the joint convention at Gurgaon and the joint campaign followed thereafter played an important role in attracting spontaneous response from the mass of the workers. CITU's focused initiative have been a major factor in making such joint initiative for campaign possible.

8.1.7 But we have to admit, there is still serious shortcoming in our initiative for joint campaign at the industry/enterprise level. And this is prevalent in many of our well functioning federations as well. Inter union rivalry and competition for occupying space may be a factor but despite that we have to overcome this shortcomings because unity at the national level cannot be effective and sustainable unless such grass root level joint initiative for campaign is developed. Inter union rivalry and antagonism, in a scenario of multiplicity of trade unions, generally dominates over the urge for unity at the enterprise level. The concern for class unity must make our unions demarcate themselves in such a scenario of rivalry and antagonism. We have to expose the anti-worker and anti-struggle approach of other reformist unions through developing correct and unified understanding among the mass of the workers on the correct class oriented approach on the issues facing them and rallying the workers in that direction instead of making repulsive and even sometimes abusive comments on other unions. This will keep the movement in track and at the same time create compulsion for other unions to rally round the idea of united struggle.

8.1.8 Thirdly, there have been noticeable improvement in our independent campaign for the strike as well which could create a better atmosphere for the joint campaign at the state and industry level. Reports have been received or gathered by the centre about most of the state committees and major industry level unions publishing separate leaflets and pamphlets in several thousands which became an important instrument for grass-root level campaign. In most of the states, district committees could be activated in planning and taking up area-level and industry level campaign for the strike including joint conventions, meetings, rallies, processions etc. But as to how far we could involve our unit level committee members in the strike campaign, we do not have much reports. So far as reaching out to the members of other unions through independent campaign by CITU, we do not have specific reports but whatever information could be gathered by the centre, in certain areas and states, some beginning could be made. As for example, through centre's persuasion, in the industrial areas of Delhi and Gurgaon, CITU committees could more or less successfully execute the programme of holding meetings and distributing leaflets also at the gate of those factories where there is no CITU union or no union at all. In Punjab also similar initiative could be taken in the districts where we have functional district committees (in 10 districts). In Karnataka, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh also conscious initiative to reach the unreached areas both among organized and unorganized sector workers have been reportedly taken.

8.1.9 In this context, we have to note in particular that without reaching out to the workers beyond our influence and without covering the entire CITU membership in the campaign, CITU cannot advance in expanding its base. United programmes of action creates a great opportunity for making such tasks more effective. Our plan of activities preparatory to any action programme must be drawn consciously on this premise and all review of our activities also must include this aspect as well. In order to discharge this task, we must expand our campaign even in those workplaces where we have no union or no union at all through gate meetings, pamphleting on popular issues of the workers and also establishing contacts with the non-member and non-unionised workers through meetings in workers' residential colonies.

8.1.10 Although the strike had been quite massive and bigger than previous ones, there are certain grey areas also. In Port & Dock there was no strike except in Kolkata, Haldia, Cochi and Tutikorin and to some extent at Paradip, since the major HMS affiliated unions did not join the strike. At Paradip, port operation was severely affected owing to strike and militant picketing and demonstration by contract workers. In PSUs, strike performance is generally not good except in coal industry and in certain pockets of petroleum sector. In this sector also some of the sponsor trade unions played an opportunist role. In steel, except the steel plants at Durgapur, Burnpur, Vizag, marketing organization, and to some extent Salem, in other areas, impact of strike was minimal. Of course in iron-ore mines, strike was good. In BHEL, strike was partial. In power sector, there was no strike. In engineering and electronics sector, except in BHPV and Shipyard in Vizag, strike was extremely partial. This phenomenon, despite disinvestment being one of the issues in the five point demands for the general strike, reflects severe political-organizational weakness and also a kind of opportunism in our organizations and their following in the PSUs. We must seriously undertake a thorough review of our organization and activities in PSUs and take corrective measures on priority basis particularly in consideration of the strategic sector of the economy the PSUs cover.

8.1.11 One feature must be noted in this context. The contract workers in PSUs played a more active role in the strike action in certain sectors. In Rourkela and Bokaro Steel Plants, strike was partial but contract workers took part in the strike in a big way. In other public sector units as well, in some units of BHEL, BEL, Petroleum etc, contract workers' involvement in the strike action was quite sizable. In north eastern regions contract workers joined the strike action enmasse in all the petroleum units. In

Paradip port, the contract workers' militant demonstration and strike virtually paralysed the port operation. In Mahanadi Coal Fields at Talcher, Orissa which is dominated mainly by contract workers strike was successful. This is no doubt a positive development and reiterates the urgency for more proactive initiative by CITU unions to organize contract workers in all the industries with the active involvement of our regular workers' unions.

8.1.12 In the unorganized sector, strike performance was quite massive which reflected in numerous demonstrations, rallies, road-blockade demonstrations etc throughout the day of the strike in many parts of the country.

8.2 Other Struggles and Activities

8.2.1 Besides the 7th September strike, there have been number of sectoral struggles during the intervening period.

8.2.2 Two days' countrywide strike in August 2010 by the Medical and Sales Representatives under the leadership of Federation of Medical & Sales Representatives' Associations of India (FMRAI) on their demands mainly relating to trade union rights and proper pro-people drug policy by the Govt created good impact throughout the country and finally the Union Labour Department had to call the FMRAI for a meeting on their trade rights and service-rule related issues and the consultation process is still continuing.

8.2.3 40 days' long strike by the contract workers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation on their demands for rise in wage finally compelled the Govt and the NLC management to agree to a respectable wage rise for the contract workers. The strike continued successfully despite sabotaging role by the LPF(DMK) union there and the united stance of all other unions in support of the striking workers and solidarity actions by other union and common people through successful Cuddalore district bandh led to successful resolution of workers' demands.

8.2.4 The strike struggle by the workers of M/s Foxconn a Taiwanese company producing mobile spares for Nokia in Sriperambudur, Tamilnadu is another notable event. The workers under the leadership of CITU submitted charter of demands which the management refused to give cognigence. The factory is located in SEZ area. The workers went on indefinite strike. Management wanted to break the strike by giving some wage rise through the DMK-led LPF union which have no following among the workers. But workers stuck enmasse to strike action. The Govt came out in support of the MNC management and arrested 300 workers along with A Soundarrajan, General Secretary of Tamilnadu State CITU and Muthukumar, Secretary District CITU from the peaceful dharna before the SEZ gate. They were detained for fifteen days in custody and presented before the court under handcuff which demonstrates the anxiety of the state govt to prove its loyalty to the MNC. Main motto of the state govt and the management had been to make the workers shift their union away from CITU. 23 office-bearers and activists of the union were suspended. But nothing could deter the striking workers to continue their struggle under CITU leadership. Statewide solidarity was organized in support of the Foxconn workers struggle. Finally the strike was called off at the intervention of Labour Commissioner and assurance given by him to sort out the issues. The experience of Foxconn struggle and previous Hyundai struggle and its widespread propaganda through statewide solidarity action has also helped CITU to establish contact in 13 more modern industrial units in and around Chennai.

8.2.5 Coal workers staged industrywide struggle against disinvestment during the intervening period and CITU led All India Coal Workers Federation took the frontline role. Last CITU working Committee already reported about one day industrywide strike by the coal workers on 5th May at the initiative of

CITU alone since all other unions deserted the strike action at the last moment. After the successful strike of 5th May, other federations in coal industry agreed to go for joint agitation against disinvestment on 18th October 2010, i.e., the day shares of Coal India Ltd will be offered for sale. On 18th October 2010 despite inaction of other federations, powerful agitations in various forms including partial strike in certain pockets took place in Coal India. Despite opportunism of some federations creating disruption and confusion on joint struggle, CITU's consistent initiative and campaign against disinvestment could at least create such a situation in the entire Coal Industry that the issue of disinvestment could be brought fore in the regular discourse and interaction among the mass of the workers at the pit level and in that process an opinion of general opposition to disinvestment could be developed. This could defeat the hell-bent campaign by the Coal India management to make the coal workers a party to their unscrupulous game by attracting them in purchasing the shares of Coal India kept reserved for them. Out of total 10 per cent shares to be disinvested, 10 per cent, i.e., 6.3 crore shares were kept reserved for the employees but the workers en masse rejected to purchase the shares and only 8 per cent of the shares reserved for the workers, i.e., 60.8 lakh shares could be sold to the employees, mainly to the executives. Management could not get even one per cent workers by their side to purchase the shares. Through widespread initiative and consistent campaign, the leadership of All India Coal Workers' Federation (CITU) could effectively rise to the occasion in discharging their crucial class-responsibility and successfully develop the consciousness among the mass of the coal workers against the real face of disinvestment.

8.2.6 Around 4500 Mid Day Meal workers from 13 states staged militant demonstration before Parliament on 25th November 2010 at the initiative of All India Coordination Committee of Mid Day Meal Workers (CITU).

8.2.7 During the intervening period Anganwadi workers were also in various forms of struggles and mobilizations. Most notable has been indefinite strike by the Anganwadi workers in Maharashtra jointly by various Anganwadi unions from 18th October in which CITU federation played the pioneering role. Strike continued for eight days and finally was called off on 26th October 2010 after the Maharashtra Govt agreed for an increase in remuneration and bonus payment. In Karnataka also Anganwadi workers staged indefinite dharna and sit-in demonstration at the initiative of CITU union in November which continued for 6 days. It was called off after the state govt assured to consider the demands of the workers.

8.2.8 All the unions of both employees and officers of BSNL have gone for three days strike action from 1st December 2010 to protest against disinvestment and for other demands. The strike continued for two days and strike was total. On the second day of strike, the management called the joint action committee of BSNL unions for discussion and assured to consider the issues raised by the unions. The strike was called off for the third day. On 1st December, CITU unions in all the PSUs staged solidarity demonstration in solidarity with the BSNL strike and also sent telegrams to Prime Minister demanding immediate stoppage of disinvestment.

8.2.9 In Andhra Pradesh, number of long-drawn strike struggles was organized during the intervening period. Of them notable were 27 days long statewide strike by 6000 workers of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Sector in July/August 2010 and 40 days long strike by 1200 workers of Bhetancherla Polish Factory at Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. Six lakh beedi workers also staged 32 days long statewide united strike action with the involvement of seven central trade unions and 58 independent unions and finally compelled the Govt to notify increase in wages along with DA and other benefits. Also from 13th December onwards, 60,000 ASHA workers in the state started strike action demanding fixed wages for the ASHA workers. Also there had been militant struggle and March to Assembly by the

25000 IKP animator workers, mostly women, in December braving brutal attack by the police severely injuring the president and secretary of the union. Ultimately the Govt has to retreat from its decision to remove those workers.

8.3 All India Meetings & Conferences

8.3.1 The All India Conference of Waterfront Workers' Federation of India was held Tutikorin on 11-12 November 2010. Around 170 delegates attended the conference from all the ports & docks of the country and from among the seamen attended the conference representing a membership of 10400 from the Port & Dock and 4000 from Seamen.

8.3.2 The Conference of Construction Workers' Federation of India was held on 24-26 October 2010 at Kolkata with the participation of 428 delegates representing a membership of 9,50,000 from all over the country. The conference was also attended by seven fraternal delegates from the construction sector unions of Egypt, Australia, England, Newzeeland, Japan, Greece and Peru who also greeted the conference.

8.3.3 The extended meeting of the All India Coordination Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions (CITU) was held on 13-14 November 2010 at New Delhi to have a review of organization and activities in the public sector units and plan on movement against the ongoing disinvestment drive by the Govt. Total 140 representatives from 37 public sector units from 14 states attended the meeting. A written self critical report on our activities in public sector units, review of the current phase of wage negotiation, participation in 7th September General Strike and our approach towards struggle against disinvestment was placed before the meeting on behalf of CITU which was deliberated upon by the PSU representatives present in the meeting. The Report clearly pointed out that exept in coal industry and BSNL, the participation in 7th September General Strike by the PSU employees had been extremely unsatisfactory which reveals serious organizational weakness and also dominance of opportunism among the leadership. The same lukewarm attitude was also reflected in response and mobilization of PSU workers in the struggle against disinvestment. 49 delegates took part in deliberation. From the meeting certain organizational tasks were undertaken. Decision was taken to observe "Anti-Disinvestment Day" on 1st December 2010 and Contract workers' Demands Day on 21st December 2010 through joint demonstration of regular and contract workers in all the PSUs.

8.4 All India Coordination Committee of Working Women

8.4.1 The AICCWW met in Hyderabad on 4- 5 August 2010. The attendance this time was comparatively satisfactory. The meeting reviewed the 9th Convention of AICCWW in Thiruvananthapuram and the participation of women in the 13th conference of CITU. Some state ccwws have discussed and made efforts to ensure large participation of women in the 7th September all India strike of the central trade unions. The compilation of several important documents of CITU related to the work among working women was published and distributed at the meeting. It was decided to publish another booklet focussing on the working women's struggles for 8 hour working day and the present tasks.

8.4.2 We have decided to observe this year as the Centenary year of International Women's Day. Though some state committees have translated and published the booklet on the Legacy of IWD, many have not yet taken up the campaign focussing on the demands as envisaged. All the state committees of CITU should take up the campaign seriously and plan for rallies of working women at the state capitals on the occasion of International Women's Day in 2011.

9.0 MARCH TO PARLIAMENT ON FEBRUARY 23

9.1 In the aftermath of 7th September general strike all the Central Trade Unions of the country except BMS met on 5th October 2010 at New Delhi to decide to hold a massive workers' March to Parliament on 23rd February 2011 to press for the same five point demands. On 8th December 2010, the Federations of the state govt employees, central govt employees, employees of banks, insurance, defence establishments, railways and other sectors irrespective of affiliations held a joint meeting along with central trade unions to endorse the call for March to Parliament of 23rd February 2011 and pledged to mobilize their mite in the said programme.

9.2 In the follow up of the successful all in united countrywide strike action against the fall out of the neoliberal economic policy regime, we have to make the Parliament March programme the biggest ever mobilization of the working class in the national capital. The political implication and impact of a militant and massive mobilization of workers belonging to trade unions of all affiliations against the anti-people policies of the Govt in the run up to the assembly elections in four states in the country including West Bengal and Kerala is immense. Moreover, this mobilization is going to play a crucial role in cementing further the all in unity of the trade unions of all affiliations in the struggle against economic policy regime.

9.3 Quite naturally CITU has to take the frontline role in mobilizing its fullest potential in the March to Parliament programme of 23rd February 2011. The extended meeting of CITU Secretariat held on 27th and 28th November 2010 has decided to mobilize at least 1.50 lakh workers at Delhi on that day. Accordingly quota was distributed among the states.

9.4 CITU's camp for the stay of participants will be at Ramlila Maidan and the camp will open from 21st February 2010 evening. Comrades from the distant states should reach Delhi on 22nd February itself and plan their travel programme accordingly. Circular has already been sent to all the state committees and industrywise federations urging upon them to plan and unleash intensive campaign both independently and jointly to reach the widest section of workers and prepare for mobilizing maximum possible workers to cross the quota given to the states for mobilization. It has also been decided by the Secretariat that the campaign for Parliament March of 23rd February should be taken up with all seriousness of implementing an action programme. Comrades while deliberating on the Report should speak on the campaign programme planned and implemented for the March to Parliament of 23rd February and ascertain mobilization target from the respective states/federations.

9.5 The All India Fishers & Fisheries Workers' Federation has decided to hold demonstration before Parliament on 22nd February on their own demand and the Anganwadi workers' joint demonstration will be held on 24th February. State Committees should take initiative also to ensure mobilizations in these two programmes of fishers and anganwadi workers who would also join the 23rd February programme.

9.6 Secondly, to reiterate again, coming together of all the trade union centres to fight on the most burning issues before the working class itself generates enthusiasm among the workers in general, even those not yet unionised. Serious organisational effort to reach those yet non-unionised sections of workers with the call for all in united struggle would definitely get a good response and unionisation can be broadened in a big way. CITU must take this opportunity in broadening the horizon of its organisational reach.

10.0 AFFILIATION TO WFTU

10.1 The Report adopted by the last working committee meeting of CITU held in July 2010 noted on the above subject as under:

"Since its inception, CITU preferred not to affiliate with World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) based on the-then developments and WFTU's class-collaborationist policies in the seventies and eighties. But CITU always cooperated with the WFTU activities in respect of international solidarity of the working class and its role in support of the socialist countries while remaining critical on its anti-class-struggle approach and its refusal to take an assertive anti-imperialist stand. Despite remaining unaffiliated, CITU participated in all the WFTU Congresses and meetings of TUIs held during the intervening period.

After the collapse of Soviet Union, which had been the main financial support behind WFTU, it became virtually dormant and non-functional for quite some time. Some of its sectoral wings like TUI-Public Service, TUI-Metal, TUI-Construction made effort to remain active in the concerned sectors and maintain coordination and solidarity within the concerned sectoral unions of different countries. CITU fully associated and cooperated with these TUI initiatives and also headed some of the TUIs as main office bearers while not formally affiliating with WFTU.

A major initiative was taken to revive WFTU with the leading role of Cuban trade union and in the Havana Congress of WFTU held in 2007 a new leadership was elected. It may be mentioned here that on the eve of that conference at Havana, CITU was repeatedly pursued for formal affiliation with WFTU. But, while fully cooperating with WFTU in all its activities, we decided to maintain status quo in the matter of affiliation.

After Havana Congress, WFTU has also become more forthright in asserting a clear anti-imperialist stand and improved its activities and coordination to a considerable extent. Of course in the organisational front, WFTU is yet to consolidate and properly structure itself by way of ensuring regularity in affiliations, proper coordination, wider headway in the movement in Europe and other advanced industrialised countries, and some major developing countries as well.....

Meantime pro-capitalist international trade union forums like ICFTU and WCL got merged to form ICTU and in that process, CITU was again and again insisted and persuaded by ICFTU and WCL to join the merged entity-the ITUC, which we firmly declined in view of their class collaborationist policies.

In view of the changes in the international scenario, perhaps a time has come when we should re-look and review our stand regarding the character of our relations with WFTU with a positive approach. Present global economic crisis is going to be prolonged and a recurring one. The world capitalist order has been put on somewhat defensive and the imperialist forces have become more desperate in its hegemonist design, obviously in its hell bent bid to tide over the crisis. Such a situation is having a serious bearing on the working class movement and warrants consolidation of the working class movement on firm ideological and anti-imperialist platform. CITU has to play more active role in strengthening that platform in view of its wide exposure to international fraternity in the trade union movement.

The next Congress of WFTU is slated to be held in sometimes in April next year. Sometimes in the month of October or November, a CITU delegation is slated to meet the WFTU leadership in Athens to have bilateral interaction on issues of common interests and WFTU-CITU cooperation. In the light of our discussion with the WFTU leaders, we should seriously consider the issue of our affiliation with

WFTU and take decision in the next meeting of General Council.”

10.2 The deliberation in the CITU working Committee while upholding above approach opined in favour of taking affiliation with WFTU and playing more active role in the field of international relations.

10.3 As decided by Working Committee a delegation comprising A K Padmanabhan, Tapan Sen and Swadesh Dev Roye met the WFTU Secretariat 2-3 November 2010 at its Headquarter at Athens and had detail deliberations on issues highlighted by the working committee. WFTU leadership also requested the CITU delegation to affiliate with WFTU and take a leading role in its functioning.

10.4 The CITU Secretariat in its last meeting held on 26th November 2010 discussed the matter again on the basis of report of the visit of CITU delegation to WFTU headquarter and decided to propose before CITU General Council for affiliation of CITU with WFTU. CITU also decided to attend the forthcoming Congress of WFTU to be held in Athens on 6-10 April 2011 with a 26 member delegation.

11.0 ORGANISATION

11.1 We are having a special discussion on organisation in this General Council and hence report on organisation is being circulated separately.

12.0 CONCLUSION AND TASKS

12.1 The challenges before us have already been elucidated at the introductory portion of the report.

12.2 To reiterate again, we have before us big political battle when assembly elections are going to take place in both the Left ruled states of West Bengal and Kerala along with Tamilnadu and Assam. The ruling class actively aided by bourgeois media has already been carrying on virulent tirade against the Left forces. In fact there have been a gang up of all forces of right reaction and ultra-Left anarchists to weaken and marginalise the forces of mainstream Left from its intervening position and capacity in the national political scenario in opposition to the right wing pro-imperialist policies of the ruling polity. This has got a serious implication for the country's working class movement since the since the demands and aspirations of the working people are being consistently voiced only by the Left forces only at political level.

12.3 Thus the immediate task before the class conscious working class movement is to firmly stand by the Left forces in the forthcoming political battle. CITU has to take the frontline role to mobilise the working people in intensive campaign to expose the anti-people policies of the ruling polity led by Congress Party and its allies throughout the country and in West Bengal and Kerala in particular.

12.4 Secondly, coming together of all the central trade unions and other federations to fight against price rise, attack on labour rights, mass scale contractorisation, deprivation to the unorganised sector workers and reckless disinvestment of shares of PSUs –all fall out of the pro-imperialist and anti-people economic policies of the Congress led Govt at the centre has opened a new opportunity of heightening the united struggle of the working class to offensive stage. To sustain and strengthen the united platform by mobilising working people in a massive way is also the priority task before CITU. CITU's vigorous initiative to mobilise its fullest potential in the March to Parliament Programme of 23rd February must be understood as the most crucial task at this political juncture and this understanding has to be carried down to grass root level to ensure the biggest ever mobilisation of CITU at the national capital on February 23.

12.5 Based on above understanding the General Council undertakes the following tasks:

- ◆ Mobilise and actively involve working class in campaign for left forces in ensuing assembly election in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Assam.
- ◆ Massive mobilisation by CITU (1.5 lakhs, as per the quota) for the 23rd February 2011 'March to Parliament'; to be preceded by intensive campaign covering all members of CITU, workers under the influence of other trade unions and those not belonging to any union; all the state committees of CITU, industrial federations and affiliated unions to meet and plan the details of the campaign and mobilisation
- ◆ Efforts to be made to put into practice CITU's perspective on joint activities
- ◆ Independent campaigns and struggles to be intensified by all our unions in different sectors focusing on the specific demands of their members; efforts to be made by state committees to organise massive state level joint mobilisations of our affiliated unions (in the unorganised sector) on common demands during the budget sessions, e.g. strict implementation of labour laws, minimum wages, welfare boards, social security benefits, etc
- ◆ 40th Anniversary year of CITU is coming to close on 30th May 2011. As per decision of the 13th Conference of CITU observation of the anniversary year and its culmination have to be organised by all state committees, federations and affiliated unions in a befitting manner.
- ◆ Centenary year of International Women's Day will come to close on 8th March 2011. As decided by the 13th Conference, 8th March 2011 should be observed through well-prepared massive rallies of working women and wide circulation of the booklet published by the Centre.
- ◆ Massive campaign demanding improvement of the Employees' Pension Scheme with the booklet already published by the CITU Centre
- ◆ Planned efforts for cadre development by organising state level trade union classes
- ◆ Ensure timely submission of annual returns in 2011; there is definite improvement in the timely submission of annual returns by many states; however shortcomings do continue in case of some state committees and unions; the membership targets the state committees have taken in the Working Committee meeting in Delhi in July 2010, was 84 lakhs; serious efforts should be made by all the state committees to fulfil this target; proper planning and preparations should be made.

12.6 Comrades, the challenges before us are no doubt stupendous, but our ideology and its serious pursuit in the field of mobilization and action is the greatest weapon at our command. We must expand and consolidate our organization in that direction with the determination to combat.

12.7 We are confident, we will be able to definitely overcome all hurdles to carry the working class struggle to a new height.

With greetings

**Long live unity of the working class
Long Live CITU**

**Tapan Sen
General Secretary**

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

General Council Meeting

8-11 January 2011, Nasik

Report on Activities

The 7th September 2010 general strike, received unprecedented response from the working class of the country. In most of the states all the central trade unions involved including INTUC took active part in the strike.

In some states including West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, the strike took the form of total bandh. Massive rallies were held in the district headquarters and industrial centres in these states. In some other states too as in large areas in Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur, Orissa and Punjab, the strike turned into a bandh.

In Punjab, Haryana and Orissa, the impact of the strike was conspicuous due to the large participation of the road transport workers. In Mumbai, taxis and auto-rickshaws were off the road and the municipal workers were in total strike.

In many of the major airports flights had to be cancelled or rescheduled due to the strike. Overwhelming majority of the state government employees except in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh participated in the strike. The participation of employees in the telecom and postal departments, AG office, Income Tax and Audit offices was massive. The employees of the 41 ordinance factories and armament depots under the Army, Navy and Air force, MES offices and the 50 DRDO laboratories all over the country participated in the strike in a massive manner. Strike was total in 3 units of BEL and partial in the others.

The entire financial sector covering the banks and the insurance companies witnessed almost total strike throughout the country.

The strike received very good response in some collieries like ECL, BCCL, CCL, SECL, NCL, WCL, CMPDIL, and Singareni Collieries and was near total in the non coal mining belt spreading over Jharkhand, Orissa, Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. It was almost total in the petroleum refineries and marketing sector in the Eastern, North Eastern and Southern parts of the country and partial in North and Western India

However, the strike was partial in most of the steel factories except in Durgapur, IISCO and Visakhapatnam where it was massive. It was also partial in the ports except in Kochi and Kolkata where it received massive response.

The newly emerging industrial centres in Haryana, the Special Economic Zones also witnessed participation of workers in the strike.

Unorganised sector workers in brick-kilns, construction, head-load, transport, beedi, and mandi-workers took part in strike in a big way, and thousands organised rail-roko and rasta-roko at various centres throughout the country. Anganwadi employees all over the country participated in large numbers in

the strike as well as in the protest demonstrations.

Andhra Pradesh: Strike was successful in the state. 6 out of 8 industrial areas in Hyderabad which were on complete strike. In other two, strike was partial. In Visakhapatnam, Hindustan Shipyard, Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels and Hindustan Zinc, Dredging Corporation of India witnessed almost 100% strike. In Vizag Steel Plant strike was 90%, in Defence sector 70%, FSNL 70% HPCL 40%, and in Vizag Port 40%. In the Special Economic Zone of Vizag, 100% workers joined the strike action. Among municipal workers strike was almost total. The Central and state govt offices were almost vacant. Anganwadi employees in all the projects in the state and the coffee workers were on complete strike. The mid-day meal workers and ASHAs participated in the strike in a big way throughout the state except in a few districts. Rail roko and rasta roko was organised throughout the state. Railway and other workers demonstrated in different parts of the state.

Assam: The strike was almost 100% in the state. In Guwahati, public vehicles including private city buses, auto rickshaws were off the road. Picketing was organised in several parts. More than 2000 workers and trade union leaders were arrested throughout the state. In the Tea Gardens strike was unprecedented owing to joint initiative by CITU and INTUC. Bank, LIC, BSNL, Postal, Defence, Motor Transport and State and Central govt employees participated in the strike. In Oil India, Numaligarh Refinery, Coal India, Powergrid Corporation the strike is almost total. In BRPL, and Digboi strike was partial among the regular workers but the contract workers were on total strike.

Bihar: The strike was huge success in Bihar. In some districts there was bandh like situation. Strike in oil sector, including refineries was complete. In Patna, 80 per cent auto rickshaws were off the road. Chakka jam was organized in several places. Anganwadi employees were on strike in many districts. In Jamui, Beedi workers struck work en masse and blocked the road for several hours. Rail blockade was organised in Patna and other places. CITU leaders were arrested.

Chattisgarh: The coal belt in the state reported above 75% strike on the whole. The privatised Balco witnessed almost complete strike both by regular workers and contract workers. The markets in some districts were closed owing to strike by all the workers. All the 102 warehouses in the state were almost closed due to strike. Beedi workers and anganwadi employees also joined the strike in a big way. In Bhilai Steel Plant, all the entry gates were jammed by thousands of workers and 50 per cent contract workers did not join the work. Strike was massive among anganwadi, contract workers, construction workers, bedi workers and mandi workers throughout the state.

Delhi: There was total strike in several industrial areas of Delhi. Road roko was organised in several places. In Jantar Mantar dharna was organised by a section of striking workers mainly FMRAI and Hotel workers. Around 35000 workers took part in processions at various places.

Gujarat: Strike call received a mixed response from the industrial workers while the response was good among the unorganised sector workers. Rallies and picketing were held in several places; hundreds of workers were arrested in different districts.

Haryana: There was complete strike was in Haryana Road Transport Corporation and almost total strike in Electricity Board. Several industrial areas were affected by strike. University employees participated in the strike in a big way. Contract workers at National Fertilisers and IOC Refinery at Panipat were on strike. Striking workers of brick kiln, forest, construction, etc organised rallies and demonstrations. Anganwadi employees were in strike en masse throughout the state. Police resorted to lathi charge and arrest of workers in some places. It is significant that almost all the major industrial units

in the Gurgaon area including Honda, Hero-Honda, Hilux, Richo, Mandi-India, Satyam Auto, Lumax, RDC Concrete, Automax, Ranbaxy, Mediat, Dhanuka Pesticide, Vibha Global, etc, many of which do not have even trade unions witnessed spontaneous and total strike by the workers.

Himachal Pradesh: All the hydel project workers were on complete strike. The industrial areas reported massive response to strike call. The strike was almost total among the anganwadi employees and the hotel workers in Shimla. Massive demonstration was held in front of all district headquarters in the state except one.

Jammu & Kashmir: A large procession of striking workers and employees from the industrial areas, banks, insurance, government employees and other establishments was held in Jammu.

Jharkhand: There was massive strike in Coal, Bank and Insurance sectors. Coal production and dispatch was totally paralyzed. Train services were badly affected owing to rail-roko agitation throughout the state. Petroleum transportation was also stopped. Complete strike was observed in Bauxite industry in Lohargada and Indian Explosives factory. Some industrial areas were completely closed and more than 135 workers were arrested. Strike was massive in the stone-quarries, crusher, private transport, beedi etc in some districts.

Thousands of construction workers struck work and staged militant demonstrations. HEC and Bokaro steel plant reported partial strike among the regular workers but the contract workers were on strike en masse. Road transport services were seriously disrupted. Markets were closed; workers of unorganised sector viz., stone quarries, beedi, construction, private transport etc participated in the strike in a big way and held big processions.

Karnataka: Impact of strike was quite visible throughout the state as both organised and unorganised sector joined the strike in a big way. Almost all the districts witnessed massive joint rallies of the strikers. One lakh eighty thousand auto-rickshaws were off the road. In public sector units strike was partial. In major private sector companies in Bangalore and Mysore like Mico, ITC, Hindalco, Polyfibre, Rajashree Cement, L&T, Volvo Motors, Vikrant Tyres, Reid & Taylor, Wipro, Kirloskar Toyota, Hutti Gold Mines etc and in almost all medium and small factories, massive strike took place. Anganwadi employees, beedi and construction workers took part in the strike and procession in a big way. In Banagalore, a massive joint procession was taken out.

Madhya Pradesh: There was massive strike in coal, NFL, and the defence ordnance factory; it was partial in BHEL. Massive rallies were organised in several industrial areas. The unorganised sector workers of beedi, loading-unloading, rice-mills, anganwadi, etc joined the strike in a big way. Medical representatives also joined the strike en masse.

Maharashtra: There was massive response from organised and unorganised workers in several industrial centres in the state. Taxis and auto-rickshaws were off the road in Mumbai owing to total strike. 50 per cent workers of state transport (BEST) were on strike. In the Naval Dock 80% workers were on strike. Banks, insurance, anganwadi, mid day meal workers, mathadi workers, railway contract workers, home based, gram panchyat and electricity workers, medical reps joined the strike. Massive processions have been taken out by the striking workers in several cities including Mumbai.

Manipur: A bandh like situation has emerged on the strike day as the passenger-bus services, auto-rickshaws and other private transport were off the road and all shops, markets and establishments were closed. No flight took off from Imphal Airport. The Govt offices, post offices, BSNL and A.G

Offices were practically vacant owing to strike by the concerned employees. 15 workers, mostly women workers were arrested while picketing in the market.

Odisha: Massive response to strike call was received from nine districts; public transport was off the road. In the industries in these districts, strike was almost total. Mahanadi Coal Field witnessed massive strike. NALCO workers also joined the strike action in a big way.

In the iron-ore mines and sponge-iron belt of Orissa, strike was total. In Rourkela Steel Plant, strike was partial. The unorganised sector workers including anganwadi employees, construction, beedi, ASHAs, contract workers etc also joined the strike in a big way and participated in massive rallies and demonstrations in several places.

Punjab: Total strike witnessed all over the State affecting all sectors, including power and transport. Anganwadi employees took part in the strike en masse and participated in road-blockade demonstrations in several places. Several industrial centres reported massive response to strike action by the industrial workers and the textile workers in particular. Almost all the industrial centres including Chandigarh witnessed massive demonstration by tens of thousands of striking workers. Rasta Roko and protest rallies were staged in several places in the state by the striking workers. Workers of the unorganised sector, particularly from brick-kiln, anganwadi, NREGA, Mid-day meal, ASHAs, Power loom, contract workers etc responded to the strike call in a big way. Road and rail roko were organised in 60 places.

Rajasthan: Response of strike was almost total where road transport workers paralysed traffic throughout the state. The industrial workers in many industrial centres joined the strike in large numbers. Notable was complete closure of operation in all the major cement plants in the state owing to complete strike. Also notable was the complete strike in major Textile Mills. In Jaipur over 3000 workers took out procession. Unorganised sector workers in loading-unloading in the mandis also joined the strike paralysing the transactions in the Mandi. At Bhilwara police clashed with the workers' procession and arrested many.

Tamil Nadu: In Tamil Nadu, in almost all the major industrial establishment in and around Chennai, viz., MRF, Enfield, Carborandum Universal, L&T, Audco, Areva, Hindustan Motor, T I Diamond Chain, Taslet India etc, strike was almost total. In State Electricity Board strike was massive. Strike in Neyveli Lignite, BHEL, Salem Steel was partial. In Tiruppur garment industry area employing more than 3 lakh workers, the strike was total.

The small & medium industrial estates throughout the state witnessed complete strike. In the textile and engineering sector of Coimbatore, massive strike took place. Auto-rickshaw strike was almost total throughout the state. Unorganised workers in construction, beedi, head load, handloom, tailoring, cashew and rubber plantation workers also joined the strike. Rasta Rokos and rail roko was organised at 150 centres in the state and 30000 workers and leaders were arrested.

Uttar Pradesh: Many industrial centres in the state reported massive strike action and militant demonstrations. Medical Representatives also took part in the strike in a big way.

Uttarakhand: Strike was mostly partial in the state except in BSNL, banks, insurance, defence establishments and Survey of India. It had good response in the sugar mills, tea plantations and hotels. Unorganised sector workers in anganwadi, Asha, contractor workers participated in the strike in a big way. Anganwadi employees, Asha, Mid-day-meal, contract workers participated in demonstrations.

Activities from the Centre

Foundation stone laid for P Ramamurti Bhawan-

The foundation stone for the P Ramamurti Bhawan, envisaged to be developed as a permanent school and research centre for imparting trade union and ideological education to CITU cadres, was laid on 16th July 2010, by Com MK Pandhe, vice president of CITU. The Electricity Employees' Federation of India and the All India Road Transport Workers' Federation will also have their central offices in the building.

A meeting of the CITU leaders from the 'Hindi speaking' states was held in BT Ranadive Bhawan in Delhi on 24th July. The presidents/ general secretaries from Chattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand participated in the meeting in addition to the CITU leadership from the centre. The meeting discussed the organisation in the concerned states and the preparations for the 7th September all India joint strike.

All India Coordination Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions (CITU)

A meeting of the All India Coordination Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions was held in Delhi on 13 – 14 November. More than 140 delegates representing unions of both regular and contract workers from 37 CPSUs in 14 states participated in the meeting. It decided to observe 1st December 2010, the day when the three day BSNL employees' strike was to commence as 'Anti Disinvestment Day' through demonstrations in all the public sector units and sending of fax/ telegrams to the Prime Minister. It has also decided to observe all India Contract Workers' Demands Day on 21st December 2010 through joint demonstrations/ mobilisation of regular and contract workers in all the public sector units.

The meeting decided to organise campaign and agitation including conventions, demonstrations, dharna and rallies and if possible strike against the attempts to disinvest PSUs like Powergrid Corporation, IOC, ONGC, Shipping Corporation of India etc. It was also decided that all out efforts should be made to ensure maximum mobilisation of public sector workers for the 23rd February 2011 joint 'March to Parliament' of the central trade unions.

AICCWW meeting

A meeting of the AICCWW (CITU) was held in Hyderabad on 4- 5 August 2010. The meeting was attended by members from all the states represented in the coordination committee except Delhi. AK Padmanabhan, president of CITU participated in the meeting. A compilation of some important CITU documents on working women published by the CITU was released on the occasion. The meeting decided to publish a second booklet on the demand for 8 hour work, and a series of pamphlets highlighting the demands of equal wages, maternity benefits and crèches, and 33% reservation for women in the legislative bodies, but these could not be published till now. These need to be completed and published before the conclusion of the centenary of the International Women's Day, on 8th March 2011. It called upon all the state committees of CITU and the state ccwws to ensure participation of working women in large numbers in the 7th September all India strike and also in the state level mobilisations on 8th March 2011 marking the culmination of the centenary of IWD.

The meeting decided to target Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Assam and

Uttar Pradesh as priority for the constitution of the state level coordination committees.

All India Coal Workers' Federation

All India Coal Workers' Federation (CITU) has given a call for nation wide agitational programme from 18 – 20 October when the Initial Public Offer would begin. It has also supported the separate calls of BMS and HMS led federations calling for a nation wide strike on 18th October.

All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers

A delegation of AIFAWH met the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women and submitted a note on the conditions of the anganwadi employees and held detailed discussions on their demands.

A national workshop on organisation was held on 29 – 31 August in Hyderabad. 167 state level leaders of the unions from 20 states participated in the workshop. There was no representation from Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.

At the initiative of AIFAWH a joint national convention of anganwadi federations affiliated to CITU, AITUC, HMS, and INTUC was held on 24th December in Delhi. The convention adopted a declaration calling for participation in the 23rd February 2011 'March to Parliament' and for a joint dharna on the specific demands of the anganwadi employees on 24th February.

AIFAWH extended a token financial support of Rs 1 lakh for the families of the anganwadi employees who were victims of the Maoist and Trinamool violence in West Bengal.

Construction Workers' Federation of India

The 7th national conference of the Construction Workers' Federation of India was held in Kolkata on 24 – 26 October. 429 delegates and observers from 20 states participated in the conference. A new 130 member working committee including 36 office bearers was unanimously elected with R Singaravelu as president, Debanjan Chakraborty as the general secretary and SB Karmakar as the treasurer.

BSNL Employees' Union

More than 2000 BSNL employees of the Calcutta Telephone circle observed hunger strike from 1st November and held a demonstration on 3rd November protesting against disinvestment and stopping of the payment of bonus.

Thousands of BSNL employees from all over the country held a demonstration near Parliament on 15th November protesting against disinvestment and retrenchment of employees through VRS. Later a memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister and the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

FMRAI

The Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives' Associations of India (FMRAI) organised a two days' country wide strike on 17 – 18 August demanding constitution of a tripartite committee for the sales promotion employees and strict implementation of the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act. Around 2 lakhs sales promotion employees working in the pharmaceutical and other

industries participated in the strike in more than 350 cities and towns in the country. Special general body meetings, gate meetings etc were held for the success of the strike; more than 2 lakhs hand bills were distributed. A large number of women sales promotion employees participated in the picketing and meetings in most of the towns. The strike attracted many new field workers towards the FMRAI. FMRAI decided to conduct a massive 'March to Parliament' and dharna in Delhi on 15th November.

All India Fishers and Fisheries Workers' Federation

The All India Fishers and Fisheries Workers' Federation (AIFFWF) held a national level workshop in Hyderabad on 30 October – 1st November. 74 state level leaders from 7 states participated in the meeting which discussed the impact of the government policies on the inland and marine fishers and about the organisation. The meeting of the national committee which was held on the occasion decided to organise a dharna near Parliament on 22nd February 2011 on the specific demands of the fishers and also mobilise fishers for the 'March to Parliament' programme of the central trade unions on 23rd February 2011.

Demonstration of Mid day meal workers

Around 5000 mid day meal workers from 12 states – Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand - participated in the demonstration near Parliament in Delhi under the banner of All India Mid Day Meal Workers' Coordination Committee of CITU, on 25th November 2010. The demands included minimum wages, social security benefits, regular payment of wages etc. Later a memorandum was submitted to the Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development.

Participation in International Conferences/ Seminars etc

On the invitation of the WFTU, a delegation of CITU comprising AK Padmanabhan, Tapan Sen and S Dev Roye, president, general secretary and secretary in charge of the international department visited the WFTU headquarters in Athens on 31st October to 3rd November. They held discussions on international trade union movement, WFTU programme and its ensuing 16th conference with the WFTU leadership including its general secretary George Mavrikos, deputy general secretary Valentine Pacho and others. They also addressed meetings of migrant workers which included large number of Bengali and Hindi speaking workers.

Com Sudhir Kumar, president of Delhi state committee of CITU participated in the 4th EU – India joint seminar on Employment and Social Policy held in Brussels on 5-6 July 2010

Com Ardhendu Dakshi participated in the meeting of the executive council of the Trade Union International – Metal and Mining held in Minsk, the capital of Belarus on 22 – 23 September.

Andaman and Nicobar

All the 12 candidates of Port and Dock Workers' Union affiliated to CITU won the elections to the Working Committee of the Andaman Labour Force, held on 14th August.

Andhra Pradesh

The period since the last Delhi Working Committee meeting of CITU has seen a spate of struggles in

the state. The state committee or the affiliated unions either initiated the struggles or intervened in the spontaneous struggles and later led them.

Contracting & Outsourcing employees

More than 5 lakhs employees are employed in the government related departments as contract or outsourced employees. The state committee has decided to concentrate on organising these sections. Some of the experiences in organising them are given below:

104 mobile service contract employees in medical & health sector

3000 paramedics, pharmacists, lab technicians and drivers working in the '104' service, which has been outsourced by the state government for providing basic medical services in rural areas, went on strike for 26 days in November under the banner of the CITU affiliated union, demanding increase in wages and better working conditions. Intensive campaign through leaflets, e mails etc was conducted as a result of which the strike which started in 16 districts spread to 5 more districts. A massive 'Chalo Hyderabad' was organised on their demands.

The state committee is making efforts to organise the contract and other employees in different government programmes like the 'Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), the 'Inclusive Education Resource Teachers (IERT) employed under the Rajeev Education Mission, the computer teachers etc. Campaigns, demonstrations, 'March to Assembly' etc are being organised on their demands under the banner of CITU.

A state level strike of the gram panchayat workers was organised for 27 days from 14th August demanding implementation of government order on their wages. Majority of the 40000 workers, most of them contract and contingent workers, participated in the strike, which took place in more than 7000 panchayats. It was successful in 74% of the major panchayats. This was the biggest strike in the sector since 20 years. The strike was held in the mist of unfavourable political climate, separatist agitations and cuts in budgets allocated to different schemes. Ultimately, the government signed a written agreement. This strike has helped in strengthening our organisation.

80000 Asha workers & community health workers went on strike demanding fixation of wages, payment of pending remuneration from 13th December. This was preceded by a post card campaign, picketing of the district medical and health officers, and relay hunger strike in division centres. The strike is taking place in 80% of the mandals.

Around 25000 people are employed as Indira Kranti Pathakam Animators their main job being to organise and help the Self Help Groups. Mandal level dharnas and picketing of the PD offices were organised on 2nd November and 7th December against the government's attempts to remove them from service. More than 3000 IKP Animators participated.

As the government did not respond, around 4000 IKP Animators marched to the Assembly on 15th December. Police used brutal force against the Animators including the women, particularly targeting the leaders; the general secretary of the union who is also an office bearer of CITU state committee sustained a fracture in her rib. Ultimately the government was compelled to call our union for talks and agreed to scrap the test. It has agreed to call another meeting to discuss the other demands.

For the first time in the last 3- 4 decades all the unions in the beedi industry came together and called

a strike on the demands of the beedi workers. The strike which commenced on 1st November that lasted over a month. The government was compelled to issue a draft notification almost 7 months ahead of schedule, revising the wages to Rs 130 for 1000 beedis.

CITU state committee made serious preparations for the success of the strike. Apart from the comrades responsible for the organisation in the beedi industry, several other state office bearers helped our union during the campaign. Anganwadi, gram panchayat, midday meal, Asha workers extended their solidarity to the strike. Due to our campaign and participation in the strike, we could establish new contacts in 35 mandals, 234 villages and 34 companies in these five districts. 15 new part timers were identified. In the district of Karimnagar, a beedi packer came forward to work as whole timer. We expect to double our membership.

Around 4600 power loom workers and 1500 loom owners in Siricilla, in Telangana went on strike for 21 days under the leadership of CITU, demanding enhancement in wages. Despite the threats from the local MLA belonging to TRS, the workers stood firmly behind CITU to achieve their demands.

An extensive campaign was launched on the issues of the workers in the big and medium industries in Medak district. The campaign started with 35 teams of CITU surveying 755 industrial units, followed by group and gate meetings, and meetings in villages and bastis, general body meetings, etc. 8 industrial conventions were held; 90000 leaflets, 20000 booklets, 5000 posters were distributed. Wall writings were done in 100 centres. 2 Jeep Jathas were also held. The campaign covered 1071 industries and 90000 workers. Relay hunger strikes were held in 10 centres. One day hunger strike and one day picketing were held at the DCL's office. Strike notices were served to DCL, collector and SP. Notices were served in 793 industries.

The campaign culminated in a one day strike which saw unprecedented response from the contract workers. 46000 contract workers participated in the strike from 356 big, medium industries and from public sector industries like BHEL, BDL and ADF. Three processions were held on the day of strike, one in the district centre and other two in industrial areas. The strike was utilised to expand in new industries. New committees were formed in 10 industries.

4 -7 days' state level trade union classes were held for activists from different sectors like the gram panchayat workers, municipal workers, main cadres of CITU, anganwadi employees, etc. Project level study circles and sector and district level classes were held by the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers' union; trade union classes were also held for the university employees, IKP Animators, village servants, and road transport employees. Altogether 3077 workers and employees participated in these classes.

A seminar was organised on 30th November on the occasion of the death anniversary of Com N Prasada Rao. BV Raghavulu, former general secretary of the state committee of CITU delivered the memorial lecture on 'Globalisation - effect on working class'.

CITU state committee took up the major responsibility of organising agitational programmes on the local problems of the people along with other mass organisations. 267 full timers of CITU participated in the hunger strike; seminars were organised in 302 mandals and in all major municipal towns and corporations.

A state level convention of state government contract outsourcing employees was held on 5th September. 260 employees from 21 sectors in 14 districts participated. A state committee was constituted.

A signature campaign has been taken up.

Besides these, different sectors of workers and employees have been conducting sustained campaigns and struggles on their specific demands under the leadership of the CITU affiliated union.

Workers from anganwadi, grama panchayat and mid day meal participated in solidarities programmes organised at the time of strike in beedi sector. It is significant that around 70 anganwadi union activists took up the responsibility for the success of the beedi workers' strike; anganwadi employees' union organised rallies and processions in several districts in support of several struggles of the workers from different sectors including the gram panchayat workers' strike and the strike of the '104' employees.

Assam

A state level convention of mid day meal workers was organised by the Assam Mid day meal workers' union on 2nd October in Guwahati. Around 200 delegates from 9 districts participated in the convention. The convention decided to organise a state level campaign against privatisation.

Bihar

The auto rickshaw drivers in Bihar launched a struggle against the imposition of toll tax in Patna and were successful in getting exemption from the tax. The process of getting permits was also simplified.

Chattisgarh

The first state level convention of working women was held on 21st August. 45 working women from different sectors including from NTPC contract workers, construction workers, mandi workers, beedi workers, vendors, anganwadi employees, steel employees, mid day meal workers, etc participated in the convention.

Delhi

A state level convention was organised by the Delhi state committee of CITU in Noida on 21st August against the UP government's decision to close the office of the Deputy Labour Commissioner in Noida. Around 500 workers from Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Delhi participated in the convention which was addressed by the leaders of Delhi and UP state committees of CITU and CITU centre.

The management of Allied Nippon, Ghaziabad, which produces break shoes for two wheelers and employs 1200 workers, 400 permanent and 800 casual, recruited anti social elements to suppress the trade union activities of the workers. The Allied Nippon Employees' Union decided to observe 3 days' strike against the brutality of these managers from 16th November but deferred the strike on the request from the labour authorities. However, the management goons started hitting the workers and firing injuring 6 workers. In the melee that ensued, one management staff was also injured and later succumbed to his injuries. The police filed cases against the leaders and workers and ransacked their houses.

A massive joint demonstration was held in Ghaziabad on 16th November against the police atrocity, which was addressed by the leaders of CITU, HMS, AITUC, INTUC and BMS.

The footpath and cart vendors and the homeless sleeping on the streets on Kamala Market and Ajmer Gate, who were being harassed by the police launched a struggle against police harassment under the banner of their unions and the CITU local committees and submitted a memorandum to the Police Commissioner. Ultimately the police allowed them to carry out their business. A general body meeting was held on 20th November after this unprecedented success in which large number of workers and vendors participated. The leaders called upon the vendors to bring all the vendors in the city into the organisational fold and fight for their rights.

Gujarat

A state level convention of anganwadi employees was held in Baroda on 25th July under the guidance of the CITU state committee. Around 150 anganwadi employees from 16 districts participated in the convention and unanimously adopted a resolution to continue to be part of the AIFAWH. As per the decision of the convention, project and district level meetings were held in around 22 districts to strengthen the organisation.

Haryana

Thousands of construction workers participated in a massive demonstration in front of the District Commissioner protesting against the attempts to hand over the registration of construction workers under the Act to private agencies. Later a memorandum was submitted to the authorities. This was preceded by block level meetings in the districts of Hisar, Sirsa, and Fatehabad.

A state level rally of mid day meal workers was organised in Rohtak on 31st October demanding regularisation and minimum wages. Hundreds of mid day meal workers from several districts of the state participated. The union also strongly protested handing over the mid day meal programme to ISKON in Kurukshetra district and the attempts to do the same in two more districts despite the earlier assurance to favourably consider the demands of the mid day meal workers by the education minister.

Since several months the CITU Gurgaon district committee has been making efforts to organise the workers in Mark Exhaust IMT, which supplies components to Maruti and Honda. All the 567 workers in the company are employed on contract basis. As the workers formed their union, the employers removed all of them from service. After sustained struggle the labour department intervened and all but 20 workers were reinstated. After the production in the company started, the union made sustained efforts and was able to get the rest of the 20 workers also to be reinstated. Besides, the wages were also increased by Rs 1500 to 2500 and the management agreed to discuss with the union on the common demands of the workers. An agreement was also reached through which 250 workers would be made permanent. Some other benefits like night shift allowance, casual leave, medical leave, earned leave, uniform etc were also achieved.

Jammu and Kashmir

The state committee of CITU has been organising the water carriers in the schools demanding minimum wages and pension and their inclusion in the BPL category. It is also organising the mid day meal workers and launched several struggles forcing the government to promise reservation for mid day meal workers in Class IV posts.

Hundreds of water carriers and mid day meal workers under the leadership of these two unions held

a demonstration in front of the offices of the District Education Officers and submitted memoranda addressed to the Chief Minister, demanding minimum wages and social security benefits. The ASHA workers' union organised a protest demonstration in Jammu on 27th August demanding regular remuneration, minimum wages, and provision of rooms for ASHAs in the PHCs, social security benefits etc. A memorandum was submitted to the Divisional Commissioner.

Jharkhand

A meeting to observe 40th anniversary of CITU was organised in Jamshedpur on 28th July.

Karnataka

A memorandum of settlement was signed on 12th August by the CITU affiliated union in BOSCH, a German MNC manufacturing automotive products in Naganathapura located in the outskirts of Bengaluru. The workers conducted a struggle for 42 days under the leadership of the union including indefinite hunger strike by the office bearers of the union led by Com Prasanna Kumar, president of the union and the general secretary of the Karnataka state committee of CITU.

A massive protest rally was organised by the state committee in Bangalore on 20th October, on the demands of the unorganised sector workers. The demands included fixing the minimum wages at Rs 6000 per month all over the state and Rs 10000 in Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Area, BPL cards to all workers and rice at Rs 2 per kg, free house sites, abolition of contract labour system in all the departmental hospitals, municipalities, electricity supply companies, factories etc and regularisation of the contract workers. In addition several demands of the various sections of the working class were also raised by the rally. Around 15000 workers from all over the state participated in the rally. A minister of the state government came to the rally and announced a meeting with the Chief Minister in November.

The anganwadi union organised an indefinite strike from 15th November on the demands of social security benefits, change in the food supplied to the anganwadi centres etc. Around 20000 anganwadi employees closed the centres and reached Bengaluru to participate in the indefinite dharna on the first day. Around 4000 of them stayed back in the city braving the heavy rain and the pressure from the government. Many Muslim employees too continued in the dharna despite 17th being Ramzaan. Ultimately the government called the leaders to talks and agreed to change the food and to hold talks on the other demands. Though many demands remained, the agitation had to be deferred due to the inclement weather and the uncertain political situation in the state. However, the union decided to continue the struggle on minimum wages and other demands. Anganwadi employees from 93 taluks in 22 districts participated in this struggle, through which the union was able to expand to 5 new taluks.

Kerala

ASHAs in several districts conducted processions and demonstration demanding regular monthly remuneration and making the NRHM a permanent programme.

Special conventions and meetings of working women were organised by several district ccwws in the state for the success of the 7th September all India general strike. A state level trade union class was held for working women activists on 13 – 14 November in EMS Academy in Thiruvananthapuram. 102 working women including ASHAs, anganwadi workers, artisans, plantation and cashew workers, fish-

ers, mid day meal workers, employees of KSEB, Water Authority, KSTA, BSNL, state and central government departments including officers, from all the districts in the class.

A seminar was held in Thiruvananthapuram by the Kerala state ccww as part of the centenary year programmes.

Around 8 lakhs taxi and auto rickshaw workers went on strike on 15th December at the call of CITU, INTUC, AITUC, BMS, UTUC, HMS and STU against the petrol price hike. The joint trade union forum gave a call for indefinite strike in the motor sector from 29th December demanding far rate increase. As per the call of the state committee of CITU dharnas and demonstrations were organised in all district headquarters. State unions and the organisations of the state and central government employees too organised demonstrations and gate meetings in several places.

Madhya Pradesh

A massive convention of unorganised sector workers was held in Bhopal on 26th July. After the convention, thousands of unorganised workers jumped police barricades and marched towards the state Assembly. The demands included minimum wages of Rs 8500, 9000 and 9500 respectively for the unskilled, semi skilled and skilled workers, effective implementation of all the labour laws, control of prices, etc. A memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister was presented to the authorities. The specific demands of the daily wage workers, anganwadi employees, beedi workers, hamalis, construction workers, medical representatives, etc were also raised by the convention.

Medical representatives in Indore held a demonstration in front of the district collector demanding immediate payment of arrears of wages.

Maharashtra

The anganwadi employees in the state went on an indefinite strike from 18th October, at the call of the Maharashtra Rajya Anganwadi Karmachari Kriti Samiti, a joint platform of all the unions of the anganwadi employees in the state. The strike was total and lasted 10 days. The CITU affiliated union organised indefinite district level dharnas in front of the Zilla Parishad offices and the ICDS Commissioner's office and state level dharna at Azad maidan in Mumbai every day as long as the strike continued. Demonstrations were also held in front of the houses of the MLAs and the Ministers in Charge of the districts. On 26th October, a massive rally was held in Mumbai forcing the government to invite the representatives of the unions for discussions. The then Chief Minister agreed to increase the festival allowance and the remuneration being paid by the state government and also promised to look into the matter of pension positively. The strike was suspended for 1 month.

Odisha

An organisational workshop of the Odisha Anganwadi Workers and Helpers' Association was held in Puri on 30 September – 1st October. 31 union activists from 6 districts participated.

Punjab

Thousands of FCI workers participated in a joint dharna organised against the contract labour system, expansion of the public distribution system etc on 31st August, Leaders of CITU, AITUC and INTUC addressed the dharna.

Rajasthan

The Cement Workers and Employees' Union in Chittorgarh organised a dharna on 18th August in front of the Provident Fund office demanding deduction of provident fund.

An impressive rally of mid day meal workers was held by the Mid day meal workers' union in front of the office of the district collector in Dongarpur on 14th October. The union demanded regular payment of wages, implementation of the payment of Rs 1000 declared by the government of India etc.

Tamil Nadu

The workers of Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) went on strike on 11th August demanding increase in the wages and other statutory benefits on par with other government employees. A joint convention of CITU, AITUC, ATP (ADMK) and PTS (PMK) was held in which more than 7000 workers participated. The strike was successful despite the threats of dismissal from the government. 221 workers were imprisoned on false cases and later released on conditional bail. The government was forced to announce a wage increase though it was far from satisfactory.

The workers of the cooperative sugar mills have conducted agitation including stay in strike, hunger strike, and demonstrations etc demanding wages on par with the government employees.

The government transport workers have conducted massive demonstrations demanding wages on par with the electricity employees.

The 9th state convention of the coordination committee of working women was held on 5-7 October. 322 delegates from all the 34 districts in the state representing the unions in the organised and unorganised sector industries participated in the convention. An impressive rally in which around 4500 working women from different sectors participated was organised on the eve of the convention. A new 78 member state ccww was constituted. District level conventions were held in almost all the 34 districts prior to the state convention.

As per the call of the convention, district level demonstrations were held on the demands of working women on 23rd November.

More than 13000 contract workers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation, a giant Mini Ratna PSU went on strike from 19th September demanding regularisation and wage parity. All the unions including CITU, AITUC, LPF, INTUC and ATP were involved in the strike. Though the LPF union signed an agreement with the management agreeing for a wage increase of Rs 45 per day, the workers continued the strike and conducted joint rallies and demonstrations.

A delegation of Parliament Members met the Prime Minister on 21st October and requested him to intervene to favourably look into the demands of the contract workers of Neyveli Lignite and resolve the issue at the earliest.

The workers of Foxconn, a MNC in Sriperambadur in Kancheepuram district, a unit in a SEZ, got organised under the banner of CITU and demanded recognition of their union and negotiations on the charter of demands. As there was no positive response, they went on strike en masse from 22nd September. The management treacherously announced that it has reached an agreement with the LPF union which had no following among the workers. It has suspended 23 leading workers and

imposed 8 days' penal wage cut. Pressure was brought upon the young workers through their families. More than 300 workers along with A Soundararajan, general secretary of Tamil Nadu state committee of CITU and Muthu Kumar, secretary of its Kancheepuram district committee were arrested and remanded to prison under fabricated charges. Soundararajan was handcuffed. The ruling party even threatened the house owner who rented his building for the office of the CITU district committee. However, 3000 workers went in a procession and inaugurated the office.

The workers resisted the attempts of the management which offered increase in the wages if they signed individual undertakings. The strike continued for 55 days and was called off on the advice of the Labour Commissioner who assured that they would take initiative for the reinstatement of the 23 suspended workers.

The workers of Build Your Dreams (BYD), another MNC, a component manufacturer for Nokia, went on strike demanding 8 hours work, implementation of labour laws, decent work environment and safety measures, TU rights etc. The company declared lay off for 437 workers; terminated the services of 34 workers and suspended 23 workers.

Uttar Pradesh

A convention was held against privatisation of Casco by the common platform of central trade unions and industrial federations in Kanpur on 18th July. As per the decision of the convention, a state wide strike was organised on 22 – 23 July 2010.

A convention of pensioners was organised in Kanpur on 27th July. The 'EPS Pension employees' Association' was constituted in the convention and a 15 member committee was formed with Aravind Kumar as the convenor.

A massive rally of unorganised sector workers was held in Kanpur on 12th August. A convention of biscuit and bakery workers was held in Kanpur on 2nd October. The convention decided to conduct a signature campaign on a memorandum to the Chief Minister on the demands of the bakery workers; organise gate meetings, dharnas and submit memoranda to the labour commissioner and the district authorities. Thousands of hotel and restaurant workers have organised a sit in near the state Assembly in November demanding minimum wages and implementation of labour laws.

Uttarakhand

Hundreds of anganwadi employees, ASHAs and Mid day meal workers held a militant procession and dharna under the banner of CITU near the district collectorate on 27th July.

West Bengal

A meeting of the state council of CITU was held at Dum Dum on 19 – 20 September.

The Hindusthan Motors Workers' Union, the recognised union affiliated to CITU, organised sustained struggles on the demands of the workers which forced the management to agree to all the demands raised by the union and signing an agreement on 21st October. In addition to an increase in the wages, the demands for health allowance, education allowance, LTC allowance and compensation in the case of workers dying in harness were also accepted. 250 budlee workers were made permanent and Rs 5000 per worker was paid for the delay in the implementation of the charter of demands.

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

General Council Meeting

8-11 January 2011, Nasik

On Organisation

The 13th Conference of CITU decided to undertake a review of the implementation of the Bhubaneswar Document on organisation and organise a national workshop to reorient our work as per the guidelines of the document.

The CITU Working Committee meeting held thereafter discussed the issue and decided to circulate a questionnaire to the state committees and prepare a base paper for review of organisation and drawing the organisational tasks based on which the national workshop on organisation may be held.

Accordingly the questionnaire was circulated in the month of July 2010 itself. We have received response from number of state committees but again a number of state committees have not responded to the questionnaire. We have received response from Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, UP, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and only recently from West Bengal and Kerala and rest are yet to reach the CITU Centre.

Based on the response received and whatever inputs could be collected by the centre we are making an attempt to prepare this review of the overall organisational situation and outline the tasks and it is proposed to have a special discussion on organisation in the forthcoming General Council meeting of CITU.

MEMBERSHIP

The real picture of unevenness in membership and organisation can be best understood from the observation made in the Report of the 13th Conference. Since 12th Conference of CITU, membership has recorded an increase of little more than ten lakhs in three years till 2008 based on which the 13th conference was held. "At the time 12th Conference only four states out of twenty five, i.e., West Bengal, Kerala and Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh accounted for 78.39% of the total CITU membership. Practically not much improvement has taken place in respect of this unevenness at the time of our 13th Conference being held based on 2008 membership. Now West Bengal, Kerala and Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh share 78.19% of the total membership of CITU. In 14 hindi-speaking states, the share of membership in the total was 10.72% in 2005 which has improved to 11.69% in 2008. In rest of the states, (A&N, Assam, Karnataka, Orissa and Tripura) the ratio has changed from 10.22% in 2005 to 9.91% in 2008."

Of course there has been improvement in membership in almost all the states as reflected in 2008 membership. In the four major states of West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu, the membership increased by 4.8% while Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh among them increased their membership by 13.9% and 29.6% respectively. In some of the states besides the four major ones, like in Maharashtra(19.4%), Haryana(25.9%), Jharkhand(33.9%), Karnataka(14.9%), Assam(30.8%), Orissa(29.2%) and Himachal Pradesh(34.6%) improvement was quite sizable. And the membership

of the entire hindi-speaking states taken together has increased by 42% in 2008 as compared to 2005.

In this context, some improvement in one particular aspect need to be taken note of. CITU Centre has all along been harping about timely submission of annual returns by the unions and sending the copy of the same to the Centre along with affiliation fees within the month of June/July every year. After the 13th Conference noticeable improvement from the past has taken place in this regard in certain states reflecting effective monitoring by the concerned State and also by the district centres. As per latest receipts at the centre, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Karnataka have not only almost completed their submission of annual returns and affiliation fees for 2009 but increased their membership also. Himachal Pradesh, and Goa completed their submission of returns and fees for the year 2009 (as compared with 2008). Tripura and Tamilnadu have completed submission of returns and fees for more than 90% of their 2008 membership on 2009 account, Maharashtra more than 80%, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Delhi more than 70%, Assam and West Bengal more than 63%, and Chhattisgarh around 50%. Nothing has been received on 2009 account as yet from Jharkhand, Gujarat and Mizoram.

Out of total membership of 51.6 lakh (2008), the organised sector membership accounts for around 16 lakh, i.e., 31% meaning thereby that around 70% of our membership comes from unorganised sector. And among the organised sector membership also, a sizable section is in the condition similar to unorganised sector in terms of working condition and trade union rights, particularly those working under contractors in the industries and services.

And above membership profile clearly reflects that

- 1) Even in the organised sector industries and establishments, a large section of workers as well as industries/establishments are there who are yet to be brought under trade unions, even we count the membership of other trade union centres.
- 2) Despite a big share of 70% of the unorganised sector membership, we could yet reach only a miniscule section of the unorganised sector workers which is increasing in every passing day.

The task of expansion of CITU membership must be conceived in the context of above scenario.

ORGANISED SECTOR

Most of the state committees whose response to the questionnaire has been received at CITU Centre also confirmed that the organised sector membership accounts for around 35 to 40 per cent of their total membership which more or less matches with the estimate made by the CITU Centre. Only in case of Delhi State, unorganised sector membership is comparatively less than their membership in organised sector.

The organisational situation in organised sector is already noted by the 13th Conference of CITU as under:

“There is a clear trend of stagnation, rather decline in the organized sector. This cannot just be explained by the shrinkage of the organized sector employment alone. In organized sector, regular workforce is shrinking and contract and casual workers are replacing them. They are integral part of the organized sector production process and we are failing to organize them. There are efforts here

and there but the matter is yet to be taken up by our organized sector unions in its entirety. Contract workers and all kinds indirect workers in the organised sector must be organised and this job has to be undertaken by the regular workers' movement in the concerned sector and we have to work much more seriously for gradually integrating the contract workers with the regular workers' movement if we are to sustain the movement and organisation in the organised sector."

One of the major factors of set back and decline in our existing strength and striking capacity in the organised sector, both in public and private sector is our neglect of organising the contract workers in the concerned areas and this neglect arises out of the political-organisational insensitivity about the importance of that task among our leadership in the concerned areas.

Despite employing only 8% of country's workforce, the importance of the organised sector in the working class movement can no way be underestimated or undermined. The organised sector occupies the most crucial and strategic sector of the country's economy and is the lifeline and nerve centre of the capitalist production system. They employ the most modern section of the working class without whom, the effective struggle against the capitalist order cannot even be conceived of.

Public Sector occupies a major place in the organised sector. But CITU's position in the public sector industries also witnessed decline in many places. Recent defeat of CITU unions in the secret ballot elections in BHEL-Bhopal, BEL- Ghaziabad and in the recent past in BHEL units at Hardwar, Jhansi, Ranipet and Hyderabad, defeat of CITU leaders in HAL, Hyderabad are some of the examples of our decline in vital organised sectors. Of the recent successes in such elections, notables are our victory in NTPC-Farakka and Vindhyachal, Powergrid Corporation and Vizag Steel. The latest event of secret ballot elections in Rourkela Steel Plant also may be mentioned where CITU union lost the election for recognition just by a narrow margin but the election result signify a big improvement, from around 500 votes in immediately previous secret ballot two years before, CITU got 4000 plus votes in the recent secret ballot elections.

This organisational weakness got reflected in tardy participation of many of our public sector unions in the most important action of the present time- the general strike of 7th September. Our unions in most of the places failed to take the much needed initiative to unify the PSU workers at the grass-root level taking advantage of the all in unity achieved at the national level in giving the call for general strike on the most burning issues facing the working class and the common people. A great opportunity was missed because of the failure and lack of initiative of our own unions in various public sector units. We failed to carry the basic politics of CITU to grass-root level PSU workers because of the lack of understanding on the same even among our leading comrades in various PSUs.

Basic problems are that neither the state committees are paying adequate attention to the PSU unions in most of the states nor it is becoming possible for the comrades coordinating from centre to guide the unions in their day-to-day work including their political-organisational orientation which is crucial for sustaining the support base. We must have to address these problems with all seriousness if we are to retain and expand our influence and organisation in these vital sectors of the economy.

In organised private sector, the situation is even more precarious and our initiative is mostly limited to small and some medium size segments in most of the places except in 4/5 states. And such neglect is arising out of lack of political-ideological understanding about the need to organise the basic class operating at the heart of the capitalist system. Effective intervening capacity in these crucial sectors requires consistent upgradation of our organisational skill and political-ideological capabilities at all

levels which remains a victim of perpetual neglect. For a breakthrough we need to bring about improvement in all these aspects with a planned and conscious effort.

Moreover, our organizational presence in the newly emerging modern industries in the organized sector is minimal. In major parts of the country, serious effort for organizing the workers in the modern and major industries, whether new or old, is lacking which got reflected in our membership profile of many states.

To organize the workers in high tech modern industries, what is required is the proper appreciation among the organizers and state leadership about the production process and work-practices in those industries and issues and problems arising out of them. It requires also higher skill and capability to attract the generally educated and technology-savvy workforce. In this respect, we are deficient in most of the states and there is a trend of camouflaging such deficiency by passing on the blame on reluctance of the workers of those sectors to join unions. We must plan to overcome this deficiency instead of camouflaging it.

The repressive role of the Employers-Govt combine in the large scale modern industries, particularly those under MNCs, in creating roadblock in formation of trade union and activities is no doubt one of the major challenges in organising trade unions in the newly emerging modern industries. The experience of Honda and Richo in Gurgaon, Hyundai and Foxconn in Tamilnadu and Toyota-Kirloskar in Karnataka are some of the examples. But we have to combat such challenges and prepare ourselves in that direction.

The Tamilnadu experience at Hyundai and Foxconn revealed that despite bitter resistance by the employers-Govt combine to formation of trade unions, consistent organisational intervention by the CITU braving attacks and victimization and state-wide solidarity actions could save the unions in those areas and maintain the continuity of struggle. By CITU's intervention the employers' unlawful opposition to formation of trade unions could be made a state level issue and that could exert some pressure on the state labour department. And through these struggles, CITU could make headway in 13 newly emerged industrial units in and around Chennai itself. In Karnataka also CITU union or CITU minded leadership could make headway in a number of modern industrial units in private sector at Bangalore and Mysore. The Gurgaon experience shows that employers opposition to formation of trade unions and the repression on the workers that followed have created restlessness and resentment among the workers of other industrial units in that industrial area which brought together all the trade unions in condemning and agitating against the same. And in the midst of such a situation, CITU has just started making some headway in certain organised sector industries in Gurgaon although the position is yet to stabilise. These experiences indicate that, planned and steady intervention by CITU would definitely improve the situation in strengthening the workers' resistance to employers' onslaught on trade union rights and expand our organisation in private organised sector industries.

For that, appropriate organisational preparation, and expanding the cadre base and equipping them to deal with organised sector is the urgent necessity in most of the states and required steps need to be taken in that direction.

UNORGANISED SECTOR

Since 12th Conference based on 2005 membership, whatever increase in CITU membership has taken place till 2008, has been mostly from the unorganised sector. Despite that we could reach only

miniscule segment of 16.8 crore strong unorganised sector workforce. Besides, our membership is limited to only some sections of the unorganised sector.

The profile of our membership in the unorganised sector as reported by the state committees, reveals that we are yet to make headway in many segments of the unorganised sector workers. Unorganised sector is not a homogenous sector and our priority and strategy of work have to be decided in due consideration of the heterogeneity and relative importance of various segments in the national economy. As for example private transport sector like passenger buses, auto-rickshaw, private taxi, goods transport etc is of crucial importance having striking potential to cast visible impact on the society. In many states, even in those states having 80% of its membership from unorganised sector, we do not have a significant presence in the private transport sector although workers of this sector are the most exploited in comparison to the services rendered by them. Similarly important sector is head-load workers in big markets or mandis, road and building-construction workers, garments, market-complex workers, private security agencies etc. Equally important in terms of potential to create social impact is anganwadis, mid-day-meal workers, ASHA workers. These are only examples. The moot point is that our work in unorganised sector as revealed by the state reports and information with the CITU Centre, are yet to reach many of those important segments of unorganised sector in all the states. And in consideration of the vastness of the unorganised sector and in view of the limitation of our organisation and resources, we have to prioritise our work in the unorganised sector based on the importance of the segments/trade and opportunities available before us. The state committees have to make their plan accordingly.

We have also to explore developing contact with the unorganised sector workers in their residential areas and besides taking up their occupation specific demands, we should also take up the issues relating to their housing, water supply, ration card and most importantly the issue of social oppressions and injustice since the major section of unorganised sector workers generally belong to most downtrodden section of the society.

Along with agitation on the general demands of the unorganized sector workers, our unions have to work for identifying the workers in different categories viz., those below poverty line in particular and work for registering them for existing social welfare schemes applicable to them and getting the benefits delivered to them. At the same time the demand for including the entire unorganized sector workers for eligibility and entitlement for benefits under the schemes should also be made a centre for mobilization in certain trades and occupations. There have been some successes in such micro-level work in the unorganized sector in Tamilnadu as per reports received from that state where cadres have been deployed at the grass root level to work for implementation of the welfare schemes for the mass of the unorganized sector workers and in that process cadres could be developed from among the unorganized sector workers also. Similar micro-level efforts have been made in Andhra Pradesh and Haryana also which have delivered better results. There must be more focus on such micro-level work in concerned sectors including regular renewal of membership, formation of functional area committees and developing local movements on sector and area specific issues etc.

Our work in unorganised sector need to be more organised. Despite having 70% membership from unorganised sector, CITU Centre could not yet manage to gather the correct and factual data on the coverage of unorganised sector workers under various central and state welfare schemes in various states despite repeated persuasion with the state level coordination committees/state committees. This means, even at state level, we do not have those facts at our command reflecting more reliance on spontaneity than an organised planned approach in the true sense of the term. As a result, in various tripartite and bipartite forums we could not refute the claim of the Govt on the coverage and

implementation of various welfare schemes for the unorganised sector workers. This reflects the state of affairs in the state level coordination committee of the unorganised sector workers and same is getting reflected also in the work of the All India Coordination Committee of the Unorganised Sector Workers. CITU's work in unorganised sector workers cannot afford to remain in such unorganised condition, if we are to reach out at least a sizable section of the unorganised sector workers. Hence the task is to organise more effectively the coordination within various units of the unorganised sector workers at the state-level and also at the all India level and both the centre and the states need to retune their initiative in that direction.

WORKING WOMEN

Our work among working women too suffers from the lack of planned efforts. Though at present around 25% of our members comprise working women, this is mainly due to our strong presence of anganwadi employees in many states, in beedi workers in some. Recently some state committees have started efforts to organise ASHAs and Mid day meal workers, most of whom are women. But there are many other sectors where large number of women are working like the home based sector etc. Very few state committees discuss the work among working women as an agenda in the state committee meetings and plan our work.

There has been improvement in promoting women to the decision making bodies to some extent. But resistance still continues, as is seen in the more or less stagnant or reduced number of women in the General Council and Working Committee of CITU elected in the last all India conference. Similarly many other problems related to funding the expenses for the travel and other organisational activities of the coordination committees persist in many states. In view of the increasing number of women in CITU we must understand that promoting women to decision making bodies is necessary to ensure democratic functioning also.

What is more regrettable is that many states have not formed the state level coordination committees, the sub committees at the state centre level and the union level sub committees of working women despite taking the decision in the successive conferences and meetings of CITU.

DEMOCRATIC FUNCTIONING

Organisational advancement is possible only through expanding and unleashing initiative at all levels of the organisation. And this can be realised only through making democratic functioning at all levels more and more effective ensuring participation and involvement of widest possible section of workers in activities, decision making and implementation.

During the intervening period, though there has been some improvement in the democratic functioning at various levels of the organization, reflected in overall improvement in our membership and mobilization in struggles, that is far short of the requirement of the times in terms of intervening capacity of the working class movement in the happenings in the economic and political fronts. And that is why a thorough scrutiny is required on this aspect to improve upon and enable the organisation to confront the challenges.

CITU Centre

CITU Centre is itself at default which has been aptly detailed in the General Secretary's Report adopted by the 13th Conference which noted, "CITU Centre is itself at serious default in making a

structured review of central functioning as per the decision of the General Council meeting held at Tirupati in August 2009. Though the available Secretariat members at the centre met many times since the General Council meeting and this aspect also figured in discussions, a full fledged structured review could not be taken up. Such failure cannot be explained by posing any problems, though there are many. Such failure only reflects the collective failure of the CITU Centre to prioritise over other work and engagements and devote required time for this most important task on organization. And this is a failure about realization and understanding on the priorities in the collective sense. This failure got reflected in every aspects of the discharge of responsibilities of the CITU Centre during the intervening period right from collective initiative and appreciation of the CITU Centre on the task of developing joint movement and play a more assertive role, monitoring the states in their organizational and movemental activities, in the matter of independent campaigns in different sectors and so on so forth."

The Conference Report also noted that, " In this context, it needs to be noted also that CITU Centre requires more manpower given the existing responsibilities of the Secretariat members working from the centre and in consideration of the work supposed to be done by the CITU Centre. Such a situation leads to overloading of some of the comrades and many important works goes on default or delayed. Strengthening CITU Centre should be considered as a priority task before the entire organization."

After the 13th conference, the CITU Centre started work with depleted strength. The Secretariat members functioning from Centre collectively undertook the execution of the task that came up immediately after the conference, i.e., to carry forward the joint exercise with other trade union centres towards the next course of countrywide general strike, hold the working committee meeting and monitor and supervise the preparatory programmes for the general strike of 7th September 2010 in various states. Besides that, during the intervening period since last conference, CITU Centre also had to actively involve in the preparatory arrangements of two major mobilisation programmes before Parliament, i.e., Mahapadav of Anganwadi Workers and demonstration of ASHA workers on 4-5 May 2010 and Mid Day Meal Workers' demonstration on 25th November 2010.

Following 7th September strike, initiative has been taken by the centre to maintain the continuity of the joint trade union movement and the programme of March to Parliament could be decided upon in the joint meeting of the central trade unions. Following that CITU Centre is seized with making organisational arrangements for the 23rd February March to Parliament programme, while simultaneously preparing for the General Council meeting.

Along with above activities jointly undertaken by the CITU Centre, the Secretariat members at the centre met and decided distribution of statewise responsibility among the Secretariat members at the centre, although partially, since all the concerned states have not yet been covered by such distribution as that requires more discussion.

Thus the formulation made in the 13th Conference of CITU regarding central functioning and also on requirement of additional manpower of leading comrades at the centre still remains valid and we have to design our plan to strengthen the centre and improve upon the central functioning based on the same understanding within a definite time frame with your cooperation.

State and District Committees

As per reports received from various state committees, functioning of the state committees improved considerably in terms of frequency of meeting state office bearers, state committees and percentage

of attendance. Most of the state committees who have sent reports confirmed free and frank discussions in the state committees and participation of all the members in the decision making process. But, there are shortcomings too in respect of certain states as experienced by the visiting Secretariat members from the centre in those states. Involvement of all the members of the committee in the deliberations also depends on the time made available for deliberation and conscious initiative of the leadership to make all the members participate in the deliberations. This holds good for all committee meetings. At the same time, not a clear picture has emerged from the reports about involvement of all the state committee members in implementation of the decisions in respective areas of assigned responsibilities. These are areas which require more attention and effort for improvement.

Unleashing organisational initiative at widest possible levels requires development of organisational structures and making them functional up to the lowest possible tiers to reach the widest possible section of workers. The process starts with formation and functioning of district committees. Reports have been received about improved functioning of district committees in most of the states but at the same time in some of the states, like Maharashtra, Orissa etc despite having sizable membership, and in the states like Bihar, UP, Gujarat etc, functional committees could not be formed in all the districts having sizable workers population. Reports received or collected from the states reveal that in four major states viz., West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu and also in Tripura, functional CITU Committees are there in all the districts and this could be further taken down to sub-divisional/mandal levels in most of the districts to expand the horizon of organisational initiatives which helped those states not only to increase their membership but also to expand the coverage of the organisational reach to wider range of sectors and occupations. That also helped to develop movements on local level issues involving both workers and common people. Even in the states like in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, etc, sizable increase in membership and improvement in activities could be achieved mainly through expansion and activation of district level network thereby unleashing greater grass-root level organisational initiative. Hence expanding the district committee network in the uncovered areas in the concerned states as mentioned above should be taken up as an important tasks.

But all such improvements are still inadequate, if the forthcoming challenges are to be taken into account. Still our total membership is a small fraction compared to the vast workforce yet remaining non-unionised even in the organized sector, not to speak of the unorganized sector. Secondly, serious shortcomings still persists in the democratic functioning at the union/unit level in many industries and establishments, both in the organised and unorganised sector, even in our stronger states and this calls for proper monitoring and supervision by the district committees and state committees. Thirdly, our mobilization in different agitational programmes, both joint and even independent, is far short of our membership strength and this is the general phenomenon even in our stronger states.

The root of continuing shortcomings in the democratic functioning of the organization/unions and persistent lacunae in overcoming this weakness in many places lies in the lack of our realization of the political-ideological significance of democratic functioning as an instrument to build up CITU consistent with its constitutional commitment as leader of the entire working class. And this weakness in democratic functioning severely impedes the pursuit of the most crucial task of raising the consciousness of the workers through intense political-organisational work at the grass root level along with widening mobilisation in movemental activities.

On the other hand, weakness in democratic functioning at various levels of organisations gives rise to pernicious trend of personalisation of leadership instead of collective functioning which in turn

provokes various types of corroding practices including corruption creating alienation among mass of the common workers.

In fine, effective democratic functioning at all level of organisation must be central to all our organisational initiative and it should be constantly pursued and closely monitored at all level. We have to develop a functional team at district level and also have to strengthen the state centre to ensure monitoring of the collective functioning at the district level and continue the effort for raising the consciousness up to the lowest tier of the organisation on democratic functioning.

UNITED STRUGGLES

Exercise for the unity of the working class movement has gone a long way in setting the tune of working class intervention both on policy and workplace-related issues since the inception of CITU. CITU played pioneering role in developing united movement of the trade unions both at national and sectoral level and now at present juncture we could achieve almost all in unity in the struggle on common issues pertaining to economic policy matters.

But consolidation of the unity of the working class achieved in the process of united trade union movement is the major task which CITU constitution has placed on us and the Bhubaneswar Document dealt on this task in required detail.

Independent initiative and campaign by CITU among the mass of the workers to prepare for and implement the joint programmes of action is crucial for consolidation and expansion of unity of the working class as well as raising the level of consciousness. Carrying the unity achieved for action among the leadership of various trade union centre to grass-root level unity and unified understanding on the issues and demands is an important political-organisational task. In this respect still there are shortcomings and unevenness in our activities and approach and that is why broader unity achieved at the leadership level of various trade unions is not reflected in matching mobilisation at the ground level.

We need to improve upon our independent initiative in this regard in the days to come.

Moreover in the midst of severely repressive regime perpetrated by the employers-Govt combine on the workers and specially directed against formation of unions in many workplaces, solidarity movement against repression on the unions and workers by other unions in and around, both regionally and on all India plane depending on the scale of repression creates ground for widening and cementing of the unity of the workers irrespective of affiliations.

The Commission Paper adopted by the 13th Conference of CITU on "Unity of the Working Class and Our Approach" has dealt on the organisational tasks in this regard.

EXPANDING CADRE-BASE

All organisational discourse in every level on any occasion would inevitably bring forth the problem of paucity of cadres as one major hurdle for expansion and consolidation. This is quite naturally so. Reports received from many states also confirms this situation along with a self-critical admission that issue of recruitment of cadre and their development is yet to get much serious attention it deserves.

The General Council of CITU in its session held in July 2005 adopted a paper on Cadre Development in the light of guidelines of Bhubaneswar Document, after a thorough discussion. The formulations made in the said paper are still relevant.

Since then there have been some improvements in recruitment and deployment of whole timers in some of the states; the most visible improvement could be noticed in Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and to some extent in Haryana, Punjab and Assam.

But still the paucity of whole timers remains in most of the states, even where improvement has taken place. We require more whole time organisers in weaker areas, particularly in hindi-speaking states, and also for the emerging organised sector industries, for private transport and other identified priority segments in the unorganised sector.

Besides whole timers, we also need a huge contingent of effective part time cadres to be drawn from the workers at the workplaces. "They are the living link between ordinary workers and the organisation. Developing part-time cadres, i.e., more number of skilled and trained activists from among the workers, will ensure more effective presence of the union in the workplaces. They being in constant touch with the mass of the workers will be of considerable help to consolidate and strengthen the union. This may also help in releasing whole time cadres for deployment in other areas yet to be accessed. Hence, developing part-time cadres must be at the centre of our cadre development perspective."

Developing part time cadres from among the workers depends greatly on effective democratic functioning of the unions which helps to unleash initiative and identify the potential part time cadres. At the initial stage of development we could get many whole timers from among the worker activists through this process. It is difficult to make objective assessment of our success or failure in this aspect in the absence of similar assessment made by the states. We must undertake an assessment about our part-time cadre-base in all the states which would also help in making an objective evaluation of status of democratic functioning at union-level.

TRADE UNION EDUCATION

CITU Centre could not organise central school during last three years despite planning for the same. After the 13th Conference, a central school for Hindi Speaking States were planned in last September and materials were also prepared but that has to be postponed at the last moment due to unavoidable circumstances.

The Report of the 13th Conference of CITU and reports received subsequently from the states confirm that initiatives are being taken for holding state level trade union classes by most of the state committees. This is a welcome development. But the state reports also reveal that there are shortcomings in carrying the same initiatives to the district, regional and unit levels in most of the states.

In fact we are yet to make the trade union education as an integral part of our action plans which is the urgent requirement of the day. And our major shortcoming is that despite there being some initiatives at the state levels, the enterprise/unit level leadership could not yet be brought under the coverage of TU education activities, at least once a year in most of the states. Of course, some of our industrial federations have taken initiatives to hold TU Classes/workshop in respective industries/sector. But still much remains to be done in this particular area of trade union education which is

crucial for building political-organisational skill and capabilities to heighten the struggle and raising the level of consciousness.

Much more serious initiative in the field of trade union education has to be taken at all levels of the organisation in the days to come.

In this context we may recall the decision taken by the 13th Conference of CITU on observance of 40th Anniversary year of CITU through intense educational activities to reach up to the union/unit level leadership in all the states. Our effort must be directed to ensure coverage of union/unit level leadership by trade union education programme within May 2011.

CITU JOURNALS

Not much improvement is there in the circulation of Working Class and CITU Mazdoor published from the centre. The circulation of the Working Class in English is 5096 as in December 2010 of which 3926 are the copies sent to the affiliated unions. The circulation of CITU Mazdoor in Hindi is 4723 of which 885 are affiliation-copy. However of the total circulation of CITU Mazdoor, highest subscriber is West Bengal(1268 copies) followed by Himachal Pradesh(705 copies) and Uttar Pradesh (473 copies).

Many of the non-hindi speaking state committees are publishing journals in local languages viz., Shramik Andolan(West Bengal), CITU Sandesham (Kerala), CITU Seethi (Tamilnadu), CITU Sandesha (Karnataka), CITU Sandesh (Maharashtra), Shramik Ekata (Orissa), Jharkhand Mazdoor, Karmika Lokam (Andhra Pradesh), CITU Bulletin(Assam), Mazdoor (Tripura) etc. But their circulation is quite low not only compared to the membership but even compared to the number of committee members and activists up to union level. And for most of the Hindi speaking states, CITU Mazdoor is only trade union journal and meager circulation of this journal in those states clearly reveals that even many of the state and union level leaders in those states do not read CITU Mazdoor. Such tragic reflections speak volume about our political-organisational weakness and lack of understanding about the role a journal can play in organization and movements.

The circulation of the Voice of the Working Women published from CITU Centre in English is 7716. But its circulation is also extremely uneven among the states. Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal account for 7227 copies of which Kerala alone subscribes 5947 copies. The circulation of Hindi Quarterly –"Patrika" is around 2303 and is mostly confined to Anganwadi employees. With the development of organization among ASHA and Mid-day-meal workers, there is vast scope of increase in circulation of Patrika.

GENERAL

Organisational development is a continuous process and organisation advances through process of movement and struggles. But movement and struggles do not automatically advance or strengthen the organisation unless conscious and planned efforts are made in that direction. The Bhubaneswar Document laid down exhaustively the various aspects of organisational initiatives to be taken for advancing CITU organisation and its implementation status on some of the aspects have been dealt in this paper.

CITU's outlook on organisation is based on its ideology as enshrined in its constitution : "The CITU believes that the exploitation of the working class can be ended only by socialising all means of

production, distribution and exchange and establishing a Socialist State. Holding fast the ideals of socialism, the CITU stands for the complete emancipation of the society from all exploitation."....

The Bhubaneswar Document while laying down CITU's vision and approach on organisation noted in no uncertain terms "The CITU consistently upheld the principle of class struggle and socialism and fought against ideologies inimical to these lofty ideals. Even at times, it was alone in taking certain positions, but it never gave up the struggles to protect the class interest of the workers."

Our success or failure in implementation of the Bhubaneswar Document at various tiers of our organisation is having a close linkage with the level of understanding of the ideology of CITU as elucidated by above paragraphs of CITU's constitution and Bhubaneswar Document. Hence conscious effort for regular cultivation of this understanding at all levels of organisation is of crucial importance for continuously reorienting our organisational effort as per guidelines of Bhubaneswar Document.

A brief review of CITU-led industrywise federations is furnished below:

INDUSTRYWISE FEDERATIONS

The industry wise federations under CITU play important role in the movement and activities of CITU

The All India Federations of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers through regular and organised functioning both at the national and state levels could organise number of struggles including strike actions and state and all India level mobilisations which led to substantial expansion in their membership (3,87,000 or more than 19% of the total number of employees) and organisation to 23 states. However, in some states like in Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan etc., existing possibilities to increase the membership could not be fully harnessed. The federation has been active in regularly mobilising the workers both at state and central level on various issues and could develop an effective team of leadership in most of the states. In last May, Federation could mobilise more than 23000 workers at New Delhi from all over the country in two day long Mahapadav-which is the biggest ever mobilisation a CITU federation could organise single-handedly. Federation's consistent initiative and organised functioning has led to sizable expansion in its membership even in weaker states like Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, UP and Bihar. And such independent initiative by the federation has now paved the way for joint movement and on 24th February 2011 by all the Anganwadi unions of almost all affiliations. Not only that, anganwadi workers movement under CITU became instrumental in organising two other big sections of working women in trade union movement namely ASHA and Mid-day-meal workers.

The All India Coal Workers' Federation under CITU have a membership of around one lakh including the contract workers. Majority membership are from West Bengal followed by Jharkhand in ECL, BCCL, and CCL but in other coalfields in UP, MP, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Assam the federation is having active units and striking strength as well although membership is less compared to CITU's influence among the workers. Through independent intervention the federation can create compelling situation for other trade unions in the industry to join the platform of struggle and compel the Coal management and the Govt to concede to many demands of the workers as has happened during the last wage negotiation. Besides, the intervention of our Coal Federation could unite all other unions in the industry in the opposition to privatisation and disinvestment. But such success could not be fully harnessed adequately expanding the membership base and this warrants more micro-level organisational initiative. And given the challenges unfolding before the industry and the workers, the functioning of Federation needs to be improved substantially as it has the potential and influence to unite all the forces to meet the challenges.

The Construction Workers' Federation of India is a regularly functioning federation under CITU having around 9.5 lakh membership in 20 states and one Union Territory of which organised sector membership is 45047. The rest is from unorganised segment of construction sector. The Federation while responding to all the programmes of CITU throughout the country also remains active in organising industrybased movement on demands of the workers. The Federation could organise a successful countrywide strike by the construction workers on 8th December 2009 and improve its membership base during the intervening period and expand their area of influence. On 24-26 October 2010, the federation held its all India conference with 468 delegates.

All India Road Transport Workers' Federation is also active among the road transport workers throughout the country and could expand their membership sizably by 2.5 lakh since 2005 and is now having a membership of 6.8 lakh spread over 16 states and in one union territory. 82% of this membership is from unorganised segment of transport sector and organised segment is mainly represented by workers of state transport corporations in number of states(1,25,000). The federation committee is meeting regularly and besides carrying on all India campaign on policy issues the federation leadership is trying to regularly monitor and involve in activities of its state level units, particularly in weaker areas.

Electricity Employees Federation of India, actively functioning in the electricity sector has played crucial role in developing united countrywide movement against the electricity policy of the Govt aimed at privatisation of this important public utility. During the intervening period the federation could expand its membership and area of influence. Federation Committee is having its regular meetings and also publishes a journal regularly having a circulation of 3000. The membership of the federation is 1.43 lakh from 15 states. The Federation has decided to focus on organising the contract workers in all the states. At present contract workers are being organised in Tamilnadu, AP, West Bengal and Kerala. The Federation has also to decide to target the new power plants(IPP), distribution companies (discoms) and franchisees to expand the organisation.

Steel Workers Federation of India working mainly among the workers of public sector steel plants in the country played important role in developing the movement of both the regular workers and the contract workers in the industry on an all India plane. At the single handed initiative of this federation two days successful strike involving both the regular and contract workers could be organised on 30-31 October 2009 in all the public sector steel plants, mines and establishments except Bhilai Steel Plant. During the intervening period, the contract workers in Vizag, Durgapur, IISCO and Bokaro had gone for successful strike action under the leadership of CITU. The federation is having a membership of around 59000 in 9 steel plants and 15 units including mines, offices and marketing organisations. The federation is yet to make its headway among the workers of private sector steel plants.

The Water Transport Workers Federation of India has been active among the seamen and port & dock workers throughout the country having a membership of 10400 among Port & Dock workers and 4000 among the seamen. The Federation is dominant force in the seamen's movement and expanded its base substantially. Among the port & dock workers as well, federation has considerable influence and could work in developing all in united struggle on the demands of the port & dock workers. Although the Federation is fairly active, there are still weaknesses in holding regular meeting of the Committee and Office Bearers at Federation level despite the unit level committees function quite regularly. The Federation has just concluded their all India conference in last November which planned to take concrete steps in improving upon these weaknesses.

The All India Beedi Workers' Federation is another important federation of workers in CITU. The federation represents one of the oldest trade union movements in the country and has got immense potential to increase its strength throughout the country. At present the federation is having a membership of 3 lakh from 13 states. The federation is required to be activated more in the all India plane. The all India conference of the federation was held recently at Kolkata to plan for the same. After the conference, the Federation working committee met and has undertaken plan for all India campaign on pressing demands of the workers along with other policy-related issues.

The All India Plantation Workers' Federation is also one of the oldest federations working under CITU having membership and units in seven states. Despite having regular plantation based activities in different parts of the country, and regional level coordination in the southern and eastern/north eastern parts, the Federation level activities are not that regular. The conference of the federation is being planned to reorganise the federation level activities.

Federation of Medical & Sales Representatives Associations of India is another all India federation having regular activities and membership base throughout the country. At present, the membership is 69,000 covering all the states. In different states their units also play an active role in the state level movement and organisation. In the month of August 2010, the Federation organised a successful two-days strike on burning issues facing the workers and the industry.

All India Fishers and Fisheries Workers' Federation is a newly formed federation to coordinate the movements of the fishers and fisheries workers being organised in different states by the CITU and AIKS and develop a nation wide movement. Some CITU state committees have taken initiative to organise the fishers after the formation of the federation. In view of the huge number of fishers, both inland and marine, and the fisheries workers, all the state committees of CITU have to make efforts to organise the fishers. There is vast potential to develop an all India movement of this section of the exploited population. The federation has decided to organise a demonstration before Parliament on 22nd February 2011 against Govt policy displacing and dislodging fishermen in coastal areas.

Annexure:1

STATEMENT SHOWING STATEWISE MEMBERSHIP AS PER ANNUAL RETURNS RECEIVED TILL-27/12/2010

Name of the State	Unions Submitting Returns			Position of membership according to Annual Returns					
	2007	2008	2009	2007	Female	2008	Female	2009	Female
Andaman & Nicobar	7	7	1	2692		2992		1120	
Andhra Pradesh	749	714	650	342295	104742	443899	131229	568933	164376
Assam	85	85	33	55020	23133	71991	31854	45914	26299
Bihar	19	18	1	19188	10598	24762	11575	4590	72
Delhi	82	75	67	31296	1479	36795	1769	28965	1738
Goa	7	5	7	788	47	677		1169	46
Gujarat	25	25	0	13129	1167	14849	2101	0	
Himachal Pradesh	46	44	45	30089	14422	40523	24447	40539	23034
Haryana	45	46	41	53418	14135	67255	18108	78868	24243
Jammu & Kashmir	8	2	4	5589	98	4372	32	1600	
Karnataka	139	129	106	140267	73176	161228	95297	165272	100608
Kerala	867	849	612	1149916	355303	1270978	377502	1086695	334174
Madhya Pradesh	78	77	33	30677	11313	31516	8683	6495	2011
Maharashtra	96	96	67	95054	32468	113588	55115	94234	53595
Orissa	79	76	34	84136	20736	108780	35807	48504	8080
Punjab	73	69	59	66555	13390	79000	15240	57408	15343
Rajasthan	68	65	47	33280	1727	39452	2971	16355	373
Tamilnadu	580	596	511	462115	114812	522146	123217	483598	111994
Tripura	43	43	36	139821	47124	161049	46527	145441	63145
Uttar Pradesh	99	102	36	28485	864	32206	703	3213	40
West Bengal	1303	1167	876	1889592	288950	1790698	277995	1198569	182337
Uttaranchal	52	51	40	13867	3727	20102	5761	14110	4400
Chhatisgarh	23	22	2	20119	2971	21712	2830	11305	210
Jharkhand	32	32	0	74293	13726	99503	22759	0	
Mizoram	1	1				2560	1000		
Total	4606	4396	3308	4781681	1150108	5162633	1292522	4102897	1116118

Year	No. of Unions	Membership
1983	1854	1890993
1984	2005	1575655
1985	1717	1716457(132536)
1986	2412	1844273(209348)
1987	2350	1680884(206482)
1988	2618	1919280(264507)
1989	3114	2425000(247388)
1990	2934	2095550(245060)
1991	2783	2088218(291228)
1992	3343	2381012(321620)
1993	3156	2371405(306344)
1994	3198	2470131(261980)
1995	3523	2784050(358188)
1996	3645	2805127(435285)
1997	3804	2917200(506097)
1998	3502	2881478(483373)
1999	3929	3296808(550583)
2000	3771	3126943(646678)
2001	3787	3150673(600407)
2002	4162	3463362(679694)
2003	3904	3331973(636651)
2004	3969	3541859(728820)
2005	4061	3986622 (898186)
2006	4764	4133893 (916292)

COM. P.RAMAMOORTI T.U. SCHOOL FUND as on 27.12.2010

CITU, Goa State Committee	Rs.1,206.00
CITU, U.P. State Committee	Rs.36,310.00
CITU, A.P. State Committee	Rs.741,399.00
CITU, Chhatishgarh State Committee	Rs.24,821.00
CITU, Tripura State Committee	Rs.210,000.00
CITU, M.P. State Committee	Rs.39,274.00
CITU, Karnataka State Committee	Rs.315,070.00
CITU, Kerala State Committee	Rs.2,676,013.00
CITU, Punjab State Committee	Rs.97,647.00
CITU, Tamilnadu State committee	Rs.721,150.00
CITU, J & K State Committee	Rs.1,240.00
CITU, Orissa State Committee	Rs.14,491.00
CITU, Haryana State Committee	Rs.35,040.00
CITU, Assam State Committee	Rs.15,000.00
CITU, West Bengal State Committee	Rs.1,000,000.00
CITU, Jharkhand State Committee	Rs.6,500.00
CITU, Gujrat State Committee	Rs.1,000.00
CITU, Maharashtra State Committee	Rs.520,000.00
CITU, Delhi State Committee	Rs.56,687.00
CITU, Rajasthan State Committee	Rs.27,000.00
CITU, Uttaranchal State Committee	Rs.21,500.00
CITU, H.P. State Committee	Rs.20,000.00
CITU, Andaman & Nicobar	Rs.5,600.00
Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India, W.B.	Rs.100,000.00
Association of SAIL Employees, Kolkata, W.B.	Rs.20,000.00
2nd World Conference of Oil, Gas, Refinary Trade Union	Rs.700,000.00
Central Zone Insurance Employees Association, Chhatishgarh	Rs.50,000.00
Com. E.Balanandan	Rs.11,111.00
Com. R.Vaigai	Rs.50,000.00
Jean Pierre Page (Foreign Delegate),	Rs.1,000.00
All India Co-ordination Committee of Sail Employees' Union, W.B.	Rs.20,000.00
R.Rajalakshmi, Chengalpattu, T.N.	Rs.5,000.00
All India Road Transport Workers Federation (towards space to be occupied)	Rs.530,000.00
Electricity Employees Federation of India(towards space to be occupied)	Rs.2,500,000.00
TOTAL	Rs.10,574,059.00

State-wise Circulation of CITU Journals

AS ON DECEMBER, 2010

	The Working Class	CITU Mazdoor	The Voice of the Working Woman	Patrika
States				
Andaman	10	10	1	
Andhra Pradesh	862		370	
Arunachal	1		1	
Assam	142		29	
Bihar	11	57	9	10
Chhatisgarh	20	370	27	100
Delhi	85	119	180	1
Goa	7		0	
Gujarat	1	26	2	
Haryana	3	178	4	45
Himachal Pradesh	2	705	6	762
Jammu & Kashmir	2	13	3	
Jharkhand	14	120	2	5
Kerala	939		5947	5
Karnataka	234	0	21	
Sikkim	1	0		
Maharashtra	156	27	73	200
Madhya Pradesh	9	414	6	50
Manipur	1		1	
Meghalaya			1	
Mizoram			1	
Nagaland	2		2	
Orissa	145	1	21	
Punjab	8	369	4	785
Puducherry			1	
Rajasthan	2	318	1	
Tamilnadu	699	1	576	
Tripura	48		75	
Uttar Pradesh	12	473	13	305
Uttarakhand	2	254		0
West Bengal	1678	1268	334	
TOTAL	5096	4723	7716	2303

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

General Council Meeting

8-11 January 2011, Nasik

Condolence Resolution

The General Council meeting of the CITU being held at Nasik, Maharashtra, from 8th to 11th December 2010, expresses its deep sorrow at the passing away of Comrade Pappa Umanath, on 17th December 2010. She was a veteran leader of the working class and women's movement, a former Central Committee member of the CPI(M) and a founder and Patron of the AIDWA. Comrade Pappa started her political life at tender age, and was a minor when she was first arrested, along with railway workers, while protesting against the British. She devoted her entire life to working for the rights of the downtrodden and working class and contributed greatly to making AIDWA the leading women's organization in Tamil Nadu.

This General Council meeting of CITU deeply mourns the passing away of Comrade Krishna Khopkar, senior leader of the CPI(M) and the All India Kisan Sabha, in Maharashtra.

This General Council meeting of the CITU mourns the death of Comrade S Chandrasekharan, veteran leader of the P&T trade union, former Working Committee member of CITU and former Secretary of the Tamil Nadu state committee of CITU, who passed away suddenly, after a heart attack, in Chennai, in December 2010.

The CITU General Council is deeply grieved by the demise of Comrade Kamalamma, Working Committee member of CITU, member of the AICCWW (CITU) and of the Kerala state committee of CITU, after a battle with illness. She was a founder of the Artisans union in Kerala and became its Vice President. Her untiring efforts helped to make this union the largest union in Kerala.

This General Council meeting of CITU expresses its profound grief at the passing away of Comrade Peroorkada Sadasivan, former Working Committee member of CITU and Senior office bearer of the Kerala state committee of CITU, and also leader of many unions.

This CITU General Council meeting mourns the passing away of Comrade Kameshwar Singh, President of the Koyla Sharmik Sangh in Chattisgarh, a state office bearer of CITU and a state committee member of the CPI(M) in Chattisgarh

This General Council meeting of the CITU is deeply grieved by the demise of Comrade B N Ghosh, leader of the P&T movement for many years and former Treasurer of the UP state committee of CITU

The General Council meeting of CITU deeply mourns the passing away of Comrade Naresh Pal, one of the founders of the BEFI.

This General Council meeting is grieved by the death of Comrade Masudal Hossain, a leader of the working class movement and a five time Member of Parliament from the CPI(M).

The CITU General Council meeting expresses its sorrow at the demise of comrade G V Chitnis, senior

leader of the AITUC in Maharashtra.

The General Council mourns the death of Surendra Mohan, the veteran leader of the Socialist Party.

This meeting expresses grief at the demise of K Karunakaran, four times Chief Minister of Kerala and former INTUC leader.

This General Council meeting of CITU expresses its heartfelt condolences and pays its homage to all these departed leaders.

The General Council meeting of CITU expresses its deep grief at the suicides of women in Andhra Pradesh who were driven to take this extreme step by their inability to repay debts and suicides by farmers who could not bear their losses caused by floods. We pay our deep condolences to them.

This General Council meeting of the CITU mourns the death of the poor workers and their families who were killed in the building collapse in Delhi in November 2010. We condemn the callousness and negligence of the corrupt local authorities who allow the construction and habitation of unsafe buildings, leading to such disasters in many cities, and demand that strict action be taken against them. The government must ensure that other such dangerous buildings are sealed and that alternative, safe accommodation is provided for the inhabitants.

Since the CITU Working Committee held in July in New Delhi hundreds of people have died in natural disasters or due to inclement weather conditions, in several states of India and in countries across the world. We pay our heartfelt condolences to them.