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Presidential Address

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Comrades,

We are meeting after our Dhanbad meeting after a long interval. You are aware of the reason for this delay and I offer my apology to you for failure to meet according to the schedule prescribed by the Constitution.

Before I turn my attention to the pressing problems facing us let me on behalf of all of you recall the courage and sacrifice of Comrade Safdar Hashmi, a devoted comrade of ours who has placed his art in the service of the working class and the people. Hashmi was murdered by gangsters while arousing and mobilising the workers of Ghaziabad through his inspiring drama. The entire progressive literary world condemned this outrage under the Congress (I) regime. Hashmi's sacrificing life, his identification with the cause of the downtrodden and his passion to fight the injustices of present day society recall to our mind lines from Mayakovsky's Order of the Day to the Army of Arts :

Streets for paint-brushes we'll use,
our palettes—squares with their wide open space.
Into the streets, the crowds among,
futurists,
drummers,
masters of rhyme !

Counter Revolutionary Rebellion in China

Comrades,

The most outstanding international event of recent times relates to May-June developments in People's China described in bourgeois press as a student struggle for democracy. What was passed off as a student struggle was in reality a struggle using the students and other sections against the Communist Party of China, for the rejection of socialist path of development and taking a turn towards capitalism, for replacing the state of People's Democracy by a bourgeois capitalist state.

Leaders of the movement circulated leaflets and raised slogans against the Communist Party calling for its ousting, denigrated socialism and people's democracy and called for bourgeois parliamentary republic. They expressed their determination to cooperate with Taiwan and the Kuomintang to overthrow the present order. And their ideological leader Fang Lizhi finding that the tide was turning, took hasty shelter in the US Embassy exposing what type of democracy he and his followers were demanding.

The world was made to believe that the movement was a genuine struggle for democratic rights; that the Government of China was suppressing the students, killing them by thousands. The entire imperialist and bourgeois press joined in a chorus of denunciation of the Chinese Government and the Communist Party of China. Many well-meaning people in our country were misled by this propaganda and joined in expressing their condemnation of the Government of People's China. Not one of them raised the question if it was a democratic struggle, why were the imperialists and their media vociferously supporting it. Since when Bush, Thatcher and their imperialist colleagues have become the champions of democracy? The ruling imperialists with their class instinct knew that the struggle was undermining socialism, that its protagonists were helping restoration of capitalism in China.

It is now seen that the PLA (People's Liberation Army) refused to open fire on the unarmed people and lost more than hundred soldiers with hundreds getting injured. Only when the masses were separated from the counter-revolutionary forces did the PLA decide to use forces ending in a total death of 300 of which more than 100 were PLA soldiers.

Here was an instance of the entire imperialist

camp coming to bring down a socialist state. Bush, Thatcher and others all with one voice denounced China and adopted several measures of sanctions against her. This gang of imperialists has resisted for years imposing of sanctions against South Africa for its apartheid. Now these marauders of other people's rights suddenly flowered into human right defenders. Their attempts to indict the Chinese regime shows the intensified contradiction between the two systems of socialist and imperialist.

The imperialists' support to the counter revolutionaries in China shows that imperialism will remain imperialism notwithstanding the illusions of some people that the contradictions between the two systems are getting moderated. This is a doctrine of negation of class struggle. We must never forget that the socialist world and the third world countries are an object of constant attacks by the imperialists and lack of vigilance will lead to betrayal.

While the Chinese revolution was being attacked internally and externally, while the imperialists camp was unitedly throwing all its weight in favour of counter-revolutionaries, the international working class stood confused, divided and disorganised.

Many ask the question why this challenge of counter-revolutionary forces should have arisen in China after years of successful socialist revolution. Some mistakes of earlier period have delayed the developmental process in China, but the main reason is that China which was a backward country when the revolution put the people in power, had to go through prolonged transitional period before it could be a fullfledged socialist country. In this transition process to move forward, many concessions have to be made to private producers, foreign capital and these concessions often create a climate in favour of capitalist values and outlook. These have to be fought repeatedly and those who are victims of these illusions are to be fought ideologically and defeated. It is obvious that this latter task was done in a half-hearted way as admitted by the CPC, otherwise the organisers of the movement would not have succeeded in securing the temporary support of masses including the students. The latter which claim universal sympathy were used by the reactionaries as a shield to cover their counter-revolutionary objectives. This was the third time that the CPC had to face such a challenge showing that such outbursts are possible till the end of the process of transition, though their appeal and impact will continue to weaken.

The CITU expresses its support to the Communist Party of China in the way it handled a very grave situation and expresses its joy that the counter-revolutionary challenge has been defeated. The CPC and the PLA have rendered tremendous service to the cause of the international movement by defeating this reactionary challenge. The world movement would have been thrown decades back had the reactionaries succeeded in their objective. The CITU calls for greater international unity and greater

working class vigilance in the intensified conflict between socialism and imperialism.

Sino-Soviet Summit

Comrades,

Another event of great importance which was overshadowed by the developments in China was the visit of Comrade Gorbachev to China and the beginning of normalisation of relations between the Governments of the two socialist countries.

For the international working class movement the Summit brings to an end an unprecedented nightmarish period. It witnessed the disunity of the socialist camp, sharp differences, opposition, even hostility between those who for years and decades held aloft the great banner of proletarian internationalism and marched forward to achieve decisive victories against capitalism. It witnessed the disintegration of that granite unity of which Lenin spoke and felt proud. Comrade Gorbachev has correctly observed in one of his meetings in Beijing that each side make its own assessment of the period. This is absolutely essential so that the world movement learns from the past and avoids such pitfalls in the future. The CITU and India's working class ardently wish that the present day normalisation within the framework of peaceful coexistence, non-intervention in each other's affairs will be soon transformed into the great fraternity of earlier years which liberated one-third of the world for socialism. The restoration of old relations will create an invincible force inspiring millions to intensify the fight against imperialism to march forward to socialism.

US Drive for Space War

Comrades,

The forces defending world peace continue to carry on the fight against nuclear war with greater vigour. On behalf of the USSR Comrade Gorbachev has made several new proposals to reduce nuclear armaments and conventional weapons but there is no response from the USA and its allies. The optimism of some people that the reduction of short and medium range missiles in Europe will lead to quick progress in further reductions has proved to be wishful thinking having no relation to imperialist practice, tactics and manoeuvres. The U.S. imperialists are attempting to circumvent the understanding on short and medium range missiles by placing missiles of larger nuclear potential in Europe. Besides huge sums running into billions of dollars have been sanctioned recently by the U.S. Senate for pushing forward the Space War programme of the USA. In recent times, every proposal made in the eleventh round of Soviet-American talks on nuclear space weapons has been turned down once again exposing U.S. obduracy and lack of sincerity for nuclear disarmament. Head of Soviet delegation said after the completion of the talks, "the only documents remaining unchanged are the texts of draft agreements on space. In this area sides' positions are too wide

apart to allow for any progress. The U.S. position holds that ABM deployment, in particular, space-based defences are possible in the framework of SDI programme — something which is incompatible with the ABM Treaty currently in force. As for the Soviet side, it stands for an agreement to observe the ABM Treaty as signed in 1972. It is our understanding that since there is an objective relationship between strategic defensive and offensive arms, a Treaty on reduction in strategic offensive arms can be made possible only if the ABM Treaty is observed.”

This mild protest reveals the refusal of the USA to give up its plans of offensive Space War. The U.S. has accepted reduction of Short and Medium Range Missiles for Europe, but it is preparing for a Space weaponry where it thinks it is ahead of the USSR.

Other European allies of the USA are no different. Speaking before the Supreme Soviet on 1st of August on his visit to Britain, West Germany and France, Gorbachev said: “For the British leadership nuclear deterrent is a fixed idea; while West Germany is concerned about its being located on the line of nuclear confrontation and a special threat posed to it by any nuclear weapon. France is insistent on its specific position in Atlantic Alliance and stresses that “exceptional significance of its nuclear potential” In this connection Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union opposes the nuclear deterrent strategy which can depreciate conventional weapons cut and which runs counter to the task of eliminating military confrontation in Europe. In passing it should be noted that Gorbachev, who is an ardent advocate of a common European home had the following to say about the recent visit of President Bush to Hungary and Poland. In his speech to the Supreme Soviet he observed that the recent visits paid by U.S. President Bush to Hungary and Poland, this was natural on condition that temptation is controlled to take advantage of the complicated problems in countries with a different system hoping to drive them off the path they chose.

This is the dismal sequel to the high hopes raised by the agreement to reduce nuclear war-heads in Europe. It is now seen that the imperialist camp had no intention of reducing such less eliminating nuclear weapons. Their line was to produce more offensive and destructive weapons to replace them by the current ones. And they made people believe that they were sincerely interested in reduction of nuclear weapons.

Greetings to Democratic Struggles

Comrades,

We send our warmest greetings to the brave and courageous people of Palestine who are waging a heroic struggle in the occupied area and defying the terrorist Hitler-like repression of the Israeli Government. The Intifada has become a byword for resolute and fiery struggle for freedom. We send our

warm greetings to the people of South Africa fighting the apartheid regime and the courageous people of Nicaragua who have succeeded in frustrating US designs.

Comrades,

Nearer home, we send our warm greetings to the people and working class of Pakistan who are now enjoying a state of democracy though under constant attack from the reactionary forces. We wish them successes in the struggle to consolidate the democratic advance already restored and forge closer bonds of unity between the working class and people of Pakistan and the working class and people of India.

We send our warm greetings to the fighting people of Bangladesh, the progressive section among whom had already raised a voice of protest against the establishment of a theocratic Islamic state. The people of Bangladesh are still ruled by a military dictator and we wish them success in the struggle to eliminate military rule and establish a genuine democratic government under a free and fair election.

Settle Differences with Nepal

We send our warm greetings to the working class and people of Nepal and the working class and people of Sri Lanka. The working class of India calls upon both the Governments of India and the Government of Nepal to overcome the immediate differences and settle them in the mutual interest of both peoples and both countries. They should be aware that forces inimical to the freedom and integrity of both countries are ever ready to magnify the differences and exploit them for their own dominating interests. The working class of India calls upon the Government of India to ensure that the existing difficulties created by lapse of the earlier treaty should be immediately overcome to ensure that the people of Nepal are not put to any economic difficulties. The CITU congratulates the progressive forces in Nepal and the Communist Parties on their correct stand to protect the common interests of both people and friendship between the two countries.

Restoration of Friendship with Sri Lanka

The CITU expresses concern over the recent development concerning the relationship between India and Sri Lanka. It is, however, relieved to find that the two Governments are negotiating over the question of IPKF withdrawal and security of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. An agreed solution of the problems will restore the old friendship between the two peoples and also keep away all the mischief makers who want to take advantage of the present situation. The IPKF can remain in Sri Lanka only with the consent of the sovereign Government of Sri Lanka and not otherwise.

Homage to Martyrs in Punjab

Comrades,

We send our warm greetings to our fighting comrades in Punjab, who are fighting the extremist

disruptors of national unity despite terrorist attacks. Long to the list of martyrs that have earned glory in this fight against imperialist encouraged secessionist disruption in Punjab; the names of these martyrs will remain in our memory and the story of the courage of the families of these martyrs; the courage with which they bore their losses continue to be active in the fight will be told and retold all over India. We honour the memory of martyrs of other organisations who fearlessly faced the bullets of the Khalistani assassins.

Valiant Struggle of the People of Tripura

Comrades,

I am sure all of you will rise in admiration for the valiant fight carried on by our comrades in Tripura, our workers, CITU units, leaders and cadres, by men and women, students and youth by the courageous tribals and their women under the leadership of the CPI(M) headed by Com. Niripen Chakraborty, Dasrath Deb and others. No other section of Indian people is face to face with such fascist like terror. The gang rape of tribal women, murders of our cadres, occupation of our union offices, forcible migration of thousands of people have not created a dent in the fighting capacity of the working class and people of Tripura. The people of Tripura constitute the vanguard in the fight against authoritarianism of the Congress(I) and they are bearing the worst outrages with revolutionary zeal to fight the oppressive regime of Rajiv Gandhi.

ILO Indicts the Repressive Regime

This regime has now been internationally branded as colluding with murderers to dispose of political opponents and as suppressors of all trade union rights. On a complaint made by the CITU to the ILO committee against the misdeeds of the Tripura Government the Committee has made queries and arrived at conclusions which indict the Government with illegal deeds and violation of procedures. In regard to the complaint about the forcible occupation of CITU union's office by Congress(I) storm-troopers the ILO Committee has asked the Government to provide further information as to the manner in which the specific case of a capture of an office belonging to a CITU affiliate was attended to as per law. "The Committee regrets the absence of a climate in the State of Tripura which is conducive to the development and maintenance of a genuinely free and independent trade union movement."

Having thus indicted the State Government for repressing the trade union movement the Committee further suggested its collusion with anti-socials and noted its refusal to take legal actions against those who attack the Government's opponents. "The Committee further asked the Government to provide information as to the outcome of the investigations into the murders of Gopal Ghosh and Nripendra Rudra Pal including details of the outcome of any relevant court proceedings which may have been instituted in consequences of these investigations.

"The Committee further asked the Government to provide further particulars as to the alleged complexity of Badan Gope and Laxmi Narain Chauhan in the murder of Haripada Dey. In particular it asked the Government to indicate whether these individuals have been charged with any offence in relation to this matter and if so whether these charges have been brought before the court."

The gang rape and assaults on tribal rights in Tripura stand in bizarre contrast to Rajiv Gandhi's new promises of transferring power to the people through the Panchayati Raj Bill. For thirty per cent reservation for women promised under the Bill they have to accept gang rape of women with no punishment for offenders. The Panchayati Raj Bill provides that 30 per cent of Panchayat's expenditure should be spent for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But in Tripura the tribals are being deprived of land and other rights secured by them under the Autonomous District Legislation.

Raise Voice against the Semi-fascist Terror

Comrades,

The repression in Tripura, the terror against the masses, the total suppression of trade union rights should have been made a major campaign issue by all trade unions and secular political parties. The vicious and inhuman attack is an integral part of the authoritarian drive of the Congress(I). It should not be forgotten that the semi-fascist terror in West Bengal in 1972 finally led to the imposition of emergency rule all over India. Some parties at that time thought that the terror was an affair between the Congress-I Government and the CPI(M) and refused to fight against it. The mistake is being repeated again. Among the political parties only the CPI(M) considers it a major political issue. Even the left parties have left the Tripura masses to their fate. Among the central trade unions only the CITU fights for the people of Tripura the rest pass the terror in silence.

Our CITU must redouble its efforts in defence of Tripura and must constantly awaken all sections of the working class to the terror regime in the State and the brave fight of our comrades and the people of Tripura against it.

Economic Situation: Growing Penetration by Western Economy

Comrades,

Let me turn to the dangerous aspects of our economic situation. We have repeatedly warned that the new economy policy of the Rajiv Gandhi with its emphasis on imports liberalisation, call for competitiveness of industry and new openings to foreign capital to invest in our country will lead us into trouble and engender growing dependence of our economy on foreign loans and that this will jeopardise our efforts to build an independent self-reliant economy. This is precisely what is happening. Finding our economy to be in growing need of

Western help the US imperialists are now brazenly demanding total surrender and calling on the Government to open every avenue of our national economy to their penetration. In their new offensive they are charging India with following restricted trade practices which really means that Indian capital and industry should not be shown any preference and India must treat Indians as strangers in their own country and allow the Americans to take over. They further demand that they should be allowed to invade the services sector fields — insurance, banking, etc.

Imposition of Super 301 to Subjugate Indian Economy

The latest dominating demand under Super 301 is made in connection with what is called "The Protection of Intellectual Property Rights." As a newspaper despatch very aptly puts it the demand for Patent Trade negotiations under GATT, the demand that India and other countries conform to US dictates is intended to exercise a veto over technological development in India, capture India's market and subject her further progress to the US dictates. In short it is a demand for the subjugation of the economy. Once you accept it you are not allowed to do anything on your own. If you protect home market and restrict entry of foreign multinationals you will be charged with unfair trade practices and subjected to penal action against your trade. If you introduce licence for any purpose including location of industry or priority for industry you will be again charged with the same thing. If you invent new processes to manufacture existing patent product of a multinational you will be again charged with the same accusations. The entire gamut of economy comes under the GATT with the acceptance of the US demand on patent law.

Raise Voice of Protest Against Super 301

Though the Government of India has registered a strong protest and declared that it will not allow anyone to interfere with its right to manage its economy it is doubtful whether this good resolve can be implemented in the present situation. In fact accusations have been made that by agreeing to discuss US demand at the GATT level India has already yielded ground.

The anxiety comes from the fact that in the years since independence the USA occupies an important position as India's trading partner. Besides there are large scale US investments in India and collaboration agreements. It is also known that success of India's efforts to develop exports to foreign countries often depends to a large extent on US good will. All these factors raise doubts whether the Government of India with its present policy of propitiating foreign capital and foreign markets will stand the strain and pressure of adverse US acts which may dislocate trade and export markets.

The CITU and the country's trade union move-

ment cannot neglect this danger to national economy. They must raise their protest in time and save the country from being mortgaged to the US and its allies. It is a matter of great concern that most of the bourgeois opposition parties fail to recognise this danger. The working class must take the lead in fighting it, our trade unions must continually place this question before the mass of workers and rouse their united protest.

Growing Debt Burden Mortgaging the Economy

The vulnerability to outside pressure has increased because of our growing foreign indebtedness. India's aggregate foreign debt at the end of March this year totalled 68,851 crores of rupees, Lok Sabha was told in July this year. Eminent economists, however, consider this to be an underestimate and estimate India's indebtedness at Rs. 100 thousand crores. According to the figures given to the Lok Sabha the amount of interests distributed on the outstanding debt during 1988-89 amounted to Rs 2698 crores. Over the years interests and repayment of past debt i.e., debt service obligations amounted to more than 50 per cent of the new debt, reducing the net inflow of foreign assistance to that extent. In the earlier years 1980-81 debt servicing amounted for 30 per cent of the gross aid whereas in the years 1984-85 to 1988-89 the payment amounted to 52 per cent of the new debt. A conference of eminent economists held in Delhi this August has warned that the burden of debt service has mounted to 40 per cent of export earnings and more than 25 per cent of current receipts. External debt as a proportionate national income is 30 per cent as compared with 10 per cent seven years ago.

This speaks of a process of mortgaging our economy and imposing further unbearable burden on the people to meet the foreign obligations. India's hectic commercial borrowings are causing concern and World Bank circle feels that India will have to be rescued by an IMF loan i.e., India cannot afford to incur further obligation at commercial rates. If this happens, stringent economic condition will be imposed on India and that means that the masses will be made to swallow another dose of high prices, reduction of food subsidies and reduction of standard of living.

Unless this disastrous policy of Rajiv Gandhi is defeated and new viable policies are implemented India may face an economic disaster undermining our independence.

Fleeing by Growing Deficit Budget

Comrades,

The country's economy is run on huge deficit budgets which mounted every year and inflicted high prices on the people. The overwhelming majority of the Congress(I) in the Lok Sabha, a majority secured mainly because of emotional reasons, refuses to raise its voice against a financial policy based on borrowing from abroad and looting inside the country through deficit budgets. The Finance Minister

recently said that the budget deficits of 1989-90 will be higher by Rs 1500 crores than last year. The perennial budget deficits have already set the inflationary process in motion. On July 27 this year the Government informed the Lok Sabha that the rate of inflation in 1988-89 was 6.6 per cent against 10.6 per cent in 1987-88. In 1988-89 the value of notes printed amounted to Rs 15,018.20 crores. Lathis, police firing and the printing press are the instruments with which the Rajiv Gandhi is ruling and ruining the country.

Rising Prices

Inflation rate has further accentuated in the context of rising high prices of necessities of life and forcing starvation and semi-starvation on large sections of people. Latest official estimate of people living below poverty line is 37 crores. How can this 37 crores escape outright starvation with the rising inflation rate following from notes manufacturing business of the Government. Now under Rajiv Gandhi every year good or bad must sow distress among the people. The year 1988-89 saw a big bumper agricultural crop but wholesale price index went up by 7.5 per cent. The result is that despite good harvest the rural mass continue to starve because it cannot match its purchasing capacity with the rising prices of foodgrains.

Liquidating the Public Distribution System

It seems that Rajiv Government has found another way of forcing high prices on the people and mulcting them. Despite ample production, the Government agencies have procured less foodgrains this year. The result is that the open market has cornered the stocks. There is insufficient supply through the public distribution system. State Governments like the West Bengal and Kerala are complaining against short supplies. Rajiv's reply is "don't come with the begging bowl to the Centre." What it means is go and purchase in the open market at higher prices and inflict high prices on the people. This meets the demand of the World Bank that food-subsidy should be reduced and people should pay higher prices for food.

Now this is the situation deliberately created by the Rajiv Gandhi Government for the lakhs thrown out of their employment, for the crores employed in the unorganised industry those who have never seen a job and for the vast rural masses. A Government of this type have no right to continue and the crime it has committed is many times worse, more criminal than the Bofors deal.

Industrial Situation: Closing Down the Sick Concerns

The working class of India is the victim of this situation. There has been intense aggravation of working class distress since our last meeting. What is the official policy of Rajiv Government in relation to the industrial situation? Allow as many sick concerns to die as possible, never mind what happens to the jobs of the workers. The sick concerns

are to be considered as non-competitive and therefore to be wiped out. The World Bank objects to spend money for the revival and therefore the policy of gradually strangulating them is being adopted. The same policy is to be adopted towards textile mills under the NTC, the mills which are declared non-viable, and modernisation process is to be carried on in a few chosen mills. This modernisation will dispense with thousands of redundant workers to make the concerns competitive on the world market. Denotification of concerns is another measure to lessen the responsibility of the government which considers itself a socialist government. The concerns are to be handed over to former private owners who may promptly close them down. The more than 1,60,000 concerns are to be disposed of in this way. The responsibility of self declared welfare state to nurse back failing concerns is to be given up in the hunt for new competitive industry and new technology. But the matter does not end here. There are other ways in which the working class has been victimised. Illegal lock-outs and closures are not prohibited. The culprits are allowed to go scot-free. The fraudulent misappropriation of workers' Provident Fund contributions is again allowed to go virtually unpunished. In fact the Congress(I) Government's law provides such light punishment that the legislation becomes an incitement to rob the workers of their contribution. Private and government concerns are contriving more and more to reduce the number of permanent workers and increase the strength of temporary workers, the latter will be without the right of ESI and Provident Fund. A big saving in wage bills is to be achieved this way. And finally the Defence Department of the Union Government and other departments and private industries all are engaged in transferring part of the work to private contractors. The labourers engaged by the contractors have no rights even to DA, ESI and Provident Fund and even to a prescribed wage. It is a monstrous wage cut to save money for the Government and the capitalists. Day-by-day such rights as DA, ESI Provident Fund, leave with pay are being restricted to a narrowing circle of permanent workers in organised industry and their number is also being reduced daily. The workers in unorganised industry have no protection of legislation even minimum wage legislation. Their condition does not differ at all from that of Indian workers under British colonial rule.

Anti-Labour Legislations

In this situation to stem the tide of militant trade union movement, the Government introduced the new anti-working class legislations to curb the right to strike and the right to collective bargaining of all sections of workers and employees including the hospital and other employees. Yielding to the demand of the World Bank to relax labour legislations, it was an assurance to the multinationals that the field will be cleared for their exploitation of workers. The anti-trade union legislation should be considered as an attack on the fundamental rights of organisation and strike.

Dispersing Production Process

And now another technique is adopted to reduce the capacity of the workers to fight collectively to reduce the confidence of numbers. A number of big factories especially those connected with multi-nationals have started part of work outside the factory by dispersing production process. Part of work is transferred to low wage areas where government concessions are available in the name of helping the development of backward regions. In some cases production process is dispersed in the city itself, part of which are being handed over to industrial workers working at home and unable to defend their interests. And over and above this there is an attack of the revised fraudulent cost of living index. The trade union movement and working class of our country are face to face with these attacks in the midst of unheard of unemployment. No doubt last year has been a hard year for us to maintain our rights, our jobs and above all our organisation.

Fake Scheme of Workers' Participation

This was a situation in which there was utmost need to take counsel with the workers and secure their cooperation in running production in industrial concerns. It was above all necessary to secure their cooperation on equal terms to restore to health the sick concerns and eliminate huge losses due to non-utilisation of country's production potential. The CITU has repeatedly called for a genuine scheme of workers' participation based on equal status so that the skill and initiative of workers can contribute fully to social production. The workers do not wish to be silent spectators or outsiders in the production process. They want to play an active role in shaping, influence and improving country's production. But the capitalists and Rajiv's socialist Government have refused to accept any participation based on equal rights and status with the workers having all the rights to know about production details, state of orders, supply of raw materials, finances, etc. Even the farcical scheme of participation introduced by the Government was not implemented by them. The Rajiv Government's labour legislation pieces are only meant for international reporting and propaganda and not for implementation. The Rajya Sabha Committee on Government Assurances says in its 36th Report that the Board level participation of workers is more important than shop or floor or plant level participation. No suggestion has been made by the Labour Ministry on the question of consensus and due to its casual and perfunctory attitude the scheme would prove non starter. After hearing the statements, views and comments of the Secretary, Ministry of Labour, the Committee concluded that the Ministry of Labour and the Tripartite Committee had no teeth in effecting the implementation of the scheme of employees' participation in management — no mechanism whatsoever existed to check the veracity of the information furnished to them by the latter. The ministry of labour was not properly applying their mind to resolve the impasse over the mode of selection of workers' representa-

tives at the board of director's level and was simply harping upon consensus which appeared to the committee to be inapplicable. The clarification given by the Secretary, Ministry of Labour was highly unsatisfactory and unconvincing.

Crisis in Jute and Textile Industries

Comrades,

On behalf of the CITU, I express our warm sympathy for the cotton textile and jute workers who had to bear the main burden of the closures and retrenchement. Our sympathies are with the rest of the workers who also have been forced to accept prolonged lock-outs and closures. Despite the most critical situation the textile and jute workers have held their organisations and unity in tact. The lock out offensive could not shake their organisational loyalty.

I warmly congratulate the working class of Bengal, all sections of workers and employees for their magnificent contribution to the Bakreshwar project. Comrades, to make such a contribution in the midst of an agonising and excruciating industrial situation with tens of thousands without work was an expression of high political consciousness and loyalty to working class and democratic movement. It revealed the mighty support and confidence that the Left Front Government of West Bengal headed by Comrade Jyoti Basu, Vice President of the CITU has earned among working class.

The condition of jute industry can be imagined from the following: "The jute employers continue to be guided by speculative trading and greed for earning high profits. They are attempting to solve their problems at the expense of workers. One after another the mills are locked out for the purpose. The lock-out figures in jute mills vis-a-vis production figures indicate that the jute employers kept the total production figures almost stable though, about 25 per cent of the capacity remain idle during the period due to the periodical lock outs." (West Bengal Labour 1988)

The offensive takes the form of arbitrary changes in the man-machine ratio, increased work load and wage cuts. The offensive of synthetic fibre was to an extent reduced by the Government of India's order for mandatory use of jute goods for packaging of some articles. But the use of circular looms to manufacture bags of jute and synthetic fibre has created danger of large scale retrenchement. The Government of India is helping this process in the name of modernisation and also financing it. In this condition the nationalisation of jute industry provides the only way out of the present impasse when lock-outs and other pressures are used to overcome workers' resistance and gather profits for the mill owners. The demand for nationalisation has been repeatedly raised by the CITU and all left trade unions in West Bengal. A delegation of MPs from all Parties including the Congress(I) met the Central Industries Minister to press the demand. But the

Central Government showed no response. The Centre's policy is to solve the problems of the industry at the expense of the workers and for profiteering interests of the jute barons. While pressing for this urgent demand our CITU units must make every effort to ensure the opening of the lock-out mills by negotiating agreements which are acceptable to the mass of workers and which do not prejudice their future.

Along with the jute industry the cotton textile industry, the biggest industry in India is in the throes of crisis. The total number of workers involved in the production of cotton textile goods—mills, handloom and powerloom workers exceed a crore. Yet this mass of workers have been thrown into indescribable misery by the Rajiv Government. The new cotton textile policy has turned out to be a hoax, inflicting further suffering on the workers. The NTC mills, more than 100, are also run inefficiently and turning sick. The Government seems to have no other policy except of denotifying them and throwing the workers to the wolfs. Its policy towards powerloom has ruined the workers who have been getting starvation wage all along. So far as the handloom workers are concerned the official policy, notwithstanding tall talks, is one of continuous ruination and forced starvation. The lakhs of handloom workers continue to ply their trade just because outright starvation awaits them if they stop plying the handlooms. The CITU has held several conventions to voice the urgent demands of all these sections. In September again there will be a big rally of all sections to protest the official policies.

Nationalisation with Workers' Participation—the only Solution

On the 30th of August while demanding justice to powerloom and handloom workers the entire trade union movement must demand nationalisation of organised cotton textile industry with workers' participation. Sickness exposes the bankruptcy of private ownership. The plight of NTC mills exposes the bankruptcy of running the mills without participation of workers on equal terms. The more than 100 nationalised textile mills under the NTC have shown enormous losses leading to huge waste of public money because of failure to ensure genuine participation of workers and lack of desire and the will to produce the best possible results for the people. The nationalised textile mills and their working is not an affair between the workers and the management, but a trust held on behalf of the people of India.

The Government has no plan of running the industry in the interest of people and the workers. In fact they seem to have only one plan, a plan for massacre of jobs. Private capital circles and their research bureau forecast that the share of composite mills in cloth production will shrink to 10 per cent in another ten years. About 50 per cent of the composite mills will not see the turn of the century and the labour employed in the textile industry today is surplus by 25 per cent for available levels of

technology. The NTC is pursuing the same objective. It controls 14 mills in West Bengal, which employ about 14,000 workers. The management of the NTC has given a proposal for conversion of 14 mills into seven mills through amalgamation to make these amalgamated mills viable. But this will affect the job of 9000 workers. Nobody knows what fate awaits the workers of handloom and powerloom at the turn of the century.

There can be no relief for the workers concerned unless the organised textile industry is nationalised, workers' participation is ensured and transitional consultation with the trade unions. Besides, justice should be ensured to powerloom and handloom workers.

Pressure of World Bank

But it is not only a question of jute and cotton textile industry. Lockout sickness, closures affect thousands of engineering and other concerns. The drug industry in India is again faced with closures because of competition from multinationals. The policy regarding closures, lock outs, denotification, non-interference of the Government is to an extent influenced by World Bank pressure and guidelines leading to victimisation of lakhs of Indian workers. This is accompanied by a terrific computerisation drive. According to estimates of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, India's production of computers will be worth Rs 950 crores in 1990, Rs 3500 crores in 1995 and Rs 1400 crores in 2000 A.D. In 1991 production of micro-computers will go up from 75,000 numbers in 1989 to 1,10,000 numbers and mini-computers would register a growth from 35,000 numbers to 45,000 numbers.

Rising Struggles

Despite the adverse conditions facing all industries and all sections of workers the trade unions have continued to fight against the growing attacks and old and new contingents of workers have again and again taken up the fight for their demands. The CITU in Kanpur secured an outstanding victory for the textile workers compelling the authorities to withdraw an adverse award which sought to impose heavy workload to workers. Rail Roko agitation organised by the CITU and other trade unions and which was addressed by Comrade E. Balanandan proved effective and the Government had to accept the demand of the workers. In this militant agitation our CITU had played a leading role decisively mobilising the workers for the fight against the award. The CITU has succeeded in rousing the unorganised workers in defence of their rights including minimum wage. The Delhi State CITU Committee, the Punjab and other state CITU Committees have done creditable work and achieved some minimum success which should help in further consolidating the organisation.

A number of our State Committees are already attending to the problem of working women. The

conference of Anganwadi workers organised under the auspices of the CITU Working Women's Coordinating Committee was a big success. Following it several conferences and conventions are being held in many places. There is no doubt that the Conference provided a solid ground for building an all India organisation.

Sugar and Construction workers have shown further progress in the struggle for their rights. The sugar workers are now preparing for all India strike in support of their minimum demands. The electricity workers have made rapid progress and there is a joint call along with AITUC to organise an all India strike on 30th August in support of charter of demands. The Engineering and Transport workers are again preparing themselves to face new challenges. The workers of public sector industries, coal and steel and others have through strenuous negotiating efforts succeeded in securing substantial wage increases and other demands. This advance was the result of the united efforts of all concerned trade union centres. The agreement entered into by IISCO comrades guaranteeing employment for all those working at present after the expansion and modernisation of the plant is a notable achievement of IISCO workers.

Fight for Right to Work

Comrades,

Many of the tasks that face us are being discharged but yet much remains to be done to meet the needs of the situation. Take the struggle of trade unions for the unemployed workers, It has not yet become an integral part of our trade union activities. It is taken spasmodically. Conferences are held, resolutions are passed, but a movement of the workers for the defence of the unemployed is not in sight. Even a permanent organisation backed by the mass following of trade unions is yet to emerge. Without this our demand for right to work, a fundamental right under the Constitution will not have the required sanction. In the present condition of massive unemployment it is absolutely essential to rally round this demand the mass of unemployed and employed workers. It is a matter of some satisfaction that apart from central trade unions, industrial federations like the steel workers' federation are taking initiative on this front and mobilising the workers in support of the unemployed.

Fraudulent Price Index

Comrades,

Let me now recall how we have failed on a very important issue, an issue of importance to the workers. I am referring to the fraudulent cost of living index number and its imposition, which has already led to a cut in the DA amount. Comrade Pandhe's pamphlet exposing the fraudulent character of the index are sold in thousands in almost all states by our CITU State Committees. The exception was the Maharashtra CITU State Committee. Thousands of workers know about this fraudulent

character of this index and yet no direct action and strike were organised by the trade unions. Again the only exception was the Maharashtra CITU State Committee which despite their vacillations and sabotage by some elements, organised a successful protest strike. It seems here is an instance of relying too much on others and foregoing our independent activity our responsibility to the workers; Some of the trade union centres had already shown that they had no interest in fighting this battle. And we should have drawn a proper conclusion and gone ahead.

Physical Attacks on CITU Cadres

Comrades,

We should not forget that in many places our CITU cadres and workers have to face physical attacks at the hands of the goondas hired by the managements, and police repression and terror. I have already referred to the repression in Tripura. Let me refer to the terror attacks in another Congress (I) ruled state, attacks connived at by the state police. The Barbil mining belt of Orissa witnessed unprecedented goonda terror and police repression in December last year. The target of the attack was the CITU union and its members, mostly Adivasis. On 22nd December 1988, Suka Patra, a CITU leader was attacked by the hired assassins. His hands and leg have been chopped off. In the months proceeding these attacks, seven CITU members were physically assaulted. Comrade Dharanidhar Mahto and Com. Ganeshwar Patra were physically assaulted and had to be removed to the hospital. The police response was no arrest of the culprits but a ban on CITU demonstration.

It is surprising that under the non-Congress (I) Government of Devi Lal in Haryana the workers are not free from repression. The sugar workers of Palwal, Palwal Co-operative Sugar Mills, who struck work on January 1st and were observing dharna at the mill gate were lathicharged on the night of 20th January. 25 workers were severely injured. Several workers were arrested. Earlier the General Secretary of the CITU union was dismissed.

This was not the only attack on workers in Haryana. Employees, workers, students all have been subjected to police assaults and assaults at the hands of the gangsters.

The same situation exists in many Congress(I) ruled states. The CITU has to forge ahead facing this repression. Every step forward of our organisation demands physical suffering and sacrifices of our workers and cadres. Without this militancy and spirit of self-sacrifice our organisation would not have developed.

Struggles Advancing in other Mass Organisations

Comrades

Before I turn to other topics let me on behalf of you welcome the great strides made by the Kisan

and Agricultural Workers' movement. This movement forms the basic strength of Indian people's struggle for democracy, struggle against Rajiv Gandhi and our march forward to a new social order, socialism. We should also welcome the advance registered by the organisations of youth and students.

Comrades,

Outstanding is the progress registered in the women's movement in our country. The AIDWA is organising a massive rally on 8th of September and all our unions must render all help to make it a grand success. Participation of working women, CITU's women members must be ensured in large numbers. The success of this mobilisation with its demand will be a fitting reply to the Congress(I) claims to advance the cause of women.

Safeguard the Left Front Governments

Comrades

On behalf of all of you I convey my warm greetings to the Left Front Governments of West Bengal and Kerala, who have shown how to defend democracy, national unity and common man's interests despite the heavy limitations of the bourgeois-landlord constitution. They have distinguished themselves by the refusal to use anti-people laws and have protected the democratic rights of the people. They have refused to bow down before the vested interests and lent their weight to the defence of the legitimate and urgent demands of the working class, peasantry, and the working people as a whole. They have thrown the weight of the administration to defend national unity and fight anti-national communal forces. The workers of West Bengal would have been in a far more critical plight had the Left Front not thrown its weight in their favour during these years of economic crisis. The discriminatory policy of the Rajiv Government towards the Left Front Ministry and the recent food policy have made the people rally behind the left parties all the more and given a rebuff to the slanders of the Congress(I) propaganda. In Kerala also there is continuous vilification of the LDF Government by the Congress(I) in association with the RSS, BJP and the Muslim League. Here again the Rajiv Government has deliberately reduced the food quota allotted to the state forcing high prices on the people and disturbing the functioning of the public distribution system. While the Rajiv Government forces high prices on the people the Kerala, Congress(I) holds the LDF Ministry responsible for it and starts the agitation. The two Governments by their performances have raised the prestige of Left force in national life leading to new correlation of forces among the opposition parties and democratic forces.

Forge Trade Union Unity

Comrades,

On the question of trade union unity we have shown persistence in maintaining and strengthening it. National Campaign Committee is not the only forum of trade union unity though it is the most

important and effective. At various levels, at the level of unions, in the daily struggle at the level of industrial federations, at the level of coordination committees in private and public sector, various forms of trade union unity and understanding are developing, increasing the resistance capacity of the workers. There are occasions on which the INTUC also is a partner in united actions and such actions are increasing. It is because of this persistent struggle and maintenance of unity that in the present period of perilous economic situation we have been able to strike some good bargain for the workers.

Comrades,

To maintain and strengthen this unity at various levels is the common task before all of us. No form of united front and unity should be neglected and all must contribute to strengthening the appeal of the NCC. In relation to the NCC also one should not be disappointed if sometimes a common agreement on a vital issue is not possible. You will be surprised, perhaps shocked to find that on the call for strike on 30th August in support of the Bandh for Rajiv's resignation, the NCC could not issue a joint statement. The BMS declined to join others. The rest of the trade unions have given a united call for the success of the bandh. Perhaps all of you must remember that on the question of world peace and important international developments very rarely there had been a common agreement on the NCC.

Finally, I have to state that in spite of all our efforts and sincerity for trade union unity, actual performance of the trade union centres lags far behind the urge of the workers to unite and fight together. May we be soon in a position to overcome lag.

Fight the Divisive Forces, Safeguard the Unity and Integrity of the Country

Comrades,

The trade union and working class have to wage a united fight to protect their rights. Simultaneously they have to wage a fight on issues which affect the country and the people as a whole. They have to defeat the economic policies of the Rajiv Government and ward off the danger of growing penetration in economy by American and other multinationals which is bound to affect our policy of self-reliance and erode our country's economic independence. The surrender of the Government of India before the Union Carbide cheating the Bhopal victims of their compensation clearly marks the danger arising from multinationals in our country.

To fight these dangers, created by the imperialist machinations what we require above all is the steeled unity of our people to defend the country's independence, its unity and its integrity. Unfortunately all minds of reactionary forces are undermining our unity. The Hindu communalists and obscurantists, the Muslim fundamentalists, the Khalistani secessionists, the sponsors of Hindu Raj, the RSS, BJP, and those who raise Pakistani flags in Jammu

and Kashmir and all those who fan communal riots, all are the worst disruptors of national unity and have to be fought relentlessly. To adopt soft attitude towards any one of these forces is to betray the country and objectively join hands with the foreign forces who seek to redivide the country.

Government of National Disintegration: Hoax of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana: Subjugating the Power of States

The Congress(I) under Rajiv has failed to meet this challenge of divisive forces. The Punjab situation shows no sign of improving and there are reports that the Rajiv Government and his agent S.S. Ray are conspiring to negotiate an agreement with one of the Bhindranwale groups. In Kashmir the pro-Pakistani challenge gets intensified everyday. In the Hindu heartland communal forces are planning a holocaust on the Ramjanambhoomi/Babri Masjid dispute. The Congress(I) party panders to the communal element and seeks their help for maintaining itself in power. In Kerala it takes the help of the Muslim League while teaching secularism to others in the north. In Mizoram for winning election it openly made a communal appeal in the name of Christianity to secure Christian votes. In the communal riots the Muslim minority faces the worst under its rule. The disintegration of the country under its rule is the biggest crime of the Rajiv Government. But the Congress(I) is not repentant. It has no sense of loyalty to the people, otherwise it would have quit the stage to allow a new government to take over. After establishing a fascist like terror in Tripura and unleashing police repression against rural masses in several States, Rajiv and the Congress(I) now talk of transfer of power to the people under the Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika bills. It is a device to get the confidence of the innocent mass, the force which will decide the result of the election. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is intended to provide the job for each family in the rural areas. It is an old promise which has remained unredeemed for years and it is not likely to be fulfilled under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana also. Under it each person is supposed to get a job for at least 50 to 100 days a year and for this a grant sum of Rs. 75,000/- to Rs. 100000 will be provided. As a matter of fact perhaps no other major social welfare and rural relief has revealed such blatant corruption, false claims, appropriation of huge sums in the name of wages of non-existent workers and use of cheap labour for the rich and the landlords. Situation will not be different this time. The landowners and upper sections which dominate the Panchayat will put their own interpretation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and spend money accordingly. Besides it is an election year measure. Its main aim is to get the attention of the rural masses concentrated on the Central Government and the ruling party so that they vote for the Congress(I). The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, the Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika Bills have one feature in common. Politically they aim at attacking the power of State Governments in the name of decentralisation. To be able to achieve this purpose

the bills are loaded with promises like 30 per cent reservation for women, 30 per cent expenditure for the benefit of Harijans and Adivasis, freedom from state control to spend the money as they like, as the Panchayat likes. But in the end the Panchayat is completely dependent for finances on the centre and must act according to its orders.

Whatever provision you make for the powers of the Panchayat will not benefit the people so long as landlords and rural money barons dominate them.

To make it control over the Panchayat Raj complete, to keep away the States from having any relation with it, elections are to be ordered by the Election Commissioner, a central official, important decisions are to be taken by the Governor and new powers and finances are to be given at the expense of the state. Attacks on the State's powers constitute an act of criminality which will affect the unity and integrity of the country.

The Nagarpalika Bill also provides for new powers to the Municipal Corporations but makes them completely dependent on the Centre. For their success they will have to depend entirely on all-India finance bodies controlled by the Centre.

While genuine decentralisation of power to the Panchayats and municipalities is welcomed and necessary, the proposed bills have little to do with decentralisation.

Dethrone the Congress(I) Government

Comrade,

The five year rule of Rajiv Gandhi is preparing a disaster for our country's unity integrity and independence and economic progress. Rajiv Gandhi shows no signs of repentance and responsibility. His August 15th speech not only marred the serenity of the occasion but showed that he has no regard for the people and their sufferings. He claimed great success in economic advance of the country when crores were living below the poverty line. He claimed that he has rescued the country from the threat of disintegration when his five years rule has accentuated the threat and revealed the bankruptcy of his Government to meet it. He talked about fighting the communal and divisive forces when he and his party go to any length to compromise with them for remaining in power. He has nothing to say about corruption scandals surrounding his Government and showed his utter disregard for democracy when he made light of the resignation of the opposition from the Lok Sabha. Betraying his election pledges and caught in corruption scandals, the Rajiv Government and the Congress (I) tried to work the Parliament as an instrument of one party authoritarian rule. They threw to winds all norms and conventions of parliamentary democracy treating the opposition as irrelevant. Of late the Ministers and Congress (I) members have assumed militant postures to launch intemperate attacks against the opposition uttering half truths and even lies.

But the arrogance buttressed by an overwhelming majority in the Lok Sabha got deflated when opposition parties resigned en bloc from the House demanding the resignation of Rajiv Gandhi after the CAG exposure. This sudden opposition action and seizure of political initiative by it electrified the situation and served to enthuse people and forces which were fighting the Congress (I) Government policies in mass actions, strikes and struggles. This unprecedented step created panic and confusion in the arrogant majority holders. In their confusion they are making statements full of ridicule. Like a thief calling thief they charge the opposition with violating democratic norms. If they have not understood that the resignations constitute appeal from the Parliamentary majority to the sovereign people of India they have understood nothing of democracy.

Sugar Workers Decide for Indefinite Strike

THIRD all India Convention of Sugar Workers held at Lucknow on August 20 decided to go on indefinite strike all over the country from November 15. The Convention was organised by the National Sugar Workers Co-ordination Committee comprising of all the Central Trade Unions in the sugar industry, viz., the CITU, AITUC, HMS, INTUC, BMS, UTUC and HMKP and other federations.

The decision to hold the Convention and prepare for indefinite strike was taken by the Co-ordination Committee in its meeting held at Delhi on July 2 in view of the refusal of the Government to accede to the demand of the Co-ordination Committee to reject the retrograde recommendations of the Third Sugar Wage Board and start negotiations with the Co-ordination Committee on the charter of demands of the Sugar workers.

The Wage Board after about five years of deliberation had rejected all the major demands of the sugar workers despite high profits made by the sugar mill owners. This was virtually a negation of wage revision of the sugar workers which had practically remained frozen since the last one and half decades.

The two labour representatives in the Wage Board had opposed its recommendations and submitted their notes of dissent. Since the submission of report to the Government by the Wage Board in January last, the sugar workers went on almost continuous agitations.

As decided by the Co-ordination Committee in its meeting held at Pune on January 11 and 12, a successful one day strike was observed all over the country on February 15. Thereafter a mass all India rally of several thousands sugar workers was held at Boat Club, New Delhi on April 11 and a Petition signed by about one lakh workers was submitted to

The opposition parties in their separate statements have given a call for Bharat Bandh on August 30 to demand resignation of Rajiv Government. It is a timely call. The CITU, the AITUC, the HMS and several other constituents of the National Campaign Committee have called for industrial strike in support of the call. There is no doubt that our unions will make all efforts to make the call a grand success. The 30th August will be the opening shot in the coming battle of elections. The stronger the unity of left and secular forces, the wider the mass appeal, the greater the chance of electing the government of people's choice and dethroning the Congress (I) from power. The CITU and the working class must from now onwards get ready to fight the election battle and win it in favour of the democratic forces and the people of India.

the Lok Sabha Speaker for the Committee on Petitions. The central rally was followed up with state-wise rallies on April 26 when memoranda were submitted to the State Labour Ministers to prevail upon the Government of India to reject the Wage Board report. However, despite all these continuous movements, the Government remained callous towards the demands of the sugar workers and kept their wages under virtual freeze. Under such compelling circumstances the Convention gave the call for indefinite strike.

The Convention was presided over by one representative from each Central Trade Union and federations. About 800 delegates from all the sugar producing states and representing the various unions and federations attended the convention. The report was placed by Kishore Pawar, Convenor of the Co-ordination Committee. Leaders of the various Central Trade Unions and federations addressed the delegates. A number of delegates participated in the discussion. They narrated their deplorable experience of working and service conditions, poor and varying wage structures from State to State and from mill to mill, low Dearness Allowances, poor fringe benefits, retaining allowances, and all other facilities. They narrated the deplorable conditions of the casual, badli and contract workers. The conditions of those engaged in breweries and alcohol preparations were still worse although they worked under the same management and in the same factories.

The delegates showed their anger at the continued refusal of the managements to improve their service conditions and at the adamancy of the Government to negotiate their demands. They showed their determination to launch the indefinite strike and resolution not to allow crushing in any mill till the Government accedes to the demands of the Co-ordination Committee. The resolution calling for the indefinite strike from November 15 was passed unanimously.

Massive Preparations for Bharat Bandh

BY the time this issue of the Working Class reaches the hands of the workers, they would already have participated in the industrial strike and the Bharat Bandh on August 30, 1989.

The black record of the Rajiv regime was unprecedented, as the 30th August Bharat Bandh would be the third during his tenure within five years as the Prime Minister and the second one in just over the last one year. The first Bharat Bandh was called by eleven left and opposition parties on February 26, 1986 protesting against the steep price rise in several essential commodities like rice, wheat and all varieties of fertiliser and petroleum products. The National Campaign Committee of Trade Unions responding promptly called for countrywide industrial strike. This was the first salvo against the new Government which through its new economic policy under pressure of the World Bank and IMF embarked upon the path of unbridled development of capitalism and inviting the multinationals overriding the public sector and self-reliance. Implementation of this policy despite growing opposition by the trade unions and the opposition had its ruthless effect on the working class, peasantry and all sections of the toiling of people. Growing closures, lockouts, industrial sickness, unemployment, price rise and attack on trade union rights and anti-labour legislations curbing the right to strike, growing authoritarianism, attack on the democratic rights of the people and targetting the left led Governments became the order of the day. Getting growingly isolated from the people, the Congress Government of Rajiv Gandhi went on increasingly compromising with the divisive and communal and casteist forces endangering the unity and integrity of the country. Above all, corruption entered deep at the high levels of the Government. So the demand for resignation of the Government became vociferous in the Bharat Bandh of 15th March, 1988. The things deteriorated further since then in all the above respects making the demand for the resignation of the Government as the central demand for the 30th August Bandh.

The CITU took the initiative and promptly issued statement on July 27 calling upon the unions and federations to join the Bharat Bandh by resorting to industrial strike on 30th August, as soon as the left and other opposition parties gave the call following the resignation given by the Lok Sabha MPs. The CITU included the major demands of the workers on the issue apart from that of corruption as exposed by the CAG report on Bofors. These demands as voiced by the left parties included opening of closed units, defence of national unity, right to work, minimum wage to agricultural and unorganised workers, remunerative prices to peasants, end to atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Tribes, against encroachment on States' powers, etc. The Secretariat of the CITU reiterated the call. Six Central Trade Unions jointly issued the call for industrial strike on 30 August.

The INTUC leadership however did not take any lesson from the previous strikes and bandhs. Getting

growingly isolated from the workers it clung to the Rajiv headed Congress Government like a drowning man catching at a straw. Totally ignoring the interest and demands of the working class it decided to go all out to oppose the bandh as according to it, it did not relate to any demand of the working class. The INTUC thus ridiculed the demands of the working class and the problems faced by it due to the rabidly anti-labour policies of the Government. It had no concern with the growing closures and sickness which affected tens of thousands of workers. It had no concern with the growing unemployment which is paralysing the vast workforce of the country. It had no concern with the unorganised labour which constituted 90 per cent of the workforce and are living under pauperised condition. It had no concern with the fraudulent price index which robbed the workers of thousands of rupees in DA. And of course it cannot have any concern of the vast rural masses who are living below the poverty line. With this outlook, it cannot of course be expected to think about the minorities, the women workers, the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, etc. It is only concerned to keep the corrupt, inefficient, pro-monopolist, pro-feudal and the pro-multinational Rajiv Government on the saddle some how or other, even by compromising with the divisive forces. No wonder that such leadership will meet its doom with the march of time.

While writing this report, large number of statements and resolutions are coming from various state committees, industrial federation and unions about their decisions to join the strike and the Bharat Bandh. While West Bengal and Kerala had already taken the lead and showed the path by calling for State Bandhs respectively, all other States like Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, UP, M.P., Gujarat, Assam, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and even Tripura braving the semi-fascist terror have launched full scale preparations for the bandh. The preparations started from August 9 in full swing by observing the day as Save India Day.

Industrial federation, both in public and private sectors, like in Steel, Coal, Electricity, Fertilisers, Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, Bank, Insurance, Construction, Plantation, Sugar, Textiles, Jute, Road Transport, State Government employees and various other unions have already served strike notices. Massive rail roko and rasta roko will be launched on the day. Even the Delhi Transport Corporation employees have decided to join this massive action. The railway employees and airline employees will extend support to the movement. The Kisan Sabhas and the agricultural workers' unions will join emmasse. All other mass organisations of women, students and youth will join the movement. Condemning the Govt's threatening circular the Confederation of Central Govt. employees called upon the employees to support and join the Bharat Bandh.

Fighting this force of the people with its back against the wall, the Rajiv Government have made elaborate arrangements to confront the people violently. According to reports, violence will be deliberately created to topple the Tamilnadu Government. Large number of leaders and cadres of the trade unions and opposition political parties will be arrested a few days before the bandh. Ruthless repression will be let loose by the police and hired hoodlums. The various managements have already issued threatening letters to the unions. The rural masses will be subjected to murderous assaults by the private armies of the landlords. The savage vengeance of the Rajiv Government is bound to surpass all previous records of its violence against the people, the workers and the peasants. But it is

evident that it cannot fight the will and determination of the people who are prepared for all sacrifices to oust it from power and build up a viable alternative of the left, democratic and secular forces. The struggle for this alternative will be carried forward beyond the 30th August. The doom for Congress is written on the wall and the determination to accelerate the process is writ large in the faces of the people.

The working class obviously will lead the struggle. The trade union unity that has been forged irrespective of affiliations and despite differences is bound to get further consolidated. The call of the six Central Trade unions is the pointer towards this objective. We are publishing here under for records the joint statement of the six Central Trade Unions.

Central Trade Unions Call for Industrial Strike and to Join Bharat Bandh on August 30, 1989

WE strongly denounce the anti-working class, anti-people policies of Central Government which have helped the multinational companies, Indian big business houses and the landlords during the last 4 and a half years. Growing industrial sickness, closures, lockout and retrenchment have become the order of the day. Unemployment is increasing by leaps and bounds. The rising prices of essential commodities have imposed crushing burden on the common people. The atrocities on Harijans, tribals and women have been increasing day by day. The refusal of the Central Govt. to introduce genuine land reforms have worsened the conditions of the rural poor and the number of people below poverty line are increasing rapidly.

The imposition of **UNSA**, **ESMA**, the attempt to bring in notorious Industrial Relations Bill and Hospital and Other Institutions Bill have hit hard the trade union rights of the workers. The unilateral change in the Consumer Price Index base to 1982 has deprived the workers of huge amounts in DA.

The refusal of the Government to take strong action against communal and divisive forces and actual alliance forged with these elements in some states have created a serious threat to the unity and integrity of the country.

Over and above this, the Govt. of India and the administration set up is seething with corruption. The Bofors Gun scandal, the shady defence deals have been rightly exposed by the CAG reports and national dailies. The Central Govt. however continues to cover up these deals involving hundreds of crores of rupees. This has evoked strong reaction among the working class and the people at large; who are demanding resignation of Rajiv Gandhi Government. It is in this context that the call for Bharat Bandh on 30th August has been given by opposition parties and members of Lok Sabha have resigned enmasse.

In this situation, we support the call and call upon the working class to observe industrial strike all over the country on 30th August to press for the following demands:

1. Ban on all closures, lockouts and retrenchment and reopening of all the closed units.
2. Right to work should be enshrined as the fundamental right in the Constitution of India.
3. Check the price line and supply essential commodities through Public Distribution System.
4. Implementation of land reform and remunerative prices to the poor peasants.
5. Fix minimum wages for unorganised workers much above the poverty line.
6. Scrap the fraudulent index series with 1982 as the base year.
7. Strong action against communal and divisive forces and defend integrity of the country.
8. Withdraw all anti-working class and repressive laws.
9. Stringent punishment to all those guilty in corrupt deals.
10. Withdraw all concessions to multinational companies.

We appeal to all trade unions/federations irrespective of affiliations to participate in the general strike on 30th August and join the Bharat Bandh and observe protest rallies, demonstrations and other mass actions, so that the powerful voice of the working class is raised against the anti-people policies of the Government and for a change of Government.

Sd/- M.K. Pandhe,
P.K. Ganguly
(CITU)

Sd/- Indrajit Gupta, Homi
Daji, K.L. Mahendra,
T.N. Siddhanta
(AITUC)

Sd/- Veereshwar Tiagi,
S.P. Singh (HMS)

Sd/- Abani Roy
(UTUC)

Sd/- D.D. Shastri
(TUCC)

Sd/- J.N. Mandal,
S. Majumdar
(UTUC-LS)

UP Decides for Three-Day Strike

ABOUT two lakh unorganised workers of Uttar Pradesh engaged in the engineering industry will go on a three-day strike from August 28-30, 1989. A joint statement was issued announcing this decision on July 27 from Lucknow by Ravi Sinha, K N Bhatt, Daulatram, (CITU), Ramakant Bajpai, D K Yadav, K K Tiwari (AITUC), Girish Pandey, Narendra (HMKP), Umashankar Mishra, Naryan Swarup (HMS) and Ravi Pratap Narian Singh, Ram Naresh Avasti (UTUC).

The demands included a minimum wage of Rs 1050/- p.m. plus DA at Rs 2/- per point rise (1960=100); guarantee of work and regularisation of all casual and contract workers, equal pay for equal work to women workers; opening of all closed units; guarantee of trade union activities, end to police repression; unemployment allowance; vacation of Stay Orders by the Government on minimum wage, etc.

The unions served strike notice in the first week of August and observed a demands week from August 17 to 24 by holding demonstrations, rallies dharnas, gate meeting, etc.

Earlier, the State CITU initiated the movement through its independent activity by holding a state convention at Lucknow on April 2 and staging a massive dharna before the State Assembly on April 3. The CITU unions observed Demands Week from April 24 to 30, district level rallies on May 1 and completed districtwise conventions by the month of May.

Victory by Allahabad CITU: During the period, the Allahabad unit of the CITU achieved a major victory on the question of minimum wage and other demands in M/s Khurana Auto Pvt. Ltd. The struggle was waged by the CITU union in the company, viz. Allahabad Shops and Municipal Workers' Union initially demanding reinstatement of two leaders, who were victimised for demanding minimum wage and other benefits like bonus, ESI, PF, EL, CL, SL, permanency, etc. The workers went on complete strike on July 12, when the management was compelled to negotiate and make a settlement with the union on July 13 conceding the demands.

Bihar to Hold State Convention

THE office bearers' meeting of Bihar State CITU Committee held at Ranchi on July 25 discussed the issue of minimum wage and other demands of the unorganised workers and decided to hold a State level convention at Jamshedpur on September 10, demanding a minimum wage of Rs 1050/-p.m. The meetidg further demanded abolition of contract

labour system in permanent and perennial nature of jobs and regularise all the contract workers in their respective positions in the various organised industries like Coal, Steel, Electricity, etc. The 10th September convention will decide the future programme of action.

Conventon in Bombay

ON July 26, 1989 a State level convention of unorganised workers was held in Bombay under the banner of the CITU Maharashtra State Committee. The torrential rains and floods that devastated Maharashtra on July 24-25 disrupted communications and physically prevented workers from some of the major centres of the CITU from reaching Bombay; nevertheless, nearly 250 delegates from Bombay, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Bhiwandi, Paithan, Bhandara, Jalgaon and elsewhere attended the convention, which gave a call for taking up a sustained struggle on the demands of the lakhs of unorganised, contract and casual workers throughout Maharashtra.

In his inaugural speech, State CITU Secretary B P Kashyap, while underlining the importance of the vast unorganised sector, referred to the glorious struggle being waged by the Delhi CITU on the question of minimum wage, the martyrdom of Safdar Hashmi, and the All India initiative being taken by the CITU to organise a nationwide movement on the problems of unorganised workers. He called upon the workers to link their struggle to the removal of the Congress (I) from power. CITU State President and all India Vice-President Prabhakar Sanzgiri, presided over the Convention.

The main resolution of the Convention on unorganised labour was moved by State CITU Vice-President A D Shastri who highlighted the grim condition of unorganised workers and condemned the callous attitude of the Central and State Government and employers towards workers in the unorganised sector. Among the major demands made in the resolution were: National minimum wage of Rs 1050 per month based on 800 index; DA of Rs 1.65 per point increase in index; Revision of Minimum wage every six months or with index rise of 50 points, whichever is earlier; PF, ESI, bonus and gratuity benefits to unorganised workers; prosecution and imprisonment of employers who violate the Minimum Wages Act; equal wages and maternity and other benefits to women workers; abolition of the contract system and regularisation of all contract and casual workers; and full trade union and democratic rights to workers in the unorganised sector throughout the country.

15 delegates spoke in support of the resolution, giving their experiences and endorsing the need for a sustained movement and organisation of workers in the vast unorganised sector.

CITU All-India Vice President Ahilya Rangekar said that it was significant that only the CITU had raised the question of unorganised workers at the national level, since this section constitutes 90 per cent of the workforce. It is the Government's econo-

mic policies that are heaping ruin on this section, and it is only the Left led Governments in West Bengal and Kerala that are concretely redressing their grievances.

Maharashtra Kisan Sabha President Gangadhar Appa Burande drew attention to the problems of agricultural workers who constitute the largest single mass of unorganised workers in the rural areas, and called for special efforts to organise them and lead their struggle.

CITU State General Secretary K L Bajaj placed the programme of action, proposing that immediate efforts should begin on behalf of the CITU to mobilise unorganised workers in various districts around the Charter of Demands, a large CITU delegation from Maharashtra should participate in the All India Convention of unorganised workers in Delhi

on September 23 and preparations should begin in the direction of a 1-day nationwide strike on the date to be decided in the Delhi Convention. He also called upon other central trade unions to join the common struggle.

In his concluding speech, CITU State President Prabhakar Sanzgiri stressed the fact that there were at least 1.5 crores of workers and employees in the unorganised sector in Maharashtra who had no protection under the law whatsoever and were being savagely exploited by the Government and the employers. Apart from this there were over 60 lakhs unemployed in the State. It is by concretely taking up the minimum wage struggle of these sections that the Congress (I) Government should be thoroughly exposed and the growing communalism and casteism in the State should be fought, and it is the CITU that should take the lead in this battle.

All India Convention of Unorganised Workers at V.P. House Lawns, Rafi Marg, New Delhi on September 23.

Meeting of CITU leaders of unorganised workers at Constitution Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi on September 22 at 3 P.M.

Secretariat Decisions

THE Secretariat of the CITU met under the presidency of Com. B.T. Ranadive on August 10 evening. The meeting was attended by Com. Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary; Com. E. Balanandan, M.P., Treasurer; and Com. Md. Amin, M.P., Com. Kanai Banerjee, Com. Jibon Roy, Com. Ranjit Basu, Com. P.K. Ganguly, Secretaries.

Bharat Bandh and Industrial Strike on August 30: The Secretariat reiterated its call to all the CITU unions and federations to launch strike on August 30 and join the Bharat Bandh on the day as called by the left parties and all other opposition parties with the central demand for resignation of the Rajiv Gandhi Government. It called upon the workers to make full preparations and launch all round campaign to mobilise all sections of workers with all their other common demands like ban on closures and lock outs, for national unity, against the new series of Consumer Price Index and for remunerative prices to the peasants, minimum wage to agricultural workers and end to atrocities on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women.

The Secretariat congratulated the workers for successfully observing the Save India Day on 9th August all over the country and noted with satisfaction that several industrial and national federations both in the public sector and private sector have already given the call to their workers for strike.

Joint Convention on Minimum Wage: The Secretariat warmly congratulated the NCC for its decision to hold a joint convention of unorganised workers on the question of minimum wage at Delhi on 23rd September to call for one day countrywide strike. It called upon all its State Committees and unions to send delegates in maximum numbers.

Programmes in Textile Industry: The Secretariat noted that the phasewise programmes taken by the CITU covering all the sectors of the textile industry are being conducted successfully. It called upon all the State Committees and the unions in textile industry to mobilise maximum number of workers in the three-day programme at Delhi from 13th to 15th September, i.e. handloom workers' convention on 13th, all textile workers' rally before the Prime Minister's place on 14th and NTC workers' rally on 15th September.

Defence Employees' Strike: The Secretariat congratulated the All India Defence Employees' Federation for organising a massive rally at Delhi on 8th August and deciding to go on strike on 19th September in pursuance of their demands like stop privatisation of defence productions, filling up of all vacancies, withdrawal of ban on recruitment, etc.

Bank Strike: The Secretariat congratulated the bank employees for their decision to launch strike on 11th August and extended full support to the demand of Bank Employees Federation of India for scrapping the retrograde agreement and make fresh agreement in the interest of the bank employees and inclusion of BEFI in the negotiations.

Strike by IDPL Field Workers: The Secretariat condemned the management of the public sector IDPL for the malafide transfer of a large number of the medical representatives who are trade union functionaries. It further condemned the management for trying to shield a top management personnel at Karnataka against his corrupt practices. The meeting extended full support to the decision of FMRAI for launching strike action if the management refuses to withdraw the malafide transfers.

Massive Jail Bharo Movement at Kanpur

AT midnight on the 14th of May, the J.K. Management declared an illegal lock-out of the J.K. Cotton Spg. & Wvg. Mills at Kanpur. On the 15th morning, which happened to be a Monday, when the workers came on duty they found the lock-out notice. They immediately blocked the Kalpi Road in front of the mills and within a few hours the entire city was affected. CITU leaders also contacted the district administration and Labour Dept. and by midnight the lock-out had been declared illegal.

This attack by the J.K. Management on the 4000 workers of the mills has to be seen in the context of recent event is Kanpur. The textile workers of the city, numbering about 40,000 and working in 9 nationalised and one private mill are among the lowest paid in the country. In Dec. 1988 the K.K. Pandey Industrial Tribunal published its award and increased workload and rendered about 18000 workers surplus and liable to be retrained. Among the mills, it is only J.K. Cotton that has modernised its working and machinery and it stood to benefit the most from the Pandey award which would have resulted in achieving about one and a half times the present production with half the complement of workers. The Kanpur workers, however, resisted the imposition of the award and their heroic struggle culminated in the 5 day Rail Roko which forced the Govt. to cancel it. CITU emerged as the leader of the struggle and its new union formed immediately after this tremendous victory — Textile Udyog Mazdoor Sabha won the confidence of the workers who enrolled as its members in an unprecedented fashion. The new militancy of the workers and their confidence in the CITU unnerved the managements and also the other union leaders. The result was a concerted attempt to isolate the CITU and also to demoralise the workers. The management of each mill started harassing and victimising the workmen in different ways and tried to impose increased workloads in this fashion. The most severe blow was dealt by the J.K. Management through their lock-out of May 15th.

From the very first day, the CITU leadership and the CITU activists in the mill have been in the forefront of the struggle. Organising Processions, meeting, rallies, dharnas, gheraos etc. have become a daily affair. In addition, pursuing the matter legally in the Lucknow High Court where the management has challenged the Govt. ban on the lock out has also been the sole responsibility of the CITU. As a result, the workers' confidence in the organisation has increased many folds.

For over a month, every effort at organising any joint activity in support of the J.K. Cotton workers met with lack of success. Finally, CITU leaders persuaded the AITUC, one section of HMS and leaders of Bank, Insurance, State Govt. and defence employees to start a united movement against the policies of the Government which were promoting widespread unemployment, closures and lockouts, the focus of which would be the lock out

in J.K. Cotton. This move elicited tremendous support among all sections of workers and employees. On 23rd July, a convention attended by more than 500 delegates was held at the Banga Bhavan. Leaders of all sections of employees and workers addressed the convention and spoke in support of 6 resolutions dealing with the industrial policies of the Govt., lockouts and closures, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc. It was decided at the convention that a Jail Bharo agitation would be launched from 31st July to 5th August. Other left trade union organisations like TUCC and UTUC also joined the campaign and a large number of gate meetings and door-to-door campaign were launched.

The response to the Jail Bharo call was very enthusiastic. While the other unions participated in a token fashion, the CITU, DYFI and JMS were able to mobilise 2300 volunteers to court arrest. Every day meetings were held and processions taken out popularising the demands and slogans of the agitation. On the first day of the agitation, the Bharat Bandh call was given for August 30th and this became one of the main slogans of the movement. While the Jail Bharo phase of the agitation ended on August 5th, preparation for a successful Bharat Bandh in Kanpur are now under way. Simultaneously no effort is being spared to bring the J.K. Cotton struggle to a successful conclusion. The morale of the workers continues to be high while all efforts are also being made to negotiate a settlement.

Conference of Steel Plant Contract Labour Union

THE 9th Annual Conference of Steel Plant Contract Labour Union was held at Chinagantyada on 6.8.1989, under a presidium consisting of Com. B. Srinivasa Rao, Com. P. Venkaiah, and Com. M.T. Kuriakose. 100 delegates participated in the Conference. The General Secretary presented the Annual Report of the union and 20 delegates took part in the discussions.

The Conference adopted the following resolutions: Minimum wage should be Rs. 1000/- of unorganised labour. Safety should be ensured for workers who are working in steel plant by tripartite agreement. All the contract workers who are engaged in permanent work should be regularised, compensation should be paid till the unemployment problem is solved; All other unions in steel plant were requested to join their hands in getting their demands fulfilled; To affiliate the steel plant contract labour union with CITU and CWFU.

General Secretary, CITU Visakhapatnam District Committee Com. Ch. Narasinga Rao addressed the conference and called upon the workers to join the Bharat Bandh on 30th August enmasse.

Com. M.T. Kuriakose, Secretary CWFU, narrated the aims and responsibilities of CWFU (Construction Workers Federation of India). The Conference elected Com. Ch. Narasingha Rao as the President, Com. M.T. Kuriakose as the Working President and Com. S. V.K. Parasuram as the General Secretary.

26th Conference of Kerala NGO Union

THE 26th Conference of the Kerala, N. G. O. Union, the vanguard of the State Employees of Kerala was held from 12th to 15th May 1989 at M. G. M. High School Auditorium, Thiruvalla. The meeting of the existing council was held on 12th May 1989. The council discussed and approved the working report and accounts of the preceding year. The Conference was attended by 830 delegates including 125 women.

The council elected the leaders for the new year unanimously. Com. K.V. Rajendran, Com. T K Balan and Com. D Ratnakaran were re-elected President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Com. C. Kunhammad and Com. R Reghunanathan Nair were re-elected Vice Presidents, Com. M K Vasu and Com. P. Anandan were re-elected secretaries.

After the election the delegate session was inaugurated by Com. V S Achuthanandan, State Secretary and Polit Bureau Member of the CPI (M). Drawing the attention of the delegates to the 26 years history of the union, he said that the union had grown from the embryo form to the major organisation of the state employees in Kerala. Explaining the challenges faced by the employees movement all over the country he emphasised the necessity of nation wide unity of state employees. He referred to the precarious economic situation being faced by the LDF Government, which was the creation of the earlier UDF Government. Even in such a state of affairs, the government was following a lenient attitude to the demands of the employees. He exhorted the employees to fight against measures and rules which are against the employees and workers.

Com. K V Devadas (President FSETO), Com. P. Balakrishnan (General Secretary Confederation of Central Government Employees), Com. K Chandran (General Secretary, KPTU) and Com. N Bhageerathan (President KGOA) addressed the delegates.

At 5 p. m. the same day a symposium was conducted on the subject, "Future of India in My View". In his keynote address H. G. Geevarghese Mar Osthathos Methropoleetha said that the future of India can be discussed only connecting with the future of the world. The difference between the rich and poor was on increase. The world witnessed more than one hundred wars since second world war. The hand of the imperialist forces behind these wars can be easily discerned. For this the power of the powerful is to be destroyed. Turning to India, he said that a socialist rule alone can save India.

Com. S. Ramachandran Pillai and Com. M.R. Appan also made their deliberations.

On the next day Com. K.N. Raveendranath, the

State General Secretary of CITU addressed the meeting. In his deliberation he drew the attention of the delegates to the grave dangers faced by the country. The threat of communalism and separatism and the policy of appeasement of these forces by the central government was threatening the very existence of a united India. The Government's economic policy was being influenced more and more by the imperialists. Unfavourable trade balance, growing foreign trade etc had weakened India's bargaining capacity in foreign trade. The imperialist forces were trying to infiltrate in India's service sector also. This will have far reaching consequences. The move of the central government for more centralisation of powers on the pretext of decentralisation is to be viewed against this background because centralisation of powers and attack against civil and trade union rights are interlinked.

In the trade union conference that followed, representatives of fraternal organisations participated. Comrades K.O. Habeeb (General Secretary KSEWA), K.K. Divakaran (General Secretary KSRTEA), N.G. Adiyodi Chairman Joint Council) P. Unnikrishnan (President KGTA), Babu Sri Kumar (General Secretary, Secretariat Employees Association T.S. Murali (BEFI), K.S. Rajendran (KMCSU) N.S. Gopalakrishnan (KPEA), A.R. Pradeepkumar General Secretary, University Employees Confederation) V.K. Ummer Kutty (General Secretary KPCEU) V. Chathunni (General Secretary, Government Hospital Workers Union) K. Soman General Secretary, Co-operative Employees Union) K Sathyan (General Secretary PSCEU) K.U. Radhakrishnan (General Secretary KMSRA) Sri V.S. Sathyanandan (General Secretary, N.G.O. Association (S. Prof. G. Madhavan Nair (General Secretary AKPCTA) Prof. Madhavan Nair (AKGCT), addressed the conference.

On the 25th May Com. Sukumol Sen, General Secretary of AISGEF and Com. M.R. Appan, General Secretary, Tamil Nadu Non-Gazetted Employees Association addressed the delegates.

One resolution explained the discrimination of Kerala by the Central Government in all spheres such as industry, Railway and capital investment and discrimination in the devolution of funds and appealed the employees to react strongly against this.

A rally of more than four thousand employees and the public meeting that followed, marked the end of the 26th state conference. The rally was presided over by Com. K.V. Rajendran. The Chairman of the Reception Committee Sri Mathew T. Thomal MLA welcomed the gathering. Com. E.K. Nayanar, the Chief Minister of Kerala inaugurated the public meeting. Com. P.K. Vasudevan Nair, Thampan Thomas, Kadannappalli Ramachandran, Com. Sukomal Sen, and Com T. K. Balan addressed the meeting.

Closure of Rajgarh Jute Mills

RAIGARH Jute Mill is the only jute mill in Madhya Pradesh. It is owned by Surajmal Nager Mal Jalan of Calcutta. This mill has got no shortage of order nor there is any excess stock lying in the ware house. Despite this position the management since one year was trying to close the looms on the plea of shortage of raw materials.

On 1st June, 1989 the management put a notice that due to shortage of raw jute, it was not possible to give work.

There are two unions functioning in the mill. The INTUC has got no registered union. Recently a Samiti was formed and was functioning as INTUC union. When badi workers were stopped from duty this Samity was able to mobilise them for movement. These badli workers under the leadership of this Samity stopped special badli workers from going to the duty. In the mean time the INTUC leaders visited Raigarh and gave assurance to the workers that they would approach the Government to ask the management to start all the shifts with full capacity.

In the mean time a representative of the management came from Calcutta and talked to the INTUC representatives. The collector, Raigarh also intervened and called the management and INTUC representative for discussion. The General Secretary of the AITUC union also met the collector. This meeting took place on 6th June.

On 19th All India day was observed by the CITU union. In the mean time the INTUC supporters started gangsterim, beating the workers. On 26th the management declared temporary closure due to workers' unrest. The management also withheld the payment of the workers from 1st June to 25th June, 1989. The management even asked the employees and workers to shift their families. It seemed the management was for long drawn closure with the aim to retrench the workers.

On 5th July 1989 a joint meeting of AITUC, CITU and the INTUC led Samity was held and a joint action committee was formed to take up this issue with the Labour Department and launch some movement. Since the closure of the 'C' shift till date the AITUC union has not issued any statement nor chalked out any plan for movement, although the CITU has issued press statement on closure of 'C' shift and also against the temporary closure. The Assistant Labour Commissioner called a meeting on 18th July but the management representative did not attend. The CITU union also is making efforts to build up a movement, which however has not yet met with success.

Conference of Mercantile Employees' Confederation

THE second all-India Delegate Conference of the All India Confederation of Mercantile and Commercial Employees was held at Bombay, from 12th to 14th June, 1989. 86 delegates representing city-

wise Mercantile Federations and Co-ordination Committees from various cities of the country and a number of establishmentwise all-India Federations of Voltas, ICI and others attended the Conference.

The Secretary of the Trade Union International of Workers in Commerce, Anatoli Merozov attended all the sessions of the Conference.

The eminent trade union leaders who addressed the Conference were Samar Mukherjee the General Secretary of CITU, B S Dhume of AITUC, Dipen Ghosh M.P. of the Confederation of Central Government Workers and Employees, Ahilya Rangnaker of Maharashtra CITU, P M Subramaniam of Bank Employees Federation, Ranganathan of Air Corporation, J Mazumdar of FMRAI and many others from fraternal trade unions.

Samar Mukherjee, the General Secretary of CITU, dealt at length with the national and international situation. Pointing out the hoax of "Garibi Hathao" slogan of Rajiv Gandhi, he described how the unemployment figures were breaking all previous records, how even the employed ones were becoming unemployed, how lakhs of industries were being closed or becoming sick, how the indiscriminate use of computers and high technology was making the problem acute. Over and above, the Congress Government was compromising with the divisive and communal forces endangering the unity and integrity of the country. Corruption had penetrated deep at the high levels of the Government. That is why without ousting the Rajiv Gandhi's Government in the coming days, the wrong policies cannot any more be reversed.

Anatoli Morozov spoke in favour of international peace and the solidarity of the working class movement.

Then the General Secretary's Report was placed before the Conference by R P Chakraborty. A serious and lively discussion took place and 20 delegates from various parts of the country participated in it.

A new Working Committee of 33 members and office bearers with A C Raghavan, R P Chakraborty and S N Goswamy as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively was elected unanimously.

HSCL Workers on Path of Agitation

SUBSEQUENT to the failure of the Joint Forum meeting held on 2nd August to resolve the problems and various demands of the workers of the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd., the Co-ordination Committee of the HSCL Unions (CITU) decided to step up the agitation which was launched in July.

The action programme included dharna on August 25, demands day on August 28, gate meetings on August 29, etc.

Earlier in July also the HSCL workers held Dharna and gate meeting from July 3 to 6 and a programme of march to Head Office (Calcutta) on 11th July from different units in the country by taking mass casual leave.

Demands Day Observed by Anganwadi Women

AT the call of the Anganwadi Workers' Convention held on 22-23 April 1989 in Delhi, 10th July was observed as the Demands Day at various places in the country by holding dharnas meetings, deputations etc to Labour Ministries, Directors, Anganwadi with Charter of Demands of Anganwadi workers and helpers. The following reports will show how enthusiastically Anganwadi Women observed the day at many places.

Rajasthan

About 350 women with festoons marched from the Town Hall to the Dist. office. The procession turned into a public meeting and a presidium was elected with Pushpa Sharma, Meharuma Rajja Banu, Sunder Devi, Savarukar, Pushpa Pancholi, Vidya Dival. While greeting the women on their militant struggle, Com. Singhvi explained the tactics of Rajiv Gandhi towards women when he spoke about reservation, land to women etc. He questioned his claims considering the exploitation of women in Anganwadi and their sufferings. The meeting was addressed by Chandrakanta Suvalka, Krishna Nagpal, Lalita Maheshwari, Madhu Sethia, and others.

Uttar Pradesh

A Dharna was organised by Anganwadi women at the Itawa Govt. office. It was also supported by Jaanawadi Mahila Samithi. Dharna was presided over by Shakuntala and India Avasthi. About 500 women participated in the dharna. In preparation for this, a committee was formed with Shakuntala as convenor. In the meeting, many complaints about non-availability of firewood and corruption at many places were raised. Com. Laxmi Saigal addressed the meeting.

M.P.

Anganwadi women were being organised at Raghogard. A largely attended meeting on behalf of D.H.E.B.W and Anganwadi demanded more wages, security of jobs etc. The delegation of women met the Dist. office and submitted a memorandum. The meeting was attended by 135 women and 400 men.

Maharashtra

Dharnas were organised in Chandrapur in front of the Dist. head quarters. More than 500 women were present. Com. Ashok Dhavale, the Chief Guest addressed the meeting. The other speakers included Com. Rameshchandu Dahivade, Sindhu Munger, Sheela Gile and others. All the speakers criticised the steps the Congress Govt. was taking on the question of women. A delegation led by Ashok Dhavale submitted a memorandum to the Dist. Office containing the demands of Anganwadi Women. The Dist Officer promised to look into the demands sympathetically.

The 10th July was observed very enthusiastically at Gadcharoli with the participation of 200 women. The Dist Officer promised to look into the demands of maternity benefit up to 2 children, increase the honorarium upto Rs. 600/- and Rs. 400/- for 4 hours.

Himachal Pradesh

Within a short time after the All India Convention Anganwadi Women started organising themselves. Under CITU flag they observed 10th July with about 100 women participating in a meeting at Kasog (HP). The Anganwadi Women's organisation is getting strengthened at Mandi, Kanzra, Saimore Dist and soon a statewide organisation will be formed. Working women are being organised in Chambghat, Parmanu in industrial towns and a signature campaign is going on their basic demands.

Kerala

In Kerala, the 10th July was observed in most of the districts with dharnas, meetings, etc in front of the collectorates. A memorandum containing the demands made in the All India convention was submitted to the Govt. In Trivandrum, the day was observed by holding a dharna in front of Secretariat with 200 women participating. They assembled at Martyr's place at Palayam at 10.30 A. M.

They went in a procession shouting slogans on their demands. The dharna was inaugurated by Com. Saharadamma, Vice President AIDWA, Kerala State. Com. K R Bhanumathi president W.W.C.C spoke about the problems of Anganwadi Women while reporting about the meeting of the delegation with the Prime Minister, on 24. 4. 89. Com. Girija Potti and Nazimunniza greeted the Anganwadi women. The memorandum with the charter of demands was submitted to the Social Welfare Minister, K. R. Gouri.

Andhra Pradesh

A state level convention of Anganwadi Workers was held at Vijayawada on 25. 6. 1989. 45 workers attended from various districts. The convention resolved to implement the decisions of all India convention for observing demands day on 10th July. Representatives from unions belonging to T. N. T. U. C (Telugu Desam) also participated in the convention. 100 wall posters and 3,000 leaflets were printed and distributed at various centres. The demands day was observed at the following centres:

Srikakulam, Nellore, Kurnool, district head quarters, Avanigadda, Kanchika, Cherla, Tiruvuru (Krishna District) and Bhadrachallam, Chinthuru, Sidimella (Khammam district). At each centre more than 100 workers gathered and observed dharna. Petition with signatures of the Anganwadi workers were presented to the project officers. Local leaders of CITU, Mahila Sangham also addressed the workers. The convention formed an organising committee with S. Punyavathi as convenor.

Tamilnadu

An All India Day was observed in Coimbatore on 10th July with great interest with 1500 women participating in a rally to meet in a deputation the Director of Social Welfare. A delegation led by Com. Rajeshwari and others met the Director and submitted the memorandum of demands.

Punjab Peasants Launch Struggle Demanding Flood Relief

UNDER the banner of Kisan Sangharsh Samity, the peasants of Punjab have launched a massive struggle demanding relief for the devastating flood that occurred during September, 1988. The Kisan Sangharsh Samity comprised of Mohan Singh Dandiala, Sawan Singh Cheema, Lamber Singh Taggar (Punjab Kisan Sabha, CIP-M), Joginder Dayal Bhpinda Sambar, Surjeet Singh Bhangal (Punjab Kisan Sabha CPI) and Ryan Singh Sangha, Sarbajeet Singh, Sardar Singh Mahal (Kisan Union). The Sangharsh Samity demanded Rs 2000/- per acre as compensation for crops damaged and Rs 1000/- as relief to the agricultural workers who suffered loss of working days due to the floods.

It is to be noted that both the Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi and Governor, S. S. Ray, had visited the flood ravaged areas and promised adequate relief. But no compensation was paid. Thus they broke the convention of paying compensation for crops damaged due natural calamities like floods and drought which was in vogue since 1926.

The Sangharsh Samity therefore was compelled to start an agitation. Several thousand flood victim peasants staged a satyagraha before the Jalandhar

Commissioner's office from March 27 to 31, 1989. On March 30, the Governor, S. S. Ray met a deputa-tion of the Sangharsh Samity and again assured to concede the demands. The Sangharsh Samity there-fore postponed the next phase of action programmes. But as the Government did not concede the demands, the Samity launched Satyagraha on May 29. The Government instead of conceding the demands, unleashed repression on the peasants. It did not allow the volunteers to proceed to Chandigarh and arrested a large number of them on the way. How-ever, a large number of volunteers did arrive at Chandigarh and about 2500 of them courted arrest by June 23. All parties condemned the Governor's action.

The present phase of action started from July 24. Till July 28, volunteers of the Sangharsh Samity and thousands of flood victims held massive gheraoes of SDM's offices throughout the state. About 30,000 peasants and agricultural workers participated in the gherao of SDM's offices completely paralysing the work. In continuation of this programme, the Sangharsh Samity will stage gherao of D C offices and also demonstrate against the Governor with black flags wherever he goes in the rural areas.

New Series of Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers

(Base 1982 = 100)

Centre	May 1989	June 1989	Linking factor for old Base	Hubli-Dharwar	180	181	—	Calcutta	175	175	4.74
				Mercara	163	165	—	Darjeeling	158	160	4.55
				Alwaye	165	167	5.19	Durgapur	171	171	—
				Mundakayam	171	174	4.67	Haldia	174	175	—
				Quilon	176	178	—	Howrah	179	179	4.12
				Trivandrum	184	184	—	Jalpaiguri	162	163	4.16
ALL-INDIA	169	170	4.93	Balaghat	169	173	5.24	Raniganj	159	159	4.40
Gudur	164	164	4.33	Bhilari	158	160	3.49	Chandigarh	161	160	—
Guntur	165	165	5.60	Bhopal	165	169	5.46	Delhi	179	179	4.97
Hyderabad	164	166	5.23	Indore	170	174	5.18	Pondicherry	174	176	—
Visakhapatnam	177	179	—	Jabalpur	182	185	6.41	Additional Series of Labour Bureau			
Warrangal	163	164	—	Bombay	174	176	5.12	Kothagudem	188	188	3.25
Doom-Dooma-				Nagpur	174	175	4.99	Himachal Pradesh	162	161	3.75
Tinsukia	159	160	4.05	Nasik	176	178	—	Bhilwara	167	170	3.20
Gauhati	177	178	—	Poona	174	174	—	Chindwara	180	182	2.59
Labac-Silchar	162	162	3.96	Sholapur	174	175	5.03	Tripura	182	184	4.37
Mariani-Jorhat	167	168	3.95	Barbil	158	159	5.00	Goa	181	182	3.40
Rangapara-Tezpur	164	165	4.29	Rourkela	152	153	3.59	Other Series of Labour Bureau			
Jamshedpur	162	163	4.68	Amritsar	163	162	5.19	Centre	Base	1989	1989
Jharia	158	160	4.63	Ludhiana	160	159	—	Digboi	1960	830	827
Kodarma	154	156	5.43	Ajmer	170	171	5.01	Ammathi	1960	847	855
Monghyr-Jamalpur	161	164	5.29	Jaipur	164	168	5.17	Chikmagalur	1960	834	838
Noamundi	165	166	4.58	Coimbatore	167	167	5.35	Kolar-Gold-			
Ranchi-Hatia	164	166	—	Coonoor	181	180	4.80	Field	1960	854	859
Ahmedabad	165	167	4.78	Madras	167	168	5.05	Alleppey	1960	915	931
Baroda	167	171	—	Madurai	172	172	5.27	Gwalior	1960	855	863
Bhavnagar	163	166	4.99	Salem	164	165	—	Sambalpur	1950	873	887
Rajkot	164	167	—	Tiruchirapally	175	177	—	Berhampur	1949	1057	1072
Surat	175	177	—	Agra	166	167	—	Cuttack	1949	996	1013
Faridabad	160	160	—	Ghaziabad	172	172	—	Beawar	1951-52	974	989
Yamunanagar	161	161	5.53	Kanpur	172	172	4.69				
Srinagar	166	168	5.47	Saharanpur	163	163	5.06				
Bangalore	162	164	5.66	Varanasi	182	181	5.12				
Belgaum	175	175	—	Asansol	166	166	4.77				

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

—Dash denotes new centres under 1982 series.

Chittaranjan Workers Stage Dharna at Boat Club

OVER 500 workers of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works including a number of women workers staged a day long dharna at Boat Club, New Delhi on August 3, 1989. The workers came all the way from Chittaranjan, W. Bengal to stage the dharna.

The call for the dharna was given by the CLW Labour Union, in pursuance of 12-point long pending demands which included recognition of the Union, stopping of off-loading of work and indiscriminate computerisation, filling up of all sanctioned posts, stopping of privatisation, stopping of import of locomotives which are being manufactured at the Chittaranjan factory at cheaper cost, etc.

A delegation of the union led by Ashis Sen, M.P. CPI(M) met the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and submitted a mass petition to him to be placed before the Committee on Petitions. Led by Dipen Ghosh M.P. the delegation also met the Railway Minister and submitted a memorandum. Sunil Basu Roy M.P. CPI(M) raised the issue under Special Mention in the Rajya Sabha.

The rally at Boat Club was addressed by several Members of the Parliament viz., Sukomal Sen, Dipen Ghosh, R.K. Poddar, Ashis Sen and Sunil Basu Roy, P.K. Ganguly, Kanai Banerjee and Jibon Roy, Secretaries of CITU, and Nirmal Mukherjee General Secretary of CLW Labour Union, Y.P. Kohli of A.I. Loco Running Staff Association, etc.

On August 2, in a Press Conference held in the capital the union spokesmen pointed out that Chittaranjan Locomotive Works located in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal, very close to Bengal-Bihar boarder and named after Desh Baddhu Chittaranjan Das, the great leader of the country's struggle for freedom, was the first production unit under Indian Railways. Establishment of this plant during the early years of our political independence was a major pioneering step in the direction of economic independence and self reliance of the country. Though initially it started production of steam engines, subsequently it had switched over to manufacture of electric locomotives as the Indian Railways decided to phase out steam locos. Soon after it had come into production stream it established an admirable record of production both in quantity and quality. But ironically the policies presently pursued by the Govt. includes import of locomotives from abroad at much higher cost although locos of same quality and capacity can be manufactured by the plant in requisite quantity at a considerably lower cost. Besides the authorities are also off loading work that had been and can be done economically at the CLW to other public or private agencies. All this according to the Union Spokesmen is developing serious threat not only to the job security of 17 thousand workers now employed at

the plant, but to the very existence of plant which has over decades been an industrial unit of supreme national importance.

Further more the Indian Railways have been pursuing a blatantly undemocratic anti-labour policy of not granting recognition to any trade union in the railway production units. Now there are several production units on Indian Railways employing many thousand workers who are totally deprived of the right to collective bargaining and other trade rights which their counter parts in zonal railways including those in the workshops under these railways enjoy. In fact the authorities could never give any convincing explanation of their policy to the CLW Labour union which represents the overwhelming majority of the workers have been carrying on a long drawn struggle for this most legitimate demand for recognition of the union, in the course of which it had twice resorted to withdrawal of labour. The spokesman of the union made it clear that if the petition to the Rajya Sabha Chairman and the memorandum to the Railway Minister fail to evoke favourable response in regard to these and other demands put forward, they would during the next phase intensify their struggle which may of course include further withdrawal of labour.

LRSA Agitation

The LRSA is carrying on sustained agitation according to phased programme in support of their major demands which include strict implementation of 10 hour duty from "signing on" to "signing off," reclassification of loco running staff as "intensive", reinstatement of all railwaymen removed/dismitted for participation in trade union programme, punctual, safe and accident-free train running, filling up of vacancies, removal of anomalies in pay structure, exemption of wage earners from income tax etc. A mass petitions signed by loco running staff belonging to different branches of LRSA functioning through out the country, have been sent to the Railway Minister by the respective branches. More than 50 thousand locomen put their signature in the mass petition through which the above demands have been put forward.

On 24th July 1989, dharna was staged by locomen at the Headquarters of most of the Divisions of Indian Railways.

Trivandrum Divisional Unit of LRLA on Southern Railway observed "Safety Day" on 8th July — the day on which the Island Express was involved in the most disastrous railway accident of recent years. Through posters, leaflets etc as well as through verbal campaigns, the LRSA unit apprised the public of unsafe practice imposed by the authorities on the workers, which lead to such tragedies.

Powerloom Convention held at Sholapur

THE delegates' Convention of powerloom workers was organised by the CITU at Sholapur, Maharashtra on August 11 and 12. The Convention was attended by about 100 delegates from the powerloom unions from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Bengal, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, etc.

M K Pandhe, Secretary, CITU placed the report. The report pointed to the mushroom growth of the powerlooms in the country and how the mill owners were closing down their weaving units and switching over to the powerlooms to exploit cheap labour and escape all labour legislations, excise, etc. Even the reserved articles for handloom were being manufactured in the powerlooms adversely affecting the handloom weavers. There was no punishment of the powerloom owners for violation of the Handloom Reservation Order. Because of the control of the majority of the powerlooms by the big mill owners, the small mill owners were also adversely affected being unable to compete with them. Thus while major share of the cloth production to the tune of 50 per cent, including about 98 per cent of the synthetic cloth was being taken up in the powerlooms, the exploitation of the workers was acute. There was no minimum wage. The wage differential between a powerloom worker and of the organised mill worker was almost 1:4. They had no protection of the labour laws, nor the benefit of social security measure.

The report formulated several demands of the powerloom workers like scrapping of the new textile policy which gave a boost to the mill owners to go in for the powerlooms to increase their profits; ensure implementation of minimum wages, the labour laws and the social security measures; maternity benefit, creche and equal wages to women workers; job security; punishment to big powerloom owners for violation of the Handloom Reservation Order; concessional credit to the small powerloom owners, etc. The Central demand was for nationalisation of the textile industry and participation of workers in management in decision makings.

The Convention called for stepping up the independent activities of the CITU unions in the powerloom sector and coordinate their movements with those in the other sectors and build up united movement with the other trade unions. It further called for maximum mobilisation of the powerloom workers in the central rally of all textile workers to be held at Delhi before the Prime Minister's place on September 14.

The convention was addressed among others by Santi Ghatak, the Labour Minister of West Bengal. A public meeting was held on August 12, which was addressed by E K Nayanar, the Chief Minister of Kerala and Santi Ghatak.

CITU Union Wins Verification Case in Bhaskar Textiles, Orissa

THE CITU Union, Viz., the Jharsuguda Industrial Mazdoor Union won a long drawn battle in Bhaskar Textile Mills, Jharsuguda and was declared the majority union for recognition by the State Labour Commissioner and the Implementation and Evaluation Officer, Orissa on July 7.

The CITU union in fact was always the majority union and the recognised one in the mill. But the mill was illegally locked out on October 2, 1982. The CITU launched a bitter struggle. The Government was compelled to take over the mill and put it under the State Textile Corporation on October 2, 1985. But the State owned management refused to accord recognition to CITU and recognised the INTUC union instead. The CITU went to High Court. The High Court ordered verification within three months. But the Government called for verification after one and half years. Apart from CITU, the INTUC and AITUC had also claimed majority with 1655 and 810 membership respectively. However, the final verification results showed INTUC having 632 workers, AITUC 548 and CITU 1122 workers out of about 2380 workers in the mill.

Protest Rally at Bhubaneswar against Anti-Socials

THE Bhubaneswar Coordination Committee of Unions and Associations and the CITU organised a protest rally at Rajamahal Chowk, Bhubaneswar on August 9, preceded by a procession. The rally was organised against the criminal activities of the anti-socials and the management hierelings against the common people and the trade union functionaries. The Deputy DPI (Schools), Dr. Rajendra Mohanty was brutally murdered by some anti-socials recently when he tried to save a couple who were attacked by them. A fortnight back, Com. A. B. Sen, the Vice-President of the Co-ordination Committee and the General Secretary of the A. G. Employees Association was threatened of his life and kidnapping his son as he lodged a protest against some anti-socials. These anti-socials had attacked the innocent people inside the state Secretariat in broad day light in presence of police. The rally was addressed by N. K. Mohanty, Lambodar Nayak (CITU), and Kulamani Nayak (Co-ordinated Committee).

Programme in Textile Industry

- September 13 : All India Handloom Workers' Convention, Mavalankar Hall, Rafi Marg, New Delhi
- September 14 : All India rally of textile workers before Prime Minister's Place, New Delhi.
- September 15 : Demonstration of NTC workers before the Textile Ministry, New Delhi.

CITU Delegation's Visit to China

AT the invitation of the All China Federation of Trade Unions a five-member delegation visited China from July 12 to July 28. The delegation was led by Com. Surya Narian Rao, Vice-President of CITU. The other comrades in the delegation were S. Punyavati (Andhra Pradesh), Ananta Rout (Orissa), Kameshwar Singh (M. P.) and Ashok Banerjee (Maharashtra).

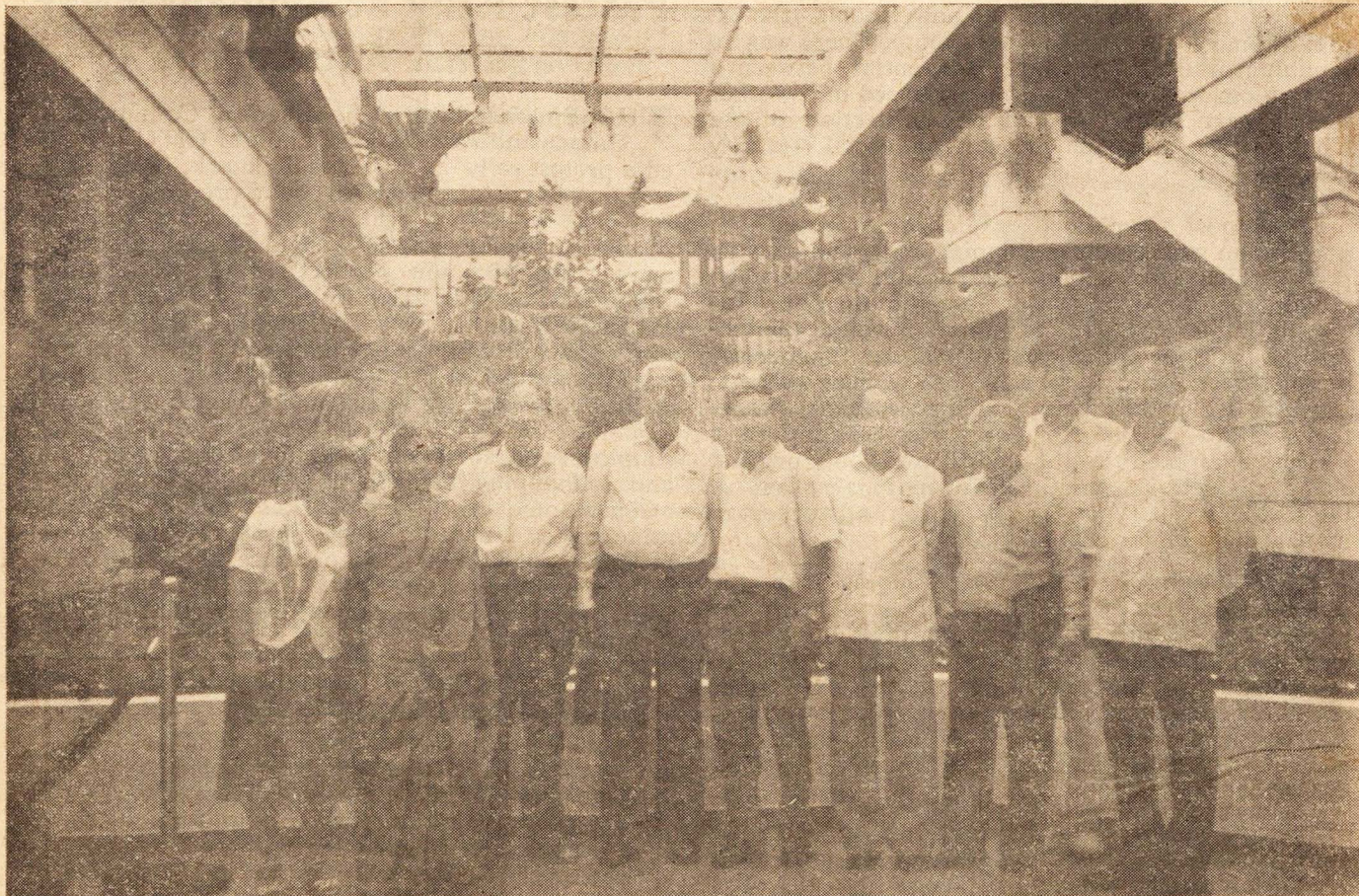
Apart from Beijing, the delegation visited Ghwan-show, Nanjing, Changhow Suzhou and Shanghai. The delegation visited several industrial centres and factories including the giant steel plant at Shanghai. The delegation was highly impressed at the rapid strides in industrial development and socialist construction in China in which workers and their trade unions were fully involved. They held talks with the leadership and workers of the ACFTU on the steps taken by China for social development and betterment of the working and service conditions of the workers. Majority of the workers were provided with housing facilities while continuous housing construction was going on. The houses are well furnished with gas and electricity. Free education was given

to workers. Trade unions function democratically, Great care is taken on industrial safety. There is no discrimination against women workers.

The delegation was taken to countryside also and were highly impressed by the agricultural development. Industries had extended to the rural sector also. Improvement in the earnings of the peasants had enabled them to construct new houses.

During their visits to all the places and talks with the leaders, cadres, workers and peasants the delegation was convinced of the big malpropaganda resorted to by the bourgeois and imperialist press about the recent incidents in China, terming the counter-revolutionary rebellion as a pro-democracy movement.

They extended full support to the steps taken by the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the Government to nip the imperialist inspired counter revolutionary rebellion into the bud and their successful efforts for socialist construction. The delegation wished further consolidation of the fraternal bond between the CITU and the ACFTU.



The CITU Delegation with the Leadership of ACFTU