



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

National Platform Declares Next Phase of Mass Actions Against NEP

P.K. GANGULY

The All India Convention of Mass Organizations called by the National Platform of Mass Organisations at Mavalankar Hall, New Delhi on July 15, 1995 declared the next phase of countrywide joint actions against the new economic policies of the Government of India.

The convention was attended by about one thousand delegates, overflowing the capacity of the Hall. They represented all the constituent mass organisations of the National Platform, viz. the Central Trade Unions, national federations, organisations of the peasants, agricultural workers, students, youth, women, etc. The convention was conducted by a presidium consisting of Niren Ghosh (CITU); B.D. Joshi (AITUC); R.A. Mittal (HMS); Sushil Bhattacharya

(UTUC); Veer Singh Mahto (TUCC); Girijeshwar Singh (UTUC-LS); Yogeshwar Gope (AICCTU); N.K. Shukla (AIKS); Bhogendra Jha (AIKS- 4 Windsor Place); Sarala Sharma (NFIW); V. Venkatramaiah (AICCPO); Lal Bahadur Singh (AISA); Harish Sharma (BEFI); Y. Venkateshwar Rao (SFI); Rameshwar Prasad (Krishak Sabha); Pratap Shamal (AIDSO) and Rajindra Singh (AIDYO).

The draft Declaration was distributed to the delegates. M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU while placing the Declaration, explained the points in the Declaration focusing on the adverse experience of the four years of the implementation of the policies and the GATT agreement, which affected all the mass organisations and all sections of the people. He

pointed to the planned dismantling of the public sector and the privatisation of even the most vital sectors of industries like the power sector, telecom, financial sector, airlines, defence, etc, allowing penetration of the giant multinationals into them, bringing the national economy and the security of the country into a perilous position. He pointed to the growing unemployment and price rise which hit hard each and every family in the country. He said that the Exit Policy



M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU placing the Declaration.

causing deliberate sickness, closures and reduction of workforce through VRS had accentuated the joblessness in the country. The rural sector was likewise badly hit with growing unemployment. Refusal to implement genuine land reforms and virtual collapse of the public distribution system had made the conditions of the peasantry and agricultural workers deplorable. Students and youth were faced with a bleak future due to privatisation and commercialisation of education and joblessness. Women likewise were victims of growing atrocities. The working women were victims of particular targets of the offensives against the workforce in the country.

He further drew attention to the growing corruptions and scandals as the fall out of the four years of liberalisation, privatisation and all round decontrol of economy. He further drew attention to the fact how the unplanned liberalisation policy had further accentuated the uneven development of the regions and given rise to the communal and fissiparous forces in the country, and the compromising policy of the Government with these forces had given them a boost, threatening the unity and integrity of the country.

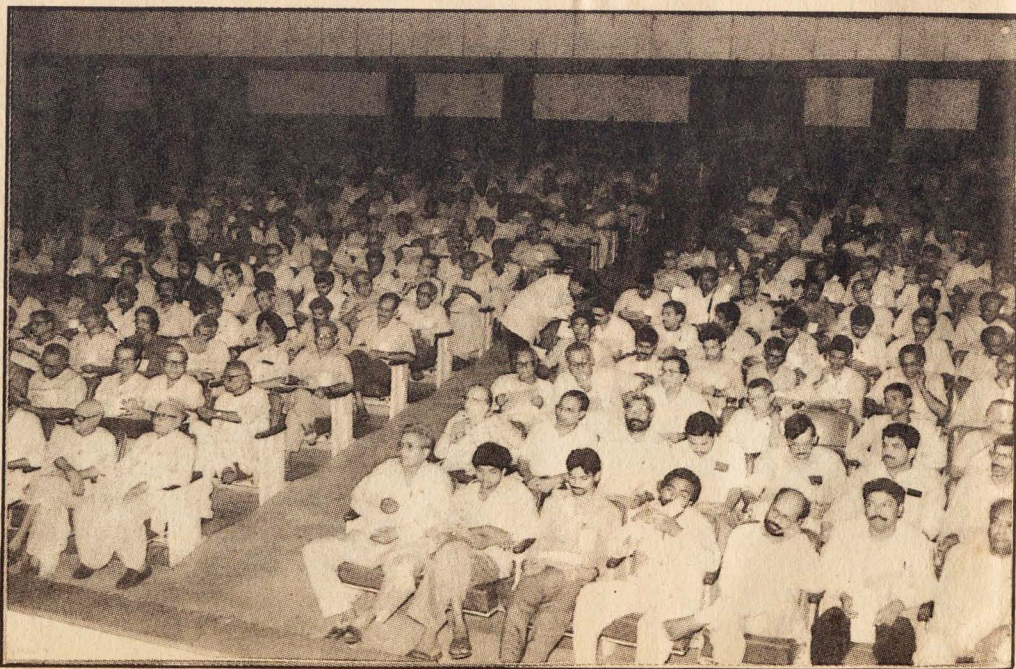
He recalled the militant struggles including the strike struggles launched by the mass organisations during the last four years which consolidated their unity and called for its further consolidation while launching the next phase of actions. He reiterated that only rising mass actions jointly by all the mass organisations can only force the Narasimha Rao Government to withdraw the IMF prescribed policies

to safeguard the country's economic sovereignty and self-reliance.

Nearly thirty delegates participated in the discussions. Among those who spoke were Veereshwar Tiagi (HMS); Chitta Basu (TUCC); Ashutosh Banerjee (UTUC-LS); Pijus Tirkey (UTUC); Hannan Mollah (AIAWU); P.K. Kodyan (BKMU); Md. Salim (DYFI); M.A. Appan (AISGEF); V.K. Patole (IFTU); K.K. Neogi (AICCTU); Kalindi Deshpande (AIDWA);

J.P. Choubey (AIRF); N.S. Bhangoo (AIREC), Tara Reddy (NFIW); R.K. Ganguly (AIDEF), Suryanarayan Rao (JAF, Bangalore); P. Balakrishnan (Central Govt. Employees); Rajaji Mathew (AISF); K. Ramanathan (ACEU); S.R. Saini (AIIEA); K.S. Subramanian (Mercantile Federation); Satyavan (AIKKMS); Chhaya Mukherjee (AIMSS); Kumudini Pati (AISA); M. Narayan Swamy (AICCPO); Ramanand (AIBEA); Asit Ganguly (RYF); etc.

The tone of the speakers were evidently more militant than any other earlier conventions. This was obviously because of their growing experience of the progressive implementation of the policies. Delegates from each sector of economy from each mass organisation with different affiliations one after one narrated about their practical experience of the disastrous effects of the policies. Trade Union representative pointed to the closures, growing sickness, forced VRS, joblessness, unbridled privatisation of not only the Central Public Sector Units, but the State sector units also. The representatives of peasants and agricultural workers pointed to the lack of land reforms, increase in prices of inputs, eviction, usury, growing number of agricultural workers, lack of minimum wages, growing unemployment, price rise, virtual collapse of PDS, etc. Students and youth representatives pinpointed on privatisation and high cost of education, joblessness, etc. Women representatives focused on joblessness, rising prices, growing atrocities on women. The recent brutal murder Naina Sahani was condemned by everybody. Grow-



A Section of the delegates in the Mavalankar Hall.

ing corruption and communalism were the other issues brought forth by most of the delegates. Similarly the GATT agreement and amendment of the Patent Act were assailed by all speakers.

The main focus of the deliberations were on several burning issues which were commonly experienced by all mass organisations and the people as fall outs of the new economic policies. These were unemployment, price rise, privatisation and undermining of the public sector, growing closures and sickness, communalism and corruption. The delegates demonstrated their preparedness for any type of mass militant actions including countrywide hartal to further intensify the struggles.

AB Bardhan, General Secretary of AITUC speaking last explained the issues and demands raised in the draft Declaration and the actions plans, which would begin from State/Districtwise Conventions to carry forward the message of the convention and the programme upto grass root levels of all the mass organisations and then after a countrywide rally on 15th September would culminate in an all India Dharna before Parliament at Delhi in November. Thereafter the National Platform may decide for countrywide higher industrial and other actions.

The Declaration was adopted unanimously amidst slogans against the NEP.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION OF MASS
ORGANISATIONS
15TH JULY, 1995
MAVANKAR HALL, NEW DELHI**

DECLARATION

1. This national convention of mass organisations of workers, peasants, agricultural workers, women, youth, students, employees and other sections of working people notes with indignation that despite nationwide massive protest actions in various forms in the last four years Government of India is going ahead with its disastrous new economic and industrial policies succumbing to the pressure of World Bank and I.M.F. Imperialism is mounting pressure on developing countries leading to conflicts and contradictions.

2. Because of India signing the GATT agreement despite our opposition and joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO) its trade and economic policies have to fall in line with the agreement. The amendment of the Indian Patent Act to suit the interests of foreign multinational companies is one of the commit-

ments made by Government of India under the GATT agreement. The bitter consequences of these commitments are following one by one.

3. All facilities and encouragement are provided for the unbridled exploitation of our wealth and loot of our people by foreign multinational companies in collaboration with Indian monopolies.

4. The new economic and industrial policies pursued by Government of India have done havoc to the national economy and brought great hardship to common people. There is not a single section among our working people who remain unaffected by them.

5. Inflation and phenomenal pricerise have become the scourge of our national economy. The new economic policy with its accent on free play of market forces has resulted in an increase of nearly 50 percent in the wholesale price index with foodgrains prices registering the highest increase of 58.2 percent during the process of last four years. The rise in retail prices is much sharper.

6. The public distribution system has virtually collapsed and become practically non existent in villages. Government itself have made sharp hikes in the issue prices of wheat and rice and brought then nearer to open market prices resulting in substantial fall in the offtake from PDS. The aim is to eliminate P & S gradually.

7. While the ban on recruitment persists, the army of unemployed is swelling. The number of registered unemployed is now nearing 4 crore mark. Due to closure of industries nearly 1 crore and 20 lakh workers have been rendered jobless. Several lakhs are being added to the ranks of the unemployed as a result of exit policy, restructuring, reckless computerisation and so called rationalisation. Industrial sickness of more than four lakh units affecting 30 lakh workers.

8. Employment situation in rural areas is still worse particularly in agriculture. The failure to carry out land reforms and a radical redistribution of land among landless peasants and agricultural workers by the centre and most state governments have severely blocked the creation of additional employment and self employment in the rural areas.

9. The reduction in subsidy on inputs like fertilizers, fall in investment on agriculture and irrigation, withdrawal of credit facilities, sharp increase in electricity and water charges and the absence of machinery to ensure fair prices for their produce have hit the peasants, particularly small and marginal farmers. Many of them are ruined and forced to join the ranks of agricultural labourers thus making rural unemploy-

ment and under employment more severe. The number of unemployed in the rural areas has gone up to more than 8 crores. This position will become still worse when land reforms are reversed and ceiling done away with in order to promote large scale mechanised farms under the proposed export oriented agricultural policy to suit the interests of MNCs and the Indian big business.

10. The process of dismantling the public sector through disinvestment, withdrawal of budgetary allocation etc. is continuing. Even profit making units in the public sector are pushed to loss-making by refusal to place orders for their products by the concerned Government departments and the ministries. Denial of orders from the Railways is making many wagon building units sick.

11. Alongwith above a mad drive for privatisation is going on. Vital sectors of the national economy like power generation, airlines and telecommunications are thrown open to private sector and foreign companies. The Enron project in Maharashtra is a glaring example of how giant foreign companies are allowed to operate in the power sector on their own terms and with Government's counter guarantee. Efforts to review this controversial project had led to open threat and armtwisting by US and other imperialist Governments. Foreign companies are sought to be invited in the service sector like insurance and banking etc.

12. Government is abdicating its responsibility in the field of education paving the way for rampant privatisation and commercialisation. It is becoming more expensive and out of reach of the ordinary citizens. Higher education in particular is being made the main target with outright fund cuts and massive fee hikes.

13. Private corporate sector is entering the field of medicare at a quick pace in recent years. While profit making ultramodern hospitals with latest scientific equipments are allowed to proliferate the vast majority of our people, particularly the rural masses are condemned to suffer at the ill-equipped, inadequately staffed and over crowded government-run hospitals whose service standards are rapidly deteriorating. Further charges are increased in these hospitals for laboratory tests and other basic services.

14. Budgetary allocations for health and education are being reduced. The concept of welfare state is being abandoned.

15. Under the new dispensation, corruption has become rampant and had become widespread. Security scam, sugar scam, and so many other scandals had been exposed in the last four years, besides the

earlier notorious Bofor's gun scandal. Ministers and politicians and others involved in these scandals go unpunished while the Central Government is shielding corruption in high places. Ministerial accountability which is a basic principle in parliamentary democracy has been given a complete go by.

16. It is a matter of grave concern that the communal forces have become more aggressive in many parts of the country. Emergence of the communal and fundamentalist forces are a grave threat to the country's unit and integrity and secularism. Attempts to divide working people along communal and casteist lines would disrupt the unity of trade unions and mass organisations which is very essential to fight against the economic and industrial policies of Government of India and to safeguard economic independence and sovereignty of our country.

17. Women are the worst sufferers under the new economic policy. They are the first victims of retrenchment due to closure of industries and rationalisation. The burden of price rise directly falls on them. Women are discriminated in respect of wages and other rights in employment. Government have launched an attack on their maternity benefits in the name of containing population growth and are forcing the use of dangerous contraceptives. Atrocities on women like rape, molestation, dowry deaths are on the increase.

18. The penetration of multinational corporations in print and electronic media and their onslaught on our cultural life would lead to dangerous consequences. Door Darshan's tie up with CNN and other foreign electronic media would facilitate direct and unhindered cultural invasion of our country.

19. Attack on the Trade Union and democratic rights is mounting every day. TU legislation is being sought to be amended to give unfettered powers to employers and hit at the Right to strike. TADA and other draconian laws are being freely used against the trade union and democratic movement and on weaker sections of population and the minorities.

20. This National Convention while reiterating the Charter of Demands adopted by the first National Convention of Mass Organisations held on 15th April, 1993 resolves to launch a countrywide mass action programme to highlight the following demands.

1. Scrap the New Economic Policy.
2. Reject amendment to the Indian patent Act.
3. Bring down prices of essential commodities to the level of purchasing power of the common people.
4. Strengthen Public Distribution System and expand

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TELECOM STRIKE - AND THE BETRAYAL

E. Balanandan

That the working class of the country has come a long way from rallying for immediate economic and other demands and is concertedly moving towards raising vital national issues, has been profoundly demonstrated by the strike of the telecom employees. Responding to the call of the three major national federations of telecom employees, the 4.5 lakh telecom employees by their unprecedented action unitedly drew home the point that when it concerns national interests, all other issues become secondary. Rarely has the country witnessed such a magnificent strike action virtually paralysing operations in a vital sector in the country. The consistent struggle waged by the working class over the years since the liberalisation and privatisation drive began culminated in the telecom employees striking work from the 19th to 23rd of June 1995.

The wide response that the call elicited from the telecom employees is borne out by the panicky reaction of the government. The central government in its attempt to suppress the strike asked the state governments to invoke ESMA. It deployed the army and police at major exchanges and denied entry to employees to telephone exchanges unless they gave an undertaking that they are not participating in the strike. Together with these was the threat of disciplinary action. Ultimately, it was not these threats that beat back the employees, but the betrayal by their leaders that was to be their undoing. To that we shall come back later.

Ever since the government contemplated privatising basic telecom services there has been widespread resentment among the telecom employees. Their anger is justified given the extent and scale to which the privatisation drive is being aimed. The National Telecom Policy announced by the government is heavily weighted in favour of foreign multinationals and militates against the interests of Indian public sector undertakings and against national interests itself. MNCs were being given free entry and reign in a vital sector like telecommunications that concerns the security of the nation itself. The NTP and the subsequent changes made to it allow the telecom sector to be dominated by multinationals. With entry of the private sector and the multinationals heaping huge profits will become the sole motive.

As the tenders that were opened on June 23rd showed biddings were the maximum for the metropolitan cities. In such a scenario it will be left to the public sector to cater to the small towns and rural areas which have less stakes and profitability, besides hiking the overall

costs for the consumer to be able to use this facility. What is more intriguing is the new condition laid down by the government for bidders. It is here that the total sell out is nakedly exposed.

It has been stipulated that private bidders should have an experience of providing 5 lakh telephone lines. This invariably disqualifies Indian companies from entering the field independently. They are forced to tie up with foreign multinationals as they lack the experience. More detailed analysis of the Telecom policy have been carried in these columns earlier and I would not venture into the same.

Telecom employees were very much part of the nationwide struggle against the drive towards liberalisation and privatisation. Agitations have been conducted over the past few years calling for a halt and a reversal of these policies. Token strikes and other forms of struggle were resorted to. The bulk of the telecom employees realising the dangerous consequences of the NTP were building pressure on their leadership to go in for bigger struggles. It was this mounting pressure from the ranks that compelled the leadership of the federations to give notice for a strike from 5th July. As the tenders were set to be opened on 23rd June the date was advanced to 19th June.

While the strike received overwhelming response from the telecom employees, it was supported by the five central Trade Unions — CITU, AITUC, HMS, INTUC and BMS. Solidarity actions were organised throughout the country. Postal employees had announced huge sit-in-strikes for two hours on the 26th while on the same day a four hour strike by central government employees in West Bengal was slated.

When finally the strike was withdrawn on 23rd June, while it came as a surprise to many, it was not an unexpected development. As mentioned earlier, the federation leaders had agreed to give the notice for strike only after they were virtually forced by their members and in the face of mounting pressure from the mass of the telecom employees. They lacked seriousness in opposing the privatisation of the telecom sector. On the contrary they were propagating that the government should stick to the National Telecom Policy (which advocates privatisation of this sector) and should not deviate from the same. The federation leaders going against the wishes of their following were only demanding the deletion of one clause stipulated for bidders for the tender i.e. the minimum pre-qualification of an experience of pro-

viding 5 lakh telephone lines. They were not opposed to privatisation.

The understanding arrived at between the federation leaders and the government on the morning of 23rd June amounts to a betrayal of the employees and the interests of the nation. Leaders like O.P. Gupta (who claims affinity to the AITUC) and others owing allegiance to the BMS and INTUC withdrew the strike without consulting the General Secretaries of their affiliated Unions. Among the conditions agreed to by the federation leaders is to hold a individual employee or employees responsible for unsatisfactory telephone services. Given the nature of outmoded equipment at the disposal of many of the exchanges in the country such a clause can be abused by the management to coerce the employees into subjugation. Many other clauses have found place in the agreement which did not form part of the demands for which the strike was resorted. It would seem as though the telecom employees lost and agreed to a virtual surrender.

The manner in which telecom employees throughout the country reacted to the sell out by their so-called leaders displaying indignation and anger strikingly points to their unacceptability of the agreement signed by the leaders of the federation. Demonstrations and protest actions were held at some places. In yet others they even abused and beat up their leaders. The sense of betrayal and treachery by their leaders is quite natural. All that they have achieved after a glorious five-day strike was clauses contained in the agreement that militated against their interests. All through the period of the five-day strike the federation leaders were manoeuvring with the government to put an end to the strike.

It is reported that in fact on the very first day of the strike itself a draft agreement was prepared. But as none of the General secretaries of the affiliated unions had agreed to the draft the leaders had to return to the communications minister. Later, without taking the General Secretaries into confidence Mr. Gupta and others mounted pressure on the employees for withdrawing the strike. The understanding they arrived at with the DoT on the night of 22nd for withdrawing the strike on 23rd June (before the government's ultimatum was to expire) was done without discussions and consultations with the employees.

When the news of the withdrawal came employees could hardly believe it. In some centres they did not join work till evening presuming that this was a propaganda ploy by the government.

Such a betrayal has seldom been witnessed in recent history by the trade union movement in the country. The federation leaders who were demanding

scrapping of the moves to privatise the telecom sector finally pledged themselves to privatisation. More disgracefully they even consented to render the management with the handle to whip and punish the employee.

The reaction of the Indian press was on expected lines. Some of them portrayed the strike to be an outcome of the manoeuvre between the Indian companies who were trying to bid for the tenders and the leaders of the federations. Others have questioned the very right of the employees to even think of vital policy matters concerning the nation itself. As the editorial of the Hindustan Times dt 20.6.95 put it, the strike "is motivated to establish the thesis that unions have a right to dictate government policy in the management of public utilities". The editorial terms this as a "transgression of the legitimate confines of trade union activities" and demands stern action. It reveals the class bias and the intense hatred for the working class and its movement. Democracy for the press barons is confined to the liberty they enjoy to unmercifully attack the working class movement and day in and day out indulge in motivated propaganda. These protagonists of liberalisation and privatisation in their antipathy to the working class movement, even fail to realise that the telecom employees were highlighting a issue that concerns the whole nation. According to their definition of democracy the government of the day should be permitted to do what it likes unhindered. If the press itself confines strictly to this role, what would happen to it is anybody's guess.

It is difficult to explain why these leaders committed a perfidy of such nature. The strike and its abrupt withdrawal holds a significant lesson for the trade union movement in the country. Whenever they go in for united action they will have to watch the progress of the negotiations at each stage and not give their leaders a free reign and absolute authority. The opinion of the mass of the workers and the democratically elected bodies of the trade unions will have to be consulted before any such major decision is taken.

In spite of the deception by their leaders, the telecom employees should not feel distressed. Though they have been let down, the five day strike has added another glorious chapter to the trade union movement in the country. This time the employees, as pointed out earlier, were fighting to safeguard the country's interests. They will have to close ranks and get ready to put up a concerted offensive against the new Telecom policy. Unitedly with other sections of the working class they will have to carry forward this struggle against liberalisation and privatisation. Simultaneously, they have to expose and throw out the so-called leaders who are the cause of their present sense of frustration. □

SCRAP ENRON'S DABHOL POWER PROJECT

The agreement entered into between the Maharashtra State Electricity Board and the Enron Power Company (USA) for the generation of 2015 MW power at Dabhol in Maharashtra under the initiative of Mr. Sharad Pawar the then Chief Minister of the state in close operation with the central Power Minister Mr. N.K.P. Salve has attracted a lot of public criticism throughout the country. The expert engineers, scientists and economists who had a critical appreciation of the project besides the electricity employees came to the unanimous conclusion that this contract is contrary to our national interests.

The cost per MW works out to be Rs. 4.15 to 4.75 crores is very high and can be indigenously produced at less than Rs. 3 crores. As per the power purchase agreement the Enron company will supply power to the State Electricity Board at Rs. 2.40 paise per unit at the beginning which will progressively escalate to Rs. 8 or more during the period of 20 years. The return on investment guaranteed at 16 per cent at 68.5 per cent PLF may also go up to 32% in case the PLF goes up to 90 per cent.

The Maharashtra government has now appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister to review the project. This has invoked direct criticism from the Power Secretary of the US government. Miss Hazel O' Leary who openly come out with a statement, declaring that "Failure to honour the agreements between the project partners and the various agencies of Indian government will jeopardise not only the Dabhol project but also most, if not all, of the private power projects being proposed for internation-

al financing."

The British and French governments spokesmen while backing this warning went one step further and said "that in case Enron project is not implemented all future foreign investments may shy away from India.

We see in this outbursts of US Power Secretary and the spokesmen of British and French governments that the signed with foreign multinational companies. No free country in the world can submit to such wild threats of blackmail. The policy of power development in the country is to be decided by the government of India and not by anybody else in the world. In the present context of globalisation the power costs should be kept at the minimum so as to enable us to successfully compete in the world market. India has attained the technical skill and production capacity to produce current at cheaper costs. This facility is sort to be destroyed by giving entry to the foreign multinationals in the power sector without inviting global tenders and secretly agreeing to disastrous conditions submitting to world bank pressure. Therefore this agreement has to scrapped and this policy has to be reversed.

Mr. Rao's government did not protest against this unwanted interference by the US officials and representatives of French and british governments instead he is reassuring that the Enron projects will be implemented. No patriotic Indian can tolerate this surrender.

The fight being carried on at Dabhol needs all out support. The powermen and the engineers should rally for nationwide action without delay.

□

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
(BASE 1982 = 100)

Centre	Linking factor for Old Base						
	Apr '95	May '95					
				Barbil	281	289	5.00
				Rourkela	262	265	3.59
				Amritsar	273	274	5.19
				Ludhiana	276	279	—
				Ajmer	298	299	5.01
				Jaipur	283	285	5.17
				Coimbatore	293	296	5.35
				Coonor	312	318	4.80
				Madras	317	327	5.05
				Madurai	304	314	5.27
				Salem	305	314	—
				Tiruchirapally	316	323	—
				Agra	281	281	—
				Ghaziabad	282	285	—
				Kanpur	298	304	4.69
				Saharanpur	286	286	5.06
				Varanasi	300	304	5.12
				Asansol	271	278	4.77
				Calcutta	293	301	4.74
				Darjeeling	261	263	4.55
				Durgapur	300	303	—
				Haldia	312	317	—
				Howrah	308	313	4.12
				Jalpaiguri	264	271	4.16
				Raniganj	263	268	4.40
				Chandigarh	285	289	—
				Delhi	317	321	4.97
				Pondicherry	321	327	—
				Additional series of Labour Bureau			
				Kothagudem	293	296	3.25
				Himachal Pradesh	287	287	3.75
				Bhilwara	309	305	3.20
				Chindwara	300	302	2.59
				Tripura	297	298	4.37
				Goa	330	335	3.40
All India	295	300	4.93				
Gudur	284	289	4.33				
Guntur	297	302	5.60				
Hyderabad	271	278	5.23				
Visakhapatnam	278	285	—				
Warrangal	283	287	—				
Doom-Dooma Tinsukia	274	276	4.05				
Guwahati	304	307	—				
Labac-Silchar	275	273	3.96				
Mariani-Jorhat	287	289	3.95				
Rangapara-Tezpur	285	285	4.29				
Jamshedpur	272	273	4.68				
Jharia	253	256	4.63				
Kodarma	253	254	5.43				
Monghyr	275	275	5.29				
Noamundi	275	278	4.58				
Ranchi-Hatia	282	285	—				
Ahmedabad	293	296	4.78				
Baroda	285	294	—				
Bhavanagar	304	310	4.99				
Rajkot	284	291	—				
Surat	305	308	—				
Faridabad	284	284	—				
Yamunanagar	288	287	5.53				
Srinagar	300	299	5.47				
Bangalore	296	299	5.66				
Belgaum	314	321	—				
Hubli-Dharwar	301	305	—				
Mercara	291	295	—				
Alwaye	303	306	5.19				
Mundakayam	301	316	—				
Quilon	318	328	—				
Trivandrum	320	326	—				
Bhalaghat	286	291	5.24				
Bhilai	261	263	3.49				
Bhopal	306	304	5.46				
Indore	306	308	5.18				
Jabalpur	309	312	6.41				
Bombay	331	335	5.12				
Nagpur	303	307	4.99				
Nasik	311	315	—				
Pune	320	323	—				
Solapur	311	328	5.03				

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.

GIVING GOB BAILADIL MINE SECTOR PRIVATE SECTOR!

Yet another SE/CI Meeting is faced. Add again. But By mid 1993, the situation is taking a different turn with the Steel Ministry offering different proposals for examination and consideration. And also proposals also under on the part of Steel Ministry did not bother for long. The condition of the sector on production and as it is evident for its earlier efforts of privatizing the distribution by the private partner.

The 11B deposit of Bailadila Iron Mines consistent in standard retaining control of under National Mineral Development Corporation in public sector. NMDC stated 'Even if joint (NMDC) has been proposed by the Ministry of Steel, the development of 11B deposit, NMDC would like While doing so, national and international leaders all management control of the company and distribute have been invited and while issuing directives to consumers that their commitment to NMDC to decide on the use of the Mine, they decided on the conditions and guidelines for selection of But whatever NMDC might insist upon, the Steel Ministry took no decision to sell the mine. The deal in favour of a single choice, M/s Nippon Dendo Spats Ltd. Having faith in the support of the feelers of NMDC in the form of various proposals for handing over the richest mine in the region to one favoured private party, the Steel Ministry applied its authority to issue directive a communicate the decision to put the 11B deposit under the control of private sector with NMDC as a junior partner holding only 11% of the equity, and the direction issued to NMDC by Steel Ministry to select the particular private sector partner for deposit 11B was worded in such a tune and with such criteria to suit the qualification of the predetermined buyer i.e. M/s Nippon Dendo.

Such decision of handing over of the 11B deposit for handing over the richest mine in the region to one favoured private party, the Steel Ministry applied its authority to issue directive a communicate the decision to put the 11B deposit under the control of private sector with NMDC as a junior partner holding only 11% of the equity, and the direction issued to NMDC by Steel Ministry to select the particular private sector partner for deposit 11B was worded in such a tune and with such criteria to suit the qualification of the predetermined buyer i.e. M/s Nippon Dendo.

As reported by The Statesman dt. 2-7-95 the criterion of selecting the partner from the companies having gas fired sponge iron plant had acted in shortlisting the contenders to three companies viz Essar Gujarat Nippon Dendo, and Vikram Ispat. The Second criterion was that the partner must buy iron ore from the Bailadila region and this had eliminated Vikram Ispat from the fray. The third criterion was the 'experience in mining' which worked in eliminating Essar Gujarat since Nippon Dendo could get itself qualified for the third criterion by tying up with a Mexican company.

And the compensation proposed for handing over the particular mine to private party is also quite intriguing. As told already, 11B deposit is the richest mine in the region. As per observation of Bureau of public Investment (BIP), the high quality iron ore reserve with the particular deposit would last for 20 to 25 years. Even the Detail project of the joint venture proposal could not conceal the fact that the accumulated net profit before tax earned from the particular

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A.P. CITU DECIDES STRUGGLE PROGRAMME AGAINST PRIVATISATION

N. PRASADA RAO

Closures and privatisation has become the order of day of the TDP Government in Andhra Pradesh. While in opposition it was opposing the State Congress Government policies of privatisation, but after it came to power privatisation has become the TARAKA MANTRAM a new slogan developed by N.T. Ramarao. He says, the Govt. is not a commercial body, so, running industries is not its business. He conveniently forgot that the Industrial policy resolution of 1956, the SEcond Five year plan and the subsequent plans enjoined upon the State to set up key, basic and major industries in the public sector and that today there are about 246 public sector undertakings in the country, some of which has attained international status. Since coming to power he had appointed Heten Bhaya Committee to make recommendations as to how to privatise power sector, and Subrahmanyam Committee to "restructure public sector undertakings and Co-operative enterprises". Hiten Bhaya, a former member of the Planning Commission and who opposed Entron and other power projects, and three other former Chairman of APSEN formed the committee on power projects and the terms of reference were not whether power should be privatised or not but how to privatise. The Bhaya Committee recommended dissection of APSEB into three corporations and 5 distribution companies, all of which are to be privatised by stages. The Subrahmanyam Committee recommended many undertakings to be would up, some to be privatised and only a few to be restructure. T.D.P. Government has accepted the Bhaya Committee recommendations and is likely to accept the recommendations of Subrahmanyam Committee.

What are the state sector undertakings to be privatised? Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board is one of the few profit making power undertakings in the country. After the APSEB was formed, power generation and distribution had vastly increased. Today, APSEB is supplying power to domestic services numbering 8066285 in 27619 towns and villages at an average rate of 89.27 paise per unit. It is also supplying power to agricultural pumpsets numbering 15,04,875, at the nominal rate of 6.4 paise per unit. It is earning profit - 3.26% in 1993 and 3.29% in 1994 - a little above the rate of returns fixed under the Central Electricity Act. (All figures for 1993-94).

This is to be dissected first and privatised next:
Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation

is, in some respects the best run State Transport in the country. It is the second biggest undertaking with a fleet of about 16000 and employees 120000. 1,10,00,000 passengers travel daily by RTC buses. After running in to red for a few years it has earned a profit of Rs. 6 crores last year and Rs.12 crores this year.

This is the first State undertaking planned to be privatised, but due to the united opposition of the entire employees and the public, the Government had to declare that RTC would not be privatised. But, surreptitiously privatisation is going on in wasing, cleaning of buses, cleaning of bus depots, some repair works, retreading etc. are already privatised. More than this, private operators are being given permits to ply private buses on RTC routes, thus cutting deeply in to the income of the RTC.

Some Co-operative spinning mills and co-operative sugar mills which are running at a loss will be privatised without going into the causes of losses and rectifying them. Many cases have been brought to the notice of the Government of mismanagement, corruption and other malpractices but those complaints were not investigated. The only solution is closure.

Similar is the treatment given to dairies. Subrahmanyam Committee, appointed to go in to the question of Corporations, recommended liquidation in 3 cases, sale of 2 units of one of the biggest sugar factories in India - Nizam Sugar Factory, disinvestment from to 100% of the shares, lay-off and retrenchment in 11 cases and in two cases alone revival.

Thus privatisation is going ahead with speed.

It is to discuss this problem and some organisational problems that a meeting of the C.I.T.U. andhra Pradesh Committee was held on the 14th & 15th of June. 45 members attended it. The meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Office-bearers of the Committee of the 13th. The report was presented by Comrades N. Prasadarao and B.V. Raghavulu the president and general secretary. The national and international developments and the privatisation policies of the Congress (I) and TDP Governments were explained by Com. prasadarao, and the work done and the tasks ahead were dealt with by Comrade Raghavulu.

After through discussion the following programme was finalised.

Conventions at the district level would be held in all

districts together with all other trade union centres. As already decided a huge demonstration would be held in Hyderabad during the Assembly sessions in October, by all Trade Union centres in the State.

Independently, from its own platform, CITU will hold conventions, issue leaflets and carry-on struggles. Leaflets would deal with privatisation measures in each industry separately.

Conventions were planned to be held in districts immediately on the question of privatisation of power and telecom, dairies, spinning and sugar, Co-operatives and municipal services. State leaders will attend all these district conventions.

Immediately, all District Councils will meet and discuss the measures to carry-on this agitation. Already some district councils have met, attended by State leaders of CITU.

A pamphlet on Enron and Hiten Bhaya Committee recommendations was brought out by the State centre and more pamphlets on toehr issues are on the anvil.

The Committee discussed other issues. It was decided that batches of CITU cadres will collect at the gates to collect CUBA FUND from the workers during the pay days in the first week of July. They will join other mass organisations and political parties in mass collections on July 5th. it was decided that BTR Memorial Fund should be collected during the pay days in August and September from workers. Coupons of rupees 5/-, 10/-, 20/- 50/- will be printed for making these collections as it was found that collection of one day wage is difficult.

The Committee directed all affiliated Unions to send annual returns with affiliation fees and levy by June 30th.

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National Platform...

(From Page 4)

it to all villages. Allessential items of mass consumption to be made available at controlled prices at fair price shops.

5. Guarantee right to work as fundamental right and ensure unemployment allowance to the jobless.

6. Guarantee gainful employment to agricultural workers through out the year.

7. Enact central legislation for agricultural workers without any further delay.

8. Implement land reforms and stop its reversal.

9. Ensure supply of inputs like fertiliser at subsidised rates to small and marginal peasants.

10. Stop closure and retrenchment.

11. Stop dismantling of public sector and the drive for privatisation.

12. Drastic punishment to all persons involved in various corruption scandles.

13. Scrap Anti-national Enron Deal.

14. Drastic steps to curb communal and other divisive forces.

15. Put an end to atrocities and discriminations against women.

16. All repressive laws like TADA to be withdrawn. Efforts to retain provisions of TADA by way of amendment to criminal law be given up.

17. Stop privatisation and commercialisation of education.

18. Health and education to all.

This convention calls upon all sections of workers, peasants, agricultural workers, students, youth, women, cultural and scientific activist groups and democratic and

patriotic sections of the people to implement the following programmes with full vigour so that the struggle against the economic policies of the Central Govt. is strengthened at all levels throughout the country.

I. Organise state level, district level conventions all over the country latest before the middle of September in support of the Declaration of this convention and in preparation for bigger countrywide united struggle against NEP.

II. Hold protest rallies at district headquarters on 15th September '95 collecting people from all over the district to be followed by massive demonstration at state capitals ensuring mobilisation from all over the respective states to condemn the policies of the Government of India and popularise the demands raised in this convention.

III. Chalking out programmes of padayatras in all the states against the economic policies of the Government of Indian (Dates and other details to be decided in each state separately).

IV. Organising a massive Dharna before Parliament in the last week of November next (Date to be decided by the Platform after announcement of winter session of the Parliament). On the same day Dharnas to be organised before the office of the District Magistrates all over the country.

V. Preparations for a Nationwide industrial and other actions by all constituents of National Platform whose date will be finalised by the National Platform later.

This convention is confident that all sections of democratic people will rise to the occasion and redouble their efforts to mobilise millions of people to defeat the anti-national anti-people economic policies of the Government.

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CITICU AIALS SORBSTURIGIGISESINDIELEHBERATIONIS

A.KAR6dRatrabhabhan

CITICU fibusion Tamilnadu ade emagede prapresent and antider leadans and Guppe Speak pastpartipated. organisingitigglesdes and beatoration of the 25th 25th Anni- The Ten Cah Day Organisation Tamilnadu ade Electricity

Employees and Thiruvannamalai Dist Dist Con Comitee of CITICU organised the celebration of Thiruvannamalai. A struggle in transport of Electricity in Tamilnadu and an assiasaaly was organised in which Electricity workers construction industries, etc. from all over the state had participated. Am Aring those

While State Transport workers are preparing for whoval adressed the meeting were SA Soudarajan, D. march to the state secretary, their chair board of delanainaikiam and and in place of the thiruvannamalai. Various cultural demands of permanent and contract workers in textile were followed by 2 day sessions at the Central Council of workers, especially those of NCTE and Co- sector are O T E E E. State Con Comitee has also decided to bring struggle against privatisation and other National at 2 books during the Jubilee Celebration it was also demands. While in the road workers are organised and protest decided by State Con Comitee that before will be demonstration on 27th 27th June against non-implementation of increase in the wages of the workers. The strength of CITICU, tion to various states and charges in minimum wages during the celebration will be celebrated with con- notification of construction workers and during the state level with the assistance of the Madras, during the week of wide implementation of welfare facilities and other benefits October.

While these struggles are going on CITICU divisions State Con Comitee had also decided to organise various activities in the streets to express solidarity with the organisation. State Con Comitee also decided to struggle of Telecom employees who are on strike in order to attract the attention of the 50th Anniversary of Tamilnadu was a great success. So also was the strike in the Madras. The Madras representatives will lead a demonstration on a national scale on 20th 20th June against the implementation of the contract Act.

State Con Comitee Call

CITICU State Con Comitee has decided to hold a rally at 15th 15th June at 11 AM in the presence of the preparations for various struggles and social activities. The committee which was presided by A. S. A. Thangaraj, Vice President of the Madras, will lead a demonstration against the contract Act and other issues. The committee will also hold a meeting on 5th 5th July at 11 AM in the presence of the preparations for the contract Act, and other issues. The committee will also hold a meeting on 5th 5th July at 11 AM in the presence of the preparations for the contract Act, and other issues.

Statewide demonstration and meetings will be held on 5th 5th July at 11 AM in the presence of the preparations for the contract Act, and other issues. The committee will also hold a meeting on 5th 5th July at 11 AM in the presence of the preparations for the contract Act, and other issues.

CITICU divisions will also collect obdakhadh papers towards the State Solidarity fund.

A mass demonstration of contract workers is to be held in Madras on 27th 27th August.

SILVER JUBILEE

District level Silver Jubilee celebrations have begun on 24th 24th June.

In Coimbatore, the jubilee celebrations were very successful with seminars, special lectures and cultural programmes. Es Baladandur, K. Ramak. R. Gangarajan

Gift of Bladaha...

(From Page 9)

mine over 20 years amounts to Rs. Rs. 4764000, yielding an annual average net profit of Rs. Rs. 28.21 crores. Moreover, the value of the mine property with the particular increase in the price of dependent expert agency amounts to more than Rs. Rs. 10000000. Added to this is the value of the infrastructure services like load and electricity and the other equipment, already installed in the mine, which MMD has already spent in terms of Rs. Rs. 10000000. The most valued asset is the mine, which has to be sold for Rs. Rs. 10000000, which is even less than the value of the mine.

It is wrong to call it a gift to the state, as the mine is a private company and the state is not the owner.

Question remains what is being gifted to a private company and the state is not the owner. But unfortunately some individuals are empowered by the government to take gifts of public wealth and get it for their private liberalisation taking the country to a state of (??) in this manner.

National Workshop on Child Labour in Hotels & Restaurants

P. K. Ganguly

A national workshop on Child Labour in Hotels and Restaurants was organised after group discussions. Reservations were organised by the Karnataka State Committee of CITIUB Bangalore from June 28 to 30, 1995. The workshop was part of the CITILO Project on Child Labour.

The workshop was participated by 23 cadres representing the CITIUB affiliated unions in the industry from Benhal, Mysore, Bellary, Karkal, Tumkur, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. There was a representation from the Karnataka State Committee of CITIUB Bangalore.

S. S. Suryanarayana, President, Karnataka State Committee of CITIUB presided over the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Dalhousie University, Bangalore. The National Institute of Child Labour, Bangalore.

P. K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITIUB explained the objectives of the CITIUB Project and emphasised the need for an organisation to assist and support various groups of workers in their struggle for various social and economic rights. He mentioned the need for a programme for the children and adolescents for raising the awareness against child labour.

V. J. K. Jain, General Secretary, Karnataka State Committee of CITIUB, explained the background and purpose of the workshop. He highlighted the prevalence of child labour in hotels and restaurants in general and suggested that the government should take steps to reduce child labour in these sectors. He mentioned the need for a programme for the children and adolescents for raising the awareness against child labour.

Bengal, Tumkur and Bellary districts were written reports on child labour in hotels and restaurants in these districts. The reports were presented and discussed. The reports were presented and discussed. The reports were presented and discussed.

The reports were presented and discussed. The reports were presented and discussed. The reports were presented and discussed. The reports were presented and discussed.

After the discussions on the background and the conditions of child labour, the workshop was divided into two groups to discuss the various aspects of child labour in hotels and restaurants. The reports were presented and discussed. The reports were presented and discussed.

eases.

Approach to the Problem:

After group discussions the participants were of the unanimous opinion that poverty, unemployment and lack of land reforms are the main causes of child labour which is spreading in all sectors of unorganised industries, including the hotels and restaurants. The new economic policy of the Government which is leading to more joblessness, closures and spiralling prices, are aggravating the situation. Parents of child labour who want their children to go to school, are unable to do so because of growing poverty.

The approach to the problem therefore has to be two fold, viz, struggle programme for alleviation of poverty and education campaign to raise the awareness of the parents and the people against the evils of child labour.

Demands:

The workshop therefore raised the following demands for long term and immediate struggles:

1. Land reforms as the basis for poverty alleviation programmes.
2. Employment generation programme and unemployment benefits to the parents.
3. Need based wages to the working parents.
4. Free compulsory education to the children with free books, note books, tiffin, etc.
5. Application of Labour laws and social security measures.
6. Equal wages to children including girl children at par with adults.
7. Reduction in working hours.
8. Hygienic conditions, provision of proper equipments and accommodation.
9. Suitable amendment of the Child Labour Act and stringent punishment to employers violating the laws.
10. Release of bonded children.
11. Fight against sexual abuse.
12. Speeding up of literary mission programme.

Action programme:

The workshop decided to launch the following action programmes in pursuance of the above demands:

1. Postering, leaflet printing and distribution among the hotel and restaurant workers and parents, brochures on child labour in hotels, street plays, street corner meetings, small jathas, workshops at state, district and union levels, door to door campaign and articles in papers and our journals.

2) Observance of an All India Day on Elimination of Child Labour in Hotel Industry on 20th September, 1995.

The workshop concluded after a summing up by P.K. Ganguly.

It was followed up with an Open Session participated

by nearly one thousand hotel workers. It was presided over by P. Ramachandra Rao and addressed by the speaker of the Legislative Assembly, P.K. Ganguly and V.J.K. Nair.

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Successful Bandh in Burnpur Demanding Central Govt Support for IISCO Modernisation

5th July, 1995, the working class and the people of Burnpur, West Bengal observed successful bandh protesting Central Govt's refusal to give budgetary support for IISCO modernisation. The Bandh was initially called by the SAVE IISCO Committee comprising the CITU, AITUC, HMS, INTUC and BMS unions and IISCO Officers Association after refusal of the Finance Ministry to give minimum budgetary support for IISCO modernisation in the meeting of Committee of Ministers held on 28th June, 1995.

At the last moment though the other four unions decided to withdraw from the strike decision, CITU stuck to the programme.

The bandh was participated by all section of people of Burnpur cutting across political line and belief. Shops were closed and transport stopped plying throughout the entire industrial town. Workers in different industrial establishments in Burnpur, including the IISCO struck work in a massive way and took part in gate demonstration and processions. The students, youths, women and workers from the unorganised sectors as well joined the bandh action by organising massive processions and demonstration on the bandh day to declare their firm resolve to resist privatisation of the premier pioneering steel plant of the country.

The workers of the various industries of Burdwan district of West Bengal, observed solidarity demonstration on 5th July in support of Burnpur bandh. The units of Steel Workers Federation of India in other steel plants and centre of the country also observed solidarity demonstration.

It may be mentioned that in the last BIFR session, SAIL submitted a revival cum modernisation package on IISCO which envisaged a budgetary support of Rs 1100 crores only from the Central Govt to be given in five phases. SAIL's proposal was scrutinised by M/s Dasturco at the instance of operating agency and declared techno-economically sound and viable. In the Committee of Ministers on IISCO matters held on 28th June 1995 the Finance Minister refused to grant even that minimum requirement, thereby throwing the modernization of IISCO into further uncertainty. Of course in the said meeting, it was agreed to waive loan liability of the IISCO with the Central Govt amounting about rs 740 crores.

Also, Jibon Roy, MP, vice president, Steel Workers Federation of India, wrote to Prime Minister protesting such unreasonable stance of Finance Ministry of denying the minimum budgetary support for IISCO modernisation and demanded review of such a stance.

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SAARC Region Trade Union Seminar Calls For Relentless Struggle Against Liberalisation and Globalisation

Declaration adopted in the concluding session of the three-day seminar of SAARC Region Trade Unions held at Dhaka, Bangladesh from 9-11 June, 1995 called for "determined and relentless struggle based on the broadest possible unity, irrespective of ideological and organisational affiliations" to be waged by the trade unions in each country of the region in defence of jobs and wages against the "attacks of unfolding liberalisation and globalisation etc." It further called upon the trade unions to thwart "attack on public sector and indigenous industries" and to carry on "intensive and extensive campaign" for "mobilising working people and public opinion" for ratification and implementation of the ILO conventions. The seminar was held under the joint auspices of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the ILO and was participated by 43 representatives from 28 Trade Union Organisations of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. From India representatives from five trade union centres namely CITU, AITUC, UTUC, UTUC (LS) AND TUCC participated in the seminar, besides those of the All India State Govt Employees Federation and All India Bank Employees Association. CITU was represented by Chittabrata Majumdar and Kanai Banerjee, both Secretaries of the organisation. Discussion took place on 3 related topics, viz,

- 1) Social Development: Impact of economic liberalisation and the new Technology with particular reference to development and poverty alleviation.
- 2) Collective bargaining, Trade union rights and International Labour Standard.
- 3) SAARC Sub-regional Trade Union Cooperation.

The Seminar was inaugurated on 9th June by Mir Sankat Ali, Minister for Labour and Manpower, Govt of Bangladesh. The inaugural session was also addressed by Paul J. Belly, Director of ILO, Bangladesh Office, and Debkumar Ganguli, Secretary, WFTU, Asia Pacific Regional Bureau, Delhi.

Three Background papers on the 3 topics served as the basis for deliberation in the seminar. The background paper on the first topic, prepared by AB Bardhan, General Secretary, AITUC, was presented, in his absence, by Kanai Banerjee of CITU. The background paper on the second topic was prepared and presented by Chittabrata Majumdar of CITU

while the paper on third topic was presented by D.W. Subasinghe, General Secretary, Cylon Federation of Trade Union.

In the concluding session on 11 June, a declaration drafted by a commission on the basis of reports and recommendations of the three working groups appointed for the respective topics. The declaration was adopted after some discussion.

THE DECLARATION

Having regard to the experiences of the past few years since the era of economic liberalisation has began on varying, degrees, in the countries of SAARC Region, characterised by unfitted entry of transnational corporations, foreign capital, at the behest of International Monetary Agencies World Bank and IMF, coupled with unrestricted application of New Technology, miseries and hardships have been increasingly heaped on the masses. On the one hand it has to unabated price-spiral of essential commodities hitting hard the common man, on the other it has resulted in alarming joblessness, aggravating existing serious unemployment situation in respective countries. Whereas public sector has been steadily dismantled, even indigenous industries have been hit hard with large scale closures in the face of unequal competition with giant foreign companies in all fields of economy — small or big. While objective of building up a self-reliant economy has suffered a serious set back, economic and even political sovereignty stands threatened in as much as foreign debts and aids have registered a sharp rise, situations of poverty already prevailing in the Region, have become further worsened. Even though alternate approaches for economic reforms are offered and available, Govts have not cared to look into the same.

The worst and direct victims of this changed scenario are the working people faced with loss of jobs, mounting unemployment, increased work load with hardly any scope for acquisition of new skills and knowledge necessary in the context of new technology's application in all spheres and fields of production. Succumbing to the pressures of foreign capital, labour laws are being drastically amended to the detriment of the toiling masses depriving them of minimum protection of job security, regulated work-

ing hours, against retrenchments, lay offs, closures, etc. Trade Unions and their rights are under constant attacks. Govt policy is leading to and responsible for closing down public sector units.

In this background application of various Conventions of International Labour Organisation particularly those relating to freedom of association, right to collective bargaining, strike, job security, regulated working hours etc. have a common share focus. The seminar makes with a sense of indignation that the Govt of these countries have not been cared to ratify the most of the fundamental Conventions leave alone their implementation, what to speak of the various "Recommendations" of ILO. Whatever has been ratified remains on paper with any effort for their implementation. None of these countries Govt employees have any trade union rights. The Seminar is of the confirmed view that determined and relentless struggles based on the broadest possible unity, irrespective of ideological and organisational affiliations, shall have to be relentlessly waged in each of the countries of the Region by the trade unions in defence of their jobs and wages against the attacks of unfolding economic liberalisation and globalisation etc. by whatever names called. Attack on public sector and indigenous industries shall have to be thwarted. Alongside, intensive and extensive campaign for popularising the various conventions and Recommendations of ILO shall have to be carried on for the sake of mobilising the working people and public opinion for their acceptance, ratification and implementation in the concerned countries in consultation with the trade unions' Installation of new technology should be in selective fields of industries to the necessary extent in consultation with and consent of concerned trade unions safeguarding the interest of the workers and self reliant economy. The seminar taken encouraging note of the Declaration and Document of SAARC including the last one in Delhi about closer cooperation between the countries and their governments in different fields—economic, trade, culture etc. It is hoped that immediate and appropriate steps will be taken for their sincere implementation in mutual interest. The seminar invites attention of the SAARC and concerned governments to the adverse impact of free market economy as enumerated above and hopes that the Govts will take necessary steps there against in consultation with unions. The seminar hopes that the SAARC will rise and respond to the realities of the situation. It is high time that the various Conventions of the ILO to which the Govern-

ments are parties are taken for their ratification and implementation, so that the interests of workers are safeguarded.

Having regard to the problems, challenges and attacks faced by toiling masses and peoples of SAARC Region are more or less identical with that of the rest of the world. The Seminar is of the view that closer and regular cooperation between the trade unions of the Region is the need of the hour to build up necessary campaign, agitation and struggles in pursuance of the above objectives without any man in the way. Regular exchange of views and experiences, extension of fraternal solidarity and support to one another in the struggle shall go a long way in generating a sense of oneness and anti-classism mobilising the workers. With these objectives in

mind the Seminar resolves as under:
 1. To set up a coordination committee comprising of all participant unions and such others who will be joining the same hereafter. The Seminar elects Brother Nurul Islam of Bangladesh as the Convener of this Coordination Committee which will disseminate information and coordinate the activities in pursuance of above objectives.

2. To observe 13th September, 1995 as a DAY in SAARC countries through demonstrations rallies, badge wearing etc. by all the unions.

3. To collect mass signatures on a common format from union members and public and submit the same to the concerned countries Government.

4. To exchange delegations between unions of different countries so as to promote closer cooperation and such other steps are may be mutually agreed for attainment of the objectives.

The Seminar records its deep sense of thankfulness to WFTU and ILO for having organised the Seminar at this critical moment. Excellent arrangements for successful conduct of the Seminar and warm hospitality made by Bangladesh trade unions calls for highest appreciation.

**OBSERVE SAARC TRADE UNIONS
 SOLIDARITY AND DEMANDS DAY
 ON 13 SEPT. 1995
 THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY**

International Seminar on Social Aspects of Trade Union Activities in Transitional Economics

J. BALLABH

An international seminar on Social Aspects of Trade Union Activities in Transitional Economies was held at Almaty (Kazakhstan) on May 22-23, 1995. The seminar was organised by the Trade Union Federation of the Republic of Kazakhstan in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

A total number of 70 Representatives of trade unions from eleven countries including India, China, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan and officials of ILO, WFTU and ICFTU took part in the two-day deliberations.

The CITU was the sole Indian trade union which participated in the seminar. It was represented by J. Ballabh, In-charge International Department and Premangshu Bhushan Gupta of the Airlines Corporation Employees Union.

The opening session of the seminar was addressed among others by the Kazakhstan Labour Minister Krepak, formerly a trade union leader of the republic. He highlighted the positive role of trade unions in defending the social and economic interests of the working people.

The ILO officials attending the seminar spoke on the role of ILO in labour relations and tripartism, on legislative rights of trade unions, on international labour standards and on the need for implementation of ILO conventions and recommendations.

A number of papers were presented at the seminar, which provided useful informations on the working conditions and social aspects of TU activities in the developing countries. Most of the speakers felt that introduction of market economy has failed to protect the livelihood of people in the developing countries, where rising prices and growing unemployment were threatening the very existence of the working people. Under the circumstances the trade unions of these countries have a major role to play. Unless they forged unity among their ranks and prepared themselves for relentless struggles, they could never succeed in their mission to defend the basic rights of the working people. When tripartite or bipartite negotiations failed, the workers were left with no other option except to use strike as a weapon.

On behalf of the CITU I presented a paper entitled "Conditions of Working People in Developing countries and Social Aspects of Trade Union Activities in a Transitional Economy". After giving a brief statistical data on the worsening conditions of working people in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the paper dwelt upon the deepening economic crisis of advanced capitalist countries of the First World, which has forced them to enter into a fierce battle for capturing new markets in the Third World countries, where three-fourths of the world population lives. It is shocking that the people of Third World share only one-seventh of the World income while the USA alone, which constitutes only 5 per cent of the global population, consumes 40 percent of the World resources.

The paper also gave a brief account of the challenges the Indian working people are presently facing in the wake of World Bank and IMF offensives and explained how the present rulers in India had tied the Indian economy to the apron-strings of multinational companies in the name of globalization.

Speaking at the closing session the President of Kazakhstan TU Federations Moukachev expressed thanks on behalf of the host organisation to all the participants, ILO officials and WFTU for making the seminar a grand success. He also announced that all the papers presented at the seminar would be published in a book form soon with the help of ILO.

Although the seminar was over within two days, our hosts made arrangements for our stay at Almaty for about a week, during which they organised sight seeing trips and museum visits for us.

The population of Kazakhstan is 17 million, which lives on a vast area of 2.7 million square kilometres. The ethnic composition consists of 43.2% Kazakhs, 36.4% Russians, 5.2% Ukrainians, 4.2% Germans and 11.1% others.

The country is rich in natural resources. It has 90% of chromite reserves, 50% of tungsten and lead reserves, 40% of zinc and copper reserves and 25% of bauxite reserves of the former USSR and plenty of alumina, uranium ore, gold and silver reserves. It is second only to Russia in oil reserves. It has some of the largest coal mines which provide fuel for electric

power. Its agriculture and animal husbandary are highly developed, which produce grains, potatoes, vegetables, meat, milk and wool.

Wages are generally low. The average monthly wage of a skilled industrial worker is around 40 US dollars. Wages of professionals and high intellectuals like doctors, engineers and professors are also in the same range. The government does not have funds to pay higher wages. However some people are amassing wealth by unfair means. A few of them have become very rich and own even imported cars.

Despite rich natural resources the economy of Kazakhstan is in no good shape. Quality consumer goods are not available on competitive rates. Textiles, leather goods, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, electrical and electronic appliances, building materials, processed foods, agro-chemicals, floor coverings and light machinery products are in great demand.

There is tremendous scope for increasing economic cooperation between India and Kazakhstan. A variety of consumer goods and engineering products can be exported from India to Kazakhstan, while India can import fuel, minerals and mining equipment from Kazakhstan. This will lead to a quantum jump in Indo-Kazakhstan trade which presently stands at US\$ 10 million or more. For India Kazakhstan could serve as a gateway to CIS countries, as recent times have witnessed growing desire among CIS countries to increase economic cooperation and trade with India.

On May 20 we attended a grand cultural evening in honour of the visiting Uzbek President Islam Karimov. The Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbaev was also present at the function. The Presidents of both countries made impressive speeches hailing the close brotherly relations between the two neighbouring republics of former Soviet Union. A rich programme of Kazakh and Uzbek dance and music was presented by celebrated artists.

The next day we visited the National Museum of Kazakh History, which is housed in a beautifully designed building. A huge carpet portrait of the great Kazakh poet Ibrahim Abai

(1845- 1904) was presented to CITU by the Kazakhstan Trade Union Federation during the official dinner hosted on May 22.

On May 23 the Kazakhstan TU Federation President Moukachev had an exclusive meeting at his office with the Indian delegates and the WFTU Secretary D K Ganguli. Indian Embassy First Secretary Kumar was also present at the meeting. Moukachev expressed satisfaction at the growing friendly relations between Indian and Kazakhstan trade unions. He also proposed that efforts should be made to establish industry-wise relations between the TUs of the two countries. A beginning could be made by establishing relations between the TUs of aviation industry. The CITU delegates welcomed the proposal and assured full cooperation in the implementation of this proposal.

During our stay in Almaty, we held bilateral talks with a number of trade union delegates from China, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan and Russia, which indeed helped us in promoting friendly relations with the TUs of these countries.

One of the most thrilling experiences of our stay in Almaty was our visit to a trade union sanatorium in the outskirts of the city, which is situated on a picturesque hilly slope at a distance of 45 minutes drive by car. On the way we saw hundreds of dachas dotted all over the place. Government aid to the sanatorium had been almost stopped due to financial stringency. Contributions made by the trade unions were not enough to run this huge complex. However, most of its deficit is covered by income raised from fruit orchards and potato cultivation.

On May 25, we visited the biggest art museum of Kazakhstan, which moved into its present new building in 1976 after the amalgamation of two art museums founded way back in 1930. Most of its arts were gifted by other museums of the former Soviet Union.

Although our visit to Kazakhstan was a short one, we shall never forget the warm hospitality of our trade union hosts, who did all they could possibly do to make our stay pleasant, comfortable and fruitful.



AIDWA-CITU Workshop on Home-Based Workers

The All India Democratic Women's Association organised a workshop on home-based workers in cooperation with the CITU at Delhi on July 2 and 3.

The inaugural session which was presided over by Vimal Ranadive (Convenor, Cordination Committee of Working Women) was addressed by Suseela Gopalan (President AIDWA, MP), M.K. Pandhe (CITU, General Secretary) and the ILO Director General in India Ms. Karasavil. The approach paper for the workshop was presented by Brinda Karat (AIDWA General Secretary).

The workshop was attended by women home workers in garments, leather, plastic, papad, beedi, hosiery, mat making, silk weaving, toys etc. The workshop was preceded by detailed surveys of home based workers conducted by AIDWA activists in different States and cities like Bomaby, Sholapur, Pune, Hooghly, Howrah, Calcutta, Burdwan, Patna, Delhi, Bhadrak, Kanpur, Varanasi, Farukhabad, Jaipur, Bikaner, Julunder, Ludhiana, Rohtak, Hissar, etc. The reports of all these surveys were placed in the workshop along with experience in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh. The workshop was organized in 4 sessions which discussed in detail the plight of homeworkers, their demands, the legal position and the concrete aspect of organising them.

Some of the major points which emerged included Homeworkers consisting largely of female workforce were completely invisible in Government statistics - for example the census listed only 7 million workers in household industry whereas in just 2 industries, beedi and handloom there were 7 m. workers. Surveys showed that many big companies were farming out work to home based workers; for example Lakhani (Shoes), Godrej (Chairs), BEL (small parts), exports in garments, etc. Extent of exploitation was high with very low rates of wages ranging between Rs.8 - Rs.15 a day for 8-10 hrs work. Employers escaped labour legislations and were in fact subsidized by these women workers through provision of free work site(home), electricity, etc.

In a press release the AIDWA said, It was shocking that the government of India had not even answered the ILO Convention on protective legislation to homeworkers. It was decided that a big All India Campaign will be launched to highlight the demands of these sections. A draft legislation will also be drafted by AIDWA and CITU and moved as a private member's bill in Parliament. At the same time AIDWA in close coordination with CITU will start the process of organizing these sections separately on the basis of their concrete demands.

International Symposium on Trade Union Work in Foreign Funded Enterprises

V.B. CHERIAN

The All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) organised an International Seminar on Trade Union Work in Foreign Funded Enterprises at Tian Jin from April 25 to 28, 1995. The Seminar was attended by 34 delegates from 18 organisations representing 16 countries from Asia, Africa, Latin American and Europe. V.B. Cherian, Secretary, CITU attended the seminar.

The seminar was mainly intended for exchange of experiences and opinions, and not to adopt any conclusions or document. The debate gave a good exposure of the functioning of the foreign funded enterprises and the trade union work to protect the rights and interests of the workers in these enterprises. Everybody generally agreed upon the urgent necessity of further promoting solidarity of labour movement on a global scale to effectively meet the growing offensives from the MNCs.

The seminar was followed by the 70th anniversary of

the ACFTU from 29th April to May 1. A reception was hosted by the ACFTU Chairman Wei Jian Xing in the great Hall of the people at Beijing. It was attended by the top party and Government leaders.

The delegation was later taken to visit several state owned and foreign funded enterprises and other places of historical and cultural importance. These included one state owned Scainless Tube Manufacturing Factory at Tian Jin and another Japanese funded automobile parts manufacturing company in Tian Jin. The delegation also visited the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, etc.

The delegation on the whole felt that reforms opening up modernisation were taking place at China with a zooming speed bringing forth the rapid drastic changes in economic and social life of the people under an experiment of socialist market economy.



Wage Agreement concluded in Steel Industry

After prolonged negotiation at the level of National Joint Committee for Steel Industry (NJCS), the apex level consultative committee in the steel industry, the wage agreement has ultimately been concluded on 18.5.95, bringing about long awaited wage revision for the workers of public sector steel industry and also TISCO. The basic features of the agreement are itner alia the following:

1. Steel workers would get a wage rise of Rs.255/- at minimum level and 543/- at the maximum level from 1.1.92. Minimum basic pay would be Rs.2100/-

2. Besides above from 1.1.94 all the workers would get one additional increment and from 1.1.95 another additional increment.3. Rates of annual increment have been revised form 20/- to 40/- at the lowest level and from 100/- to 140/- at the highest level.

4. Night shift allowance was increased to Rs.10/- per night shift.

Steel workers have been demanding introduction of pension as a third retirement benefit since long and management also committed to introduce the showed that many big companies were farming out work to home based workers; for example

Lakhani(Shoes), Godrej (Chairs), BEL (small parts), exports in garments, etc. Extent of exploitation was high with very low rates of same during 1989 agreement on the basis of equal contribution both by arrangement and workers. Accordingly since January 1989 deduction was effected from workers salary at the rate of 2% on that account. But management's contribution did not come through particularly owing to the opposition of the Government. In the current wage agreement, management agreed to pay, over and above the wage rise and other fringe benefits, and the incentive schemes already in operation, an amount ranging from Rs.75/- to Rs. 145/- on a company based performance scheme, from 1.1.94, which would be diverted to pension fund. Those who retired prior fo 1.1.94 would be paid back their contribution plus interest thereon plus a matching amount equal to employee's contribution.

At one point of time during negotiation the IISCO workers were sought to be excluded from the purview of the Wage Agreement on ground of sickness. But owing to strong and united opposition by the trade union in the NJCS such move could not materialise and IISCO workers are as well covered by new wage agreement.

CITU Union's impressive Victory in Vizag Steel Plant

Steel Plant Employees Union, Visakhapatnam affiliated to Steel Workers Federation of India and CITU marked an impressive victory in the Secret Ballot held in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on 16.6.95 for recognition of union. CITU union won the battle of recognition by a margin of 1410 votes. Out of 12894 votes polled CITU union bagged 5373 votes, while AITUC union got 3963 votes. Sitting recognised union guided by a INTUC faction got only 2950 votes while official INTUC union and the BMS union got only 350 and 258 votes respectively. M K Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU and Mrinal Banerjee, general secretary, Steel Workers Federation of India congratulated the CITU union and the workers of Vizag steel plant for their victory.

CHILD LABOUR IN US

When US Government is talking at the top of its voice against the child labour in India it is refusing to check the menace of child labour in USA itself.

The journal published by the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America UE News in its May 19, 1995 issue writes: "Of course, some of the child labour reported by the ILO is performed in US. The US garment industry, for example is notorious for sweatshops, many of which use child and/or immigrant labour.

"When we are monitoring child labour in the carpet industry abroad, how can we avoid buying garments made in sweatshops at home? The best way: Look for the Union Label.

"And don't just "buy American" as some would advise "unfortunately." Unfortunately the label made in USA "is no guarantee that the product was not made in sweatshops."

SUCCESSFUL STRIKE IN DELHI, UP, PUNJAB AND HARYANA

A successful strike was observed by the workers of Delhi, UP, Punjab and Haryana on June 24 at the joint call of the four State Committees of CITU. The strike call was given in the Engineering Industry and in the Unorganised Sector of industries in the states with the demand for revision of wages and for opening of the closed and sick units in these industries in the states.

In the Engineering Industry there has been no wage agreement since the last fourteen years. The CITU demanded immediate wage agreement at par with that in W.Bengal. In the unorganised sector a minimum wage of Rs.2500/- plus VDA at the rate of Rs.2.50 per point was demanded.

As reported earlier, the strike decision was taken in a joint convention of Delhi and UP, held at Ghaziabad on March 25 and 26. Punjab and Haryana state CITU also decided to join the strike thereafter. As preparations, joint rallies, gate meetings, etc. were held in the states prior to the strike. At Delhi the workers also protested

against the relocation of 9000 factories on the ground of pollution, which would affect the jobs of over two lakh workers.

At Delhi, the strike paralysed the industrial areas of Okhla, Naraina Phase II, Nazafgarh, Kirti Nagar, Rama Road, G.T. Road, Wazirpur, Jhilmil, Meerut Road, etc. Workers of Indira Gandhi Terminal II airport also struck work. The UP, apart from Ghaziabad, which was totally paralysed, the strike was successful at Bulanshar, Dehradun, Varanasi, Bereilly, Agra, Nainital and some other places. Rallies were taken out at Kanpur, Sharanpur, etc.

In Haryana, workers observed strike at Hissar, Faridabad, etc. Rallies were held at Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Sirsa, Jind etc.

In Punjab successful strike was held in the Brick Kiln, Food agencies, rickshaw, construction works, etc. Impressive rallies were held at Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Sangrur, Bhatinda. Memoranda were submitted to the Chief Minister through the Deputy Commissioners.

UP CITU HOLDS STATE LEVEL SCHOOL

The UP State Committee of CITU organised a three day state level school at Haridwar from July 2 to 4. The school was attended by 135 leaders of the State Committee, District Committee and Unions Committee leaders of the CIT. The school was hosted by the CITU affiliated BHEL Kamgar Union of Haridwar.

Com. Vijay Rawat, General Secretary, UP State Committee explained the propose of the classes. On 2nd July, Com. Jibon Roy, M.P., Secretary, CITU took a class on the New Economic Policy. On 3rd July, Com. P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU took the class on task on Trade Union Movement and Organisation. On 4th July, Com. M.K. Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU took the class on wage, price and profit. The classes were followed by group discussions and questions and answer. Com. K.N.

Bhatt, President, UP State CITU summed up the deliberations. This was the second state level school organised by the UP State Committee. The earlier state level school was held at Kanpur in 1992.

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National Convention of Textile Workers Plans for Jail Bharo Action

P K Ganguly

The Joint National Convention of Textile Workers held at Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Salt Lake Stadium, Calcutta on 21st July unanimously adopted a Declaration calling for Jail Bharo action at Delhi in pursuance of 9-point demands.

The Convention organised by the Joint Action Committee of Textile Workers comprising of the INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS and NLO, was inaugurated by Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal. It was attended by 943 delegates from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, UP, MP, Tripura, Delhi and Bengal. Apart from the constituents of the JAC, UTUC and TUCC representatives also attended the convention from West Bengal.

A presidium consisting of Haribhau Naik (INTUC), P K Ganguly (CITU), B D Joshi (AITUC), V Tiagi (HMS), V Satam (BMS), Sailen Dey (TUCC), Bishu Chaudhury (UTUC), Abdul Mannan (AITUC), Nirmal Ghosh (INTUC) and Gopal Bhattacharya (CITU) conducted the proceedings of the convention.

After the welcome address by Subhas Chakrabarty, the West Bengal Minister for Sports and Tourism and Chairman of the Reception Committee, Jyoti Basu delivered his inaugural address. He hailed the unity developed by all the trade unions in the Textile Industry and the formation of the Joint Action Committee and called for such unity to be consolidated in all the industries and on a national plane to effectively face the policies of the Central Government which affected the workers directly. He said, the CITU had called for formation of a Confederation with all the Central Trade Unions which is bound to consolidate trade unity and develop united struggles further to defend the interests of the working class. He assailed the Central policy of destabilising the established public sector in the country and inviting the multinationals in all sectors of economy to undermine the self-reliance and economic sovereignty of the country. For the crisis in the Textile Industry, he squarely blamed the Central Government for its callous attitude towards the need of modernisation, which the trade unions demanded consistently. He said, only further intensification of united struggles by the trade unions can compel the Government to implement the agreement for modernisation of the NTC mills, as well as save the textile industry as a whole.

The convention was greeted by Santi Ghatak, Labour Minister of West Bengal; Saral Deb of TUCC, the Minister of Cooperatives; M K Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU; Sunil Sengupta, General Secretary of UTUC; Chittabrata Majumdar, General Secretary of West Bengal State CITU; Lal Bahadur Singh, General Secretary of W. Bengal INTUC; B N Tiwary, President of W Bengal State AITUC and Shiva Prasad, President of W Bengal State BMS.

The Declaration:

The draft Declaration of the Convention was placed by P.K. Ganguly, Secretary, CITU. The Declaration briefly analysed the deepening crisis in the entire Textile Industry. It pointed to the non-implementation of the 8-point unanimous agreement on modernisation of the NTC mills, where production was virtually stopped, losses were mounting and workers were not paid wages regularly. In the private sector sickness was growing with 132 mills closed and nearly two lakh workers rendered jobless. The handloom sector was starved with scant supply of Hank Yarn. In handloom and powerloom there was no minimum wages, labour laws and social security measures. Workers were fleeced in these sectors, while the big textile barons garnered huge profits. Ganguly explained the points and the 9-point demands. The Declaration called for mobilisation of workers in all the textile producing states through joint conventions, rallies, gate meetings, etc, culminating in a massive Jail Bharo at Delhi at a date to be fixed by the JAC soon.

It was seconded by Haribhau Naik of INTUC. Other leaders of the JAC who spoke on the Declaration were B D Joshi, Deputy General Secretary of AITUC, Veereshwar Tiagi, Secretary, HMS and V A Satam, Secretary, BMS.

Twenty five delegates representing all the trade unions from different states participated in the discussion. Among those who spoke were Shyam Sunder Yadav, D N Lambat, D L Sachdev, Ram Kishore Tripathi, Sanatan Mallik, Kesto Shaw, Sambhu Sarkar, K Venugopal, Naryan Sengupta, Asim Banerjee, Jagu Belani, Komal Singh Parihar, Bishnupada Bhowmik, Kailash Limbodia, Abdul Mazid, Shyamji Yadav, M S Rao, Dulal Chandra Das, Manubhai Brahmin, Raghuvir Mali, S P Tapare, Kuber Nath Singh, Pritam Chokse, Bipad Bhanjan Mandal, etc,

The delegates hit out at the Textile Policy of the Government which resulted in growing closures, sickness and joblessness. While dealing with the NTC mills, they lambasted the economic and industrial policies of the Government for destabilising the public sector, which caused immense damage to the NTC mills. They asserted that it was only due to the untied struggle launched by the trade unions that forced the Government to arrive at the unanimous agreement and then to approve it and introduce the Bills for nationalisation of the 15 taken over mills. They supported the amendment sought by the JAC in the Bills. They narrated about the total uncertainty in getting wages due to the callous attitude of the government to disburse funds to the subsidiaries. They showed their anger over the state of the private sector mills where sickness, closures and joblessness were on the rise. Representatives from handloom and powerloom sectors

were vociferous for getting their conditions ameliorated. The delegates supported each and every demand as mentioned in the Declaration and demonstrated their united determination cutting across all affiliations to make the Jail Bharo programme a massive show of militant action by all textile workers from all the three sectors.

After the reply given by P K Ganguly, the Declaration was adopted unanimously with thunderous slogans.

Haribhau Naik summed up the deliberations. On behalf of the presidium Gopal Bhattacharya gave the concluding speech giving a stirring call for preparations for the Jail Bharao at Delhi. Nirmal Ghosh gave the vote of thanks.

DECLARATION

This National Convention of Textile Workers held at Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Salt Lake, Calcutta on 21st July, 1995 expresses serious concern over the total apathy of the Government of India towards the deepening crisis in the Textile Industry in the country. The Government have remained totally insensitive to the continuing united struggles by the workers and several representations made to the Prime Minister, Textile Minister and the Labour Minister of the Government by the JAC.

So far the public sector National Textile Corporation is concerned, after nearly two years of joint struggles an unanimous 8-point agreement was arrived at in the Special Tripartite Committee on 9th April, 1994 on modernisation of NTC mills. After dilly dallying for more than one year, the Government was compelled to approve the agreement on 9th May because of mounting struggles by the workers. The Government has also introduced Bills in the Parliament for nationalisation of the taken over mills. This Convention supports the Bills subject to the amendments sought by the JAC. But the process of implementation of the agreement has not started yet. This has resulted in mounting losses to the NTC mills. Workers' wages are also not paid regularly. The arrears of PF, ESI are mounting in crores. Even the dues of workers' cooperative credit societies and CTDs are not paid. Most of the mills are lying idle without any production.

Sickness and closures in the private sector mills are growing. About 132 mills have been closed rendering nearly two lakh workers jobless. Because of the Government's policy, the organised mills are closing down the weaving sections and switching them over to powerlooms. Despite several promises the government has not convened any meeting of the Tripartite Industrial Committee in Textile Industry to discuss the question of sickness in the private sector mills.

In the Powerlooms, majority of which are controlled or owned by the big textile barons like the Reliance, Bombay Dyeing, Sri Ram, Mafatlal, etc the workers are fleeced despite producing nearly 80 per cent of the cloth. There is no fixed minimum wages, no working hours, no labour laws or social security measures.

In the Handloom sector the weavers are in deplorable conditions, as they do not get adequate supply of Hank Yarn at reasonable prices, nor other inputs. Their wages

are below poverty line. Labour laws and social security measures are virtually unknown in this sector.

Despite repeated representations made by the Trade Unions the Government has not taken any steps to formulate a new Textile Policy so as to ensure a balanced development of all the three sectors of the industry and produce cloth at reasonable prices which can be afforded by the teeming millions of the country.

Under the above circumstances, this National Convention calls upon all the workers in the Textile Industry in all the three sectors and in the NTC mills to intensify united struggles in pursuance of the following demands:

1. Implement the 8-point agreement on modernisation of the NTC mills in letter and spirit immediately. Till that time working capital to the NTC mills should be provided by the Government to start normal activities of production.

2. Open all the closed mills and reabsorb the retrenched workers

3. Convene the Tripartite Committee meeting to discuss sickness in the private sector

4. Implementation of labour laws, social security measures, attendance cards and minimum wages in powerlooms.

5. Supply of Hank yarn and other inputs in Handloom sector at subsidised rates and implementation of minimum wages, labour laws and social security measures in this sector.

6. Formulation of a new integrated Textile Policy in consultation with the Central Trade Unions to ensure a balanced development of all the three sectors.

7. Statutory dues of the workers should be paid immediately;

8. Amendments to the Bills No.40, The Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Amendments Bill of 1995, and the Bill No.41, The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Bill of 1995 proposed by the Joint Action Committee should be accepted by the Government to protect the interest of the workers;

9. Workers' participation in management up to Board level, as per the unanimous agreement arrived at in the Special Tripartite Committee.

This Convention warmly congratulates the textile workers and trade unions in West Bengal for compelling the private sector textile mills' management to arrive at a successful wage settlement with them after a joint movement and strike threat by all the trade unions in the textile industry in West Bengal.

Action Programme:

The Convention calls upon all sections of workers in all the three sectors in the industry to hold rallies, gate meetings, state level conventions, etc, culminating in a massive Jail Bharo action before Parliament at Delhi from all Textile producing states. The Convention authorises the Joint Action Committee to decide the dates of the Jail Bharo.

It appeals to all trade unions and Members of Parliament to support the movement.

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Observe the 50th Anniversary of the Holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a Joint Appeal by AITUC, BMS, CITU, HMS AND I

1995 is the 50th anniversary of the holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. Fifty years ago the most heinous crime against the people of Japan in particular and humanity in general was committed by dropping atom bombs on the two cities to their total destruction and killing millions of people, as also maiming millions more of even the successive generations.

Despite the universal condemnation of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki massacre there is unabated building up of arsenals to stockpile nuclear hardware of greater ferocity and unimaginable destructive power, posing a serious threat to the very existence of humanity. The very powers that swear by democracy and pose to be champions of human rights are criminally investing trillions of dollars in the development and large scale manufacture of nuclear weaponries with no concern for the widespread poverty, malnutrition and social degradation the world over.

It is strange that the powers who are themselves engaged in stock-piling of the devastating nuclear weapons are mounting their pressure on smaller nations to do away with their nuclear research in the name of nuclear non-proliferation.

Of late such pressure on the pretext of non-proliferation has increased manifold which only reveals the design of such powers to retain their monopoly and further strengthen their hegemony over the developing nations.

This madness must stop. Nuclear non-proliferation is applicable to all nations. The huge money spend on the development and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction should be diverted to the balanced development of the world. The world needs balanced development if it is to survive and if enduring peace is to be a reality. Peace and disarmament are inseparable for the survival of humanity. Nuclear blackmail is particularly directed against the Third World countries. The Working Class and other weaker sections of the people are the worst sufferers.

It is in this situation that the working class and others have arrived to observe the 50th anniversary year of the use of the deadly atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On this solemn occasion, the working class voices its strong condemnation of the relentless

expansion of the stock piling of nuclear weapons by some stronger powers who are never tired of sermonising others against nuclear research for peaceful purposes. We must raise our voice against nuclear destruction and ban on production of nuclear weapons to bring a permanent end to the nuclear holocaust of the world community and the nuclear holocaust.

On this occasion the peace-loving people should express their firm resolve that they stand without nuclear weapons and without war for the sake of unbroken peace for all.

Hence, we have jointly decided to observe the 50th anniversary of atom bombing of Japan and USA unitedly by organising rally, processions, meetings, conventions on 6th-9th August in every country. We call upon the working class and unions, to make all out united effort to make the observance massive and successful.

Sd/- A. B. BARDHAN AITUC
Sd/- R. K. BHAKT BMS

Sd/- Sd/-

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