



# THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

## The Sofia Call to Trade Unions

**S**PONSORED by the Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions, an International Meeting and Dialogue on Peace and Trade Unions was held at Sofia, Bulgaria on October 25-27. Representatives of 108 trade unions from 81 countries in all the continents and of 13 international organisations attended the conference. CITU was represented by Samar Mukherjee, M.P., the General Secretary. The other delegates from India were Indrajit Gupta, Y.D. Sharma (AITUC), B.M. Toofan (HMS) and N.K. Bhatt (INTUC). The conference was specially convened to draw the attention of the trade unions to their fundamental task for raising the voice against imperialist wars and defend the cause of peace in the interest of the working people.

In his introductory speech, Peter Dyulgerov, Chairman of the Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions, said that solidarity of the international working class has always been an indispensable and powerful weapon. Today, when the imperialist conspiracies have brought humanity on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe, unity and dedicated action of the working class for peace is the main prerequisite to solve man's social problems. Peace is indispensable both for the very existence of the people and for creating better conditions for them to work, live and develop. He appealed to the working class to face the situation and the facts with the eyes wide open to the truth. And the truth was rather alarming. The international trade union movement was still lagging behind the imperialist challenges of the time. The organisations which unite the working class and defend their interests, cannot afford to raise barriers between themselves and make a breeding ground for the imperialist conspiracies to tear apart their forces. The threat of a thermo-nuclear destruction demands on a much broader basis the formation of the united trade union front with the allies of the working class in the struggle for peace and put an end to the arms race and liquidation of the nuclear weapons. The possibilities of development of such a broad united front is growing, he said, with the rising struggles for peace involving people with different political, social and religious convictions. The danger is global, so the resistance has to be global also.

Speaking on the occasion, Samar Mukherjee rejected the so-called super power theory of equating the Soviet Union with the USA and squarely blamed USA, the imperialist gendarme for the maniacal arms race for vanquishing the socialist achievements and for global domination. Referring to the Geneva talks, he said that they had not yet yielded any results because of the jingoist policy of the Reagan administration and its admancy to deploy the Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles. He said that CITU is pledged to proletarian internationalism and march shoulder to shoulder with the international trade union movement and the peace loving people of the world in the mighty struggles for peace. While admitting the lag, he said that CITU has made the beginning and will continue the efforts to unite the broad sections of the workers to step up the struggle for peace against the imperialist war designs.

Delivering the concluding speech of the conference, Tudor Zhivkov, the President of Bulgaria and the General Secretary of its Communist Party said that the working class has a historic role to play and the vital interests of the working class are integrally linked with peace. So peace cannot be protected if the working class does not play its role of a basic anti-war force at the time.

The conference unanimously adopted an appeal to the trade unions and the working people in the world to unite to safeguard peace (printed herewith). In a separate resolution the meeting condemned the U.S. invasion on Grenada and demanded for immediate withdrawal of its forces. An open mass rally was held on 27th which endorsed the appeal adopted in the conference.

### The Sofia Appeal

**MANKIND** is threatened by a devastating nuclear war. In these anxious times we, representatives of 108 trade union organisations and amalgamations from 81 countries in all the continents have met in Sofia, the capital of the People's Republic of Bulgaria for a meeting-dialogue, Peace and the Trade Unions.

Being representatives of working people, affiliated

**CONVENTION ON LOCKOUT, CLOSURE, DELHI—JAN. 20**

to organisations adhering to various ideological views and political convictions, we are united by our great concern for and sense of responsibility to the cause of peace, whose safeguarding we put above everything else.

After a frank discussion over this crucial problem of mankind we unanimously declare:

—more than ever before the world is faced by a tangible threat of universal doom. The existing stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction are capable of annihilating mankind, even life on Earth itself;

—the events are taking a dangerous turn recently. The international situation sharpens, confrontation intensifies, detente is undermined;

—the deployment of new nuclear missiles would turn Europe into an explosive and deadly area, would increase tensions in our complicated and conflicting world;

—the growing momentum of the arms race brings humanity ever closer to a war catastrophe;

—the unprecedented military expenditures have become an excessive burden of the working class, the working people, the nations. They deplete the resources of the countries, plunder millions of people and block the solution of universal problems;

—the fanning of hotbeds of war at various points of Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Near East, the caribbean, poses a threat to world peace, halts the political, social, economic and cultural advance of the newly liberated and developing countries;

—the arms race and confrontation facilitate the offensive of the reactionary forces against the essential rights of man, the right to work, the right to social security, and the most important of them all—the right to live.

This state of affairs stimulates the anxiety and the opposition of the peaceful forces and they stage all over the world mass actions aimed at safeguarding peace, at achieving a shift toward disarmament and universal security.

We are conscious of the great responsibility of trade unions at this crucial moment and call upon the working people and the trade unions in all countries to unite and act:

—against the deployment of new nuclear missiles in Europe, for agreed reduction of existing nuclear arsenals based on equality and mutual security;

—for a nuclear freeze, for gradual reduction and liquidation of existing nuclear weapons all over the

world;

—for the establishment of nuclear free zones;

—for a ban on the militarisation of space and on the use of force in space and from space against the Earth;

—for peaceful and complete solution of armed conflicts in all regions where they exist with the assistance of the UNO;

—for putting an end to the arms race, for rechanneling of funds and resources from the military to the civil sphere, for meeting the vital needs of the working masses, for aiding the economic and social development of the Asian, African and Latin American countries.

There are not loftier and more responsible goals for the trade unions today. And we could achieve these goals only if we are united, if there is unity of action. Our weapon is the united trade union front of peace. A united front placed above political differences, above prejudice, above distrust and the disagreements of secondary issues. A united front which has PEACE for its platform, for its goal, and for its flag.

Proceeding from this conviction we, the participants in the Sofia meeting, call upon the international, regional and national organisations and centres, of all trade unions in the world to a dialogue. A frank and constructive dialogue, carried with good will and a sense of responsibility to the working class, which will unite our efforts and will bring the trade unions in the front ranks of the peaceful front.

We declare ourselves for the convention of a World Trade Union Conference on Disarmament, where the voice of the working people will be heard and a joint programme for united trade union action the world over will be adopted.

Nowadays the trade unions can fulfil their fundamental mission to defend the vital interests of the working people only if they make the struggle for a lasting and just peace, their most important cause, and defend it to the bitter end. It is our responsibility to be the organisers of the mass anti-war protest, to raise all the working people to a self-defence against the annihilation and the backbreaking burden of armaments.

Our power lies in our unity of action. There is no sensible alternative.

Let us unite, let us act, let us safeguard peace!

Let this guide and rally us in our common work and struggle!

# Modinagar Workers Fight Back Gangsterism

**M**ODINAGAR which has been the scene of a series of violent attacks on workers belonging to the Textile Mill Mazdoor Sangh of the Modi Kapra Mills, saw a big meeting organised by the CITU on 8 November. This was the first public meeting for which the district administration gave permission in the city for CITU. Over two thousand workers of the Mill attended the meeting,

Speaking at the meeting B.T. Ranadive, President of the CITU greeted the workers for their heroic resistance to the goonda attacks unleashed against them for joining the CITU. He regretted that so many lives had been lost in these attacks, not by the State machinery but by a section of the workers who were misguided by some leaders. He asked the HMS to ponder over this harmful policy of setting workers against each other. He stressed that what is required is the unity of all sections of the workers against the Modi monopolists who have launched an attack by closure of the "B" Mill. He recalled the experience of the workers' movement and of the CITU which showed that no militant working class movement can be cowed down by goondaism. He appealed to the workers to strengthen their union's organisation and function it on democratic lines.

Others who addressed the meeting included S.B. Bhardwaj, Delhi CITU State Vice-President, Prakash Karat, Delhi State Secretary of CPI (M) and Bhagwan Prasad, Secretary of Ghaziabad District CITU.

## CITU Condemns Detention Under NSA

Three more office-bearers of the CITU union belonging to the Modi Kapra Mill have been served orders under the NSA. These three workers, Shahabuddin, Jagroshan and Krishan Pal were already in Jail falsely implicated in a murder case. With these three more detentions, the total number of CITU leaders under NSA in Modinagar has risen to five. The Delhi State Committee of the CITU has strongly condemned the use of NSA against these trade union leaders and demanded of the U.P. Government their immediate release.

## Relief to Affected Families

On 3 November, a delegation of the Delhi State CITU headed by its President, Chacha Shadiram, visited Modinagar and handed over a total sum of Rs. 15,000 to the families of the eight workers killed in Modinagar and to some of the families who had lost their belongings in the arson on 9 July. Accompanied by the members of all the mill committees of the CITU union, the delegation went to the houses of the victims and handed over the amounts. This was the first instalment paid to the families out of the Modinagar relief fund which has been receiving contributions from the unions in Delhi State and CITU unions from different parts of the country.

Another five thousand rupees has been spent so far on legal and medical expenses.

## Modinagar Fund Distribution on 3.11.83

Rs. 1,500 each to the families of the following eight comrades who died:

Jagpal Singh, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Giriraj Singh, Ram Kishan Singh, Shahabuddin, Devender Kumar, Ramesh Chand and Chandershekher.

Five comrades who are injured or whose properties have been badly damaged were given as follows:

Prithipal Singh	Rs. 1,000/-
Beant Singh	500/-
Ramesh Singh	500/-
Vinod Kumar	500/-
Om Prakash	500/-
Total Rs. 15,000/-	

## MODINAGAR FUND

<i>Name of the Unions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1. Hotel & Baker Workers Union, Trichure.	100.00
2. Baavani Taluk General Workers Union, Appakudal	10.00
3. Shop & Estab. Employees Union, Cannanore.	25.00
4. WIP Workers Union, Balipatem, Cannanore	100.00
5. Fraction Committee Auto-Taxi, Stand, Kottayam	60.00
6. T.V. Jaya Rajan, Madras.	15.00
7. Workers of Tank Factory Madras.	110.00
8. National Textile Corporation, Mannargudi	10.00
9. K. Sarangar, (LIC of India), Madras	10.00
10. Tellicherry Range Cheth, Thoziwaw union, Tellicherry.	50.00
11. Kameer Batcha, Guntur.	10.00
12. Bihar State Committee, Patna	100.00
13. Payyannur Area Construction & Loading Workers Union, Kerala.	25.00
14. Tobacco Workers Union, Cannanore	50.00
15. Kayathirakkumathi Thoghrlai, Union, Cannanore	25.00
16. Municipal Workers Union, Cannanore	25.00
17. Cannanore Dist Cinemic Employees Union	25.00
18. Cannanore Distt. Chamber, Swadeshi Building Thorallali, Union, Cannanore.	101.00
19. Karthikappally Taluk, Chethuthozhilali Union Kerala.	100.00
20. B.E.L. Union, Bangalore.	50.00

21. Headload & General Workers Association, Kottayam	50.00	59. Secretary, CITU Porosakthi Colony, Sivakasi, Tamilnadu	10.00
22. N. Pappan, Hindustan Photo, Film Ooty Tamilnadu	10.00	60. Periyar District Union.	50.00
23. K.S.E.B. Workers Association, Kerala	100.00	61. General Workers Union CPI (M)	55.00
24. Kerala Pvt. Motor Thozhilali Union, Kerala	50.00	62. West Bengal State Committee.	2000.00
25. Judo K.K. Rathnam, Madras.	100.00	63. Trichy Chinthamani Cooperative Super Market E.U.I. Kerala.	10.00
26. HPFW CITU, Hindustan Photo, Films, Ooty.	72.50	64. Hair Dressers Association, Palani	10.00
27. City Tile Workers Union, Star Factory, Kerala.	175.00	65. CITU Taluk Coffee Office, Quilendy, Kerala.	50.00
28. Punjab State Committee.	200.00	66. Thiruvallur Transport Cooperative Empl. Union Kerala	10.00
29. CPIM Distt. Committee, Alleppe, Kerala.	25.00	67. Madurai General Workers Union.	10.00
30. Handloom Workers Union, Cannanore, Kerala.	25.00	68. S. Muthukrishnan, Tamilnadu.	10.00
31. North Arcot Textile Workers Union Gudiyattam. T.N.	15.00	69. Thermal Power Station Workers Union, Tuticorin	25.00
32. CITU Servalar, Tinnelveli, Tamilnadu.	25.00	70. Tamilnadu Electricity Board Workers Union, Madras.	25.00
33. Steel Employees Union, Arakkonam	15.00	71. B.H.E.L. Union, Trichy;	100.00
34. Engineering Workers Union, Bombay.	300.00	72. Kumari Distt. Mill Labourers Union, Nagercoil.	40.00
35. Elecy Workers Union, Tamilnadu	10.00	73. Secetary, Sankari Cement Asai Thozhilalar, Tamilnadu	25.00
36. Panchalai Thozhilalar Sanga, Gomathy Mills Virayanallur	10.00	74. CITU Abillam Sindu Pundurai, Tirunelveli	55.00
37. WIC Mill Committee, Kerala.	50.00	75. Madras District CITU.	250.00
38. Tirunelveli D.C., Abillem.	35.00	76. Bombay Papad Workers Union.	300.00
39. Kanyakumari Electricity System, W.U., Tamilnadu	10.00	77. Calcutta Chemicals Employees Union, Delhi.	51.00
40. Bihar State Kisan Sabha	100.00	78. H.M.M. (Horlicks) Employees Union, Delhi.	50.00
41. Glass & Pottries Kamgar Union, Bihar.	50.00	79. Madipur Party Branch, Delhi.	30.00
42. Hindustan Steel Employees Union, Durgapur.	300.00	80. Prem Nath Prasher, Delhi.	21.00
43. N.A.D. Beedi Workers Union.	15.00	81. L.I.C. Delhi.	209.00
44. G. Taluk Bidi Workers Union.	15.00	82. North Delhi Area Committee.	717.25
45. Transport Employees Union, Tamilnadu	10.00	83. South Delhi Area Committee.	2000.00
46. R.R. Milis Union, Tamilnadu	10.00	84. City & East Delhi Area Committee.	1175.85
47. Nellai District General Workers, Union.	25.00	85. West Delhi Area Committee.	1000.00
48. Mattannur Range Chethuthozhilali Union, Cannanore	50.00	86. Faridabad District Committee.	1721.00
49. Pandian Roadways Workers Union, Tamilnadu	10.00	87. Engineering Kamgar Union, Ghaziabad.	4203.50
50. Tellicherry Taluk Autorickshaw Drivers Coop. Society Cannanore, Kerala.	50.00	88. Chemical Workers Union, Ghaziabad.	802.10
51. Madurai Corporation Workers Union, Tamilnadu	10.00	89. Textile Mill Mazdoor Sangh, Ghaziabad	300.00
52. Headload Workers Union, Kottayam, Kerala	60.00	90. Card Board Workers Union, Ghaziabad	195.00
53. Safai Mazdoor Union, Bhagalpur.	50.00	91. Ceramic Workers Union, Ghaziabad	200.00
54. Tumtum Chalak Union, Bhagalpur.	100.00	92. Com. Banian & Podhu, Thozhilalar, Sangam, Coimbatore.	100.00
55. Rickshaw Chalak Seh Malik Union, Bhagalpur, Bihar.	100.00	93. B.E.L. Employees Union, Ghaziabad.	250.00
56. Pernambut Beedi Workers Udion, Kerala.	15.00		
57. TESWU/CITU Truvallur Malai, Tamilandu.	15.00		
58. Kanyakumari Dist. Estate Workers Union, Tamilnadu.	10.00		
		TOTAL	19434.20

# Significant Victory of Coal Mine Workers

**F**ACED with a threat of countrywide strike of seven lakh coal mine workers on 12 November the Government of India had to come down and give clearance to the draft of the coal agreement in toto in a meeting of the Cabinet presided over by the Prime Minister on 3 November 1983. The Cabinet in its earlier meeting objected to the payment of Rs. 12 to all the workers in coal industry which resulted in a deadlock in bipartite wage negotiations.

The Government of India miscalculated that the coal mine workers would accept the agreement without Rs. 12 and not respond to the call for strike. However seeing the magnificent response of the workers to the united call of strike by all the Central Trade Unions and after hundreds of strike notices served to the managements in all the coal belts, the Union Government was forced to retrace its steps and give clearance to the entire draft of the agreement.

This was a clear cut indication of the bipartite agreement and a stunning blow to the gross interference of the Government of India and the BPE in wage negotiations in public sector undertakings.

When the coal agreement was not cleared by the Government instructions were also issued to the Steel and BHEL managements that they should stop the payment of Rs. 12 per month to all the workers and whatever had been paid so far should be recovered by the managements. The workers in Steel and BHEL were left with no other alternative but to prepare for action against the decision of the Government. The clearance to the coal agreement had resulted in settling the issue in Steel and BHEL undertakings also.

Just on the eve of the strike the CIL management called the meeting of the JBCCI on 11 November 1983 to sign the agreement.

On behalf of the CITU, M.K. Pandhe, Bampada Mukherjee, J.K. Bose (members), B.P. Kashyap, K. George and S. Kumar (Adviser) attended the meeting. A large number of workers in calcutta offices were also present in the hall to observe the signing ceremony. Surprisingly none of the Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of the subsidiary coal companies was present on the occasion.

## Sub-Committees for Implementation

The following representatives of CITU were nominated on the Sub-Committees constituted by the JBCCI to implement the various clauses of the agreement :

1. Standardisation—M.K. Pandhe; Alternate—Bampada Mukherjee.

2. Incentive—S. Sudevan; alternate—Kameshwar Singh.

3. Promotion Policy—J.K. Bose.

4. Standing Orders—Bampada Mukherjee; alternate—S. Dutta

5. Social Security Scheme—Sunil Basu Roy; alternate—S. Dutta.

The new wages will be paid to the workers from the salary of January 1984 and all the arrears of wages from January, 1982 will be paid in the month of April 1984.

While speaking on the occasion M.K. Pandhe pointed out that the agreement had given a new sense of confidence to the coal workers. The credit for signing the agreement goes to the unity and determination shown by the coal mine workers all over the country.

## Non-implementation of NCWA-II

He pointed out that immediate steps should be taken to ensure full implementation of the agreement so that the experience of NCWA-II was not repeated.

The CITU criticised the lack of safety provisions in the coal mines. The decision of the last conference on Mines Safety that every undertaking should prepare a safety plan had not been implemented, though 3 years have passed. The CITU representatives demanded that it should be done immediately.

The question of non-implementation was also raised in the meeting. The CITU specially mentioned provisions relating to drinking water facilities, education, construction of housing and medical facilities should be implemented with special priorities.

Bampada Mukherjee pointed out that the business in the coal mining areas have started raising prices of essential commodities after the interim payment was given to the workers. He emphasised the need for involving coal workers in the struggle against corruption and other malpractices in the coal industry.

## Repression by Management-CISF

M.K. Pandhe criticised the CIL management for recklessly using CISF during industrial disputes in coal industry. CISF and anti-social elements had created a reign of terror in the coal belt. On the other hand illegal mining was clandestinely encouraged by the CISF. A photograph of the CITU flag  
(on page 8)

# HSCL Joint Forum Assails Mismanagement for Corruption

REPRESENTATIVES of the workers in a meeting of the HSCL joint forum held in New Delhi on 31 October and 1 November strongly criticised the management for the sorrowful state of affairs prevailing in the undertaking. They further noted that the demands of the workers had been kept pending for several years and the job security was threatened every day.

The management convened the meeting of the Joint Forum after a lapse of seven months. In this period things had been worsening.

S.S. Ahluwalia, retired Army Major General, who is now the Chairman of HSCL admitted precarious condition of the organisation whose accumulated losses had mounted to Rs. 64 crores. This year alone the organisation incurred a cash deficit of Rs. 17 Crores which may increase to Rs. 34 Crores next year. He referred to the question of surplus workers at Bokaro and other centres and advocated voluntary retirement scheme to solve the problem of these workers.

He noted that the contractors under HSCL (PRWS) who pay only one third of the HSCL wages to their workers have been competing with HSCL in tenders and obtaining contracts for construction work. He also mentioned that the productivity of HSCL workers was lower.

The representatives of the trade unions did not agree with the views expressed by the management. They pointed out to the press report that in Bokaro 12,000 workers were surplus. They criticised the policy of the management of giving jobs to contractors by making HSCL workers idle. They indicated the growing link between the HSCL officers and the contractors in making money and making HSCL to suffer losses.

The question of non-settlement of HSCL wage revision was causing serious discontent among the HSCL employees. The Joint Forum was earlier converted into the DA release forum and the management had withheld several instalments of DA to the workers. They demanded that all the instalments of DA should be immediately released.

On behalf of the management the question of recovery of payment of interim relief was raised. On behalf of CITU it was stated that it opposed any recovery of interim relief. It could be adjusted only with the final settlement of wage revision.

The wages of the HSCL workers have been based on the Third Pay Commission pay scales. Recently, the Government announced interim relief to the Central Government employees but even that relief was also not paid to the HSCL employees. The BPE had given directive to the HSCL management that the interim relief announcement was not applicable to the public sector employees.

M.K. Pandhe while speaking in the meeting quoted from the Audit Report of the HSCL and noted that the financial position was made bad due to certain policies of the management. The HSCL Audit Report noted that the management showed a rise of Rs. 2 Crores in inventories making the total stores of Rs. 6 Crores in the undertaking. The company also lost Rs. 2 Crores an account of bad debts and required thorough investigation to highlight the malpractice prevalent in the undertaking. The management had provided Rs. 5.55 Crores for retrenchment compensation, again an increase of Rs. 2 Crores over the previous year.

M.K. Pandhe referred to the letter written by I.C. Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel which categorically pointed out the lack of efforts on the part of the management to recover the arrears from parties to the tune of several crores of rupees. It was, therefore, noted that the company's financial conditions could improve if management took proper steps.

The question of job security was also discussed at length in the meeting. Workers representatives demanded that a section of HSCL employees should be absorbed in the steel plants. The recruiting officers in the Bokaro Steel Plant take a bribe of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 for giving a job. These officers deliberately reject the HSCL employees. It was decided that a team of trade union representatives should meet the Secretary, Ministry of Steel and draw his attention to this aspect and seek his intervention in the matter.

The trade union representatives pointed out that the bipartite committee appointed to go into the question was not allowed to function and the management virtually dissolved the group. The workers representatives also suggested that the PRWS who are competing against HSCL should not be given contract by the HSCL.

K.P. Ghosh pointed out that the Visakhapatnam management organised Seminar on Safety but the trade unions were not invited. This approach will not improve the safety conditions in HSCL.

The management agreed to release all the instalments of DA in the month of December and all the arrears would be paid in April 1984.

It was decided that the trade unions would give a composite proposals on the question of new wage agreement and negotiation would conclude on that basis within 3 months.

The management further agreed for joint enquiry into the cases of malpractices in the HSCL to suggest measures to improve the situation.

The next meeting of the Joint Forum has been fixed on 5-6 December.

# Fertiliser Workers Secure Handsome Gains

THE workers in the Fertiliser Industry (Public Sector) who had suffered a set back during the 1979 wage agreement due to INTUC unions' separate agreement which had ultimately become fait accompli on them, have now secured principled but handsome gains during the present wage negotiations effective from 1.1.1983. After marathon negotiations for nearly one year in which the workers (other than those following INTUC) had to go on strike for one day on July 20, 1983, a memorandum of settlement has been signed on October 30, 1983.

The gains would have been still better had it not been hamstrung from the beginning due to INTUC wing formulating a charter of demands, claiming a wage increase of Rs. 125 with point to point fixation, as against the demand of an increase of Rs. 157.00 with point to point fixation made by the Fertiliser Workers Federation of India. The minimum basic pay demanded by INTUC was only Rs. 500. It may be noted that the substantial part of the wage increase in the 1979 agreement (signed in February 1981) was given in the shape of increments and as a result the difference between the existing workers and new entrants was Rs. 56 p.m., whereas the difference in emoluments of an unskilled worker in Steel and Fertiliser industries was Rs. 72.50 as far as the new entrants are concerned. This difference between an existing worker and the new entrant has now been reduced to Rs. 44 in the Fertiliser industry whereas in other public sector undertakings this is limited to Rs. 22 per month only. This was possible because by a separate memo of understanding those recruited after the last agreement have been granted four additional increments. The Federation would have to make efforts to wipe out this difference for all the time. The minimum emoluments of the new entrants in the lowest category, however, remain to be lower than many others in various other undertakings.

## Revised Pay Scales

The revised scale of pay at 379 points of C.P.I. would start from Rs. 510-11-719 with a fixed D.A. of Rs. 110 upto Rs. 915-1520 with F.D.A. upto Rs. 275. The emoluments at 379 point of C.P.I. therefore comes to Rs. 620 or works out to Rs. 1.64 per point as against the present neutralisation rate of Rs. 1.30 per point. This is lower than ONGC where the basic pay at 200 points has been fixed at Rs. 400 or @ Rs. 2 per point. The Federation would now have to look to this aspect as well.

## Wage Increase and Fitment Benefits

A minimum gross benefit of Rs. 130 before deduction of House Rent has been assured in the agreement. This is higher than what the INTUC had demanded originally. After hard bargaining the minimum basic pay could be increased to Rs. 510 an improvement over INTUC. But due to

point to point fixation scheme which has been in force in this industry and has been maintained now, workers appointed on 31.12.1980 who were covered by the earlier agreement, will receive Rs. 881.80 as pay and dearness allowance and due to the separate memo of understanding a worker appointed on 1.1.1983 will get Rs. 816.80 as pay and dearness allowance, which would be higher than several public sector undertakings in which the figure comes to Rs. 801 or thereabout. Thus it can be seen that the Federation has been able to secure more higher emoluments for the lower categories of workers. The benefits due to this fitment process of point to point fixation would range between Rs. 130 to Rs. 195 per month and there is no bunching of workers of various pay stages in a common stage as has happened in other undertakings.

This is slightly lower for the employees in higher grades as in other public sector undertakings the higher benefits range upto Rs. 250 p.m. But this principled stand has helped the workers in the lower categories to secure comparatively more benefit than the higher paid workers. The benefit on Pay and D.A. alone for the unskilled workers comes to 28 per cent as those appointed on 31.12.1980 will now get a benefit of Rs. 187.90 p.m. and those appointed on 1.1.1983 will get about Rs. 178.90 more per month. This 28 per cent increase is perhaps the highest among all public sector undertakings as far as the workers in the lower grades are concerned.

## Other Benefits

The workers have secured other benefits also. On House Rent Allowance, those in the metropolitan cities will get 30 per cent and thus a gain of Rs. 63 p.m., for 'C Class and unclassified the gain is Rs. 5 p.m. The question of higher HRA for those in State Capitals will be finalised within 6 months.

The workers who work in cyclical shifts, morning, evening and night, the gain is about Rs. 23/- per month. It may be noted that that in many undertakings the workers in morning and evening shifts (Rs. 1.50 per shift here) do not get it all. The rate for night shift in fertiliser will henceforth be Rs. 3 per night shift.

The increase in City Compensatory Allowance will be about Rs. 12 per month in A Class cities.

Usual Leave Travel Concessions (LTC) is there. For encashment the mileage has been increased from 1500 Km. to 1700 Km.

This time the workers have also secured L.T.C. encashment for Home Town upto 750 Kms for those whose homes are at the place of their work only.

In regard to Transport Subsidy, there is no diffe-

rence between scooter and motor cycle or moped for whom it is now increased to Rs. 125 per month. The allowance for those with cycles has been increased to Rs. 20 p.m. For those who are not provided with Corporation's transport or are not in receipt of this subsidy, a provision of Rs. 20 per month hereafter has been made.

Disturbance allowance on transfer has been increased from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 at the lowest level and from Rs. 750 to Rs. 900 at the maximum level.

There are other clauses for benefits of Gratuity and Reimbursement of School Fees etc.

Washing Allowance has also been increased by Rs. 5/- per month.

### Some Unique Provisions

The agreement makes some important provisions.

For example, for the handicapped persons, the monthly allowance which was Rs. 50/- p.m. earlier,

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burnt by the CISF in Raniganj Coalfield was handed over to M.S. Gujral, Chairman CIL in the meeting.

The CITU representatives strongly criticised the unilateral steps taken by the management on the following issues even without prior discussion in the JBCCI:

- (i) Deduction of 8 days' wages for one day's stoppage of work.
- (ii) Introduction of 7 days' week by ignoring common holiday for the workers.
- (ii) Unilateral transfer of workers and other punitive actions against them in a vindictive manner.

Kalyan Roy, Jayanta Poddar, T.C. Jumde, Bin-deshevari Dubey, N.K. Bhat and R.N. Sharma also spoke on the occasion. They referred to the deduction of 8 days wages, use of CISF, seven days, work and the non-implementation of the agreement. They pointed out the violation of the payment of Wages Act and other laws by the CIL management.

The new CIL Chairman M.S. Gujral had officially instructed the managements of coal companies to inflate the production figures by 2.5 per cent which was also criticised by the representatives of workers. They pointed out that this would further bring down the credibility of the CIL organisation itself.

Meanwhile according to report in Dhanbad the BCCL management has arbitrarily transferred and terminated the services of a number of workers and

has now been increased to Rs. 75 per month w.e.f. 1.5.1983.

A Death Benefit Scheme has also been newly introduced at the instance of the Federation. It was suggested to the management that immediately a workman or employee dies in harness a sum equivalent to the number of total employees (numbering over 3800) including officers @ Re. 1 per employee would be paid to the legal heirs from the corporate management which would be realised from the workers and employees by each company. This benefit is over and above all other benefits and dues under the law admissible to the bereaved family.

The successful conclusion of the negotiations unitedly together with all INTUC unions shows that the Federation is now recognised as champion of the cause of the workers in the fertiliser industry. The reflection of the approach of uniting all sections of workmen will be seen from the annual conference of the Federation which is due in the last week of December 1983.

thousands of chargesheets and suspension orders have been issued. The Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India and Bihar Colliery Kamgar Union have condemned this highhanded action of the management and called upon the workers to resist this offensive unitedly.

### Struggles Launched

In Madhya Pradesh the Koyla Shramik Sangh has also launched local struggles against the recent arbitrary actions of the managements.

There is every possibility that the Central TUs may meet and jointly plan movement against the anti-coal miner actions of the CIL management.

M.K. Pandhe, Secretary-CITU and President All India Coal Workers Federation in a press statement while congratulating the coal mine workers for their achievement has called upon them to prepare for a new round of struggle against the management's vindictive actions.

Meanwhile the Coal Mine Officers' Association has also given a call for the struggle against the vindictive policies of the managements.

### Working Class — Special Issue

The January, 1984 issue of The Working Class will be a special issue containing the reports of the Working Committee Meeting of CITU held at Jamshedpur from Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 1983, along with the other usual matters. The price will be Rs. 2 per copy. Please send your orders for extra copies immediately. —Editor

## Government Stalemates Negotiations

THE Fifth meeting of the Tripartite D.A. Committee for the public sector employees held on November 11 also ended in a stalemate due to the Government's adamant stand not to go beyond Rs. 1.50 as D.A. per point rise of Consumer Price Index. Having no rational argument to justify its attempt to deprive the employees of cent per cent neutralisation, the Government again tried to take refuge to the clause 3 of the terms of reference, i.e., the repercussion of the so-called across the board increase in D.A. on other sectors, etc. And rightly therefore it got the sharp rebuff from the trade union representatives for repeatedly trying to graft this already rejected extraneous matter in the process of a smooth negotiated settlement.

The motive of the Government to keep the workers deprived of the rightful D.A., while prices are continuing to soar up unchecked, was evident from the Finance Minister's verbiage a day earlier when the Central Trade Union leaders met him. He advanced the specious plea that the public sector undertakings were running under mounting losses, and the recent wage agreements in several undertakings have aggravated the wound of the public sector, so the workers should heal the wound of public sectors by further denuding their real wages and accept Rs. 1.50 only as the D.A. rate. So the Finance Minister's plan is to make up the losses of the public sectors and earn profits at the cost of the workers' D.A. He conveniently wants to bypass the fact that the losses of the public sector undertakings are due to corruption, mismanagement, misappropriation of resources and inefficiency of the managements, at the root being the Government's policy itself, and that, he himself had agreed to the Central Trade Unions on January 18 to probe into the workings of the different public sector undertakings. Being pulled up at this off the track position, the Finance Minister then repeated the age old fairy tale that the public sector employees are enjoying so many facilities which are being denied to the "large sections of the society". Enough of such crocodile tears have been shed by the successive Congress Governments since independence, and all the sections of society have by this time heard this story thousand and one times. But the crux of the problem is that no section of the society has been able to enjoy the facilities they need except the monopolists and the landlords. The question is who has asked the Government not to grant the facilities to the "large sections of the society"? Is it the workers or the monopolists? Indeed, it is the monopolists. Because it is the Government of the monopolists, by the monopolists and for the monopolists. Therefore the Government is dilly-dallying with the D.A. of the workers. Therefore the Government unleashes its savage repressive machinery on the workers when they agitate for

their justified demands. And therefore the Government ruthlessly attacks on their trade union rights when they launch organised movement.

The Central trade unions have shown enough sobriety and patience by agreeing to yet another meeting on December 12. But it is high time that the public sector employees should gird up their loins to prepare for joint struggles again.

## Bonus Struggle by Government Employees

The unremitting countrywide struggles of the Central Government employees compelled the Government of India to grant bonus to all its employees including those for whom the productivity could not be measured. By this, the Government had to accept the principle of bonus to all. But while virtually accepting this principle, the Government refuses to extend it to all sections of workers. As for the State Government employees, the Government of India shirks off the responsibility to the State Governments while squeezing them to financial stringency.

Sukomal Sen, General Secretary of the All India State Government Employees' Federation, while welcoming in the Parliament the grant of bonus to all Central Government employees, criticised the Government of India for its recalcitrant attitude towards the State Government employees. Bonus, he said, is the common and just demand for all workers and employees in the country, both in the public and the private sector. As such, bonus to all has to be the national policy of the Government of India and it must take positive measures for its uniform implementation and avoid discriminations. Many State Governments, he said, are ready to pay bonus to its employees, but the extreme financial stringencies are standing in the way. The Centre must shun its policy of making the State Governments wholly dependent on it. He referred to the memorandum submitted by the AISGEF to the Finance Minister suggesting for a Central Scheme for granting bonus to the State Government employees by supplying the necessary funds to the State Governments for its implementation and assailed the Government for keeping mum over it. He warned the Government that just as it had to come down before the continuous struggles of the Central Government employees, so also it will have to face the direct actions of the State Government employees if it fails to implement the principle to them.

# Message to AITUC Conference

IN response to the invitation for message from M.S. Krishnan, General Secretary of the Reception Committee of the 32nd session of AITUC, B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU has sent the following message on November 4:

Dear Comrade Krishnan,

I thank you for your letter of 26th October. I am happy to learn that you are publishing a Souvenir to commemorate the 32nd Session of the AITUC which is being held in Bangalore.

I am sure that the efforts of all those assembled in the session will be directed towards making it a momentous session dealing concretely with the grave problems faced by the trade union movement, our country, and the international working class.

The formation of the National Campaign Committee and its activities mark our progress in achieving trade union unity. Much remains to be done in this field also.

Graver problems face our working class in the shape of attack of divisive forces on our national unity, the rearing of communal danger, the open conspiracy of imperialism to attack the integrity of our country and also the repeated and continuous attacks of the Congress(I) Government on the democratic rights of the people. The danger of authoritarian rule hangs over the people and it will be suicidal for the working class to ignore it or take a complacent attitude towards it. The working class consciousness and trade union strength require to be strengthened many times more to meet these challenges and enable the working class to play its role as a leading democratic and socialist force in the country.

The international situation has become extremely perilous. The imperialist powers are combining to organise aggression against the socialist camp, against the Soviet Union and destroy the achievements of the Socialist revolution. The aim of US imperialism which heads this combination is global domination, enslavement of countries of the third world including India.

Our working class is not yet seized of the danger and its full throated voice against nuclear war is yet to be raised. But it has to be raised by the joint efforts of all trade unions. It is a duty which we owe to the international working class, and to the peoples of the world including our people. For the nuclear war threatens the existence of all nations and peoples. The millions in Europe and USA have

realised the danger and straining every nerve to prevent war and maintain peace. These millions hail the policy of peace pursued by the USSR. Our voice must join with them to see that the warmongers are frustrated. The slogan "workers of the world unite" will be a mere phrase in our mouth if our movement does not come out as full partners of the socialist camp against the imperialists.

With greetings,

Fraternally yours,

B.T. Ranadive

## ✓ Com. Hrish Banerjee

With deep sorrow CITU mourns the sad demise of Com. Hrish Banerjee, the former Working Committee member of CITU and the Vice-President of the West Bengal State Committee of CITU, at Calcutta on October 31. Com. Hrish Banerjee was a freedom fighter and joined the Communist Party in 1936. Later he joined the CPI(M). He was jailed several times for his revolutionary activities. As a veteran trade union leader he guided trade union movement in several industries in West Bengal. CITU pays homage to Com. Hrish Banerjee.

## ✓ Com. Nirod Chakrabarty

With deep sorrow CITU mourns the sad demise of Com. Nirod Chakrabarty, member of the General Council of CITU and a veteran trade union leader, at Calcutta on November 20. Com. Nirod Chakrabarty was attracted towards the working class movement at the early age of fourteen. He joined the freedom struggle and the Communist Party in 1928. Later he joined the CPI(M) after its formation in 1964. He had to remain underground several times and was in jail for a total period of 14 years because of his revolutionary activities. He served as the Treasurer of W. Bengal State CITU and guided trade union movement in several industries, specially in jute industry. As a Joint Secretary of the then Bengal Jute Workers' Union he guided the general strikes in jute industry during 1921-29. Even at the time of his death at the age of 83, he was a special advisor in Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union. His devotion to the cause and service to CITU is worth emulating. CITU pays homage to Com. Nirod Chakrabarty.

### N.C.C. Meeting with Women T.U. Leaders

FOR the first time since the formation of the National Campaign Committee, it met the women leaders of the trade union movement at New Delhi on November 20. The meeting was convened, as per the decision of the Second National Convention of August 21, for organising a special convention of working women to draw them in larger numbers in the mainstream of the trade union movement in the country and call upon the trade unions to champion the cause of the women. Apart from the Central Trade Union leaders, the women leaders who attended the meeting were Vimal Ranadive, Ranjana Nirula (CITU); Buloo (AITUC); Manju (HMS), and Ambika Soni (INTUC-Dara). The meeting discussed the growing problems of the working women, the question of rising unemployment, discriminations, retrenchments, the increasing atrocities on women and other perpetuated problems because of the feudal outlook of the society and male chauvinism. The speakers unanimously opined to give more concentration to the problems of working women, and draw them in the struggles for betterment of their conditions and status in the society. Since they constitute a part of the working class, so working class struggles cannot forge ahead successfully without championing their cause.

Suggestions were put forward for holding the convention of working women either at Bombay or Delhi. If it is held at Delhi, suggestions were there that it could be coincided with the march to Parliament programme already taken by the Co-ordination Committee of Working Women and also with the march to Parliament programme taken by the N.C.C. during the budget session. The meeting noted all the suggestions and authorised the National Campaign Committee to finalise the programmes in its meeting to be held on December 8.

### Chingleput District Conference

The Chingleput District Conference of the Tamilnadu Co-ordination Committee of Working Women was held on October 2. Mythily Sivaraman presided over the Conference which was attended by 135 delegates from various industries, factories, Government and private establishments, teachers, bank employees and other workers. After the inaugural speech by Vimala, the Joint Convenor of the W.W.C.C., D. Saraswathi, the Convenor placed the reports on the activities of the Co-ordination Committee. 10 delegates participated in the discussions. They narrated their experience in working life — retrenchments, dismissals, discriminations and other offensives perpetrated by the employers particularly on the women workers as the first targets to wean them away from trade union struggles. They

appreciated the role of CITU and narrated their experience of successful struggles under the guidance of and conducted by CITU. The conference adopted various resolutions on the problems of the women workers. A ten-member District Co-ordination Committee was formed with Gowri as its Convenor.

### T.U. School for Maritime Workers

The CITU in cooperation with Water Transport Workers Federation of India organised a five day trade union school at Maritime club, Marmagoa on 24-28 October. Thirty five activists working among the Port and Dock workers and Seamen from Calcutta, Haldia, Paradip, Visakapatnam, Madras, Tuticorn, Cochin and Goa participated in the School. The ILO gave a grant of \$ 2500 (approximately Rs 25000) under the Asian Maritime Workers' Education project.

P. Ramamurti, Vice president, CITU, while inaugurating the programme emphasized the need for education of the cadres so that they can effectively run the trade unions.

Syllabus of the school included subjects such as History of the Trade Union Movement in India with special reference to Maritime Laour, Development of Waterfront Industry in India, wage fixation machinery in water transport Industry since independence, consumer price index numbers, ILO convention on Maritime Labour organisation and functions of trade unions, wages in India and Task of the trade unions, in the present period.

P. Ramamurti, in his concluding speech reviewed the developments in the country and pointed out how the working class play more effective role in the present situation.

The teachers in the school included M.K. Pandhe, Sukomal Sen, M.M. Lawrence and K.K. Roy Ganguly. The Regional office of the ILO sent B.R. Majumdar to give a lecture on the ILO conventions on Maritime Labour.

There were 3 lectures every day covering six hours of training programme. The participants were divided into three groups and discussions were arranged in the residential camp every evening on the subjects taught in the school.

The WTWFI has decided to conduct classes at local levels on the basis of talks given in the school.

# AROUND THE STATES

## TAMILNADU

### Handloom Workers' Continuous Strike

The handloom workers in different centres of the state are on grim struggle demanding implementation of minimum wage as notified by the State Government. After a one day strike on September 21 preceded by hunger strike from September 19 by the workers around Madras, over 15,000 workers in the fine variety weaving went on strike from October 12. The Government which itself notified the minimum wages, came to the rescue of the management by cracking down its machineries on the workers to arrest 300 hundred of them.

In Karur, the leading textile centre in Trichy, over 35,000 workers including thousands of women went on strike from October 21. Apart from the strike, the workers of all the unions have started indefinite hunger strike and hundreds of workers are being arrested daily. Some of the employers have gone to the High Court and got stay orders against the notification and the Government has not taken any steps to vacate it. The federation of the handloom workers in its meeting held at Kanchipuram on October 21 and 22 decided to observe a Demands Day all over the State on November 14. It also decided to conduct a massive signature campaign demanding the Government to approach the High Court to vacate the stay order.

### Strike by Plantation Workers

Over 3000 workers of the private rubber plantations in Kanyakumari are on strike since October 19. The call for the strike has been given by the CITU unions demanding new wage settlements, the previous ones having expired as back as in November, 1981. Other unions have also joined the strike. The owners have not only refused to reach settlements on the new charters of demands, but they have also refused to grant the D.A. as per the previous settlements. Demonstrating their open support to the private employers, the Government owned rubber plantations also have stopped payment of the increased D.A. The workers of the Government plantations also are preparing to join the struggle.

### Bonus Struggles

Throwing overboard the outdated Bonus Act, the workers in various industries struggled through the Deepavali time this year also and compelled the managements to grant higher bonus than last year's. The developments in the textile industry however are noteworthy. The State Government again came to

the rescue of the South Indian Mills Association and tried to negate last year's achievements wrenched through successful strike actions, by mooted a proposal of bonus as per Bonus Act plus an advance ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 400 on the basis of attendance by the workers. Except CITU and AITUC, the Government was able to trap in the other unions. CITU and AITUC jointly called for strike on November 1 which was responded by more than 25,000 workers even those belonging to the other unions, totally paralysing 40 mills out of 91. In fifteen other mills the strike was however partial. The managements have served notice for eight days' wage cut. In Kanyaspins the workers are on continuous strike from October 30. In Gomathi Mills also the workers are on struggle.

Apart from the textile mills, the workers of Tamilnadu Cement are also on strike demanding higher bonus and settlement of other pending issues.

## DELHI

### Police Attack on Workers

Led by the General Mazdoor Lal Jhanda Union (CITU), the workers of Steel Ball Bearings in the Wazirpur Industrial Area of Delhi are on struggle against the illegal closure of the factory. At dead of night on November 2, the management with the help of police tried to take out the machineries from the factory. But the workers who were on continuous guard fought back and gave a stiff resistance against this illegal act. The police beat up the workers and one worker was laid down with fractured legs. The naked abetment by the police to the illegal action of the management surpassed all limits when the police even entered the workers' bastis and indiscriminately beat up the workers and arrested 29 of them who had nothing to do with the concerned factory. They were further beaten up in the police lock-up under the supervision of the SHO. All the workers have been involved in false charges of attempt to murder.

CITU organised a massive protest demonstration before the police station on November 7. A delegation later met the Assistant Commissioner of Police and submitted a memorandum demanding actions against the police officials responsible for the beating of the workers.

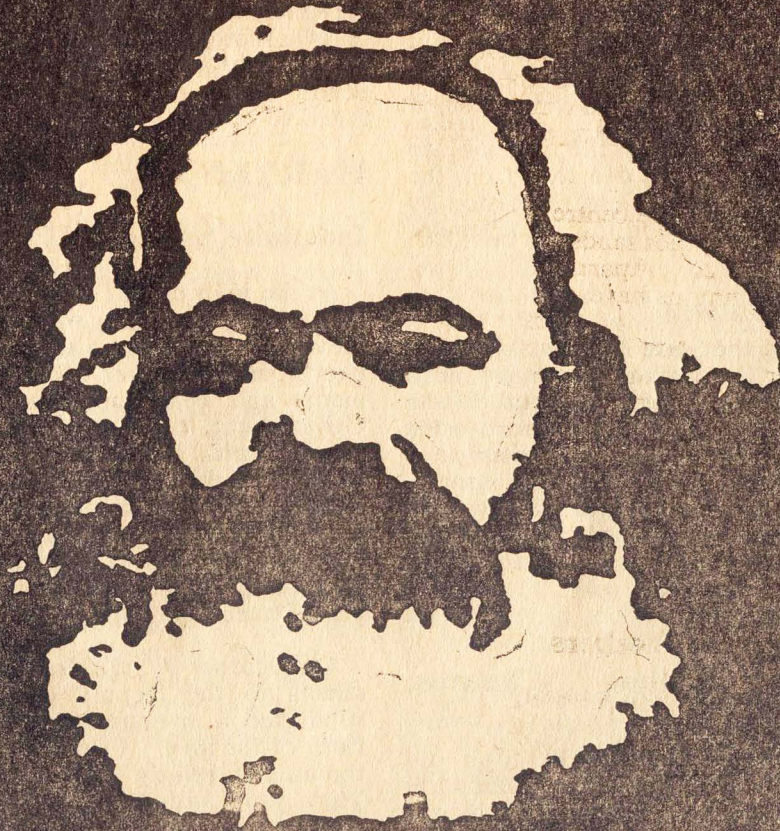
## ANDHRA PRADESH

### Struggle for Minimum Wage

Joint struggles have been waged in various industries by CITU, AITUC and also INTUC demanding Rs. 500 as minimum wage. The programme was taken in a statewide convention on minimum wage held in August at Hyderabad which was attended by about 500 delegates representing 380 unions. After observing a successful Demands Day on September 3, the unions have decided for a one-day strike on November 22.

"The philosophers have only *interpreted*  
the world, in various ways;  
the point, however, is to *change* it."

*Karl Marx*



## Death centenary homage

Government of West Bengal

BEEVAS/ICA/832C

## State Committee Reviews Struggles

The State Committee of CITU met on October 3 and reviewed the various struggles launched in the State. P. Ramamurti, Vice-President-CITU was present in the meeting. The meeting reviewed the 120 days' struggle in the Chittivalasa Jute Mills, the 80-day strike in Nulliwarla Jute Mill, two and half month strike in Eluru Jute Mill, the over three month strike in East Coast Jute Mill, the struggle of the Guntur Jute Mill Workers against lock-out, the 3-month strike in Rajahmundri Paper Mill, strike in Kurnool M.G. Motors, the strike of the six lakh State Government employees, the strike of the sixty thousand municipal employees of the state, strike of the Vishakhapatnam Steel Contract Workers, the continuous strike in the Kakinada Sarvaraya Textile Mill, strike of the salt workers in Srikakulam District, etc. Many of strikes were led by CITU and joined by other unions. In many other struggles CITU extended the supporting hand. The strikes demonstrated the determination of the workers to struggle unitedly to wrench the demands from the adamant managements, facing ruthless repression by the Government machineries and the management hoodlums.

### Anti Price Demonstrations

At the joint call of the State Kishan Sabha and the Agricultural Labour Organisations massive anti-price demonstrations were held throughout the State on September 7. CITU extended full support to the demonstrations. Workers joined the demonstrations at Vijayawada, Guntur, Hyderabad, Machalipatnam, Warangal, Kurnool, Guduwada, Nuzvid, Mylavaram, Kodad, Narsapur, Nandigama, Ongole, Chirala and other places.

## MAHARASHTRA

### Massive Morcha Against Closures, Lockouts

About 3000 workers belonging to CITU took out a morcha on November 11 from Azad Maidan to Mantralaya and submitted a memorandum to the State Labour Minister demanding his immediate intervention against the growing closures, lockouts and retrenchments in the State.

The memorandum which was signed by S.Y. Kolhatkar, Ahilya Rangnekar, K.L. Bajaj, Yeshwant Koli, A.D. Shastri, Ashoke Banerjee, M.V. Gopalan, S.G. Bhalerao, U.K. Nair and Madan Phadnis, pointed out that taking advantage of the unfettered freedom given to them under the Constitution, the employers have systematically started to resort to the large scale closures, and lockouts. The result has aggravated the already worsening employment situation in the state. It is the experience of the working class in the industrial centres of Bombay, Thane-Belapur, Pune, Nasik, Aurangabad, Nagpur and other places that no sooner than a union is formed or a charter of demands is placed,

the managements start talking of financial difficulties and then start repression and plan divisive designs to frustrate the struggles by imposing agreements arrived at with their patronised unions. When they fail in all their attempts, to contain the rising struggles, they resort to retrenchments, lockouts and ultimate closures. There were about 30 lock-outs affecting more than 9000 workers. Over 600 units have been closed during the last four years affecting more than 60,000 workers, of these 400 units are in Bombay and Thane-Belapur alone. Although the managements have closed down the units, they are carrying on their business elsewhere. These offensives are being particularly launched in units where the workers are organised under the CITU. Despite repeated representations, the Government has not taken any action to reopen the closed and locked-out units or stop retrenchments and lay-offs. The memorandum said that the workers would be compelled to intensify agitations if the Government failed to take any remedial actions.

## HARYANA

### Indefinite Strike in Hissar Textile Mill

At the joint call of all the unions, the workers of Hissar Textile Mills went on indefinite strike from November 16, demanding reinstatement of all the two thousand workers. Violating all previous agreements and being openly supported by the State Government, the mill management had closed down several units and retrenched about two thousand workers of the mill. Despite repeated joint representations by the unions and agitational actions, the State Labour Department refused to intervene in the dispute. On the contrary, it unleashed the state machinery to repress the workers, helped by the management hirelings.

On October 31, the workers marched through the streets to the Deputy Commissioner's Office and submitted a memorandum demanding nationalisation of the mill. From November 6, workers of all the unions jointly started a relay hunger strike. They were ultimately left with no other alternative than to go in for indefinite strike from November 16. A mass rally was held on November 22, which was addressed among others by Basudev Acharya, M.P., CPI (M). Various other trade unions joined the rally to express solidarity with the struggling workers of the mill. The unions have resolved to carry forward the struggle till the demands are met with. They have warned the District authorities that they would even resort to indefinite fast unto death if the Government does not take any remedial steps.

## UTTAR PRADESH

### State Convention of Trade Unions

In pursuance of the decisions of the Second National Convention, the Uttar Pradesh State

Campaign Committee held the State Convention at the Northern Railway Institute, Lucknow on October 30. Over 1,000 delegates from all parts of the State representing various industrial workers and employees attended the convention. A presidium consisting of Harsahay Singh (CITU), Harish Tiwary (AITUC), Girish Pandey (HMS), Santosh Gupta (UTUC) and Arjun Prasad Mishra (BMS) conducted the proceedings. The convention was addressed by the leaders of the Central Trade Unions, viz, Nrisingha Chakrabarty (CITU), Raj Bahadur (AITUC), Ramakant Pandey (HMS) and Ram Prakash Mishra (BMS).

On behalf of the State Campaign Committee, Daulat Ram, General Secretary of U.P. State Committee of CITU placed the main resolution. Over thirty speakers from the various organisations participated in the deliberations. The resolution was unanimously adopted after some modifications. As per decisions of the Second National Convention, the convention decided to hold statewide special convention against closures and lockouts, on working women and on unorganised labour, apart from stepping up the anti-price and anti-unemployment agitations. The convention also called upon the working people of Uttar Pradesh to join the march to Parliament programme by N.C.C. to be held during the budget session, as well as the anti-closure convention at Delhi on January 20.

The convention also decided to form districtwise and industrywise Co-ordination Committees to launch joint movements and to complete districtwise and industrywise conventions by December. Demonstrations, marches and rallies will be organised districtwise and industrywise against closures, lockouts, price-rise and unemployment. Apart from observing the anti-closure and anti-lockout day on December 4 as per the decision of the National Campaign Committee, the convention decided to hold one statewide Demands Day shortly. It further decided to hold one march to Assembly programme and then a statewide industrial strike with the demands.

## State Conference of CITU

The Third State CITU Conference of U.P. will be held at Saharanpur from December 9-11, 1983. In a meeting of the State Committee held at Lucknow on October 28 all details of the Conference was finalised. The conference would be inaugurated by B.T. Ranadive, President-CITU on December 9 and a mass rally will be held on December 11 after the Conference.

## BIHAR

### State Convention of Trade Unions

The Bihar State Campaign Committee held the State Convention at Ranchi on November 20.

Nearly 1000 delegates from various parts of the state representing the industrial unions, state federations including the State and Central Government employees attended the convention. The convention primarily dealt on closures and lockouts. The convention was addressed among others by Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary of CITU. Samar Mukherjee drew the attention of the workers to the growing incidence of closures, lockouts, retrenchments and industrial sickness which worsened the state of growing unemployment in the country. He said that this was a new offensive launched by ruling classes on the working class to pass on the burdens of the severe crisis on them. The root cause is, he said, the capitalist path of development pursued by the Government of India since independence. The condition was further aggravated because of the growing link of the country's economy with the economy of the Western capitalist countries and the conditionalities of the IMF loan. Naturally the severe crisis of the imperialist countries had its adverse impact on our country also as these imperialist countries are trying to shirk off the burden of their crisis on the third world countries like India. Therefore this new offensive has to be fought unitedly by all sections of the working class and the trade unions and new forms of struggles have to be evolved to meet the challenges. Along-with this, the struggles against spiralling prices and growing unemployment have also to be stepped up jointly by all the trade unions in the interest of the common people. He referred to the growing tensions and sharpening contradictions in the international arena and said that the deepening crisis has drove the imperialist powers headed by the USA to take the path of a devastating nuclear war to vanquish the socialist system and dominate the world. He called upon the workers to launch unremitting struggles against war and for peace since the struggle for peace is integrally linked with the struggle for economic and social developments and the interests of the working class.

The main resolution was passed unanimously. The convention adopted another resolution denouncing the U.S. invasion on Grenada and demanding immediate withdrawal of the U.S. forces.

The convention unanimously took the following decisions: To complete the districtwise conventions by January 1984; to hold a convention of unorganised labour and for minimum wages by February, 1984; a convention on unemployment by April 1984 and a convention on working women by May, 1984. The convention further decided to send a contingent of one lakh workers to the Delhi March to Parliament programme during the Budget Session.

## GUJARAT

### CITU Wins in Supreme Court

A significant victory was achieved by CITU in Supreme Court on September 26, when it dismissed an appeal filed by the management of Steel Cast (on page 16)

# CITU Invited in CTUC Meeting

THE Commonwealth Trade Union Council (CTUC) which held its Steering Committee meeting at New Delhi to coincide with the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Governments, invited CITU alongwith four other Central Trade Unions in a meeting on November 22. M.K. Pandhe and P.K. Ganguly, the two Secretaries attended the meeting on behalf of CITU. The other trade unions were represented by N.K. Bhatt, Kanti Mehta, Gopeshwar (INTUC), Y.D. Sharma (AITUC); D.D. Vashist (HMS), and N.C. Ganguly (BMS). Apart from D.Mc Dermott, the Chairman of CTUC and Carl Wright, the Director, the other overseas representations were from the Canadian Labour Congress, Australian Council of Trade Unions, Barbados Workers' Union, Nigerian Labour Congress and the Tanzanian Workers' Trade Unions.

The objective of the meeting as explained by the Chairman and the Director of CTUC was to have exchange of views and seek cooperation in trade union movement to defend the interests of the working people and their education. In their deliberations however, they mentioned about the adverse effects of IMF loans on the economy of the Third World countries. They referred to the memorandum which the CTUC is going to submit to the CHOGM in this respect.

M.K. Pandhe pointed to the offensives launched by the Government on the working people and the draconian laws like the ESMA and NSA directed towards curbing their trade union rights. He also referred to the patronisation of one particular union by the Government in all matters including sending delegates to the ILO Congress. He explained how the conditionalities of the IMF loan taken by India have resulted in further intensification of the offen-

## CITU NOMINATION

Com. Sunil Basu Roy, General Secretary, All India Coal Workers' Federation and a member of the Working Committee of CITU has been nominated on the Committee on National Safety Awards scheme for Mines.

## DONATION TO CITU

Com. Chittabrata Majumdar, Working Committee member of CITU, who attended the 11th session of the ILO Metal Trades Committee at Geneva from September 20-29, has donated Rs. 1000/- to CITU out of the allowance given to him by ILO.

sives on the working class and growing unemployment. P.K. Ganguly said that CITU is pursuing the path of united struggles by the working class to defend its interests against the offensives launched by the Government and employers. The united struggles are developing in India and more and more sections of the working people and trade unions are coming on the united platforms to launch joint struggles to accept the challenges of the worsening situation. Also, as a part of the international duty, CITU stands for the international consolidation of the working class. In the international arena, the danger of a nuclear holocaust hangs over human civilisation, threatening its extinction. There may be different ideologies, politics and approaches to comprehend the truth, but the reality stands that the danger of a nuclear world war has become imminent and massive struggles for peace are being waged around the world by the people of diverse political, social and religious inclinations. He said that CITU's view is that it is the vital task of the working people of all countries to struggle for peace for the defence of their interests. Billions of money are being frittered away for developing nuclear weapons and the military-industrial complexes. Nuclear power should be developed for peaceful purposes for the development of the society and human civilisation.

AITUC supported the view of the CITU and referred to the areas of tension and conflict like the Caribbean, South Africa and Lebanon. In his summing up speech the chairman, however, agreed on the danger of war and expressed his concern over it.

( from page 15 )

Corporation of Bhavanagar against Bhavanagar Kamdar Sangh (CITU).

The management had ended the services of three workmen after nine months on the plea of completion of their probationary period as stipulated in their appointment letters. Subodh Mehta, General Council member of CITU and President of the union, appearing on behalf of the union contended that as per the Model Standing Orders, the probationary period is only three months and the workers had automatically become permanent after three months. The Labour Court and High Court both having decided in favour of the workmen, the employer filed an appeal in the Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal with cost of Rs. 3000.

# Annual Convention of A.I.R.F.

THE 57th Annual Convention of AIRF was held at Vijayawada on November 11-14, in which about 600 delegates attended. Umraomal Purohit presided over the meeting. The inaugural session on Nov. 11, was an open session attended by hundreds of railwaymen. Samar Mukherjee M.P. Member Polit Bureau, CPI (M) and General Secretary CITU greeted the convention as a fraternal guest.

Samar Mukherjee was given a very warm reception by CITU, SFI, DYFI, and railway and Central govt. employees' organisations. Over one hundred volunteers in red-shirt presented a Guard of Honour at the railway station, while Parsa Satyanarayana, President of the A.P.—CITU and a member of the secretariat of the State Committee of CPI (M), Itha Ramalu, Treasurer—CITU and Mayor, Vijayawada Corporation, K. Venkateswaralu, Secretary CITU and many others garlanded him. Hundreds of railway workers belonging to both the AIRF and the SCR Employees Union (CITU) took part to accord him a rousing reception.

Warmly greeting the delegates and other railway employees who assembled in the inaugural session of the convention Samar Mukherjee said, "With the deepening of the crisis in Indian economy, ruling class is attacking the working class by closures, lock-outs and retrenchment while the Government of India has contracted the IMF loan accepting stringent conditionalities for keeping a semblance of on-going economic activity and attacked the trade union rights as a propitiatory measure. The working class of the country is unitedly resisting these attacks. 19th January 1982 will go down as a Red-letter day in the annals of trade union movement of the country as a symbol of united action of the working class. This struggle could have been strengthened further if the railway workers also could have joined this mighty action." He expressed his firm belief that the convention would "take steps to ensure that the railwaymen do become a part of the mainstream of the struggle of the Indian Working Class and play their positive role in the developing struggle, as the crisis instead of abating as is being claimed by the government is accentuating still further with sky rocketting of prices of all essential commodities in the year 1983."

He reminded the delegates that "the railwaymen have a special responsibility to the society as the workers of the largest public utility service. It is unable to meet the demand of the people. For sometime it could not meet the demand for lifting the freight. Now it is unable to meet the demand of passenger service. The condition of the railways, maintenance of track, rolling stock and all are so bad that accidents have become common. There is

no limit to late running of train services. This is the direct result of neglect of railways' health during one decade i.e. from 1965 to 1976, which has come home to roost. The Government unable to tackle the problem has repeatedly sought World Bank loans and under their pressure is now going for installation of 3rd/4th Generation Computers (known as in U.S. Railroads) with soft-ware from abroad. The Railway Minister contends that after installation of these computers there would be six lakhs redundancy in Indian Railways. The railway trade union movement has to reckon with this problem in the back ground of the growing unemployment in the country."

He added that the necessity for making a common cause with the people and over 20 million registered unemployed has acquired urgency because the fiasco of the capitalist planning in India has reached a state in which the freight charges and fares were being increased even when there has been no increase in the real wage of the railway workers. With the sanction of even this paltry interim relief and release of D.A. instalments, the Govt. is bound to increase the rates still further, indication of which is already being given in the press. The Govt. would try to shift the blame to railway workers and divert the wrath of the people against them. Hence there is urgent need for a powerful campaign by the railway trade union movement to apprise the public about the real state of affairs, a task which the railway trade union movement could neglect only at its own disadvantage.

He further said that the "railwaymen under the leadership of AIRF alongwith other Central Government employees has led the struggle for a "need-based minimum wage" in 1960, when the principle of comparable pay with comparable jobs was enforced on them through brutal repression. When the entire railwaymen under the leadership of NCCRS went into a historic strike for over 20 days in 1974 on the doctrine of equal pay for equal work by demanding parity in wage with public sector undertakings, once again they were subjected to terrible repression and virtually the colonial wage structure based on post 1931 scales of pay was imposed on them. When other public sector undertakings could secure wage rise ranging from Rs. 200 to Rs. 350 per month during the two wage negotiations in 1978-79 and 1982-83, the railwaymen have been granted an interim relief of Rs. 50 to Rs. 70 only. Today the working class is far more united than it was in 1960 or even in 1974 though on both the occasions, the working class did come in solidarity action. Today there is a far bigger scope to mobilise the entire working class in support of the just struggle of railwaymen. What is needed is

# This is Tripura in 1983

Planning and implementation of schemes now rest with the democratic institutions at the grass root level like the Block Panchayat Samities and Gaon Panchayats.

With land-revenue exempted and protection of law for the establishment of share cropper's right pronounced, small farmers find a new hope of building their lot.

With the Autonomous District Council set up, their mother tongue having been recognised as the second language of the state, the quota in the government service having been properly protected, the tribesmen of tripura have now restored their honourable position in the society.

With an enhanced rate of wages already enforced, various welfare measures adopted, and minimum amenities of life assured, the labouring force in the state have proved themselves more active than ever before.

With the introduction of free education upto class-xii, mid day meal for the primary students, enhancement of the rate of stipends and other facilities, the students' roll in educational institutions have gone remarkably high. The left Front Government in Tripura stands committed to strive for a united, democratic and self-reliant society free from all exploitations.

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Government of Tripura.

unity of railwaymen for the struggle and I hope your Convention would do whatever is possible to bring about unity of railwaymen for an end to the discriminatory wage to railwaymen."

Before concluding his address, he appealed to the "railwaymen to look beyond themselves. In the international arena there has been a marked deterioration in the situation and the world is facing a nuclear holocaust as never before. Humanity is threatened with extinction through the threat of mass scale manufacture of neutron bombs. A powerful peace movement is sweeping the world including U.S.A., the intensity of which is highest in Europe as the Reagan administration in U.S.A. is intent with pursuing its intention of establishing Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Europe. The railwaymen, to redeem their international duty and also for preservation of peace in this region in which U.S.A. is arming the military dictator of Pakistan with most sophisticated weaponry, have to raise their powerful voice in support of peace and against war. I am confident that your Convention will take appropriate steps in this regard."

He reiterated CITU's firm solidarity with AIRF and pledged full support to the just struggle of railwaymen.

His address was warmly applauded by all present.

The convention re elected the existing leadership of AIRF with Umramal Purohit as president and J.P. Chauby as the General Secretary.

#### **National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen Meets**

The National Campaign Committee of railwaymen met at New Delhi on Nov. 26, to decide their attitude to the 4th pay commission. It decided that the imbalance which has been created in the railway pay structure due to updating of technology which is not reflected in the pay scales as was desired by the Inland Transport Committee by adoption of a resolution in its tenth session should be brought to the notice of the 4th pay commission while reiterating the demand of parity in wages.

### **Editorial Board**

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## **NTPC Management Delays Implementation of Agreement**

THE NTPC management was strongly criticised by the representatives of the workers for not taking steps to implement the agreement. It was pointed out that the NTPC was not paying overtime wages to the workers who were asked to work illegally without any additional payment. The representatives of the management talked about misuse of overtime facilities while the worker's representatives pointed out that handful of workers may be misusing with connivance of the officers but the management had been penalising overwhelming majority of workers.

The non-granting of leave facilities to the workers who had injuries while on duty also came up for sharp criticism by the workers' representatives.

In Korba the union had already submitted local charter of demands while unions in other centres like Farakka, Ramgundan, Singrauli and Badarpur have also expressed dissatisfaction at the industrial relations in the undertakings.

M.K. Pandhe while speaking in the meeting noted that the goodwill created by the agreement is being nullified by the attitude of the management towards day to day grievances of the workers. The management representatives agreed to take expeditious steps to ensure full implementation of the agreement.

The question of safety and occupational diseases was also raised by the workers' representatives and the management had to agree to give a detailed report on the subject.

The next meeting of the Bipartite Committee has been fixed on 7-8 December at New Delhi.

#### **Dweep Naryan Singh Expelled**

As per decision of the Central Committee of Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India (CITU), Dweep Naryan Singh has been expelled from the post of secretary, CMSI as well as from its Central Committee because of his anti-working class activities. Henceforth, he is not authorised to deal with any dispute, negotiation or legal matter with the management on behalf of CMSI. He is also not authorised to attend any JCC meeting on behalf of CMSI. Any agreement signed by Dweep Naryan Singh will not be accepted by the CMSI.

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# The Assam Industrial Relief Undertakings Bill — Its Real Face

AMAL GHOSE DASTIDAR

✓ THE sixty years history of Indian working class movements — be it in the British regime or in the Congress and the Janata Raj, will show that no Government has ever come forward on its own for the enactment of any Labour legislation to protect and promote the interests of the working class. Rather, the powerful movements of the working class have been compelling the Government in power to concede concessions through certain Laws. The ruling class, however, framed the laws in such a manner that, in fact thereby the working class has been disarmed as much as possible, and certain forms of oppressions and exploitation by the employers have been legalised. Not only that, for obvious reasons as soon as the working class suffers a temporary setback, immediately the ruling class comes out in employers' rescue and shamelessly tries to snatch away workers' rights conceded earlier. Such examples are also not rare in our history. In 1978 the erstwhile Union Government introduced 'The Industrial Relations Bill' in the Parliament, against which all Central Trade Unions-including INTUC had took a firm and united stand. Again in the recent past, the Government headed by Shrimati Gandhi (that patronises INTUC) by its majority in the Parliament has amended certain labour laws in favour of managements and are even contemplating to amend some more. Taking advantage of the current disruption and disunity among the workers and employees in Assam, the State Government has introduced The Assam Industrial Relief Undertakings (Special Provisions) Bill 1983 and proposes to get it passed in current session of the Assembly virtually without any opposition because of the Ruling party's overwhelming strength in the House.

Apparently the Bill appears to be very noble from its avowed intensions. But, if one goes deep into the various aspects of the Bill, its real face will come out.

The preamble of the Bill claims that it has been brought with the noble intention of ensuring employment to the unemployed by reopening the closed industries and running the stick units of the state by extending certain relief liberally to these undertakings. But at the same time one clause of the said Bill states that the authorities of such Relief undertakings will have the right to determine the number of workers and employees one would require according to its viability. This means that the Bill does not provide any job security to the workers engaged earlier in such relief undertakings.

The Bill tries to create an impression, as if only the Government undertakings and the closed units will be under the purview of the Bill. But Clause 5 of the Bill says that all the industries run and man-

aged by Government or granted loans from Financial Institutions or acts as a guarantee against loans and advances from Banks, will be allowed to seek shelter under the Bill. Any such industry will be favoured with various types of concessions alongwith fresh financial assistance on liberal terms.

We all know that all the closed industries, big and small like Asoke Paper Mill, Everest Cycle Factory, Assam Glass Factory, Assam Hard Board, etc. were either owned by the State Government or managed jointly with others or were run by private owners who had been liberally financed by different Financial Institutions.

Similarly there are a number of Industries incurring heavy losses everyday but run by cooperatives like Assam Cooperative Jute Mill, Cooperative Sugar Mills, Assam Tea Corporation, Assam Seed Corporation, STATFED, State Transport Corporation, Electricity Board, etc. In the opinion of the experts these Industries are so inefficiently managed and corruptions are so deep that, any moment they may have to be closed or again transferred or sold out to private owners.

Under such circumstances naturally certain questions come to one's mind. In spite of so much allegations why the Government instead of probing into the real causes of closure and sickness has come out with new proposals for granting fresh loans and extending many more concessions, why the enquiry committees constituted with MLAs in 1978-79 to enquire into the workings of a number of above industrial units were not allowed to function. Even after the expiry of their terms, what steps in this regard have been taken by the present Government.

Above all, the most dangerous and objectionable provision of the Bill is clause No. 4 where it has been stated that any undertaking or industry covered by this Relief Bill will have the privileges of being free from the operations of all Labour Welfare Laws like Standing Orders Act Industrial Dispute Act, Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Wages Act, Bonus Act, Gratuity Act, Shops and Establishments Act, etc. Not only that, Clause No. 4(b) says that after the enactment of this Bill all the Bipartite Agreements, Awards given by a Labour or Court Tribunal would automatically become ineffective or inoperative.

Now, here, the pertinent question comes as to what inspired the State Government to introduce such a Black Bill. The answer is very simple. The world capitalist system is passing through a serious crisis, which obviously affects the exploiting classes and the Government representing them. As such,

with a view to giving certain relief to those crisis-stricken industrialists, taking advantage of the disunity and disruptions in the Trade Union movement of Assam, Government has come forward with such anti-labour Bill. Nowadays it is an admitted fact that very few industrialists show profits in their Balance Sheets, and perhaps all of them require financial aids from Government Institutions. Hence it can be said very safely that from the next financial year all the Industrial Units of the State will become loosing concerns and seek shelter to this relief bill and the workers will have to sacrifice all their hard earned rights and privileges.

As stated earlier, the workers of Assam alongwith the working class of the rest of India won their rights and privileges through prolonged struggle and tremendous sacrifices. Now the State Government through this Black Bill has sought to snatch away all these rights and reduce the workers of Assam as slaves or sonded labourers. So it goes without saying that each and every Trade Union worthy of its name, irrespective of ideological affiliations would raise their voice of protests and build up a strong and united resistance movement to get this Bill withdrawn, indications of which are already there.

Let us not forget this valuable and important lesson of history that owing to very many reasons the working class movements and its unity can be temporarily weakened or disrupted but cannot be defeated altogether by force. It is a class that advances on and on, and scores new victories one after another.

### ✓ BEL Workers Rally for United Movement

A well attended rally of the Bharat Electronics Employees of Ghaziabad held in front of the factory on 7 November expressed its firm determination to continue the struggle till the achievement of the pending demands of the employees. Though the rally was organised by the Bharat Electronics Employees Union, Ghaziabad workers of all affiliations participated in the meeting.

M.K. Pandhe, President of the union explained to the workers the role of the AITUC in the BEL negotiations which resulted in the employees getting less concessions than the BHEL workers. He

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pointed out that the appeal of the CITU for the united movement all over the units in BEL was not accepted by the AITUC leadership. He appealed to the workers of all affiliations to come together so that other outstanding issues of the BEL employees are settled through united movements.

Mukesh Sharma, Secretary of the union criticised the local management for unsympathetic attitude towards the legitimate grievances of the employees.

The membership of the BEEU has increased to more than 1,500 out of 2,500 employees in the Ghaziabad unit.

A meeting of the BEL employees in Pune was held at Pashan Factory gate on 29 October to explain the recent agreement. M.K. Pandhe while addressing the workers congratulated the Pune workers for their support to Ghaziabad workers in taking a fighting stand during wage negotiations. Com. Sanap, Secretary of the local union appealed to the workers for unity so that all India movement can be built up for other pending demands of the workers.

### ✓ Message to Kampuchea

**Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Secretary, CITU has sent the following message to the Central Trade Union of Kampuchea on October 25:**

Dear Comrade,

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions is happy to learn that the Second Congress of the Central Trade Union of Kampuchea will be held from November 7th to 9th, 1983 in Phnom Penh.

The Secretariate of Centre of Indian Trade Unions warmly greets the working class of Kampuchea who under the leadership of the Central Trade Union of Kampuchea, have regrouped their forces despite the genocidal annihilation of over 3 million people and have overthrown the Pol Pot regime with the help rendered by the working class and the people of Vietnam and have started to restore the gains of socialism which were acquired after the liberation of the country from French colonial rule.

We appreciate the difficult situation which the working class and the people of Kampuchea are passing to-day for national reconstruction because they are combating the continued attack by the forces of Pol Pot, who, aided and abetted by others, still continue to attack Kampuchea. We firmly believe that they would ultimately succeed in their struggle to completely vanquish the reactionary forces, and extend our solidarity to them.

The people of India and Kampuchea have a very old bond of friendship. We are sure that the bonds of friendship between the Central Trade Union of Kampuchea and the Centre of Indian Trade Unions will be strengthened in future.

We wish every success to the second Congress of the Central Trade Union of Kampuchea.

# Denounce the Grenada Invaders

**T**HE invasion of Grenada constitutes yet another blatant use of illegal force by U.S. imperialism to subjugate a small country. The mask of "peace maker" and "champion of democracy" of the gendarme of world imperialism was unveiled on October 25 when taking advantage of some internal problems the U.S. imperialists attacked the tiny island to overthrow its revolutionary Government. It is evident that since 1979, when the revolutionary Government was formed at Grenada, the phantom of revolution was haunting the U.S. imperialists around the Carribean. On the early hours of the day itself more than 700 Grenadians were killed, apart from the Cuban workers who were assisting the revolutionary Government in the developmental projects. The manhunt started in a systematic way, hunting for everyone connected with the 1979 revolution. From the initial number of 1500 troops, the number of U.S. soldiers went up to 6000 within a couple of days. Pentagon gave a free hand to the commanders to exterminate the revolutionaries. American jet bombers ravaged the towns, villages, schools, churches, and hospitals including the mental hospital at St. Georges. It was reminiscent of fascist Hitler's barbarism over the German mental patients in 1942. Everybody was brutally murdered except the Governor, General Scoon who acted at the behest of USA.

Reagan's verbiage of reasons for the invasion was the height of his hypocrisy to cover his savage vengeance against the path of socialism, over-riding all international norms in his craze for world domination. No wonder, the world opinion went against him and he was isolated from his NATO allies even. His only allies were his six Carribean satellites, the puppet El Salvador and of course, Israel, the other predator in Labanon.

His plea of "protection" of the 1000 Americans was grounded by the American Chancellor of the Grenada University himself, where 800 of the 1000 American citizens studied. He denied any threat to the American lives and branded Reagan's argument as a blatant lie. His pleas to contain chaos and restore law and order were equally ridiculous, since the realities say that it is the U.S. imperialism which has been ceaselessly trying to create chaos and tension throughout the globe in pursuance of its jingoist policies. His another propaganda charge that Cuba was constructing a military airport at Grenada, also got the unexpected blow from the spokesman of the British owned Plessey Group which was building the airport at Grenada. He said that the airport they were building was unquestionably civilian, helped by the Cubans. Reagan was thundered even by the Press in his own country.

Wordwide protest demonstrations raged from country to country, warned the war monger for his barbarism and for his plan of direct attack on

Nicaragua and encircle Cuba. The resistance in Grenada might have been bombed into silence for the time being, but the spirit of revolution cannot be crushed.

## CITU Condemns the Attack

In response to the appeal made by the Central Workers' Trade Union of Cuba, CITU has expressed its solidarity to the working class and the people of Grenada and sent them a copy of its press statement which was issued earlier on October 27.

## Letter From the Central Workers' Trade Union, Cuba

In the early hours of October 25 the military forces of the U.S. by land, sea and air, and in open violation of the norms governing international relations, committed criminal and barbarous aggression against the island of Grenada.

The Central T.U. organisation as well as the Working Class of Cuba condemns this abominable imperialist action, and calls on all trade unions, social and progressive organisations in America and the world to unite our voice to repudiate this imperialist prepotency and to demand an immediate cessation (end) to this savage aggression (which shows the imperialist contempt) for the liberty and sovereignty of our peoples.

We urge all the workers and workers of all continents and of the world to express their solidarity with the (heroic) people of Grenada in their difficult and decisive moments of their history and reiterate the massive condemnation of this barbarous aggression.

## Press Statement by CITU

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions denounces the naked barbarous aggression by the Reagan administration of USA who have invaded a small country like Grenada on the specious plea of protecting the lives of US nationals which were never in danger and to save the country from chaos where there was none.

This perfidy of the US imperialists lays bare their intolerance to the sovereign rights of the people of any country in the western hemisphere to choose a government of their own, as the US administration has been expressing itself against the Government of Grenada and its developmental activities for some time past.

The CITU demands that the naked aggression should be put to an end by withdrawal of all American troops forthwith and appeals to all democratic mass organisation to raise their voice against this fascist like action of the US imperialists.

## International Struggles Against U.S. Missiles

**D**ENOUNCING Reagan's cynical declaration that missiles will be installed in Western Europe "according to schedule", the entire Europe and America saw massive demonstrations by millions of workers, men and women at the end of October to express their powerful "NO" to the deployment of U.S. missiles and demand for peace and disarmament.

### USA

After a huge rally at Lafayette Square in the centre of Washington on October 22, the demonstrators marched to the White House and formed a human chain around it to protest against the Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles. Another huge demonstration was organised at Seneca Falls in New York, the site of a nuclear weapon store. In Los Angeles another massive demonstration took place outside the gates of a nuclear weapon factory. Several other rallies were held at Texas, Nevada, etc.

### FRG

A week of record actions took place throughout FRG from October 17-23. At Stuttgart 2,50,000 people joined hands to form a 108 Km long chain starting from the command base of U.S. nuclear forces to Neu Ulm where a U.S. nuclear missile base is being built. This was an outstanding demonstration of the W. German people's anger against the deployment of U.S. missiles. One lakh people marched through the centre of W. Berlin on October 22 denouncing the deployment of U.S. missiles. Five lakh people i.e. twice the population of Bonn, joined a rally at the capital on October 22 as the culmination of the week of the peace struggle. They shouted, "We want work and not missiles".

### Great Britain

Over 2,50,000 people marched through the streets of London and about five lakhs joined the final rally at Hyde Park on October 23 in a mass protest action against the deployment of U.S. missiles at Greenham, England. This was the largest political mobilisation London has seen in recent times. Neil Kinnock, the new Labour Party leader was applauded when he reiterated the labour movement's opposition against Thatcher's policy of arms race.

### France

Over 1,50,000 people supported by twentysix organisations of all political, social and religious backgrounds took to the streets of Paris demanding a stop to the U.S. missile deployments and continuation of the Geneva talks till agreement is reached. They waved the banners carrying the slogan, "It is better to be active today than to be radioactive

tomorrow". A large number of Canadian students in the crowd waved banners condemning the installation of cruise missiles in their country. People from Africa, Turkey, Portugal and Lebanon also joined the march. Similarly tens of thousands of men and women rallied at Marseille, Bourdeaux, Nancy, Lille, Lyon, Bourges, Grenoble, Agen, Narbonne, Perpignan and other places to express the voice of France against war and their determination to live in peace.

### Italy

Organised by different organisations and backed by the trade unions over half a million people converged at Rome from all parts of the country on October 22 demanding reversal of the Government's policy approving the deployment of cruise missiles at Comiso in Sicily. The demonstrators laid down on the road at Place San Giovanni symbolizing the terrifying consequences of a possible nuclear catastrophe.

### Belgium

Led by the Mayors of over 350 towns and villages a three lakh strong procession marched through the streets of Brussels on October 23 denouncing the American and NATO plans to make Western Europe the theatre of a nuclear war. According to the foreign press reports, this was the largest march against the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe in relation to the population of the country. In thousands of leaflets and posters the demonstrators demanded a freeze to the development of new nuclear weapons, elimination of existing nuclear weapons and establishment of nuclear free zones throughout Europe.

### Austria

In the largest rally in recent times over one lakh people converged at Vienna on October 22 to demonstrate their wrath against the U.S. Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles and the NATO forces. The huge Town Hall rally reverberated with denouncement of Reagan's war policy and the demand for nuclear free Europe.

### Sweden

Organised by different political parties and supported by trade unions and fifty social, religious and civil organisations and associations of doctors, teachers and journalists, a huge rally for peace was held at Stockholm on October 22. The rally demanded disarmament and peaceful cooperation between all nations and replace confrontation.