



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

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AGAINST CRISIS BURDENS AGAINST ONE PARTY DICTATORSHIP

B. T. Ranadive *President CITU*

IN THE NEAR PAST, NO MAY DAY WAS HERALDED BY such glorious and historic victories against the class enemy as this year's May Day. The complete victory of the Cambodian people over American arms, the mighty victory of the NLF against the USA dominated puppet armies are the revolutionary gifts to the world working class from the soil of Indo-China.

While imperialism is defeated in the battle-field it is facing a situation of break down on the economic front. More than 11 million people are unemployed in the advanced capitalist countries of USA, UK, France, Italy, W. Germany and Japan. The situation is reminiscent of the great recession of 1930 when capitalist production fell by 40 per cent and the economy broke down. It is known that out of the class battles arising out of the crisis came Nazism to save German capitalism.

Karl Marx had shown that crisis was inevitable in capitalist society. They expressed the contradiction between the relations of production and the developing productive forces and appeared as the contradiction between the lower purchasing power of the people and higher production—in capitalist language fall in demand. For years after the second world war the capitalist spokesmen had said that modern capitalism was free from the old cataclysm of the crisis. Now it is again shown capitalism has not changed.

The capitalist way is to cut production, retrench, cut wages, put extra load on the workers so that profits are maintained. After drastically cutting down production prices rise, then they again resume increased production. The sole aim is high profits—products are not saleable if they do not give them big profits. How this fall in demand is the result of profiteering is seen from the fact that in October last Ahmedabad textile mills accumulated stock of

May Day Greetings To Reader

cloth which was equal to two months' production. A few months prior to that the Government had allowed them to raise cloth prices by 40 per cent. With the accumulation of stocks, prices were reduced by 25 per cent and the stocks were sold out. There is no absolute over-production. Only over-production at a certain high price level. Unless this is realised and the arguments of the capitalists are countered, the trade unions are either forced to accept this recession and accept new burdens or they lose their bearing and act as if capitalist recession does not exist and lose their link with the affected masses, by involving them in actions at a wrong time and of a wrong type.

This crisis is drawing within its vortex all other sections—employees, teachers, professors, lawyers, peasants, agricultural workers and small employers. Every one of them is threatened with ruin to maintain the profits of the monopolists and big capitalists.

To fight against the burdens which the Government seeks to impose on the working class is to fight for the entire people. The struggle against high prices, inflation, taxation, job security is becoming a struggle against of the entire people, but the working class must learn to conduct it as such. Now the struggle is one for overthrowing the basic policies of the Congress—the policy of maintaining landlordism and denying land to the peasant, of relying on foreign capitalists and monopolists—the capitalist path. That is why the battle is becoming furious.

The Government, however, is not only adopting economic means to get out of the crisis. It is enforcing its economic policy with the aid of violence. The crushing of strikes, gangsterism against our trade unions in West Bengal, murders, jailings under the MISA and DIR, the life sentences on our Burdwan and 24-Parganas comrades are the political measures to solve the crisis at the expense of the people. In Rajasthan also 7 leaders of Kota have been sentenced to imprisonment for life. They were reinforced by the wage freeze Act, an authoritarian measures, by the arbitrary fixation under the DIR of the rise in D.A. due to jute workers. These are signs that collective bargaining will soon be rendered a complete farce.

The rigging of elections in West Bengal, followed by similar practices in some bye-elections in other States, the prolongation of the Emergency under the plea that internal situation is critical are all signs that the ruling party is intent on establishing a one-party dictatorship. This is the capitalist way of solving the crisis. The capitalist landlord Government of an under-developed country is unable to continue parliamentary democracy. It inevitably attempts to go in for one-party dictatorship. No wonder Indira Gandhi hastened to congratulate Shri Mujibur Rahaman on his assumption of dictatorial power.

This is the danger that the working class, the trade union movement has to fight when they fight against the burdens of

the crisis. Very few trade unions are aware of this and therefore are unable to discharge their responsibilities.

This same economic situation poses danger to the country from American imperialism and the CIA. A 1974 CIA report openly stated that the food situation in countries like India would soon place the USA in a position of complete power over the life and death of millions of people. The American machinations on the Sub-Continent are increasing and they seek to help the reactionary forces in India.

Unless the trade union movement, especially our CITU unions teach the working class to take the land in this struggle against one party dictatorship unless it uses its organised well-knit strength to mobilise all other sections especially the rural measures the battle will be lost. There are people who wish to side-track the mass discontent along non-class channels, in non-party channels. But the working class cannot forget its class and its banner. The organised trade union movement which was capable of organising the mighty railway strike of 1.5 million railway workers is capable of uniting all sections for the immediate fight. It is possible if it relies on the left and democratic forces in the country and lends its help to organise them. The unity of left and democratic forces must be its watchword. Here we again come to the grass roots work of the trade unions.

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Representation of Parties Under Section 36 Of The Industrial Disputes Act.

INDUSTRIAL Disputes being a collective dispute, it was held by the Supreme Court in *Ram Prasad Vishwakarma v. Industrial Tribunal* (1) that "An individual workman is at no stage a party to the Industrial Dispute independently of an Union. The Union or those workmen who have by their sponsoring turned an individual dispute into an Industrial Dispute can therefore claim to have a say in the conduct of the proceeding before the Tribunal".

This observation of the Supreme Court seems to run counter to the provisions of the Statute itself, because Section 36 of the Industrial Disputes Act says that a workman is *entitled to be represented* by an officer of a Trade Union or by any other workman employed in the Industry in which the worker is employed. In fact, in the earlier case of *Burma Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Company of India* (2), the Supreme Court had observed, "...under Section 36 it is open to the employees whose dispute has been referred for Industrial Adjudication to appear either individually or through their Union...". In this case, the Supreme Court was considering the application of the Clerical Staff for being impleaded as parties. After observing as above, the Supreme Court rejected the application because

there was no valid reference on behalf of those employees.

Again, in *Ram Prasad's case* (Supra), the Supreme Court laid down that "representation by an officer of the Trade Union continue throughout the proceedings in the absence of exceptional circumstances which may justify the Tribunal to permit other representation of the workman concerned". In this case the Union had entered into a compromise with the Manager and the workman challenged it as being without his permission and authority. The Supreme Court did not entertain this challenge on the reasons quoted above in part.

But in the earlier case of *Hotel Imperial Ltd.* (3), Justice Wanchoo said that the workmen could, "if they wanted to be represented by another Union, apply to the Tribunal for such representation or even apply for being made parties individually".

In *Jehangir Kabir v. Fourth Industrial Tribunal* (4), Justice Banerjee of Calcutta High Court distinguished the *Hotel Imperial* case by saying that, before the workmen could apply for a separate representation, the reference must include them. In the instant case, the manjhis and dandies as represented by *Jehangir Kabir* had been made parties and, therefore, unless the manjhis and dandies who made the

application for separate representation proved that they were included in the manjhis and dandies as represented by *Jehangir Kabir*, they could not come into the reference. "The position is that, in the absence of proof, it cannot be held that the persons who had applied to be added as parties before the Tribunal, on March 28, 1960, had anything to do with the reference and in the absence of that proof, the Tribunal should not have directed their representation through *N. D. Manna*".

The situation has, however, been complicated by a recent decision of Calcutta High Court in *Deepak Industries Ltd. v. State of West Bengal* (5). Here a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court has held that, in order to have competency to represent the workmen in an industrial dispute, either there must be a resolution of the members of the Union espousing the cause of the workmen concerned in the dispute or the Union must be expressly authorised to represent them. In this case, in the absence of proof of either, the Court held that the Union had no *locus standi* to represent the workmen. Both the Tribunal and the single Bench of the High Court before which the award of the Tribunal was challenged had, however, held that there was enough evidence that the Union had espoused the cause of the 174 discharged workmen though they were not members of the Union and, on that finding, the Rule taken out by the Company was discharged.

This is contrary to the

decision of the Allahabad High Court in Raza Textiles Ltd. v. Raza Textiles Mazdoor Sangh (6) where a Division Bench held, "In matters like representation in a dispute or signing on behalf of the workmen an authorised office-bearer or agent can perform that function. Signing a settlement or representing a party is not a matter for a resolution but is an administrative or executive act to be performed by one of the office-bearers of the corporation competent to do it".

In the Calcutta High Court case, 174 of 300 workmen were dismissed and all the talk about the nature of an Industrial dispute by the learned Judge was, with respect, irrelevant. The ratio of the decisions about the necessity of dispute being supported by a Union is that otherwise the dispute cannot be an industrial dispute but merely individual dispute, an industrial being one in which large numbers of workmen are interested. Where more than half of the entire labour force of an industrial establishment are dismissed, it cannot be contended that there is no industrial dispute.

Moreover, section 2A of the Act categorically lays down that where any employer discharges, dismisses, retrenches or otherwise terminates the services of an individual workman, any dispute or difference between that workman and his employer connected with, or arising out of, such discharge, dismissal, retrenchment or termination shall be deemed to be an industrial dispute notwithstanding that no other work-

man nor union of workmen is a party to the dispute.

If the dispute regarding dismissal shall be deemed to be an industrial dispute, the espousal of the dispute by any Union was not at all necessary or essential. The question of representation also in terms of section 36 of the Act loses importance. The reference should, therefore, be competent even if the representation mentioned therein proves to be defective. As stated in State of Bihar v. D. N. Ganguli (7), "after the dispute is referred to the tribunal, during the continuance of the reference proceedings, it is the tribunal which is seized of the dispute and which can

exercise jurisdiction in respect of it".

The result is that, even if there is no representation, the tribunal could go into the dispute and give an award on perusal of records and hearing the management, because it would be an industrial dispute all the same.

Arun Prakash Chatterjee

- (1) (1916) 1 LLJ 504
- (2) (1960) 2 LLJ 124 (127)
- (3) (1959) 2 LLJ 553 : AIR 1959 SC 1214
- (4) (1966) 6 FLR 137
- (5) (1975) 30 FLR 106
- (6) (1965) 11 FLR 35
- (7) AIR 1958 SC 1018 : (1958) 2 LLJ 634

Tisco Karmachari Union Joins The CITU

The Second Annual Conference of the TISCO Karmachari Union was held at Jamshedpur on March 15-16 last. 506 delegates and 54 fraternal delegates, including 11 from other Steel factories, who attended the Conference decided in one voice to affiliate the Union with the CITU.

Comrade B. T. Ranadive, President CITU attended the Conference and summed up its deliberations.

The Conference decided to go into direct action if no settlement on wage revision was reached before March 31, and called upon the other Central Trade Unions and independent organisations to chalk out a programme of united action.

The Conference also adopted a number of resolutions on civil liberties, against Wage Freeze, against victimisation of Railway employees etc.

Addressing the mass meeting held on March 16 at the Bari Maidan, B. T. Ranadive, President CITU explained the significance of the pro-monopolist, pro-landlord policies of the Congress Government and urged upon the workers to rise in a body to counter and defeat these policies. Jiban Roy, member Joint Negotiating Committee and K. K. Tripathy, President of the Tisco Karmachari Union also addressed the meeting.

Later, on 31st March, at the call of the 26th July Convention Committee to observe 'Protest Day' to protest against the management's negative attitude towards wage revision, the Tisco Karmachari Union organised a two-hour stay-in demonstration in front of the Directors' office. Steel workers of Tisco responded massively to this call defying the huge mobilisation of Police force, and declared their determination to carry forward their struggle unitedly.

At Hesalong Colliery 1 worker killed, 56 Injured by AITUC Goondas

As a result of an illegal lock-out declared by the management in connivance with the CMAL officials and the local INTUC and AITUC leaders, 8000 workers of Hesalong Colliery in Hazaribagh district of Bihar have been thrown out of employment. (See report in April 1975 issue of The Working Class.) Since then the local INTUC and AITUC leaders have been trying to forcibly enrol the workers as their members. When the workers protested, they were attacked by hired INTUC goondas who tried to molest the women workers and set fire to some workers' quarters. Again on March 30 last, when the workers protested against the activities of some AITUC hoodlums, they were attacked by them. When the workers resisted the goondas, the local Police stepped in, declared Sec. 144 Cr. P. C., let loose a reign of terror in Hesalong-Gidi Colliery areas and the adjoining villages.

Unable to force the workers to leave the union led by the National Coal Organisation Employees' Association (NCOEA), the INTUC and AITUC resorted to heinous goonda attacks in collusion with the Police to crush the resistance of the workers. On 14th April last, AITUC hoodlums armed with guns, bombs and other lethal weapons launched a brutal attack on the workers. As a result, one worker died on the spot and 56 workers, including

one woman worker were seriously injured. All this happened in the presence of a strong police force led by a first class Magistrate who remained silent spectators to this brutal attack. When the goondas left, the workers were again attacked by Police and CRP during the night who created a reign of terror. The NCOEA has condemned this barbarous attack and protested against the inactivity of the Police.

NCOEA Hold 18th Conference at Hesalong

Defying repeated attempts by the local Police to disrupt the holding of the Conference, through terror tactics and imposition of Sec. 144, the 18th Annual Conference of the National Coal Organisation Employees' Association was held at Hesalong from 10th to 12th April 1975. The Conference was attended by delegates from West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and was presided over by Shri J. P. Bose.

The delegates expressed their disappointment at the fixation of Rs. 325 as minimum wage under the recent agreement signed in the Bipartite Wage Negotiation Committee and condemned the increase in workload of wagon loaders and linkage of wage with productivity. They also protested against the decision of the Government to increase prices of coking and non cooking coal and demanded scrapping of the Compulsory Deposit Act. The Conference also expressed its solidarity with the 8000 struggling workers of Hesalong colliery and demanded immediate nationalisation of Hesalong and other privately-managed collieries.

The Conference also vehemently protested against the attacks by Police, INTUC and AITUC elements on the Hesalong workers.

The Conference adopted a 17-point Charter of Demands and elected the office-bearers and Central Committee members of the Association for 1975.

MAN-DAYS LOST IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

Causes	1972	1973	1974 (Provisional)
Wages and Allowances	7,301,614	8,093,597	123,299,26
Bonus	2,182,551	1,500,919	1,436,731
Personnel Retrenchment	1,732,311	2,606,354	1,871,741
Leave and Hours of work	282,178	587,204	439,068
Victimisation	121,725	243,926	63,930
Others	2,954,827	2,275,462	2,397,869
Total	5,968,710	5,318,791	12,731,222
Total	20,543,916	20,626,253	31,270,487

Karnataka

BEML Workers Reject AITUC, Support CITU

THE CITU's line of Unity and Unite and Action received a tremendous boost in Karnataka when, in the recently held Union elections, an overwhelming majority of about 7000 workers of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (Kolar Gold Field Unit) rejected the class collaborationist AITUC leadership and swept the CITU militants to victory.

The recognised union, the only one at the BEML (KGF Unit) which is a Public Sector Undertaking, was until recently dominated by the AITUC and some independents allied to them, whereas the CITU was in a minority. The collaborationist policies followed by the AITUC leadership enabled the management to single out the CITU militants and victimise them. During a struggle for wage revision last year, the Police resorted to repression and firing to crush the struggle resulting in the death

of one worker. Again during a joint struggle by workers of Bangalore and KGF units of BEML, the management singled out a large number of CITU supporters and suspended them.

It was in this background that the Union elections were held on April 4 last. The CITU supporters, who had set up an ad hoc Committee called "Workers' Unity Center" to educate the workers on the line of Unity and United Action from its own independent platform, set up candidates for all posts of Office bearers and 17 of Executive Committee membership while supporting independent militants for the other posts. As against this, the AITUC—supported "Workers' Progressive Center" set up candidates for all the posts of Office-bearers and Committee membership.

At the election, CITU candidates and independent militants supported by the CITU were all elected by overwhelming majority inflicting a crushing defeat on the AITUC candidates. Of the total 3656 votes polled, CITU supported candidates secured 2725 to 2892 votes, whereas the highest vote secured by the AITUC candidates was 839.

Among the CITU militants are Com. Narayanan, President and Com. Aswath Narayan, General Secretary of the Union.

This victory has tremendously inspired the 13000 gold-mine workers of Kolar Gold Field who are on a united strike for wage revision since March 31, 1975.

Second Conference of AIPWF

The Second Conference of the All India Plantation Workers' Federation will be held at Vandiperiyar, Kerala, from 11th to 13th May, 1975 just before the 3rd CITU Conference. Comrade B.T. Ranadive, President CITU will inaugurate the Conference. Comrade P. Ramamurti, General Secretary CITU will also attend and address the mass meeting after the Conference.

The Conference was originally scheduled to be held at the same place from 31st January to 2nd February last, but was postponed due to the sudden death of Comrade K. I. Ranjan, a prominent leader of Plantation workers in Kerala.

Other Federations to Meet

Some industrywise meetings of Federations, A.I. Committees and unions affiliated to the CITU will also be held during and after the 3rd CITU Conference to be held in Bomday from 21st to 25th May.

1. The Working Committee of the A. I. Road Transport Workers' Federation will meet on 19th May.

2. The A. I. Committee of Beedi & Cigar workers will meet on May 20th.

3. Delegates from CITU-affiliated unions working in Electricity, Rayon and Coal Mine industries will meet during the session i.e. between 21st and 25th May.

4. The Working Committee of the Water Transport Workers' Federation will meet on 26th May.

CITU (Delhi) Publications

1. Mulyabarhotarika Zimmedar Kaon ?

(Decisions of the All India Anti Wage Freeze Convention held in Delhi on August 28, 1974)
(In Hindi)

Price : 25 Paise

2. Index Fraud

By G. S. Sinha

Price ; 50 Paise
(Discount 25 p. c.)

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National Campaign Committee Decides To Intensify Anti-Wage Freeze Campaign

THE National Campaign Committee Against Wage Freeze, constituted at the All India Convention of Working People held at New Delhi on August 28, 1974, met at New Delhi on April 9. Comrade P. Ramamurti, General Secretary CITU presided over the meeting.

The meeting was participated by representatives of 28 organisations including the HMP, CITU, UTUC (Lenin Sarani), BMS, Progressive Labour Federation (DMK), Confederation of Central Government Employees, A.I. State Government Employees Federation, All India Insurance Employees' Association, NEPTE AIRF and FNPTO representing over 50 lakh workers and employees in the country.

The Committee called upon the working class to intensify the campaign against wage freeze and decided to observe 15th May next as 'National Protest Day Against Wage Freeze, Victimization and Emergency', throughout the country.

The Committee also decided to organise a National Convention on 29th June, 1975 at New Delhi to consider future course of action including one-day All India Strike.

The Committee elected George Fernandes and M.K. Pandhe as Joint Convenors.

The following is the full text of the resolution adopted in the meeting of the National Campaign Committee :

"This meeting of the National Campaign Committee Against Wage-Freeze reviewed the implementation of the Resolution of the Convention held in August, 1974. It noted State-wide Conventions have been held in almost all the States in addition to Regional and District Conventions in several States. State-wide strike actions have also taken place in Kerala, Maharashtra and Rajasthan as well as several local actions. These Conventions and struggles have evoked wide response from the working class. In many Conventions and actions units of the AITUC and even unions affiliated to the INTUC have taken part. On 17th of April the Life Insurance and General Insurance employees are organising a token one hour strike against the wage-freeze.

The Convention noted that despite this widespread protest the Government is bent upon its anti-working class course as part of its basic economic policies. It has moved on from wage-freeze to actual wage cut in the case of Central and State Government employees by withholding many instalments of D. A. due to them even according to the inadequate formula accepted by it.

The meeting wants to emphasise that the ostensible purpose meted out by the Government for imposing the wage-freeze, viz. holding the price line has not been served and actually prices have continued to rise.

With a view to facilitate these attacks and to break the growing resistance of the working class and employees, the Government resorted to large-scale victimisation in the railways, and other departments of the Government, both Central and State, Indian Airlines etc.

As part of this offensive against the working people the DIR and MISA are being invoked to ban strikes and to detain without trial activists of the Trade Union movement. But the State of Emergency declared in the wake of the war with Pakistan in December 1971 is being perpetuated when external aggression and threat of aggression has been removed years ago, with the only purpose of suppressing the rising struggles of the working people against the attacks launched against them by the Government and employers with a view to shift the burdens of the crisis to their shoulders.

In these circumstances, the National Campaign Committee considers that the struggle against wage freeze is inextricably linked with the struggle against victimisation and against the continuation of the State of Emergency, the DIR and MISA.

The National Campaign Committee therefore, while reiterating the programme laid down in the Statement of the August 1974 Convention considers it necessary to intensify the movement already undertaken.

For this purpose it calls upon all Trade Unions, irrespective of their affiliation to come together in all industrial Centres and

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CITU Halls The Liberation of Cambodia

DURING the past few weeks, freedom loving people all over the world rejoiced at the victorious march of the National Liberation forces in Vietnam and Cambodia and the crushing defeats being inflicted on the U. S. imperialists and their puppet regimes in Indo China. They were waiting with bated breath for the final moment of liberation of the two countries which was imminent.

April 17 heralded the final liberation of Cambodia with the fall of Phnom Penh to the victorious Khmer Rouge forces and the unconditional surrender of the puppet regime. Latest reports indicate that the liberation of South Vietnam is imminent with the National Liberation forces closing in on Saigon.

Hailing the liberation of Cambodia, Comrade B. T. Ranadive, President CITU issued the following statement on April 17 :

"The CITU congratulates the Cambodian people and the victorious Khmer Rouge forces

in Cambodia who have liberated their country from the U.S. imperialists and their puppet regime at Phnom Penh. This inspiring success will give a tremendous boost to the national liberation forces in Asia and the world.

The CITU is confident that U.S. machinations in Asia will receive further defeats at the hands of united anti-imperialist forces in the region.

The CITU wishes all success to the people of Cambodia in reconstructing their war-ravaged economy."

Earlier, on March 29, in a statement Com. B. T. Ranadive conveyed the warmest greetings of the CITU "to the valient fighters of National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and the victorious people of Cambodia for the defeat they have inflicted

on the U.S. imperialists and their puppet regimes."

While condemning the U.S. intervention and aggressive conspiracies in South Vietnam, he stated "The CITU strongly denounces the U.S. imperialists for their intervention in Vietnam by sending Seventh Fleet to commit another aggression on Vietnam and threaten Cambodia. The U.S. imperialists blatantly sabotaged the Paris agreement on Vietnam to protect the discredited Thieu Government. The CITU demands immediate withdrawal of the Seventh Fleet from the region."

He also called upon all affiliated Unions to organise rallies and demonstrations "condemning the U.S. imperialists for their aggressive conspiracies and expressing soiidarity with the people of Vietnam and Cambodia."

Anti-Wage Freeze Campaign

(From Page Seven)

Observe May 15, 1975 as National Day of Protest against Wage Freeze, victimisation and Emergency and organise mass demonstrations demanding revoking of all measures of victimisation, ending the State of Emergency, repealing the wage-freeze measures and refund of the amount impounded so far. It appeals to them to march to the local authorities and present these demands.

The National Campaign Committee also decides to convene a 2nd Convention of Working People on the 29th June, 1975, to consider the

situation and decide the further course of action, including organising an All India strike.

It appeals to all Unions, Federations and other Coordinating Organisations to hold meetings of workers and come to the Convention with appropriate proposals. It appeals to all Unions and all Trade Union Centres not represented in this Committee such as the AITUC and HMS to cooperate in building the maximum unity of the working class in order to bring about the utmost mobilisation of the working people that would force the Government to retreat from these anti-working class policies."

AIPWF Representative To TUI Conference

The Seventh Conference of the Trade Union International of Agriculture, Forestry and Plantations will be held in Moscow from 20th to 24th May, 1975. The All India Plantation Workers' Federation has nominated its Vice-President, Com. Parimal Mitra, to participate in the Conference.

Anti-Wage Freeze Demonstrations & Conventions Held

Orissa

As per the decision of the State Convention of Working People held at Cuttack in December 1974, and of the Programme Implementation Committee (PIC) formed there, a massive demonstration of workers and employees was held at Bhubaneswar on April 9. Preceding this, a campaign for collection of mass signature to the 17-point Charter of Demands, formulated at the State Convention, was organised. More than 50,000 signatures of workers and employees collected thereby was handed over to the State Chief Minister on that day by a delegation consisting of Y. L. Sitaramaya (PIC), Ajeya Routh (CITU) Rajendra Misra (State NGO) and others. In the afternoon, a large procession of workers and employees paraded the streets and converged at the Bus-stand maidan where a mass rally was held presided over by Raghunath Misra (State NGO). Workers and employees from almost all districts—even from distant districts like Koraput, Bolangir, Sundergarh and Sambalpur, participated in the rally, which was addressed by Saurindranath Sircar, Joint Convener of the PIC, Ajeya Routh (CITU), Kishore Tripathy (HMS) and others. The mass rally condemned the wage freeze policy of the Government and demanded acceptance of the Charter of Demands including withdrawal of the wage freeze Act.

Earlier, on 4th February, a State-wide Protest Day was observed at the call of the State Convention, through wearing of black badges and demonstrations. The PIC has given a call for observance of the MAY DAY with these 17-point demands and has decided to organise a second Convention of Working People at Berhampore some time in the first week of June to chalk out further programme of action.

Madhya Pradesh

A convention against the Wage Freeze policy of the Government was held at Bilaspore on March 7 last under the auspices of the Government Employees Co-ordination Committee. About 60 delegates from Railways, P & T, State Government Employees and the Kisan and Student fronts attended the convention which was presided over by S. C. Moitra. The convention was addressed by S. K. Dhar (AILRSA), M. M. Moitra, B. P. Dubey and others. Resolutions against Wage Freeze, on rising prices and on growing unemployment were adopted.

A convention against Wage Freeze was held at Pohri (30 miles from Sivpuri) on March 16 last. 70 delegates comprising teachers and employees participated. A presidium conducted the proceedings. The main resolution on Wage Freeze was moved by Nawal Kishore Shukla and adopted unanimously. Resolutions on the demands of teachers and non-teaching

employees of Madhya Pradesh and supporting the struggling teachers of Bihar and Delhi were also adopted.

Assam

The Second Convention of Joint Council of Trade Union, Assam and the All Assam Anti-Wage Freeze Convention of Working People were held at Tinsukia on April 5 and 6 respectively. The first Convention was inaugurated by Samar Mukherjee, M.P. (CITU) and the second one by Sunil Maitra (AIIEA). Both the conventions were conducted by a presidium of five members. 264 delegates from all over the State, representing more than two lakhs workers and employees from 71 organisations participated in these conventions. The organisations which participated included the the United Committee of Railwaymen, P & T Union, State Electricity Board, Bank Employees Associations, CITU, HMP, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) etc. Fraternal delegates from Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh also attended.

The Convention against Wage Freeze, while reiterating its 15-point Charter of Demands, adopted resolutions on civil liberties, recognition of PRG of South Vietnam, on struggles of Railwaymen, against food scarcity and famine conditions, etc. A public rally held after the conventions on April 6 was presided over by Harmohan Das and addressed by Samar Mukherjee, Sunil Maitra, Badan Talukdar and others.

Railwaymen

L. R. S. A. Demands Reactivise NCCRS

The Central Working Committee (CWC) of the All India Loco Running Staff Association, which met at New Delhi on March 21, in the context of M. R. Sabapathi's letter, had taken some important decisions. Firstly, the misunderstandings which arose in the past were discussed and dropped. Secondly, while honouring the earlier decisions, the meeting considering the organisational difficulties expressed by Western and Southern Railways, decided to hold the annual meeting in SER. Thirdly, reviewing the progress of the discussions in the Grievance Committee, the CWC expressed dissatisfaction and decided to approach the Chairman for finalisation of the issues within two months and also to apprise the situation to the Railway Minister and Loke Sabha Committee on assurances. It was also decided to organise a mass petition to ILO for implementation of the conventions. The meeting has asked all units to make serious preparations at the base, so that a decision for future course of struggle could be taken in the annual meeting, pending which it was decided to hold Divisional demonstrations on April 15. Lastly it was unanimously decided to request the Convenor, NCCRS to reactivise NCCRS at all levels for vacating all types of Victimisation and for winning just demands.

The CEC of the SER—LRSA which met at Khargpur on March 30-31, decided that the

all-India annual meeting will be held at Khargpur on May 29-31, while the Zonal annual meeting will precede the same on May 27-28. It has also been decided that they will invite all constituents of NCCRS and representatives of all Trade Union Centres to attend Khargpur on May 31 for a get together and the mass meeting.

S. K. Dhar, Zonal Secretary SER-LRSA met the General Manager on April 1st about victimisation and other matters. He left for Bareilly to attend the Zonal annual meeting of NER-LRSA which was held on April 4-6.

Policy of Victimisation Deprecated

During discussion on Railway Budget and demands on grants, Members of Parliament from all political parties including some from the Ruling Congress criticised the policy of victimisation. Opening the debate Samar Mukherjee said that a virtual jungle rule has been established. This was echoed by many others including Md. Ismail, Nurul Huda, K. C. Halder, Ajit Saha. In subsequent letters Samar Mukherjee and Ajit Saha, pointed out concrete cases to show how the policy enunciated by the Railway Minister was being violated by the officers. In the Rajya Sabha, Monoranjan Ray, Viswanatha Menon and Mathew Kurian criticised the policy. All of them had pointed out that Division Benches of

Andhra, Kerala, Gujarat etc. have held these dismissal orders illegal and they asked the Railway Minister to take all the workers back to duty.

Railwaymen Reorganising Forces

Intense organisational activities are noticed in this period. The annual meeting of the Station Master's Association has been fixed at Dhanbad between May 3-5. Zonal meetings of NER and SER would precede the same at Katihar and Khargpur respectively in the last week of April. The Guards Council is holding their annual meeting at Gauhati in the last week of April. The Ministerial State Association is holding their annual meeting at Lucknow on May 11-13. The annual meeting of the Signal and Tele-Communication Staff Association also will be held simultaneously at Lucknow. The Open Session of the annual meeting of the CLW Labour Union which was attended by Jyoti Basu, Vice-President CITU, generated mass enthusiasm at Chittaranjan.

The AIRF is holding their annual Convention at Jodhpur on May 26-29. The CITU, having been invited, has decided to send a strong delegation to attend the Convention.

Railmen on the Move

Resentment amongst railway workers is now bursting out. At Patratu (ER) workers stopped work to protest against unprovoked arrest of their leaders. At Gaya (ER) Cabinmen stopped work to protest against delay in payment.

(On Page Thirteen)

Anti-Emergency Day Observed ✓ Throughout India

All sections of the people throughout India, from workers and middle class employees to students, youth and women, irrespective of their political affiliations observed April 6 as Anti-Emergency Day through meetings, rallies and demonstrations. In one voice they raised the demand for lifting of the Emergency, which was clamped down in 1962 and continues to this day, barring a break of less than three years between 1968-71. Demands were also raised for the withdrawal of DIR and MISA and for release of political prisoners.

In Bihar, call was given for a 12-hour Bundh to observe the day, as well as to protest against the attack on J. P. Narayan in

Railwaymen

(From Page Twelve)

The AIRF has planned a mass demonstration before Parliament on April 22.

Innumerable meetings are being held all over the railways. Samar Mukherjee and K. C. Haldar addressed a meeting at Andal. Krishnapada Ghosh is addressing a rally at Khargpur on April 25. Abul Hassan is addressing a rally at Dhanbad on May 1. Several Organisations have already decided to observe May 8 in a befitting manner. It is understood that the Convenor of NCCRS has also issued a circular for observing the anniversary of the Railway Strike jointly under the banner of NCCRS.

Calcutta by the Congress hoodlums. The bundh was completely successful. Demonstrations were organised at various places by the Janbadi Sangram Committee. Police opened fire on demonstrators near Danapur.

In New Delhi, a demonstration was held at the Boat Club to observe the day. 132 demonstrators were arrested while they were proceeding towards Rashtrapati Bhavan to submit a memorandum demanding end of Emergency.

In Calcutta, a huge public meeting was held at the Saheed Minar Maidan at the call of eight Left Parties. Thousands of people from the districts and from Calcutta joined the meeting in huge processions. The meeting adopted two resolutions—one demanding revocation of Emergency and withdrawal of DIR, MISA etc. and release of political prisoners, and the other condemning the semi-fascist attack by Congress goondas on J. P. Narayan on April 2 at Calcutta. Separate meetings to observe the day was also organised by the Nav Nirman Samity and SUC.

In Gujarat, a huge public meeting was held at Ahmedabad which was addressed by Dinkar Mehta, Acharya Kripalani, Hitendra Desai and D. Gajendra-gadkar. The speaker demanded immediate lifting of the Emergency.

In Assam, a large rally was held at Gauhati on the day at the call of the Left parties. In

Karnataka, a demonstration and rally held at Bangalore at the call of Sangram Samity demanded withdrawal of Emergency, DIR, MISA etc. In Chandigarh, all the Opposition parties observed the Day through various programmes.

The Anti-Emergency Day was also observed at Madras, Bombay, Bhopal and other centres in different States.

May Day Manifesto

(From Centre Pages)

Kerala, and West Bengal are going ahead in spite of brutal force of repression. The country is witnessing a new upsurge with people showing firm determination to fight tendency of introducing one party dictatorship in the country.

The task of mobilising all sections of people for establishing a genuine socialist society has now come to the forefront because the situation has reached such a critical stage that without socialism, the pressing problems cannot be solved. On this May Day, the working class must take a pledge to rise to the occasion and fulfil the historic task in the days to come.

- * Long live unity and solidarity of the working class and the people all over the world.
- * Long live the rising struggles of the toiling millions in India for improvement in their standard of living and for socialism.
- * Scrap wage Freeze Act., withdraw National Emergency and MISA.
- * Long Live CITU.

Annual Conference of HSEU, Bhilai

The 3rd Annual Conference of the Hindusthan Steel Employees' Union (CITU), Bhilai was held on March 22-23 last. B. T. Ranadive, President CITU hoisted the red flag and Com. Dilip Mauumdar, President Hindusthan Steel Employees Union, Durgapur inaugurated the Conference. 300 delegates attended the Conference.

The Conference adopted a number of resolutions on the demands of Bhilai Steel Plant employees like medical and educational facilities, Bonus etc., as well as against suppression of T. U. rights, recognition of Union by secret ballot etc.

While giving his concluding speech, B. T. Ranadive stressed on the need for joint struggle in Steel industry throughout India to achieve the legitimate demands of the Steel employees.

A well-attended mass meeting was held at the Lal Maidan in 23rd afternoon which was addressed by B. T. Ranadive, Jibon Roy, P. K. Moitra, P. K. Mukherjee, T. N. Singh and others. In his speech, Com. Randive explained the conspiracy of the Government and the ruling Congress to sow disunity among the exploited classes by pitting the peasants and unemployed against the working class. He called upon the working class to fight also for the demands of the peasants and the unemployed without which they can not fulfill their historical role as the vanguard class.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

(Industrial Workers/1960 = 100)

State/Centre	1974-75			State/Centre	1974-75		
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.		Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Andhra Pradesh				Orissa			
Gudur	348	362	342	Barbil	301	310	304
Guntur	348	341	324	Sambalpur	340	342	346
Hyderabad	321	325	320	Punjab			
Assam				Amritsar	336	333	328
Digboi	328	318	320	Rajasthan			
Doom Dooma	289	289	289	Ajmer	336	334	332
Labac	315	282	281	Jaipur	344	340	339
Mariani	315	285	280	Tamilnadu			
Rangapara	288	278	276	Coimbatore	329	341	353
Bihar				Coonoor	315	320	324
Jamshedpur	307	304	301	Madras	323	327	326
Jharia	330	320	316	Madurai	348	371	372
Kodarma	378	361	361	U. P.			
Monghyr	345	357	357	Kanpur	339	332	324
Noamundi	324	339	329	Saharanpur	359	356	349
Gujarat				Varanasi	395	390	380
Ahmedabad	317	311	305	West Bengal			
Bhavnagar	342	345	340	Asansol	319	320	320
Haryana				Calcutta	297	289	279
Yamunanagar	341	338	337	Darjeeling	263	259	259
J & K				Howrah	307	300	294
Srinagar	252	250	252	Jalpaiguri	251	254	255
Karnataka				Raniganj	324	326	326
Ammathi	324	324	341	Delhi	342	342	335
Bangalore	330	335	340	Other Centres*			
Chikmagalur	333	339	339	Berhampur ('49)	450	472	463
Kolar G. F.	335	347	360	Cuttack (1949)	376	403	394
Kerala				Jabalpur (1949)	436	431	425
Alleppey	390	398	398	Beawar ('51-'52)	379	378	372
Alwaye	369	368	365	Tripura (1961)	258	263	275
Mundakayam	348	353	349	H. P. (1965)	244	243	242
M. P.				Goa (1966)	207	210	211
Balaghat	360	368	360	Bhilai (1966)	209	206	205
Bhopal	330	325	325	Kothagudam ('66)	215	211	204
Gwalior	350	350	350	All India ('49)	396	396	395
Indore	360	358	360	do ('60)	326	326	325
Maharashtra				* Figures in bracket indicate base year.			
Bombay	298	298	300	(Labour Bureau, Simla)			
Nagpur	321	322	336				
Sholapur	335	346	349				

NEWSLETTERS

KERALA

Coir Industry in Crisis, 17,000 Jobless

One of the traditional industries of Kerala, Coir is now in chronic crisis. Unemployment and consequent starvation stalk the coir factories and coir spinning zones of the State.

Out of the 20,000 people employed in the coir factories in Ambalapuzha and Shertallai talukas, 17,000 are out of jobs now. Almost all the small-scale factories working in this area are closed. Due to the oil crisis, prices of coir and coir products have gone up. The handful of monopolists controlling export trade in coir refused to pay increased prices to small scale factories, commensurate with the increase in international markets with the result that their production came to a stop. These monopolists refused to pay even the newly fixed buying price and neither the Govt. nor the coir Board take any initiative in compelling them to pay the price fixed. This has resulted in 17,000 workers and their families being thrown into the jaw of starvation and destitution. While the coir products fetch higher prices, the pauperisation and starvation of the coir workers and their families have increased.

For the last two months, coir factory workers of Ambalapuzha and Shertallai have been conducting campaigns and struggles demanding that the Govt. take steps to solve the unemployment

in the coir factory zones but in vain.

The CITU State Committee suggests that the following measures should be immediately taken by the Govt. to meet the terrible situation that has developed in the coir factory and coir spinning zones :

1. Ambalapuzha and Shertallai areas be declared famine areas and workers be given free rations.

2. The export trade of coir products be brought under public and coir sector.

3. Cancel the export licences of non-producers.

4. Coir Corpn. should directly start coir factories.

5. Starting of big coir factories on a co-operative basis.

6. The Corporation should purchase and stock Rs. 2 crores worth of coir products.

7. Coir and coir products should be purchased by paying the increased buying price and prices of these items should be reviewed and refixed occasionally, as and when the prices increase.

Coir spinning sector :

1. The price of raw husk should be controlled on an all-State basis and its trade should be brought under Government control. Distribute the husk only to societies and licensed individuals.

2. Ban use of husking machines throughout the State.

3. Set up purchasing depots throughout the State for purchase of coir produced by societies.

4. Obtain from the Centre immediate financial assistance for the re-organisation of the coir industry.

5. Take immediate steps for giving relief in areas of acute unemployment.

6. Prevent the smuggling of fibre and husk to other States.

7. Strictly implement the wages fixed in the coir spinning factory areas.

United Organisation of FACT employees formed

Different Trade Union organisations of Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Limited (FACT), always have dissolved themselves and formed a new united organisation. This decision was taken at a joint general body meeting of FACT Employees' Association, FACT Employees' Union (CITU), FACT Staff and Workers' Union (HMS) held on the 1st April at Elur. The new organisation is named FACT Employees' Association.

The activities of the new union will be conducted from 2nd April by an ad hoc committee consisting of S.C.S. Menon (Convener) and K. N. Ravindranath and Alungal Devassy (Joint Conveners). The Ad Hoc Committee was also authorised to prepare a new constitution for the new union, to conduct election within the next two months and to celebrate May Day with an extensive programme.

With the formation of the new united union, another union, the FACT Workers' Union has expressed its readiness to join it. Thus the new union will represent about 95 per cent of the 4,000 workers of FACT.

GOA

The only two other Trade unions still existing there are those led by Congress and the Right C. P. which have practically liquidated themselves following their betrayal of the 1973 FACT strike.

Building Workers On Strike

300 building workers of the Agricultural University, Mannoothi (Trichur Dist.) have gone on strike from 27th March demanding increase in wages, eight hour work, etc.

Kerala High Court Judgement Repeals Break-in-Service of P & T Employees

The Kerala High Court repealed the break-in-service of P & T employees who had taken part in the struggle in May last year.

This judgement was given by Justice Chandra Sekhara Menon on 31st March on a writ petition submitted by a group of employees against the break-in-service.

It was also made clear in the judgement that even if a worker was absent without permission, no action could be taken involving break-in-service or stoppage of promotion.

One-Hour Strike by LIC Employees

At the call of the All India Insurance Employees' Association for all-India Protest Strike, LIC employees in Kerala observed a one-hour strike on April 17 demanding withdrawal of Wage Freeze. The strike was completely successful in all the ten LIC branches in the State.

Mine Workers Go On Strike

At the joint call of Goa Mine Workers' Union (CITU) and Chowgule Employees' Union (CITU), all the 15000 mine workers of Goa, including 6000 contract labourers, went on a one-day protest strike on April 18. Their main demands were Rs. 50 per month as Dust Allowance, one month's gratuity for every year of service, modern equipment and full treatment facilities at the Usgaon Mine Workers' Hospital, educational facilities for workers and their children, quarters for all mine workers, abolition of contract system, scrapping of the Compulsory Deposit Scheme etc.

Civil Liberties Day Observed

April 6 was observed as Civil Liberties Day in Goa with a public meeting on the Lohia Maidan at Margao under the auspices of the Left United Front. The meeting was presided over by Anastasio Almeida, Socialist leader and addressed by Sitaram Manjrekar (CITU), Gajanan Raikar (ex-MLA), Arsenio Jacques, a freedom fighter and Gerald Pereira CPI(M). A resolution was adopted demanding scrapping of MISA, DIR and Emergency, for full civil liberties for the people and reform of the electoral system.

Struggle Against Pollution

Harmful effluents discharged from the Fertiliser complex of Zuari Agro Chemical Ltd. (ZAC) a Birla-U.S. collaboration factory situated on the Sancoale plateau, has polluted the creeks

and sea water, fields and drinking water wells posing a serious hazard to the human, animal and vegetable life in Goa. The effluents of ZAC which contain arsenic and pollute the waters of Indian Ocean around Goa much exceed the tolerance limits prescribed by Indian and International Standards Organisations and have already contaminated well-waters, killed fish in the creeks and destroyed fields and coconut plantations. All these are being done by the ZAC management in connivance with the Government of Goa and the Congress Government at the Centre.

For the past one and half years, agitations have been going on for the prevention and elimination of this hazard. The ZAC management were forced to admit the harmful effects of the effluents and to provide 22 drinking water taps for the villagers in the area. They were also forced to pay compensation for the contaminated fish and destruction of paddy fields by such pollution.

Led by the CPI (M) and other Left parties, the people of the villages in the area have been carrying on agitations against pollution through mass rallies and demonstrations. This has ultimately forced the Government of Goa to issue a ten-days' ultimatum to the Z.A.C that the plant will be closed down unless the effluents are treated to eliminate the harmful chemicals.

Dange's Discovery in Goa

In a recent public meeting held in a mining area, Shri S.A.

Dange, Right C.P. leader declared that the Goa mineowners and industrialists can hardly be called 'Capitalists'. Perhaps Shri Dange has suddenly discovered this fact in keeping with the class collaborationist line of his party. Unfortunately, he has forgotten that it was he himself who condemned the Goan mine-owners as 'big capitalists' only a decade back in 1963 during his first visit to Goa and that, these big capitalists have now grown into 'giant monopolies'.

TAMIL NADU

Workers in Gold Jewels Manufacturing in Kovai district formed a Union in their meeting held on 16th March 1975. CITU leaders addressed the meeting. A 15-member committee with A.M. Lakshmanan as Convener was formed in the meeting.

Young Doctors trainees throughout Tamil Nadu were on strike from March 21, 1975, demanding revision of stipend money from Rs. 275/- to Rs. 370/-. According to their spokesmen more than 2000 doctors in the State are unemployed. The strikers demand employment after completion of their trainee period. The strike concluded after 20 days when a settlement was arrived with the State Health Minister accepting their demands.

At the call of CITU, Democratic Women's Association and Tamil Nadu Kisan Sabha thousands participated in the hunger strike throughout the State on 14th, 15th and 16th March 1975. The demands were (1) immediate

draught relief measures under the supervision of a committee representing all Parties; (2) Compulsory rationing throughout the State; (3) Rice at Rs. 2/- per measure; (4) Equal wages for Men and Women @ Rs. 5/- per day; (5) Rs. 25/- crores sanction from Centre as draught relief fund.

Electricity Board Workers throughout the State were on Dharna on 18th April demanding Rs. 350/- at 200 points and Rs. 1.75 per point of rise in Index.

Beedi workers in Thirupathur led by CITU (North Arcot) were on strike from March 27, demanding reopening of Salam Beedi Factory which is under lockout from March 6th.

17th March was observed as Demands Day throughout the State by Beedi workers demanding wage rise, implementation of Beedi and Cigar Act and other common demands.

Jai Radha Engineering Industries workers (CITU) are on stay-in strike and on hunger strike before the proprietor's residence demanding reinstatement of 5 workers.

One-day token hunger strike was observed by the Textile Mills workers in Kovai District on 28th March, in support of the demand for Bonus of Harvey Mill workers. The struggle was supported by all Central Trade Unions except INTUC.

Beedi workers (CITU) in Nellai District demonstrated before Central & State Govt. offices on March 28, demanding revision of wages, D.A., and Bonus. Participation of more women

workers in the demonstration was a notable feature.

Workers of Babu Theatre were on hunger strike from 14th March, demanding reinstatement of 3 workers terminated for forming a Workers Union (CITU). The strike was withdrawn only when the management agreed to the workers' demands.

The nominees of Dakshin Railwaay Employees Union (CITU) won all the 6 Directors posts and 28 out of 36 posts in the Union Committee defeating their CPI and DMK rivals. The election was held on April 5th in Ponmalai Railway Workshop.

6th April was observed as Protest Day throughout the State. Thousands protested against the continuation of Emergency, DIR and MISA in the country. Public Meetings, Mass rallies, demonstration and Dharnas were held throughout the State jointly by CITU, ADMK & DMK Labour Fronts, Socialists Party BKD and others. Comrade P. Ramamurti addressed the gathering at Mailapur and Purasavakam in Madras. Comrade M. R. Venkatraman spoke at public meeting at Madurai.

Beedi Workers at Thiruvallur were on strike on March 29th to press their demands.

The CITU affiliated Unions in Ambathur Estate (Near Madras Town) have arrived at successful settlement benefiting the workers of the following units:

Altra Marain & Pigments Ltd : Workers will get Rs. 85/- more per month, 20% bonus per annum and other benefits. The settlement was pending from Nov. 74.

Southern Electricals : Workers will get Rs. 75/- per month more and 10 days casual leave and other benefits.

Micro Tools Ltd : Rs. 57/- D.A. at 280 points and Rs. 1/- per point of rise, Rs. 10/- as conveyance allowance, food allowance Rs. 75/- and grade revision for 60 workers.

Omega Cables : Rs. 98 to Rs. 148/- per month more and other benefits.

Engineering & Tools Services and Siva Packaging Madras Industrial Linings workers decided to affiliate with CITU disaffiliating from INTUC.

LIC workers in the State were on 1-hour pen down strike on 19th April demanding immediate withdrawal of Wage Freeze Act.

West Bengal

CITU State Committee Meets

The Working Committee of the CITU—West Bengal Committee met on April 2 with Md. Ismail, President of the State Committee in the Chair.

At the outset the meeting adopted a resolution greeting the heroic people of South Vietnam and Cambodia. It also called upon the workers, employees and democratic united people to make the mass rally of April 10, called by Central Trade Unions and 32 mass

organisations to protest against U. S. imperialism aggression in Indo-China, a grand success.

The Committee condemned the attacks on the Trade Union and democratic rights of workers, employees and other sections of the people by the Government, Police and anti-social elements. The Committee demanded that the unanimous decision of the Labour Advisory Committee meeting, held on 19th October last under the chairmanship of the State Labour Minister, regarding stoppage of terror and rehabilitations of workers evicted from their residences and work-places, must be implemented forthwith.

The Committee called upon workers, employees and other sections of people to launch united movements and prepare for a State-wide Bundh and General Strike in June on the demands for withdrawal of Emergency, DIR and MISA, food for all at cheap prices, stoppage of price rise, lay-off, retrenchment, terror etc. It also called upon all to participate in the mass-rally of 6th April, against Emergency at the call of eight Left Parties and to make the Protest demonstration of evicted workers on April 17 a success.

Massive Demonstration & Dharna by Evicted people

Since the rigged elections of 1972, thousands of workers, employees, teachers, students and workers of mass movements have

been evicted from their homes and work-places by the semi-fascist attacks of Congress goondas and Police. On 17th April they came in a huge procession along with their families and held a massive demonstration and dharna before the Raj Bhavan at Calcutta demanding rehabilitation of evicted workers and employees in their homes and work places, restoration of Trade Union and democratic rights etc. The call was given by five Central Trade Unions—CITU, UTUC, TUCC, HMS and HMP, and 32 mass organisations of workers, employees, teachers, students and women.

The rally and demonstration was led and addressed by Monoranjan Roy and Santi Ghatak (CITU), Nikhil Das (UTUC), Debu Bose (HMP), Santi Dey (TUCC) and leaders of mass organisations. A memorandum incorporating the demands was accepted at the rally and sent to Rajyapal.

Protest Day Observed at Bilaspur

At the Joint call of Central Government Employees and the AIRF, a meeting was held at the Bilaspur Head Post Office on March 13 to observe "Protest Day" against Wage Freeze, D.A. cut etc. The meeting was presided over by M.M. Maitra (AIPEU) and addressed by V. G. Khanhoje, R. D. Sharma and other. A resolution was adopted unanimously.

Government, Jute Barons Trying To Shift Burden Of Crisis On Workers

IN the name of an artificial crisis in the Jute industry created by themselves, the Jute Barons and the Government at the State and the Centre are now conspiring to lower the cost of production of jute goods at the cost of the workers. After the 48 days strike in 1974, the jute workers got only Rs. 120 in two instalments for 100 days work. Since then sixty thousand Budli workers have been thrown out of employment on various pleas and they were deprived of this amount also. Not content with this, the Jute barons resorted to mass retrenchments and lay-offs on the plea that the foreign demand for carpet backing and hessian has fallen. It is now reported that they are planning to continue this offensive by cutting back production by 10 per cent immediately and then by 12.5 per cent. The Government also continues to be part of this conspiracy by refusing to abolish the export duty on jute goods and to force the employers to stop these mass retrenchments and lay offs. A recent delegation of Government and Employers representatives, which toured USA and Canada to find export possibilities, recommended abolition of export duties on jute goods.

Taking advantage of this situation, the employers have also started snatching away all

facilities and rights enjoyed by jute workers, such as extra remuneration for working on holidays, higher pay on transfer, etc. The workers are also being retrenched on the ground of superannuation before they reach retiring age and are being forced to work in more than one machine at old rate.

All the central Trade Unions, including the CITU, UTUC, TUCC and a section of HMS, have protested against this and have urged upon the Prime

Minister, Union Labour and Commerce Ministers and the Chief and Labour Ministers at the State to intervene immediately. After the Central Trade Unions demanded a meeting of the State Labour Advisory Board to discuss the situation, a meeting of the SLAB has been convened on 4th May next where, apart from the State Labour Minister, the Union Ministers of Commerce, Labour, Finance and Industries will also be present.

The Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union has called a Special Convention in Calcutta on 5th May to review the situation and chalk out a programme of united struggle.

Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar Attacked by Siva Sena Goondas

Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar, President Maharashtra State Committee of CITU and General Secretary, Times of India & Allied Publications Employees Union was attacked by some Siva Sena Goondas near the Times of India Press on the night of April 4, when he was returning after attending a meeting of the Union Managing Committee.

For some time past, the Kamgar Sena, Trade Union wing of the Siva Sena, have been unsuccessfully trying to capture the Times of India Union by force with the help of hired goondas. The attack on Com. Kolhatkar came as an aftermath of this tactics and was obviously pre-planned.

The very next day, Com. Kolhatkar addressed a gate meeting at the Times of India Press and challenged the attackers to attend the General Body meeting of the Union on 7th April. The Kamgar Sena accepted the challenge and planned a parallel meeting on 7th but failed miserably to muster more than 30 people. At the union meeting held on that day, the workers and employees in one voice condemned the attack on Com. Kolhatkar.

The Maharashtra State CITU, Bombay Committee of CPI(M), the DYF and other mass organisations have condemned this attack. A meeting of local Trade Unions was held on April 9 to protest against this attack.

One Party Dictatorship

(FROM PAGE TWO)

Now that the danger of one party dictatorship is there are the trade unions justified in leading the day to day demands against the lay offs, closures, should they concentrate only on the general economic and political aspects of the crisis, only propagate on policy changes? No. This is precisely the time when the immediate issues can be linked with policy issues easily. But the immediate issues must be championed. Why? Because under the stress of the crisis the most backward sections of the masses are entering the arena of economic conflict. They are in the beginning conscious only of immediate demands—lay offs, etc. Without this, they are unable to join the common struggle. They must be brought in and their consciousness elevated. In effect, in time of crisis the economic demands enable the unions to rouse the vast unorganised sections and bring them into the battle. The struggle against the burdens of the crisis in every form must continue. At the same time forms of resistance and organisation suitable to the present situation must be discussed and evolved. With the aid of these the struggle must be raised to the level. Of policy issues demanding a policy of transferring the burdens of the

crisis to the monopolists, big capitalists and landlords, demanding nationalisation of foreign and Indian monopolist concerns, job security for industrial workers, employees and rural workers; in the alternate unemployment payment at the expense of the State and the capitalists and landlords, along with other demands.

All these questions are bound to be discussed at the coming session of the CITU which will no doubt give a call for strengthening trade union unity which has already reached a new level in the National Campaign Committee Against Wage Freeze to fight against the crisis and mobilise the entire people against Government's policies.

FOR DELEGATES TO THIRD CITU CONFERENCE

★ **Date of Conference**—21st to 25th May, 1975

★ **Venue** — SHANMUKHANAND HALL
Kings Circle, Matunga
Bombay-400022

(N. B. Delegates should get down at DADAR station.)

★ **Delegate Fee** Rs. 5.00. No observers permitted.

★ **Food charges** Rs. 50 for five days.

★ **For return Reservations**, send full particulars of reservation with full amount of fare and charges to Reception Committee at the following address, on or before 15th April, 1975 :

Com. P. K. Kurane

General Secretary, Reception Committee

III All India CITU Conference

'Janashakti', Globe Mill Passage

Worli, Bombay-400013 (Phone : 37-6851)

★ **Unions requested to clear up all arrears up to 1974 well ahead of the Conference.** Delegate cards to be collected from Reception Committee office on 19th May, 1975 after clearing all dues.

★ **Draft resolutions to be moved at the Conference to be sent to CITU Centre by 30th April, 1975.**

★ **Applications for new affiliation should reach CITU Centre latest by 30th April, 1975.**

★ **Central Office will start functioning at Bombay from 11th May, 1975.**