

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the Working Committee

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**August 27 - 29, 2013
Jaipur, Rajasthan**

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

Working Committee Meeting

27 – 29 August 2013, Jaipur, Rajasthan

AGENDA

1. Condolence Resolution
2. Presidential Address
3. General Secretary's Report
4. Future Course of Struggles
5. All India Convention of Working Women 29 Sept – 1 Oct - 2013
6. Verification of membership of Central Trade Unions
7. Any other issue with the permission of the chair

PROGRAMME

26.08.2013	4.00pm	:	Public Rally
27.08. 2013	10.00 am	:	Flag Hoisting & Homage to Martyrs
	10.15 am - 11.30	:	OPEN SESSION Presidential Address
	12.00noon – 2.00 pm	:	Welcome Address Condolence Resolution Introduction of General Secretary's Report
	2.00 pm	:	Lunch
	4.00 pm - 05.30 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	6.00 pm - 8.00 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
28.08.2013	9.30 am -1.00 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report Resolutions
	1.00 pm	:	Lunch
	03.00 pm - 7.30 pm	:	Discussion on General Secretary's Report
	7.30 pm – 8.30 pm	:	Secretariat Meeting
29.08.2013	9.30 am -01.30 pm	:	Reply by General Secretary Report of the Credential Committee Adoption of Reports Concluding address by President

(Tea Breaks : 27th :11.30am , 5.30pm
: 28th & 29th :11.am & 05.00 pm)

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

Working Committee Meeting

27 – 29 August 2013, Jaipur, Rajasthan

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the CITU secretariat I welcome and convey warm greeting to all of you attending this first meeting of the Working Committee, elected in our 14th Conference in Kannur.

Let me also greet the Reception Committee and the Rajasthan State Committee for taking up the responsibility of hosting this meeting.

At the outset, let us pay homage to our respected Comrade Samarda, who passed away on 18th July 2013, in his centenary year. His great contributions to the working class movement in the country, especially for the advance of CITU will always be remembered. Let us pledge ourselves to carry forward the revolutionary tasks to which he dedicated his more than seven decades of public life and sacrificed his entire life.

It is with profound sorrow that we pay homage to the martyrs, particularly those from West Bengal, including Com Dilip Sarkar, who was a Working Committee member of CITU and secretary of its Bardhaman district committee. On this occasion let us greet all those who are bravely resisting the barbarous attacks on the working class movement by the ruling TMC, its goons and the police force at their beck and call, in West Bengal.

The catastrophic calamity in Uttarakhand was a shock to the whole country. There was heavy loss of lives and properties due to heavy rains and floods in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala. We express our condolences to all those who have lost their family members in these disasters. These calamities, however, can not be attributed to nature alone. The role of blind pursuit of profit disregarding all regulations to protect the ecology and environment and ignoring the need for balanced development cannot be ignored. On this occasion CITU thanks all those who have extended their services and contributed financially for providing relief to the people affected by the calamity in Uttarakhand

The tragic death of 27 children after eating the mid day meal in a school in Bihar shocked the entire country. It is attributed to contamination by poisonous substance. CITU demanded proper enquiry, strong punishment to those responsible, effective steps to streamline the mid day meal scheme and getting rid of corruption and other malpractices. On the pretext of some failures, attempts are being made by the government to hand over the scheme to private agencies. We must resist and defeat all such machinations and ensure effective functioning of the mid day meal scheme.

The 14th conference of CITU decided to explain to our members and the entire working class in the country the inhuman attacks that are being perpetrated on the working class and the democratic

movement in West Bengal by the TMC. It is our duty to expose the real character and intentions of these attacks on the Left forces which are the only force in the country consistently standing by the workers, supporting all their genuine demands and struggles.

Dear Comrades,

We are in the midst of organising the centenary celebrations of Comrade Jyoti Basu, one of our founder leaders. These centenary celebrations should be utilised by all our unions to educate our cadres on the basic ideology of CITU, on scientific socialism and also about the enormous contribution of Comrade Jyoti Basu to the Indian trade union and revolutionary movements.

We have to remember that this year is also the centenary year of the Ghadar movement. Ghadar Party (The Party of Revolt) was formed in 1913 by the Indian revolutionaries then living in Canada and the USA. These selfless revolutionaries, though brutally suppressed by the British, created history and inspired a whole generation of freedom fighters through their self sacrificing heroism. This centenary year should enable us to peep into the real history of our freedom movement and the lives of those martyrs who volunteered to give up their lives for the cause of freedom!

Comrades,

Our 14th conference reiterated our commitment to carry forward the united trade union movement and follow up the historic 48 hours country wide strike with more campaigns and struggles.

The joint national trade union convention in Mavlankar Hall held in Delhi on 6th August 2013 finalised the next phase of united action. This working committee meeting will discuss and finalise the necessary steps to be taken up by our state committees, federations and unions for effective implementation of those decisions. We have to plan wide campaign and ensure massive mobilisation of workers in support of the demands raised by the joint trade union movement.

We are well aware that the government of India is not prepared to listen to the workers' voice. It had no concrete proposals in the meeting of the sub committee of ministers with the trade unions despite the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh acknowledging the importance of the demands raised by the trade unions.

Inaugurating the 45th session of the Indian Labour Conference on 17th May 2013, Manmohan Singh said – 'Our government has paid very serious attention to the issues that the trade unions have raised from time to time. The recent two day strike by trade unions focused on a number of issues relating to the welfare not only of the working classes but also the people at large. These include demands on which there can be no disagreement. For example, demands for concrete measures for containing inflation, for generation of employment opportunities, for strict implementation of labour laws, are unexceptionable. There can however be differences on the best ways of fulfilling these demands and we are willing to engage constructively with the trade unions in this regard'. He went on to categorise some of our demands as 'under an advanced stage of consideration by government'.

I need not explain here what the reality is. The meeting with the Group of Ministers on 22nd May did not see any constructive engagement. The one month time asked for by the Ministers has been

prolonged endlessly!

The crass apathy of the government to the burning problems of the workers necessitates intensification of joint struggles. Our committees and unions must approach wider sections of workers, take the demands to workers beyond our membership and ensure their participation in the struggles. This alone can create effective pressure on the government.

The period of last four months has seen the UPA II government speeding up its efforts for 'more reforms'. The Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and several advisors to the government are repeatedly asserting that 'reforms' will be speeded up. In a meeting with the corporate representatives on 29th July, the Prime Minister asked them to suggest quick steps that can be taken by the government in the next 3-4 months! The government has already started with more disinvestment, more opening up for FDI and also many more relaxations in different areas.

All the issues that we have discussed in our 14th Conference continue to confront us. At the same time, as we have noted in the 14th conference, resistance to the impact of government policies too is growing.

The unions in Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu went on a united strike for 13 days against disinvestment. All the 27000 workers, regular as well as contract, participated in the strike. The strike was fully supported by all the trade unions as well as all major political parties in the state. Finally the government of India was forced to agree to the proposal of the state government to sell the shares to state government enterprises. Through their magnificent united struggle, workers in NLC ensured that its shares do not go to private players.

In many other sectors like coal and petroleum also, united actions against disinvestment are being planned.

Struggles and victimisations are going on in different parts of the country. The corporates, national as well as multinational are becoming more and more intolerant towards the demands of the workers including their basic trade union rights.

FICCI, one of the organisations of Indian corporates has conducted a study on the key risks likely to be faced by corporate India in its day to day functioning. This study titled 'Indian Risk Survey 2013', covering all the zones has rated 'strikes, closures and unrest' as the number one risk in 2013! This analysis also says – 'Despite the growing awareness of increasing incidents of crime against women and loss of lives in work place violence (clashes at Maruti Suzuki Plant at Manesar 2012) 'work place violence and sexual harassment' does not appear to be posing much risk to corporate India. Its last place at Number 12 in IRS 2013 shows that such incidents are not perceived as a threat to the functioning of businesses'.

The daily newspaper Business Standard reported on 14th July about a conference of HR heads organised by another employers' organisation – CII. According to that report the participants have said that 'labour discord was among the top issues dogging the Corporate Sectors'.

Even according to the news paper report there seems to be some eye openers; whatever the reason may be for them to say so. The following are some quotations from the daily.

“B. Muthuraman, Vice Chairman of Tata Steel said – ‘Most of the problem in IR (Industrial relations) is due to the management and not the workers. We have not reached out to them. We consider them robots and reach out to them only when we want to’.

Muthuraman added ‘the rate of payment to executives has far exceeded what we pay unionised labour’. For instance, return on capital employed for Bajaj Auto is 72 percent, while the labour cost is only Rs.300 per workers and 22 paise a worker per pulsar motor cycle sold by the company, said Arvind Shrouti, trade union consultant at Option Positive’.

If the workers employed by the corporates are denied their basic trade union rights and the opportunity for collective bargaining, how are the employers going to ‘reach out to the workers’?

Struggles in different parts of country are now being fought on this issue of basic trade union rights. CITU greets and supports all those who are involved in this bitter struggle.

The 14th conference of CITU called to intensify our struggle for alternative policies. Along with the united struggles on the agreed demands, we must project the alternative to the neo-liberal regime. Here, the campaign undertaken by the left parties in the country is a most welcome development. The Left parties have projected an alternative set of economic policy issues emphasising secularism and an independent foreign policy, in the convention held in New Delhi on 1st July 2013.

This actually is the continuation of the struggle the left parties and various left oriented Trade Unions and mass organizations have been conducting since 1991. It will be interesting to note that as early as 19th July 1991, just after ‘the Congress government in which Manmohan Singh was the finance minister adopted the ‘new economic policy’, the left Parties organised a national convention in ‘Defence of Economic Sovereignty’ in New Delhi, to lay down an alternative to the neo-liberal policies.

This convention noted ‘Reforms in the economy are essential. But these need not and should not be along IMF dictated lines. The main means to bring down the fiscal deficit should be direct taxation and the reduction in inessential and wasteful government expenditure. There has to be an increase in direct taxation, a curtailment of overt and covert subsidies to big business and more effective tax enforcement measures to realise tax revenues. Loopholes in the tax laws should be plugged and black money generation curbed through punitive measures. Further, there is no reason whatsoever for not imposing wealth taxes and the large monopoly houses that have built up huge assets should be brought into this net. The adoption of measures of this kind will not only help reduce the revenue and fiscal deficit but also reverse the trend of relying on indirect taxes and administered price hikes to garner additional revenues at the expense of the common people’. This declaration was signed among others by Comrades E Balanandan and MK Pandhe on behalf of CITU.

Even 22 years after this declaration, the basic approach and demands need to be the same. It is highly essential that CITU members and workers in general be educated and involved in campaigns and struggles, upholding this alternative demands. With the government hell bent to speed up reforms traversing the disastrous path of neoliberalism, our efforts focusing on alternate policies should also be very much strengthened.

The global economic crisis is further shattering the lives of people. But the government is trying to soothe the disastrous impact of its policies with half hearted measures like the Food Security Ordinance with an eye on the ensuing Parliament elections. But it has not agreed to universalise public distribution system and ensure at least 35 Kg food grains at not more than Rs 2 per Kg. The report of the General Secretary deals these issues in detail.

The efforts of the government and the Planning Commission to create an impression that poverty has come down have been exposed among the people. The utterances of some leaders of the Congress and their supporters about enough food being available in Delhi, Mumbai, Assam at Rs 5, Rs 12 and Rs 2.50 and even for Re1 was shameful and really amounted to ridiculing the poor in our country.

Dear Comrades,

We had dealt with various international developments, in detail, in our Kannur Conference.

USA exposed

'Wikileaks' had exposed the hypocrisy of the United States and many other countries who sermon about democratic values. The whistle blowers involved are still being hunted. Recent exposures by Edward Snowden, a contract employee with National Security Agency of USA have brought out stunning details about the electronic surveillance and snooping by the security agencies of the USA and some of their accomplices over their own citizens and people all over the world. The multi national companies in the internet and telecom sectors have been exposed of collaborating with these operations.

The latest disclosures in the documents provided by Snowden show that the Indian government is collaborating with the USA in its electronic surveillance in India. One of the 700 servers installed by the US in 150 locations all over the world is near Delhi. A programme called 'Xkeyscore', under which electronic snooping is undertaken by US's National Security Agency, 'gives one click real time access to almost any internet activity'. It is meant to search through e mails, online chats and browsing histories of lakhs of individuals.

European collaborators of USA like France, Portugal, Spain and Italy forced the Aircraft of Bolivian President Eva Morales to land in Vienna on 2nd July, on the pretext of searching for Edward Snowden in his plane. Latin American countries strongly protested against this shameful Act and petitioned UN Secretary General.

It is shameful that the External Affairs Minister of our country had gone so far as to say that what was going on was not snooping but only as analysis of the pattern of calls! While the most powerful 'democracy' in the world defends its snooping activities, the government of the 'largest democracy' in the world keeps mum on exposures of its collaboration with such snooping.

This collaboration of government of India in snooping on its own citizens has to be exposed along with its kowtowing to US diktats on economic policy issues. We should demand end of all these surveillance activities by USA and others in our country.

Inequality and Unemployment

A recent article published in New York Times starts like this – *‘The good news is that the US President Barack Obama appears to have decided to devote the rest of his Presidency to tackle the forces behind yawning inequalities that have hamstrung social and economic mobility, eroding the living standards of Middle class. The bad news is that he may not be up to the task’*. The article also says the *‘US remains among the richest countries in the world....Yet, in many areas the US looks surprisingly depressingly backward. Infant and maternal mortality are the highest among advanced nations. So is the mortality rate of children under the age of 20. Life expectancy at birth at age 60 – is among the lowest. Among the nations in the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), only in Turkey, Mexico and Poland do more children live in poor homes!’*

This article titled ‘US vs. Them: A study in Equality’ compares US with OECD nations. It says that US will be fifth in the scale of less equal countries comparing to 19 other developed countries among the 34 member OECD, the first four being Mexico, Chile, Israel and Turkey. According to that analysis, *‘US has the 17th highest poverty rate in the OECD, measured as the share of people who make do with less than half of median income. If the same variable is measured after taking into account the effect of taxes and government spending programmes, American poverty rate jumps to the fifth worst’*.

Latest reports on unemployment from USA, according to a ‘Reuters’ report, is that ‘July’s unemployment rate might now be at a four year low, having fallen fifth of a percentage point to 7.4 per cent.’ That report also says ‘too many jobs are either temporary, low paid or both’.

Increasing unemployment confronts the whole world today along with this inequality. The report of the Director General (DG) of ILO for the 102nd session in June 2013 points out that 4.45 crore workers per year, i.e. more than 22.2 crore people all over the world will enter the labour market in the next five years in search of jobs. Around 20 crore workers are now out of work. The report says that *‘it requires a shift of policy mixes and production patterns towards job rich growth’*.

Along with this increased unemployment is the question of wages. The DG’s report points out that ‘the evidence in that (on wages) regard is unequivocally one of wages lagging behind productivity growth in developed and developing countries alike, with resultant reductions in the overall share in national income’.

Another important point regarding wages is also given in DG’s report. It says – ‘In 2010 a manufacturing worker in the Philippines took home about US\$ 1.40 per hour worked. For Brazil the comparable figure was US\$5.40, For Greece US\$ 13, for the United States US\$ 23.30 and for Denmark US\$ 34.80’.

The reason for flight of capital to various developing countries can be understood. It is nothing but cheap labour! Add to this what the DG had to say about the type of jobs that are available. Full time permanent jobs with fixed hours, defined benefit pension on the completion of largely predictable and secure career path with a single employer are becoming rare globally, as per the report. Today about half of the global workforce work for more than one employer. Work, which ILO calls ‘atypical’ or ‘non standard form’ where workers do not have any job security, income security or social

security, has become predominant, the 'standard' has become the exception, says the report. This is one of the methods through which wage and costs are brought down by employers.

Such exploitation further increases disparities. According to the DG, ILO, there is deep concern about widening inequality within and between countries. The annual survey on global risks conducted by the world Economic Forum this year ranked 'severe income disparity' the highest risk!

On the whole, increasing disparities and intense exploitation in various forms are the hallmark of the present situation. Outbursts in different parts of the world are the result of this increasing exploitation.

Mass upsurges in Turkey and Brazil are the recent examples. The Brazilians, 'mad' on football were mobilised in millions to protest against the government's spending on international sports events. Increasing unemployment, price rise and fall of living standards have caused the upsurge there.

In Turkey, the immediate reason for massive mobilisation and street clashes with the police and the army was the decision to build a mall in a public park. But the underlying reasons are the crisis the people face in their day to day life.

Struggles continue

All over the world, struggles are continuing. The situation in Europe is still critical. Attacks against the working people are continuing.

In Greece, the present government could make its parliament agree and approve many 'reforms' which will abolish thousands of jobs and take away the existing social security benefits. The general strike on 16th July paralysed the whole country. This was the fourth countrywide strike this year and was the continuation of the innumerable strikes from 2010.

Portugal's major trade union federations gave a call for country wide General Strike on 27th June, protesting against various austerity measures, high taxation and increasing unemployment.

Reports of sectoral struggles have been pouring in from different countries in Asia, Europe and Africa.

May Day this year witnessed much more struggles than celebrations. In many countries, especially in Europe, workers clashed with police during May Day marches.

We have to take note of the recent developments in Egypt and Tunisia also. The much discussed Arab spring has not brought any change in the lives of the working people. In Egypt working people are continuing their struggles even after the government of Muslim Brotherhood led by Morsi. Their main demands were minimum wages and other benefits. The Morsi government has now been over thrown by the army. Hundreds of people were killed on the streets. On the one hand, the neoliberal policies being continued by the Morsi government increased unemployment from 25 to 32 per cent. On the other, rewriting of the constitution, leading to creeping Islamisation of society

and other policies created disillusionment among substantial sections of the masses. The new government, formed after the army ousting Morsi, has declared their intentions to bring about several democratic changes including 'freedom to form trade unions, political parties and associations'. The Army, which has been getting big support from the USA, is the most powerful institution in the country. Hence, we have to watch these developments unfurling in the largest and important country in that region.

In Tunisia also, where Arab Spring swept away the Ben Ali government, crisis is deepening. Two senior most leaders of left opposition have been killed. Massive protests have taken place. UGTT, the largest trade union in Tunisia demanded resignation of the Ennahada Party government. Demands are being raised for the formation of a National Salvation government. UGTT organized a country wide protest strike.

With the deepening of the economic crisis more and more sections of people all over the world are coming out in protest against their respective governments: Even organisations like the IMF are warning of 'growth' in slowdown! In their economic update, during the first week of July, IMF noted that while 'old risks' to global growth remain, 'new risks have emerged including the possibility of a longer growth slowdown in emerging market economies'.

In addition to all these are the continuing efforts of the USA to dominate the whole world, in total disregard of the damage resulting from their interventions. Reports of bombings, killings and 'collateral damage' continue to pour in from Iraq and Afghanistan. Syrian people are resisting the efforts of regime change, paying heavy price with loss of thousands of lives. Drone attacks by the US, continue in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen violating sovereignty of these countries.

Neighboring Countries

There are very powerful forces in the country, aided by a big section of media, who do not want friendly relationship to develop between India and our neighbours. Recently, we have seen this in the case of China and also Pakistan. We, the working class will have to continuously insist on solving the disputes through persistent discussions and also defeat the diversionary tactics of various forces.

In Pakistan, elections were held and a new government has taken over. It has declared its intentions to strengthen relations with India, though killings of 5 of our army men on 6th August has created again an atmosphere of disbelief.

In continuation to what we have noted at the time of our Kannur Conference, in Bangladesh, the struggle against the communal forces that perpetrated crimes at the time of the country's liberation struggle in 1971 is continuing. Hasina Govt., which has taken steps to see that punishment is meted out to those responsible for these crimes are under great pressure and are under attack. Communal forces have been mobilising people against the Govt. on various pretexts. Recent Judgement of Dhaka High Court declaring Jamat-E-Islami, illegal is also being utilised to foment violence. It was in collaboration with these forces, the earlier Govt. was functioning. Hasina Govt's efforts to strengthen relations with India, is also being taken up as an issue of campaign against the Govt.

The collapse of a building housing several garment companies killing more than 1200 workers is the worst industrial disaster in the world. It has exposed the free run sanctioned to the garment exporters and their buyers which include the big multinational corporations.

In Nepal, an interim government has been formed and elections are expected to be held in November.

In Sri Lanka, the Rajapakse government is unwilling to reach any political agreement on the demands of the Tamil speaking population of the country. A lot of struggles by workers have been going on with reports of police suppressions.

It is in this global scenario that the UPA II government seeks to wriggle out of the discontent and dissatisfaction among the people created by its policies. On the one hand it is under pressure to address this growing discontent in view of the forthcoming elections. But it wants to do it within the framework of the neoliberal agenda. It is succumbing to the pressures of US imperialism and international finance and is further opening up the country's economy to foreign investment. This is bound to impose further burdens on the workers and all sections of the people in general.

Coming days will surely witness more and more struggles against these policies, from various sections of Indian people.

The 33rd national conference of All India Kisan Sabha, the leading organisation of the peasants with a glorious history of struggles during its existence of more than 77 years, has decided to launch country wide struggles of the peasants. As we all know, our Kannur conference underlined the necessity of strengthening worker-peasant unity in struggles. We must take the necessary steps to support the struggles of the peasants against the impact of the government's policies. The working class must create the confidence among the peasants, through its solidarity and support, that struggles not suicides are the way forward.

Comrades,

As has been the practice for the last few years, we will be observing the foundation day of WFTU on 3rd October as the International Day of Action. This year too the demands put forward are the basic demands for humanity - food, water, shelter, health and education.

As we all know, these are also connected to the struggles we conduct here in our own country. We have to mobilise our members, along with our fraternal organisations on this International Day of Action to raise our voice along with those in different parts of the world.

Dear Comrades,

Before I conclude, I would like to greet various sections of working people in the country, who have been on struggle against injustices heaped on them and also demanding settlement of their demands. The report of the general secretary contains all the details about those struggles and campaigns undertaken during this period.

Violence against women and children, atrocities against various sections in the name of castes, are continuing. Communal forces are sharpening their tools to divide the people. With elections

nearing these types of disruptive and divisive activities will be increasing.

Congress and UPA, in their efforts to keep alive their hopes of regaining power have come out with the proposal for a separate Telangana state. This has resulted in an outburst of struggles for new states in different parts of the country including those that were dormant for some time. It has opened up a Pandora's Box

In these circumstances, the unity of the working classes and other toiling masses have to be strengthened, so as to meet all these challenges, along with our fight for alternative policies, to ensure a decent living for the masses.

I do hope that the discussions in the working committee will enable us to further move forward, in that direction.

Long Live Working Class Unity

Long Live - CITU

AK PADMANABHAN

President

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

Working Committee Meeting

27 – 29 August 2013, Jaipur, Rajasthan

REPORT OF GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Comrades,

After 14th Conference of CITU held in April 2013 at Kannur, Kerala, we are meeting here for the first time in CITU Working Committee.

We have to take a brief note of the developments in the international situation, the political and economic situation in the national context and its reflections in the trade union and democratic movement in the country in the context of which we have to decide our movemental and organizational tasks.

1.1 The 14th Conference of CITU has made a detailed analysis of the international and national political situation in the background of deepening economic crisis in the capitalist world, reviewed the response of the trade union movement and the democratic movement as a whole including the correlation of forces in the political scenario, and outlined the movemental and political-organisational perspective and tasks for CITU to act, respond and move forward. The formulations and observations made regarding the politico-economic situation and the trends being indicated thereby in the 14th Conference still remains valid.

1.2 The developments in the international context are being dealt by the Presidential address. In brief it may be noted that the imperialist forces led by US administration have been pursuing the same hegemonic and aggressionist exercise, using and abusing their military, political and economic power to subjugate the developing nations. Deepening of economic crisis and recession worldwide has made them more desperate and aggressive in their multipronged machinations. The role of US imperialists and its European allies in Syria, Libya, Iraq and Palestine, their continuing effort to create unrest and disturbance within the Latin American countries and Venezuela in particular against the progressive governments there through their international cartels and agent provocateurs and other agencies during the intervening period are testimony to same. And the latest revelation of such aggressionist machination by US imperialists is the internet espionage through snooping operation by US intelligence agency which got exposed by the whistleblower Edward Snowden.

1.3 The intervening period also witnessed the continuing struggles by the working people in the entire capitalist world against the so called austerity drives and its grievous fall out of the recession and crisis on their livelihood in the form of onslaught on their wages, social security, employment and other rights.

2. NATIONAL SITUATION

2.1.1 The 14th Conference of CITU noted in its report that there was an unambiguous rightward shift in the political, economic, and foreign policies pursued by the UPA II government and the

Indian ruling classes were serving the strategic interests of the US administration, unconcerned of the burdens on the Indian people and shamelessly compromising national interests. The same trend continued unabated during the intervening period, demonstrating a more visible servile approach of the ruling polity towards dictates of the Imperialist forces and international finance capital backed by the same in almost every front of governance in political and economic sphere. The most shameless demonstration of such servility has been the response of Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid endorsing and welcoming US Intelligence Agency's snooping operation on phone-calls of Indian embassy in USA that "It is not snooping. It is only computer study and computer analysis of patterns of calls". This shameful remark has come at a time when even the close allies of the United States like Germany and France have protested against the US snooping on their countries.

2.1.2 In almost all occasions of US hegemonic drive to undermine the sovereignty of other nations, particularly in the oil rich Middle East and Afro Arab region, the Government of India was either sitting on the fence or remained non committal reflecting its gradual tilt towards US imperialism. Its stand on the US backed Israeli attack on Gaza and Syria is the latest of such examples. Almost in all the international multilateral forums like the summit on environment, WTO talks etc, the Government of India's stand reflects a visible shift from the position of defending the interests of the developing countries to gradually yielding to rich countries' pressure in the name of finding ways to overcome the stalemate. Despite opposition from all fronts, the Govt has been actively pursuing talks on India-European Union Free Trade Agreement which is basically designed to bail-out crisis stricken economies of Europe at the cost of Indian industries and agriculture. Same servility to imperialists' strategic interests is also being demonstrated by desperate pursuit of suicidal policies of neoliberalism through recklessly opening the floodgates of FDI in the core and strategic sectors of the economy combined with desperate move of privatisation of crucial infrastructure and, natural resources and services either directly or through so called public-private partnership route.

2.1.3 Most unfortunately, among the political communities, only the Left parties have been consistently opposing such suicidal policies and most of the other non-Left political parties including the principal opposition party BJP have been demonstrating either supportive or an opportunist lukewarm stance. But owing to consistent opposition of the Left to such policies on the one hand and grievous fall out of the neoliberal policies on the life and livelihood of the people by way of price-rise, increasing unemployment, deepening and widening of poverty, resentment and anguish among the people has been increasing every day. Simultaneous explosion of big-ticket corruptions in almost every sector of the economy, a widely visible phenomenon since last couple of years, exposing the involvement of those in governance, which is no doubt an off-shoot of neoliberal economic regime, is also contributing to increasing disenchantment and anger among the mass of the people in general demonstrating increasing isolation of the ruling polity. Precisely in this background, the country has been witnessing coming together of all the trade unions including those having allegiance to ruling party and also non-Left politics in the country in united platform of struggle since last three years or so against the grievous fall out of the same neoliberal policies and the pitch of struggle is gaining momentum. No doubt two-decades long united struggle against the neoliberal policies by the Left trade unions has paved the way and created ground for such all in unity but the peoples' response at the ground level to the crisis and unbearable situation created by the neoliberal regime has also been an important factor. The situation therefore throws upon the working class movement the task of combating the situation through intensification of struggle. The working class movement must resolutely intervene to cry a decisive halt to the anti-people

onslaught of the right-wing policies and expose the pro-imperialist politics behind such policy-drives, thereby paving the way for change of correlation of forces. And such task has become crucially important in view of the country heading for general elections during early next year.

2.1.4 The role of principal opposition party BJP has also to be understood in this context. Its opposition to the Congress led government is totally superficial as it is on the same page with the ruling Congress in all economic policy matters and on issues related to the workers. That is the reason that in almost all the crucial economic policy related issues, the BJP has been bailing out an otherwise minority government. In addition it is continuing to pursue its communal agenda in a most vicious manner, which has gained momentum in view of the general elections next year and elections in five State Assemblies by the year-end. In the absence of any alternative economic policy, communal and divisive agenda is bound to be integral to the BJP's political strategy. Making Narendra Modi the chief of BJP's Poll Campaign Committee and projecting him as PM in the waiting, clearly unveils the BJP's poll strategy. Already speeches and statements being made by Modi and his team are fully loaded with communal overtones.

2.1.5 We should also take note of the menacing activities of various kinds of divisive forces to divide and polarise people on caste, creed, religion, community, ethnic and various other lines at various parts of the country taking advantage of the poverty, backwardness and also deprivation and exploitation perpetrated by the exploitative policy regime. We also cannot turn a blind eye to the phenomenon of so called Maoist violence in a sizable segment of Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh etc. All these phenomenon are also a veritable challenge before the working class and democratic movement. They divide people and derail peoples' anger against exploitation and deprivation and finally make way for the perpetrators of exploitation and deprivation to rule and reign. Therefore fighting these divisive as well as extremist trends and forces are integral to political organisational tasks of the class conscious segment of the working class movement.

2.1.6 The recent announcement of the UPA Govt on the formation of separate Telengana state curving out from Andhra Pradesh has created serious repercussions in different parts of the country including inside Andhra Pradesh. It created resentment within the Congress party in Andhra Pradesh itself besides whipping up demands for separate Gorkhaland state in West Bengal, Bodoland in Assam and north eastern part of the country etc and generating unrest and social tension.

2.1.7 We must also note that the main plank of the strategy of the ruling class is to put the Left on the defensive and thereby marginalise the same in the forthcoming political battle. On the other hand, the united struggle by the working class and the all in unity of all the trade unions irrespective of affiliations against the fall out of the policies of the Govt on the life and livelihood of the people at large has been gradually creating ground for offensive struggle against the same anti-people policies and the politics behind the same. In such a situation, we have before us the two-pronged task of widening and consolidating the unity of the working class and the people in the struggle against the anti-people policies on the one hand and fighting back simultaneously against all disruptive, divisive and communal forces on the other.

2.2 Attack on Democratic Movement in West Bengal

2.2.1 In West Bengal, the violent attack by the TMC goons with the active indulgence of the state administration there on the democratic movement and the trade unions have been continuing and

it got further escalated following the announcement of Panchayet elections in the state. The basic design is to eliminate Left physically in the state through violence and terror by the TMC led goons with the active patronage of the state administration. In the stage of filing of nomination itself, more than 6000 Left front candidates were not allowed to file nomination through violent means. Thousands of Left activists were forcibly ousted from their villages. Entire polling process in all the five phases were marred by large scale booth capturing in around 5000 booths, mass-scale stamping of ballots by TMC goons, blockade of villages, violent attacks on opposition candidates, torching of houses of Left supporters and various other means and police remained a mere indulgent onlookers to all these state-sponsored criminal activities. Our comrades in trade unions, other mass fronts and Left parties are fighting a grim battle against terror and violence while participating in the election process right from filing of nominations to campaign in various forms, risking and laying down their lives. Comrade Dilip Sarkar, CITU working committee member and Secretary, Bardhaman district CITU has been brutally killed on 9th June 2013. In protest of the dastardly killing, spontaneous bandh was observed in Burnpur-Asansol belt besides protest actions all over the state. After the announcement of Panchayet Poll, already **24** Left activists and supporters were murdered by the TMC goons and the number is increasing every day.

2.2.2 In the run up to Panchayet election, it is not only the Left supporters who are being attacked although the Left is the main target of violence. Those opposing the ruling TMCs are all facing violent attack from the TMC goons in different degrees. Even the rebel candidates within TMC are also being attacked in many places by the criminal gangs of TMC. Widespread crimes of various hues, violence against women, rape etc have become a regular phenomenon nowadays in the TMC-governed West Bengal.

2.2.3 What is being witnessed now in West Bengal is not merely an anti-Left violence but an outright attack against the democracy and on the people at large where any form of dissent against any action of Govt or any form of protest against any happenings is being tackled with brutality both by the Govt machinery and the anti-social goons under the ruling party. The whole situation reflects a fascistic strategy to curb the democratic rights of the common people. The CITU calls upon the working class all over the country to express solidarity and campaign on the heroic struggles being fought by our comrades in the state and also intensify the campaign against all round attack on democracy and the people in West Bengal and defeat the reign of violence and terror in the state. Our unions and federations must take a lead in this initiative.

2.3 Attack on the Left

2.3.1 We must look into the violent attacks on the Left and democracy in West Bengal in the context of all round attacks on the Left by the right wing forces continuing in different forms throughout the country in general and particularly in the stronger bases of the Left movement. During the intervening period, anti-Left tirade is noticed in Kerala although in different form of unprecedented malicious campaign against the Left forces to confuse and also create disruption besides brutally attack by the state machinery on the democratic agitations and mobilisations by various mass organisations. Braving and countering such malicious campaign and also attempts of inciting violence and disruption within the state of Tripura, the Left forces of Tripura came back with even bigger majority than before in the last Assembly elections to re-establish Left front Govt in the state. As the 14th Conference of CITU noted, *"In the background of the deepening crisis of the neoliberal order, totally vindicating the Left's assertion about the inhuman as well as destructive*

face of the neoliberal order, it is but natural that Left politics will be the prime target of the right wing pro imperialist forces, the protagonists of neoliberalism. The Left politics not only offer a viable alternative to the destructive neoliberal order but also possess the potential to build up resistance and fight it back to decisive defeat. That is precisely the reason for such all round attack and conspiracies being engineered by the pro imperialist forces and their cohorts against the Left, particularly in their stronger bastions. The corporate media and all the agencies of the neoliberal camp are utilised for this malicious misinformation campaign to discredit and eliminate the Left, while at the same time pampering the divisive and extremist forces, sometimes using ultra left slogans."

2.3.2 The class conscious segment of the working class movement like the CITU must realise the real objectives of such all round attacks on the Left by the right wing forces. We must unite the working people and intensify class struggle against the neoliberal policies and expose the politics behind neoliberalism to fight back such evil designs. This struggle cannot be confined to the stronger bases of the Left forces alone. It has to be fought throughout the country. We must note here that the alternatives presented by the Left forces coincide with the issues and demands being raised by the working class movement from their united platform of struggles.

2.3.3 Therefore, CITU's intervention, in this regard, along with widespread solidarity action in support of the comrades heroically fighting against repression, violence, terror and tirade in the concerned states, must also expose the nefarious design and politics of the right wing forces and unleash a powerful widespread campaign on the alternatives being projected by the Left.

3. ECONOMIC SITUATION

3.1.1 The 14th Conference of CITU have outlined the situation of the entire economy in the country as one facing a consistent and continued decline almost in all fronts with. Its severe impact on the mass of the people is felt in the form of widening and deepening poverty, increasing unemployment and job losses, continuing price rise. There is a sharp deterioration in the quality of employment through wide spread contractorisation, casualisation of work places. The 14th Conference pointed out that the neoliberal regime worsened the situation by promoting the transfer of resources from the people who create wealth to a handful of the rich and the corporates, both domestic and foreign. This is being deliberately perpetrated by policy initiatives. The government is promoting price rise of essential commodities for the speculative gains. Subsidies for common people are being drastically cut down. The revenue foregone by the government in favour of the rich and the affluent is on the rise. Tax defaults are encouraged. As a result of the regressive tax regime, the effective direct taxes are consistently coming down while the indirect taxes are increased leading to increased burdens on the common people. Public utility services, strategic and natural resources are gradually being privatised. The huge corruption scandals involving lakhs of crores of rupees and involving almost all the sectors of the economy, being exposed in quick succession have added fuel to fire.

3.1.2 Average wages are going down in real terms. Jobs are being lost in a big way in many sectors. Regular wage employment is being replaced by casual, contract and other forms of informal employment with lower wages. Attempts are being made to justify this process on the pretext of global crisis and slow down. But profits remain more or less unaffected. In 2008 -09,

when the wide spread recessionary impact of the global crisis was felt all over the world including in our country, more than 50 lakh workers lost their jobs in the export oriented segment alone. But during the same period, the profits of all major corporate houses together increased by 36%. The same trend continues today. The profits of the corporates and big business houses remain more or less unaffected despite the economic slowdown, the decline in GDP, increasing fiscal and current account deficits. On the other hand, the toiling people are made to shoulder the entire burden of the crisis through loss of their livelihood and declining real wages.

3.1.3 During the intervening period since our 14th Conference, the economic situation turned more critical with overall downside in rate of growth. The GDP growth came down to 5% and the growth of industrial production to 2.3%. There is a slump in investment in real economy. Current account deficit is increasing alarmingly. The value of rupee has fallen to more than 60 to a US dollar. Investment in gold and jewellery has alarmingly increased to more than 7% of domestic investment. The conditions of the working class are deteriorating. In such a situation working class and the democratic movement as a whole have to confront with the employers, establishment and the governments in almost every step of their activities.

3.1.4 There has been a consistent decline for three months in the growth rate in the industrial sector. The core sector industries are the most affected with crude oil, natural gas, fertiliser and coal registering an absolute decline. The situation is expected to further worsen in the days to come. Reports of major corporate houses in the automobile sector like Tata Motors, Mahindra, Maruti-Suzuki, Hyundai etc are reportedly scaling down their production. They have informally declared shut-down for number of days in a week resulting in loss of wages for the workers, particularly those on contract. This is also having impact on the downstream ancillary units which are facing a closure. Such recessionary downside is expected to spread to other industrial sectors as well with much more negative impact on the life and livelihood of the toiling people.

3.1.5 The agricultural sector, which is still now shouldering the burden of livelihood of nearly half of the country's households, have already been in the midst of deepening crisis. Agriculture's share in Country's GDP has gone down to mere 14 per cent although the share of population mainly depending on agriculture still remains abysmally high and unsustainable. Alarming increase in landlessness among the rural household which has reached currently as high as 41 per cent compared to 22 per cent in the early nineties reflects how alarmingly the concentration of land holding is growing under the neoliberal regime. In fact consistent decline in public investment in agriculture and related infrastructure under neoliberal format along with sharp rise in the cost of agricultural inputs has been making agriculture unviable for the small and marginal and even a sizable section of medium scale farmers.

3.1.6 The govt of the day is claiming that increase in minimum support price of main crops has protected the farmers' community against the rise in input prices and improved their position. This is totally false claim aimed at confusing and hoodwinking the people. The minimum support price (MSP) declared by the govt in case of most of crops does not cover even the cost of production particularly for the medium and small farmers at large. Moreover more than two-third of the farming community do not have access to institutional credit and most of them have been trapped by private money lenders and compelled to hand over their produce at distressed price immediately following the harvest to the hoarders cum money lenders who actually reaped the benefit of MSP or channelized their stock either to black-market or through speculative trade. Irony is that although as per official data, the volume of agricultural credit is increasing, the major part of the same is

being cornered by the corporate agri-business and big landlord class. It is not without reason that already 3 lakh farmers in debt trap have committed suicide in rural India and the trend is continuing.

3.1.7 In fact continuation of crisis in agriculture and the rural economy as a whole is making the economic situation more critical. There is huge migration from rural to the urban and semi urban centres. But most of these people do not get any gainful employment. Instead, they join the already huge army of the unemployed, ready to take up any job under any terms for mere survival. Such phenomenon is creating downward pressure in the wage level and other benefits and promoting contractorisation and casualisation in a big way.

3.1.8 In the midst of such a situation, the government claims that poverty has come down from 37.3 % in 2004 to 21.9% in 2013. This is nothing but a fraud and a cruel joke on the people. The utterances of some Congress leaders in support of the same have added salt to injury and generated widespread resentment among the people. Having failed to arrest increasing poverty and the widening inequalities, the UPA II government is trying to eliminate the poor from official records by an arbitrary and absurd definition of poverty line. The poverty line definition based on 2400 calories energy intake in rural India (2100 calories for urban) originally arrived at in 1979 has been virtually abandoned. An absolutely absurd poverty line definition of Rs 27.20 expenditure per person in rural area and Rs33.30 in urban area which cannot match even the person in distress and destitution has been put in place. A careful and close scrutiny of the NSSO data on income and consumption pattern and related aspects reveals that during the span of last twelve years, between 2000 and 2012, consumption and income of around 90 per cent of population has increased hardly at an average rate of 3 per cent per annum. If inflation is taken into account, it reflects a substantial decline in the consumption basket. The actual decline in real terms is much more for the lowest 50-60 per cent of population. Yet the government shamelessly claims that poverty has declined! If the original 1979 definition for poverty line is applied at current price level, more than 60 per cent population will be poor. It is not that the learned ministers of UPA government are ignorant of these basic realities. It is a deliberate fraud, an integral part of their neoliberal policy machinations.

3.1.9 And as the crisis is getting aggravated reflecting a more terminal slowdown accompanied by widening current account deficit and fiscal deficit, the govt at the centre has become more desperate in pushing through the so called pro-imperialist and pro-corporate reforms through reckless deregulation, privatisation and creating even bigger space for foreign players in the economy.

3.1.10 Following deregulation of petroleum and diesel prices, the prices of both petrol and diesel have been increased several times since April 2013 adding fuel to already high inflationary situation. Higher prices of diesel for bulk purchase, like state transport sector and railways, would finally be transferred to the common consumers. The government has also announced further deregulation of the price of natural gas produced domestically on the basis of formula recommended by the Rangarajan Committee. The price of natural gas produced in the country will now be priced as per the weighted average of the price of natural gas in USA, UK and Japan and also the import price of LNG, without any reference to the actual cost of production in India. As a result the natural gas price from April 2014 will get practically more than doubled from the existing level. This will impose a huge burden on the power and fertiliser sector besides a section of steel producing units and also on the common consumers. In fact, while deregulating and increasing the natural gas price, the Govt of India succumbed to the pressure of Reliance Industries Ltd which has deliberately scaled down natural gas production from KG-D6 field thereby pushing around 13 gas based power

plants in the country to complete shut down. This has also created a serious problem for fertiliser sector and city-gas distribution projects in many cities.

3.1.11 Simultaneously, aggressive exercise for multiple round disinvestment is being planned in almost all the highly profit making PSUs and Coal India Ltd, Indian Oil Corporation, NTPC, HAL, RINL, NLC etc have already been shortlisted for immediate sale.

3.1.12 Besides, disinvestment drives, the Govt has also been making exercise of privatization through backdoor either directly or through introducing so called public private partnership particularly in vital infrastructure sectors. Port and Dock sector is being sought to be corporatized to pave the way for privatization. Simultaneously, in the name of creating new capacity or expansion in the major ports like in Kolkata-Haldia dock complex and also in Andhra Pradesh, private players are being sought to be introduced. Govt has also announced their programme of privatizing 15 major airports in the country through so called public-private-partnership route. Reportedly, the process is to start with inviting global bids for six airports viz., Calcutta, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow and Guwahati. All these airports have already been modernized/renovated with investment of several thousands of crore from public exchequer and by Airport Authority. Only for modernization of Kolkata and Chennai airports, Airport Authority of India have spent more than Rs 3700 crore. And exercise is going on to handover these readymade modernized airports to private players including foreign companies in the name of improving the management. What else can be called sheer mortgaging of the economy ?

3.1.13 Similar mortgaging exercise in the name of reforms is being noticed in the FDI policy recently announced by the Govt of India. The Govt has announced reckless liberalization of FDI limit in defence, telecom, insurance, Asset Reconstruction, Power exchanges, single-brand-retail and various other vital and strategic sector of the economy totally unmindful and unconcerned about their damaging impact on the concerned industries/services and also on the national security. Most atrocious is the manner the FDI in defence production sector is liberalized from the present cap of 26% to paving way for possibility of virtual caplessness through Cabinet Committee of Security route. Allowing 100 per cent FDI in telecom sector is also fraught with the possibility of virtual take-over of domestic private telecom sector by foreign players and is destined to invite formidable security threat to the country. Even after the exposure of the snooping operation by US intelligence agency mainly through electronic communication system, such move of the Govt is going to be suicidal besides severely damaging the telecom PSUs. The Govt is batting for raising the FDI cap in insurance sector to 49% ignoring the unanimous recommendation of Parliamentary Standing Committee of Finance disapproving the same. At present, the public sector insurance companies attract the substantially major part of the domestic insurance-related savings and channelise them to national developmental priorities. But empowering foreign players in country's insurance business would rather give the foreign players with Indian partners a greater access to handle country's domestic savings and dechannelise them to their own priorities including speculation. FDI liberalization in other sectors like Asset Reconstruction, Power exchange, stock-exchange etc is also going to have more negative impacts than so called gains being presumed by the Govt.

3.1.14 Govt had earlier announced their decision to allow FDI in multi-brand retail trade despite opposition from almost all sections of society and also from most of the political parties as well and the Govt could manage a majority in support of their decision in Parliament by dubious means. But while arguing for their decision of allowing FDI in multi-brand retail trade, the Govt touted loudly

about the conditions imposed on the foreign retailers on compulsorily sourcing their materials from small scale industries to the tune of 30 per cent and also on their investment on back-end infrastructure like cold-storage etc. Having received not much response from the major foreign retailers thereafter, the Govt has declared their intent to dilute those conditionality of sourcing from small scale sector and also on investment in back-end infrastructure. This is how the Govt of the day has been succumbing to blackmailing tactics of foreign corporates, totally uncaring of the national interest.

3.1.15 In the matter of FDI liberalization, the UPA Govt appears to be more anxious to prove their loyalty to so called neoliberal reforms lobby than addressing the problems of the economy at the root. Instead of addressing the problems of burgeoning current account deficit and its impact on the value of rupee at its root through concrete measures to contain the deficit by reversing the present economic policy regime, the Govt of the day has become desperate in finding means to fund the deficit at any cost and by any means, putting the country's economy to a more vicious trap, and paving way for further outflow of profit and resources.

3.1.16 Another issue needs to be flagged in the present context. The Govt of the day has been justifying all their misdeeds in the name attracting private investment, both domestic and foreign in Indian soil. Over and above rupees 5 lakh crore tax concessions to private corporates every year in the name of "revenue forgone", Rs 4.83 lakh crore of due tax on account of corporate and income tax is lying unpaid by the same corporates/big-business. Such liberal patronization to handful of corporates/big-business houses have been the feature in every year's budget since last one decade or so. Prices of domestically produced petroleum, natural gas etc are being determined based on the price in international market without any reference to their actual cost of production/refining in Indian soil. Fertiliser prices are also being sought to be aligned with international prices. Readymade airports modernized with public funds are going to be handed over to private hands on a revenue sharing basis. FDI limits are being sought to be removed and/or raised in telecom, defence, insurance, civil aviation, financial services and almost everywhere. All these measures in essence tantamount to allowing private and foreign players to loot public assets and infrastructure free of cost. But the Govt has been justifying these measures for incentivising investment in the respective areas. But that remains to be totally false claim.

3.1.17 Since 1995, petroleum price is being determined in terms of price of the finished product in the international market. And during last 18 years or so, fresh investment in crude oil exploration in the country has actually declined and the domestic crude oil production remained virtually stagnant. Since 2006 onward till date, the natural gas price has been increased by 300% (from \$1.79 mmbtu to \$4.20 mmbtu), but both production and investment in natural gas exploration and production have actually dropped. Despite almost rupees eight to ten lakh crore tax concessions to corporates/big business through revenue foregone and patronizing tax-default every year, the share of private corporates in domestic investment has been consistently declining particularly since 2008 onwards to reach hardly 29.8 per cent in 2012 as confirmed by the current Economic Survey published by the Govt. We have to expose such dubious intent of the Govt to promote the policy of loot and plunder on the people and country's economy on the false plea of attracting investment while exposing the real face of neoliberalism in our campaign and agitation

3.2 Food Security Ordinance

3.2.1 Trade union movement and also the Left movement have long been agitating for universalisation

of public distribution system and concrete measure for ensuring food security for the entire population of the country. Owing to such agitation and campaign the Govt of the day has ultimately been compelled to take certain steps in that direction through promulgation of an Ordinance. But the so called Food Security Ordinance falls much short of ensuring the food security in real sense.

3.2.2 The ordinance, as the Bill before it, legalises the targeted system by automatically excluding 50 per cent of urban population and 25 per cent of rural population from its ambit at a time when in many States the coverage of the population is near universal. The present 35kgs entitlement to BPL families will now be cut down by 10 kgs to just 25 kgs for a five member family and even less if the family is smaller. This is punishment for a State like Kerala, where the family size may be three or four and therefore the entitlement will be only 15 kgs to 20 kgs. The demand of our movement have been the minimum should be 35 kgs per household and increased if there are more members but the Government has preferred to cut down on existing entitlements. This is food insecurity not security.

3.2.3 The provisions of the Ordinance or the Food Security Bill are highly centralised. While all powers are vested with the Centre, the state governments have to shoulder all responsibilities including substantial share of finances. The ordinance ordains that the entire process of identification of beneficiaries according to guidelines yet to be issued by the Central Government has to be completed within 180 days. The ordinance, in a mischievous addition, gives the Central Government the right to introduce cash schemes instead of food in the Rules as and when it decides, in other words to impose its anti-people scheme even if the State Governments oppose it. We have to fight for amendments to the Bill to make it universal with a minimum entitlement of 35 kgs at maximum two rupees a kg (rice and wheat) and also for removal of the stipulations in relation to cash transfers and linkages with AADHAR.

4. STRUGGLES BRAVING ATTACKS AND REPRESSION AND VICTIMISATION

4.1.1 The intervening period has also witnessed numerous events of struggles in various workplaces all over the country braving the atrocities of the state administration and the employers.

4.1.2 The two months long dharna by the dismissed workers Manesar Plant of Maruti Suzuki at Haryana and their family members along with other trade unions at Kaithal, Haryana was brutally attacked by police on 19th May 2013 and the spontaneous protest demonstration by the local residents and villagers on 20th May 2013 had also to face brutal lathicharge by police and mass scale arrests, in which number of dismissed workers of Maruti, Anganwadi workers and CITU activists got seriously injured. The local municipal councilor of CPI(M) was also arrested from the demonstration and all of them were booked under section 307 (attempt to murder). Over and above, around 147 workers of Maruti Suzuki have been languishing in jail for almost an year.

4.1.3 Around 200 workers were arrested on the first day of last two days general strike at Noida and were also booked under section 307 and other nonbailable sections, majority of whom are still not granted bail till June 2013. Number of joint protest demonstrations were held during the intervening period demanding immediate release of the arrested workers. In July those arrested workers started getting released on bail.

4.1.4 Workers in the factory of M/s Jindal in Nasik in Maharashtra, who were suspended en masse for forming a union affiliated to CITU, are continuing their struggle. In Adcock, a multinational

drug company, FMRAI led a struggle against mass retrenchment of workers in the process of acquisition and achieved success to a great extent. Workers of Nokia-Siemens in Tamilnadu were on strike for more than two months since May 2013 demanding trade union rights braving threat of mass scale victimisation.

4.1.5 Brick kiln workers in Haryana and Punjab launched struggles in many districts demanding increase in wages and compelled the owners to reach agreements. Contract workers in Punjab Roadways were on strike for 48 days braving victimisation and attacks. They emerged victorious compelling the management to sign a settlement increasing wages with retrospective effect from September 2012 and other benefits and withdrawal of all victimisation. Numerous such incidents of struggles braving attacks and victimisation are taking place in many parts of the country. 4075 workers, of '108' ambulance service in Andhra Pradesh, are on strike since 18th July 2013, braving mass scale dismissals and arrests.

4.1.6 Following the call of 14th Conference of CITU, some of our federations took praiseworthy initiative for building up sectorwise united movement on the sector-specific issues and demands.

There have been joint countrywide activities and agitations by the workers of road-transport sector at the pioneering initiative of All India Road Transport Workers' Federation which culminated in countrywide joint demonstration by the road transport workers on 7th May 2013 which was observed in most the states. The main issues highlighted were the anti-state transport policy of most of the governments and also against the dual pricing of diesel affecting the passenger transport in a big way.

4.1.7 In the face of renewed initiative by the Govt of India to disinvest shares of Coal India Ltd, CITU led All India Coal Workers Federation(AICWF) have organized protest programmes following which joint initiative was taken by all the five federations in coal industry to protest such move of the Govt. All the federations sent protest letters to Prime Minister against further disinvestment in Coal India and also against the move of so called restructuring of Coal India Ltd which is basically aimed at dismantling the Coal India Ltd and paving the way for privatization. Following that, the disinvestment decision for Coal India has been temporarily deferred. But the joint preparatory move by all the federations in Coal Industry is continuing and a massive National Joint Convention of Coal workers was held on 24th June 2013 at Kolkata wherefrom the course of joint countrywide movement in preparation of multiple days strike in coal industry was announced. Following the announcement of struggle, the Coal Minister had to call the Coal federations for persuasion and already two rounds of meeting was held till end of July. **Taking advantage of vacillation of some of the federation may be due to political reason, the Coal Minister announced before the media that three federations have agreed for disinvestment of 5 per cent share of Coal India which got wide publicity. In such a situation, while carrying on dialogue with other federations for a united strike action, CITU led federation has to give a call for three days strike in Coal Industry on 19-21 September 2013 while making fervent appeal to all the federations and workers to join the strike or decide on strike action in September itself. CITU also announced its readiness to adjust with others on the dates of strike for the sake of consensus without compromising the decision on industrywide strike action. The determination of AICWF to stall the disinvestment in Coal India, its firm and independent initiative for the strike action along with independent campaign among the coal workers on the same and also its appeal to all other federations finally worked. On**

18th August 2013, all the major five federations of coal workers including AICWF met at Ranchi to decide for three days countrywide strike against disinvestment and the move of restructuring in Coal India on 23-25th September 2013. The total unity of the federations in the anti-disinvestment struggle could be restored. This is a big achievement as well as challenge before CITU federation in Coal industry and its affiliated unions in the subsidiary units to make this action programme a massive success. CITU congratulates the coal workers as well as all the federation for this united decision.

4.1.8 The most notable struggle against disinvestment during the intervening period is the 14 days long united strike action by 27000 workers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation at Tamilandu including 14000 contract workers. The united opposition to disinvestment of NLC by the workers has created such impact on the people of the state and the society as whole that the AIADMK led State Govt of Tamilnadu had to intervene and finally offered, rather staked its claim for purchasing the share of NLC slated for disinvestment through State owned PSUs of Tamilnadu and the Govt of India have to accept the same. Even during earlier phase of struggle against disinvestment of NLC, the DMK had to make similar intervention resulting in shelving of the proposal. In fact the experience of NLC-struggle has shown that on both the occasions, the united struggle and campaign by workers has compelled both DMK and AIDMK who are not otherwise so committed against the policy of disinvestment, to take firm position of opposition to disinvestment of NLC and effectively intervene to prevent sale of NLC shares to private hands. This speaks about the intrinsic strength of determined united action of the working class.

4.1.9 At the initiative of All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers (AIFAWH), state level agitations were held in many states on the demand for recognition as workers, minimum wages and social security benefits. The call for observance of “All India Black Day” on 10th July 2013 was massively observed in all the states involving more than six lakh anganwadi workers and helpers in 18 states and 210 districts. In Andhra Pradesh, Anganwadi workers have gone for three days strike on 8th to 10th July and militant demonstration on 10th braving lathi-charge by police. In Kerala, anganwadi workers/helpers have gone on strike on 19th July.

4.1.10 The call given by the 14th Conference of CITU on observance of a fortnight long campaign and agitation from 30th May 2013 on the demands pertaining to minimum wage, same wage for same work for contract workers and universal social security benefit including assured pension for all was implemented in most of the states in varying degrees as per information gathered by the Centre. But unfortunately proper reports have not been received by most of the states as urged for by the Centre. Reports of observance were received from Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Tamilnadu.

4.2 Success in Secret Ballot

4.2.1 The intervening period has witnessed victory of CITU and friendly unions in secret ballot election for recognition. Most notable have been the victory of CITU union at Bhilai Steel Plant to become number one union securing 44.38% votes and the erstwhile recognized union affiliated to INTUC finished at third position. In BSNL, the BSNL Employees Union could successfully retained its number one position by securing 48.68% votes. The union led by AIEA in General Insurance Corporation (GIC) has substantially improved their position in the recently held secret ballot

elections. In Kolkata Metro Rail, the Left supported union achieved sole recognition status securing 46.02% votes.

4.2.2 In the secret ballot elections in Railways, in West Bengal, despite all attacks and terror by TMC goons with the support of state administration, the TMC led unions could be decisively defeated in both Eastern and South Eastern Railways. At Jamalpur Railway workshop in Bihar the union led by our comrades became number one recognized union securing almost 50 per cent votes. In Southern Railway, CITU affiliated DREU lost recognition in the secret ballot.

5.1 45TH INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE

5.1.1 During the intervening period, the 45th Indian Labour Conference has taken place. The most important highlight of the 45th ILC is the Prime Minister's inaugural address wherein he had to admit that the "the recent two days strike by Trade Unions focused on a number of issues relating to welfare not only of the working classes but also the people at large". None of the demands raised by the trade unions could be refuted by the PM, rather he stated that some of the demands are unexceptionable and some are in advanced stage of consideration by the Govt. The same Prime Minister, we have to note, completely ignored the issues raised by the Trade Unions in his inaugural address in the 44th Indian Labour Conference, on the eve of the country wide joint general strike on 28th February 2012. It is the united countrywide militant action by the trade unions and its consistent continuity that could make him take note of the demands of the trade unions in the 45th ILC.

5.1.2 CITU's intervention in the plenary session of 45th ILC focused on the so called partnership between those in governance and private corporate sector, both domestic and foreign in the pattern of so called 'public private partnership' in perpetrating loot and plunder on both workers and people at large and also on the national economy. Such partnership is continuing in widespread state sponsored violation of all labour laws by the employers class engineering loot and exploitation on the working people. Same partnership are allowing the private corporate houses, both domestic and foreign to pilfer the national exchequer with impunity with the uncollected corporate tax and income tax arrears reaching more than Rs 4.82 lakh crores in 2012. And despite all such indulgence and concession to pilferage and loot, private corporate sector's share in domestic investment has been consistently declining since 2009 reaching only 29.8 per cent in 2012. The Govt must reverse such policy of promoting corporates' loot on people and the national economy, CITU asserted in the 45th ILC.

5.1.3 CITU took initiative in the Standing Labour Committee to include the conditions of 'scheme workers' as an agenda item for the 45th ILC. The 45th ILC, in the process of unified stand and assertion by all the trade union representatives had to make unanimous recommendation, inter alia, on 1) giving recognition to scheme workers as 'workers' with the right of minimum wages and social security benefits including pension and 2) universal social security coverage to entire working people including right to assured pension.

5.1.4 The full report of the 45th ILC along with its recommendation has already been published in journals of CITU being published from the centre. The recommendations of 45th ILC is also being circulated as annexure.

5.2 CTUO'S MEETING WITH GROUP OF MINISTERS

5.2.1 In the aftermath of two days countrywide strike action in February 2013, the Central Trade Unions met on 3rd May 2013 at New Delhi to discuss the next course of joint activities. As decided in the said meeting a letter jointly signed by all the Central Trade Unions was given to Prime Minister demanding bilateral meeting with the Central Trade Unions to sort out the demands raised by two days' strike action failing which the trade unions would go for further countrywide joint action. The Prime Minister conveyed the Central Trade Unions that a group of ministers comprising A K Antony, Sharad Pawar, P Chidambaram and Mallikarjun Kharge will discuss with the CTUOs on the demands raised by the two days' strike action. The said meeting was ultimately held on 22nd May 2013 in the office of the Defence Minister. But in the said meeting nothing concrete has emerged. The Labour Secretary on behalf of the Labour Minister referring to almost all the ten demands stated that they either under examination or consideration and did not even share with the trade unions as to what are the positive steps being considered by the Govt in respect of the issues highlighted by the trade unions.

5.2.2 The trade union representatives expressed their strong dissatisfaction to what have been conveyed by the GoM on the vital demands raised by them and conveyed clearly that the whole approach of the GoM runs contrary to the Prime Minister's assurance pronounced before the 45th Indian Labour Conference. The trade unions urged that the Govt must convey to them in concrete terms as to what actions they are proposing to take within a definite timeframe to sort out the demands of the trade unions 'many of which are unexceptionable' while 'many of which are advanced stage of consideration by the Govt' as stated by the Prime Minister himself.

5.2.3 In response to such stance by the trade unions, Shri A K Antony conveyed that the GoM need some more time for internal consultation after which they will come back to trade unions in a months time.

5.2.4 Based on above, the Central Trade Unions again issued a letter to Prime Minister expressing their dissatisfaction and disappointment over the meeting with GoM and urging upon his intervention for meaningful dialogue with the trade unions to sort out the demands of the trade unions within a month's time.

6. ON WORKING WOMEN

6.1.1 As per the decision of the 14th conference of CITU, the national convention of All India Coordination Committee of Working Women (AICCCWW) is going to be held on 29 September – 1st October in Puri. The AICCCWW (CITU) met on 5-6 August in Delhi and finalised the draft report and the other details. The Odisha state committee of CITU has formed a reception committee and is making all the necessary preparations for the convention. It has also planned to organise a massive rally of working women on 29th September. All the state committees of CITU must ensure that working women delegates, as per the quota and guidelines already circulated attend the convention without fail. They have also to ensure that the necessary arrangements for their travel including finances are made to ensure their participation. **This working committee reiterates the decision of the 14th conference of CITU that the presidents/ general secretaries of all CITU state committees must attend the convention of AICCCWW without fail.**

6.1.2 As already reiterated by the 14th Conference, the orientation of CITU's work among working women must be focused on the severe impact of the neoliberal policies on the working women in a situation where women at workplaces are already being subjected to various discrimination, repressions, violence and atrocities in this patriarchal society with dominant influence of feudal vices. We have to prepare CITU organization at all levels to carry on intensive campaign with consistence and continuity on equal right for women as men and equal wage for same and similar work, maternity benefit and crèche facility, against sexual harassment and also against increasing incidences of violence against women in general. We must also focus and campaign against alarming trend of decline in the women's workplace participation rate under neoliberal policy regime, particularly at this crisis ridden juncture, when at the advent of crisis and downturn in industry and business, women workers are targeted to be axed out first.

6.1.3 From this Working Committee meeting we must take up the following tasks which will help in achieving a leap forward in CITU's work among working women and achieve our objectives at the earliest:

6.2 Tasks

6.2.1 At the national level

- ♦ The sub committee constituted at the national level should meet at least once in two months to monitor and follow up the implementation of the decisions
- ♦ Ensure that the major federations of CITU with sizable women membership constitute women's sub committees at the national level and make them functional
- ♦ Conduct two separate trade union classes for working women from 'Hindi speaking states' – one for ASHAs and mid day meal workers and the other from working women from other sections

6.2.2 State committees of CITU

All state committees of CITU should –

- ♦ Designate the responsibility of the work among working women to a state office bearer of CITU working from the state centre
- ♦ Allot a full time cadre, preferably a woman, at the state centre, for the work among working women
- ♦ Immediately constitute a small sub committee, including an office bearer in charge of the work among working women and the convenor of the state coordination committee of working women
- ♦ Chalk out a state wide campaign on the demands of working women; campaign to be concentrated on sectors where both men and women work and should consist of wide distribution of leaflets, sectoral meetings and submission of memoranda to the administration at different levels; efforts should be made to involve the women's sub committees of fraternal trade unions in this campaign
- ♦ State conventions should be held, wherever not held till now, and state level coordination committees formed following the campaign
- ♦ Pay special attention to organise private hospital employees, home based workers, particularly the garment workers, and domestic workers deciding the priorities based on the concrete situation in the state

- ♦ Ensure that all the major federations including state-level federations and unions of CITU with considerable women membership form women's sub committees within one year
- ♦ Ensure that women's specific demands are included in the charter of demands of the CITU affiliated unions in the state, particularly in industries with considerable number of women and also that women leaders are included in the negotiating teams of the unions in industries with considerable number of women
- ♦ Conduct one state level trade union class separately for working women before the end of the year

7. CERTAIN ORGANISATIONAL CUM MOVEMENTAL DECISIONS OF THE 14TH CONFERENCE

We are proposing hereunder steps to be initiated on some of the tasks undertaken by the 14th Conference of CITU.

7.1 Social issues

7.1.1 The 14th conference laid emphasis on the need to address the specific issues of the socially oppressed sections of the workers like the Dalits, tribals, minorities etc in addition to women workers. It reiterated the earlier decision of the CITU General Council meeting held in June 2012 to take up the issues of the tribals to start with.

7.1.2 CITU has considerable membership and is working among the tribals in states like Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha and in the agency areas in Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh as well as the tribals in plantation and other sectors in West Bengal, in Tripura and Assam. Our unions working among the tribals, like the mines workers' unions, construction workers' unions, plantation workers' unions etc, must study the specific problems of these sections and raise them from the union platform by involving all our members including the non tribals. We are also working among tribals in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where tribal workers represent a substantial section of

workforce. However, the problems of the tribal and their dimensions in West Bengal, Tripura and Assam might not be the same as those they face in the other states.

7.1.3 To have a better and concrete understanding of the specific problems, issues and the demands of the tribal workers, it is necessary to conduct meetings or what we propose to hold 'brainstorming sessions' involving the CITU activists working among the tribal workers who know fully well their specific issues, the tribal workers and the CITU state leadership (president/ general secretary/ office bearer in charge of the union). To start with, such a meeting with representatives from Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and the agency areas of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh may be organised, preferably in Odisha. This would be followed by such meetings separately for West Bengal, Tripura, Assam etc.

7.1.4 These meetings will help us in identifying the specific problems and demands of the tribals, formulate the strategies for our work and guide our affiliated unions in taking up their specific problems. However, we must be clear that we are not forming any separate platform for this work.

7.1.5 Similarly, similar exercise has to be taken up in the case of dalits-issues. In this case, separate

meetings have to be organised for the southern states and for the 'Hindi speaking states'. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu may be included in the southern states meeting as each of these state committees of CITU has its own rich experience in working among dalits. The situation in Kerala being different, we may consider it separately. In other states, similar exercise has to be carried at the state level. The issues of the minorities also need to be taken up in a similar manner.

7.1.6 State Committees have to plan their activities on these issues and implement the same in an organized manner. The reports on initiatives taken in this regard should be sent to CITU Centre without fail.

7.2 Strengthening the work in the private organised sector/MNCs

7.2.1 The 14th conference has emphasised that for the working class struggles to be effective, our strength in the organised sector, particularly in the strategic sectors must be increased manifold.

7.2.2 In the private organised sector, the role of the multinational corporations in suppressing the rights of the workers, particularly the right to organise and collective bargaining and their open refusal to talk to the trade unions has been particularly stark. However in some states like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh etc we have been able to organise the workers in several multinational corporations, lead their struggles and sign agreements. We have been making some efforts in Haryana and Odisha also. However such efforts must be made on a much wider scale and with consistent and planned manner.

7.2.3 Though reports of these struggles are sent, often belatedly, they are almost always incomplete and do not have all the necessary details for the other state committees to learn from them. Sharing these experiences and the strategies adopted by the different state committee of CITU in organising the workers in the modern industries, particularly the multinational corporations is very much necessary to advance our work at the national level.

7.2.4 To facilitate such sharing, meeting of the comrades who are directly involved in organising the workers in the multinational corporations, the actual workers and the state CITU leadership – the president/ general secretary or any other state office bearer directly involved – should be organised. To start with it is proposed that such meeting on MNC unions involving around 50 comrades or so from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Haryana and may be held in Andhra Pradesh.

7.3 Special Economic Zones

7.3.1 The government has granted formal approvals to 583 SEZs as on 30th October 2011, out of which 381 have been notified and 143 are operational. Huge concessions are given to the units in the SEZs as well as the Export Oriented Units outside the SEZ while the workers are subjected to extreme exploitation and denied their basic rights. Even as it is evident that despite such huge concessions, the SEZs could not achieve their proclaimed objectives of boosting exports, generation of employment etc compared to the concessions received, the government has now decided to create National Investment and Manufacturing Zones providing huge incentives to investors even without any obligation to export. The conditions of the workers in these NIMZs will be the same as those in the SEZs.

7.3.2 As decided by the CITU Secretariat, a meeting of the CITU activists and leaders working in the Special Economic Zones was organised in the CITU Tamil Nadu state committee office in Chennai on 12th July 2013. Around 40 CITU activists and SEZ workers from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala including A Soundara Rajan, president and Sukumaran, general secretary of Tamil Nadu state committee, R Sudha Bhaskar, general secretary of Andhra Pradesh state committee and Chandran Pillai, secretary, Kerala state committee of CITU participated. Tapan Sen, general secretary and Hemalata, secretary of CITU participated from the centre.

7.3.3 As per the information that was provided in the meeting, CITU was working in 8 SEZs in Tamil Nadu having 14 affiliated unions while in Kerala it has affiliated unions in 18 units in Cochin SEZ; in Andhra Pradesh though there were no affiliated unions CITU was raising the demands and leading the struggles of workers in some SEZs in Visakhapatnam, Nellore, Chittoor and Medak districts etc

7.3.4 In view of the aggressive exercise for expanding SEZs and establish National Manufacturing Investment Zone (NMIZ) in SEZ pattern with more atrocious conditionalities for labour, it is an urgent necessity to expand our initiative in SEZ areas. All the state committees must make serious efforts to collect information about working of the industrial units in SEZ areas, profit earned by them with company wise details, concrete conditions of labour including specific details on labour-law violations pertaining to minimum wages, working hours, contract work, PF, ESI etc within a time frame and send them to CITU Centre so that those can be compiled in a booklet and used for campaign about the inhuman exploitation of labour in the SEZs. A questionnaire will be circulated in this regard. We have to concentrate our campaign focusing the residential areas where the SEZ workers are residing and make effort to develop contacts with them and through them to develop collective initiative within the units under SEZ.

7.3.5 It is proposed that all the state committees of CITU should collect all details information on SEZs in the respective states, compile and send the same to CITU Centre within three months.

7.4. Campaign to Save ICDS

7.4.1 The government has decided to implement the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in a mission mode, which entails privatisation of the scheme through handing over ICDS projects to NGOs, corporates etc. Despite the big struggles conducted by our federation independently as well as jointly with the other national federation of anganwadi employees, and the recommendations of the 45th ILC, the government is not ready to recognise them as workers and provide due benefits.

7.4.2 To build a nation wide movement along with the beneficiaries of the programme to 'Save ICDS', the AIFAWH organised a workshop with the participation of the central leadership of AIKS, AIAWU, AIDWA and CITU. This workshop emphasised the need to develop a joint country wide movement on the issue. Organising joint meetings with the leadership of these mass organisations at the state and district levels will facilitate in developing an effective campaign to bring pressure on the government. The state committees of CITU must take the initiative to call such meetings and plan the joint campaign as per the concrete plan that will be decided shortly at the central level. Initiative is being taken to have similar exercise on the Mid-Day-Meal scheme, which is also under attack of privatisation and entry of corporate sector and NGOs in a big way and to start with a convention is being organised at the central level.

8. COM JYOTI BASU BIRTH CENTENARY

8.1 The 14th Conference of CITU gave the call to observe Comrade Jyoti Basu birth centenary year from 8th July 2013 to 8th July 2014 in a befitting manner. Seminars, symposiums, public meeting, exhibitions etc should be held involving the mass of the workers and their families in a big way. Publications highlighting the remarkable contributions of our great leader to the working class and democratic movement should be brought out. The centenary year should be utilised to educate our cadres and activists by organising trade union classes, study circles etc throughout the year.

8.2 As per information available at Centre, all the major state committees including Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tripura have already initiated the centenary observance through meetings, seminars etc in respective state capitals. Some States have also planned to have similar meetings at district level during August/September. CITU Centre in association with Delhi CITU organized a meeting on 9th July 2013 at B T R Bhawan Auditorium. All the state committees/federations are requested report in details the programmes undertaken/ planned in this regard.

9. MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATION

9.1 The process of verification of membership of Central Trade Unions by the Union Labour Ministry has reached a crucial stage. All the Central Trade Unions have submitted their claim of membership and CITU lodged a claim of over 57 lakhs(57,85,792). The details of membership claim of other central trade unions have been handed over to us. We have sent the statewide, industrywise membership claim of other central trade unions and proforma for raising objections by email to all state committees. Also those documents recorded in CD was sent by courier to all the state committees.

9.2 Now the state committees have to scrutinize the membership claim of other central trade unions registered-union-wise in all the industries/establishments in the state and raise objections in the prescribed format. Every state committee has to organize this task of scrutinizing and raising objections to other central trade union's claim effectively, compile all objections in the prescribed format and send the same to CITU Centre. CITU Circular no 16/2013 issued on 4th July 2013 urged for sending those objections to CITU Centre by the end of August 2013. Till the middle of August we have not received anything from any states in that regard which clearly indicates that this task has not yet been taken up seriously in the states.

9.3 In the process of verification, if CITU has to defend its position, we cannot afford to ignore or neglect this task of raising objections to other TU's claim on the basis of which spot verification will be conducted. All the state Committees are requested to please take up this task seriously and send their objections in the prescribed format, registered-union-wise to CITU Centre BY 15TH September 2013. At the same time all our affiliated unions have to be advised to keep their membership records and related documents ready as per the check-list circulated many times to face the verification.

10. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

10.1.1 After the last conference CITU's activities in the international plane have increased further.

Working class struggles in the country and frontline role of CITU and its fraternal/associate federations in those struggles have further brightened the image of CITU and have attracted the attention and interests of many trade unions abroad to have regular exchanges and relations with CITU. During the intervening period the participation and interventions of CITU and the affiliated and associate federations in consolidating and expanding WFTU activities have also enhanced substantially.

10.1.2 CITU has participated in the 102nd session of International Labour Conference held in June 2013 at Geneva where Hemlata, Secretary CITU represented CITU in the official delegation from India.

10.1.3 Swadesh Devroye, Secretary, CITU had attended WFTU Secretariat meeting & International Trade Union Conference held in Belgium in May last. He also attended meeting of the Secretariat of WFTU held at Athens, Greece in June, 2013.

10.1.4 During this period several meetings of the industry wise internal meetings was held where CITU representatives had participated. Prasanta Nandi Chowdhury, General Secretary EEFI attended Executive Committee meeting of TUI (Energy) in Johannesburg, South Africa and Divakaran Kodakkat Kuthully, Gen. Secy., Transport Workers' Federation, Kerala attended TUI Transport Preparatory Meeting in Athens, Greece.

10.1.5 E Karim, Secretary CITU participated to May Day celebration in Cuba. Amanullah Khan, President, AIEA attended meeting of SIGTUR held in Argentina and Sreekumaran Nair, Asstt. General Secretary of All India State Govt. Employees' Federation attended 10th National Congress of NEHAWU in Johannesburg, South Africa.

10.1.6 Soundararajan Kannan of Tamilnadu State Committee attended ACFTU/Actrav-ITC, ILO in Beijing, China and Dr. Kashmir Singh Thakur, Secretary CITU attended India-EU Joint Seminar on 'Social Protection' in Belgium. P Abhimanyu Perumal, General Secretary, BSNL Employees' Union, and Salil Kumar Biswas, General Secretary, ONGC Workmen's Association, Kolkata attended World Conference against A&H Bombs in Hiroshima, Japan. K Chandran Pillai, Secretary, CITU Kerala State Committee attended SIGTUR Futures Commission Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa.

10.1.7 Apart from above meetings, many foreign delegates attended Executive Committee meeting of TUI (Metal & Mining) at Visakhapatnam and EEFI National Conference in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu.

10.2 International Day of Action :

10.2.1 CITU has been actively observing International Day of Action at the call of WFTU on 3rd October every year throughout the country. Increasing participation of the unions in observing the day is notable. The basic demands framed by WFTU last year included minimum need for human survival viz., Food, Water, Shelter, Health, Education etc. This year also following programme is decided for country wide observance of International Day of Action on 3rd October.

(i) To conduct joint meetings/processions/demonstrations in different parts of the country, in the state capitals/industrial centres and all affiliated unions to be called upon to organise this programme, ensure large number of participants and popularise WFTU, its demands.

(ii) Workers should wear Badges containing the demands on that day.

(iii) Similarly common posters will be prepared for campaigning.

(iv) A Hand bill will also be prepared and shall be distributed on behalf of WFTU for campaigning.

(v) A Press Conference will be organised in Delhi on the eve of the International Day of Action.

10.2.2 It is therefore an important task to campaign among workers about their participation in the day along with billions of workers all over the world. Our state committees need to take initiative to campaign among the workers and rally them in the observance of International Day of Action. Our campaign must focus on the deepening crisis of capitalism and emerging struggles worldwide to resist the onslaught of the capitalist class against their rights and livelihood. Proper planning should be made to reach the campaign to the workplace level and involve the workplace level committee members and activists in the campaign. We should also simultaneously expose the role of the Govt. in denying these basic rights to the workers and people at large.

11. FUTURE COURSE OF STRUGGLES

11.1 Joint Struggles by Central Trade Unions

11.1.1 The 14th Conference of CITU while evaluating the united countrywide struggles by trade unions and the last two days general strike on 20-21 February 2013 in particular, called upon the working class to widen the unity further and carry the united struggle to further height.

11.1.2 The initial response of the Govt of India to the latest united action by the trade unions as expressed through the Prime Minister's inaugural address to the 45th Indian Labour Conference and also the formation of Group of Ministers to discuss with the Central Trade Unions on their demands have to be taken note of. The Govt could not refute any of the demands raised by the joint platform of struggle, rather mentioned some of them as unexceptionable. But at the same time, in the first meeting between the Group of Ministers and Central Trade Unions did not reflect as yet any prospect of realization of even some of the demands and it is too early to even comment on any prospect of positive development on any of those demands.

11.1.3 In this background, the Central Trade Unions had two rounds of joint meeting to decide the next course of joint action. There has been general consensus on the need for intensifying the struggle in the days to come in view of still unresponsive attitude of the govt towards the burning demands of the workers. As decided jointly by the Central Trade Unions, a massively attended

National Convention was held on 6th August 2013 at Mavalanakar Hall, New Delhi. From the National Convention, following programmes have been decided in the preparatory phase.

- 1) Demonstration/Rallies/Satyagraha at all State Capitals with respective statewide mobilisation **on 25th September 2013**
- 2) Massive Demonstration before Parliament with main mobilization from neighbouring states **on 12th December, 2013**
- 3) On the same day of Demonstration before Parliament (**12th December 2013**); District-level Demonstrations at all District Headquarters all over the country.
- 4) Sectoral programme of joint actions for effectively opposing Restructuring, Outsourcing etc and on sector-specific issues/demands and against Divestment of Shares in Public Sector Enterprises
- 5) Exclusive joint Action Programmes on the demand of Minimum Wage and Contract Workers related other demands.

11.1.4 All the CITU unions, state committees and industrwise federations have to take initiative to organize that widespread campaign is organized in every workplaces and workers colonies to ensure maximum possible mobilization in the above programmes. We must also note here that our independent initiative in the campaign and mobilization on the main demands of the joint struggle is of crucial importance for making the joint state level mobilizations in September and demonstration before Parliament in December massive to pave the way for and creating conditions for higher phase of action.

11.2 Movemental Initiative against Disinvestment and Restructuring

11.2.1 We need to focus our movemental initiative keeping in view the aggressive onslaught being planned on the public sector industries by the neoliberal regime in the name of disinvestment and restructuring.

11.2.2 Already initiative is being taken in number of PSUs. The initiative being taken by the federations in Coal India against disinvestment has already been mentioned in the previous paragraph in the report. Successful 14 days long united strike action by workers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation could ultimately stop the handing over shares of NLC to private hands: instead 5% share has been transferred to State Govt owned corporation at the initiative of AIADMK Govt in the state.

11.2.3 In the port and dock sector, mushrooming of so called minor ports in private sector outside the TAMP (Tariff Authority of Major Ports) regime has already affected the financial viability of all major ports under Central Govt in a big way and Govt is planning to corporatize the major ports on the plea of better professional management but the real aim is to pave the way for privatization through gradual process of disinvestment. Till now, all the major federations of port & dock employees are jointly opposing such corporatization move. CITU unions have to play more active role in campaigning at the grass root level on the disastrous design of the Govt to privatise the port operation to create condition for such joint action by all the federations.

11.2.4 In the Civil Aviation sector, Air India has already been pushed down to fourth position in terms of market share in traffic through calculated deregulatory drive on the one hand and reckless restructuring of the public sector airlines on the other. In the Airport sector, following privatization of Delhi and Mumbai airports, move is on to privatise other airports after modernization/renovation with public sector investment.

11.2.5 Simultaneously, aggressive exercise for multiple round disinvestment is being planned in almost all the highly profit making PSUs and Indian Oil Corporation, NTPC, HAL, RINL etc have already been shortlisted for immediate sale. Such a situation warrants all round initiative by CITU to unleash concerted campaign and agitation in all the PSUs and through that process create conditions for activating other unions as well as the Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions both at respective PSU as well as at national level. In certain industries already initiative is being taken to organize anti-disinvestment campaign and agitation. On 29th July 2013, in Delhi a national convention of the federations of workers in the petroleum sector was held to organize countrywide anti-privatisation move in the petroleum sector which was followed by a meeting of 21 unions in the Indian Oil Corporation to decide company-wide joint campaign against disinvestment and joint protest memorandum to Prime Minister.

11.2.6 We must note that the anti-privatisation struggle cannot be kept limited within the domain of trade union movement since it is not the concern of the workers alone. The existence and operation of public sector units covering almost all vital sectors of the economy contribute a lot to peoples' well being at large besides keeping the national economy afloat with large doses of public investment even during the period of worst recession. It is the most crucial task of the trade union movement including the trade union movement in public sector to carry this understanding to the mass of the common people and involve the entire society in the anti-privatisation and anti-disinvestment struggle. There is still serious shortcoming in this regard in our movement and activities and we have to consciously overcome the same. CITU must take initiative to involve its PSU based trade unions in the campaign.

11.2.7 From the experience of anti-disinvestment struggle in Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Tamilnadu, Rastriya Ispat Nigam, Visakhapatnam and also NALCO in Orissa it has become clear that if the campaign and agitation against disinvestment/privatization by the workers could be taken among the people and society effectively by the joint initiative by the trade unions, it could move the entire society and create compulsion even for those political outfits and governments in the states, who are otherwise not against the policy of privatization/disinvestment to stand against the privatization move. Determined initiative by the working class movement to involve the people in the struggle against anti-people policies possesses such potential for forcing retreat to retrograde policy regime.

11.2.8 To unleash such initiative and also to draw a countrywide agitation by the public sector workers against disinvestment/privatization, an all India convention public sector unions affiliated and associated with CITU was held on 18th August 2013 at Ranchi where around 150 leading comrades from almost all the states and public sector unions in the country participated. The convention planned for detail campaign programme against the ongoing disinvestment/privatization drive in all the public sector units with a focus to involve other unions in the campaign and build resistance against the privatization/disinvestment move. The convention also constituted a steering committee comprising representative from the concerned states and major PSU unions to monitor the activities, campaign and struggle by our unions in the public sector units.

12. INDEPENDENT INITIATIVE

12.1 As emphasized by 14th Conference of CITU, continuity of our independent initiative in the campaign and mobilization on the main demands of the joint struggle is of crucial importance for making the joint action programmes successful. This is also required to pave the way for and creating conditions for carrying the struggle to further height. In view of the changing political situation with the country heading for general elections in April/May 2014, militant and massive mobilizations at the joint agitation/campaign programmes and our independent campaign for the same is of urgent necessity for widening and consolidating the unity of workers at grass root level and sustaining all in unity of the workers and the trade unions in the next phase of action.

12.2 At the same time, in the run up to the political battle forthcoming in 2014, through such independent campaign only on burning issues facing the workers and the people, we have to expose the anti-people policies behind the burning problems facing the workers and also the pro-imperialist politics of the ruling class behind such policies. That is the most important political organizational tasks before us.

12.3 We have to plan our independent activities of campaign and agitation with focus on this particular political organizational task. All our industrywise federation must plan campaign and agitation on the sector specific issues involving both the industry and the demands of the workers. Such programme of campaign must appropriately expose the anti-people character of the neoliberal policy regime while pressing for the sector specific issues.

12.4 Secondly, at the initiative of state committees, intensive campaign on the 10 point demands of the united platform with particular focus on Rs 10000 minimum wages, same wage for same work for the contract workers, in defence of trade union rights, universal social security etc should continue with all seriousness. This continuity in campaign will be helpful in various sectors/units to develop sector/unit level movement to improve wages and other service conditions.

12.5 Thirdly in every segments of unorganized sector workers, where we are working, initiative has to be taken for agitation on sector specific demands of the workers on the one hand and a simultaneous campaign and mobilization for registering the workers under the various welfare schemes mentioned under Unorganised Workers Social Security Act. While making all efforts to ensure that the unorganised workers do get in practice the benefits to which they are entitled to, we must also expose the shortcomings and loopholes in these welfare schemes, the government's apathy in making adequate financial allocations and the policies that are responsible for this.

12.6 CITU's independent initiative for bringing together all varieties of Scheme Workers in united struggle for their basic rights of being recognized as workers and not volunteers along with attendant benefits have received good response throughout the country. We could succeed in bringing the issue in the national agenda and the 45th Indian Labour Conference have to make almost unanimous recommendation on their basic demands. We have to build up further on these successes and organize and mobilize these one-crore strong workforce in the fold of active trade union movement. Among the scheme workers, the Anganwadi, mid-day meal workers and ASHA are more or less organized in almost all the state and quite active in their respective movements. Para teachers and some other segment of scheme workers are being organized in some of the states. But yet a large section of workers in other central govt schemes are to be brought under the fold of the

trade union movement and rallied in united struggle. All the state committees are requested take up this job of organizing other sections of scheme workers in trade unions which only can facilitate building up all India coordination among them and rally them in the struggle of the scheme workers on common policy related demands with their full potential.

13. Conclusion

13.1 The 14th Conference of CITU made a clear pointer to unambiguous rightward shift in the governance in all fronts. The intervening period witnessed aggravation of the said trend of right-wing assertions by the Govt in the form of visible servility to imperialist dictates both in political and economic front.

13.2 Precisely in this background, the country is witnessing desperate pursuit of the policies of reckless deregulation and privatization almost in every sector of the economy totally uncaring of their disastrous impact on the national economy as well as on the common people. And at the same time, cruel insensitivity of those in governance to the sufferings of the mass of the commoners' households reeling under price rise, poverty, malnutrition and unemployment and their arrogant refusal to respond to the resentment and anguish of the working people being expressed through various democratic means urging for a better deal indicate a emergent fascistic trend.

13.3 The situation therefore warrants much more combative struggle by the working class along with the people. The desperate bid of the rightist forces to occupy greater space by marginalising the Left can only be combated by the militant assertion of the working class by heightened united struggles against the neoliberal order. The 14th Conference of CITU directed us in clear terms to focus our activities "on intensifying the class struggle against the fall out of the neoliberal order on the economy, society and the polity and against the neoliberal order itself instead of groping indecisively here and there." We have to ensure widest class mobilisation at grass root level on the issues facing the workers and the people at large and for that our campaign must not fail to reach yet un-reached section of toiling people. This alone can pave the way for united countrywide counteroffensive by the working class against the onslaught of the right wing forces on the country's economy and the people.

13.4 We have therefore to undertake much bigger initiative at all levels of our organisation for channelising the peoples' anger against the miseries inflicted by neoliberal order, against the cohorts of neoliberalism in the polity, in the track of intensive class struggle.

13.5 To translate the above tasks into concrete reality, we must elevate our political ideological and organisational consciousness to a qualitatively higher plane at all levels of our organisation. We must admit that we are lagging behind subjectively to meet the challenges as well as to harness the potential, i.e. to effectively utilise the objective situation that has unfolded before us.

13.6 The 14th Conference of CITU has clearly defined our task on organisation. The Report asserted, "it is just not managing the situation somehow and inching towards expanding the base - we have to bring about qualitative change in the functioning of the organisation at all levels - unleash initiative at all levels in a much bigger way; reach the yet vast section of unreached; build up capacity at all levels to ensure carrying the class understanding and ideology more effectively and convincingly to grass root level; expand a cadre base to address the organisational and movemental requirements

more effectively; expand our organisation in both organised and unorganised sector; take focussed attention to address the problems of socially oppressed sections of the class and organise them in the class movement; attain the capacity of attracting workers in the modern organised sector, particularly in strategic industries; take up leading role in the trade union and class movement; and last but not the least create the capacity to recognise, analyse and link every workplace level issues with its bearing on the society. Workplace level struggles must enable the workers to relate with the society and carry the people along, if people are to be rallied round the struggles of the working class. We have to decisively defeat all trends of personalisation and embed the organisation on the most effective practice of democratic functioning at all levels to unleash collectivity and collective initiative all around, if we are to meet the challenges before us.”

13.7 The challenges before us are no doubt stupendous, but our ideology and its serious pursuit in the field of organisation, mobilisation and action is the greatest weapon at our command. We will overcome, we have to overcome and let us dedicate ourselves for accomplishing the tasks we have already undertaken.

With greetings,

Long live unity of the working class

Long Live CITU

TAPAN SEN
General Secretary

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)

Working Committee Meeting

27 – 29 August 2013, Jaipur, Rajasthan

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AFTER THE 14TH CONFERENCE OF CITU

The 14th conference of CITU gave the clarion call to 'Reach the Unreached'. The conference decided to organise an independent nation wide campaign and mobilisation on the three demands – minimum wages, social security benefits for all and equal wages and benefits for contract workers doing the same job as the permanent workers in the first fortnight of June. The other important countrywide programmes during this period were observance of May Day, CITU Foundation Day and the commencement of Comrade Jyoti Basu's birth centenary. In addition, campaigns and struggles on local issues were held in most of the states. However, the serious weakness of not sending reports, particularly timely reports continues in the case of most of our state committees and affiliated federations. It is regrettable that we have not yet been able to overcome this shortcoming despite repeated discussions. As a result, the report of activities given below does not fully reflect the actual activities, campaigns and struggles that took place under the leadership of CITU in different parts of the country.

Reporting of the 14th conference of CITU

It was decided that reporting of the 14th conference should be taken up in April – May to take the message of the conference and its decisions to all members of CITU. A note outlining the points to be reported was sent from the CITU centre. Almost all the state committees planned the reporting of the conference.

In Kerala, meetings for the reporting of the 14th conference of CITU were held in 8 centres in the state on 3-4 June 2013. 2080 members of the CITU district councils participated in these meetings, which were addressed by the national president and general secretary of CITU. Public meetings were held in 4 centres on the occasion. In addition area level meetings of workers were held all over the state to report the decisions of the 14th conference of CITU

In Tripura, reporting was done in meetings held in all the sub divisions in the state.

West Bengal state committee of CITU printed a booklet covering the topics discussed in the 14th conference and sold in the meetings held for the reporting. All the major unions and all district committees of CITU organised such meetings. In some districts, special sessions of CITU district council or extended working committee meetings were convened. May Day, CITU Foundation Day and the country wide campaign decided by the 14th conference of CITU were planned in these meetings.

May Day

In many states joint processions and rallies were held on the occasion of May Day. Hundreds of workers participated in the May Day rally in Delhi. In Gujarat, joint rallies were held in Ahmedabad,

Bhavnagar, Junagarh, Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Vadodara. A massive rally was organised in Srinagar as well as in several places in the Jammu region in Jammu and Kashmir. Anganwadi employees, ASHAs, construction workers, power project workers, railway loading and unloading workers, casual, contract and daily wage workers in the state horticulture, agriculture and power development departments, Centaur hotel employees etc participated. Prabhat pheris were organised in the morning in Jharia and several other places in Jharkhand in which hundreds of coal mine workers, transport workers, and other sections of employees and toiling people participated. In Hazaribagh a seminar was organised on 'East India Company and the present policies of the government'. In Punjab brick kiln workers, transport workers, government employees, anganwadi employees etc participated in the May Day rallies organised all over the state. May Day rallies were also organised by CITU in Chandigarh. In Rajasthan CITU affiliated union observed May Day by hoisting the CITU flags near their factory gates in Jaipur. Hundreds of workers participated in the meetings held on the occasion. Rallies were also held in Dongarpur, Bhilwada, Jodhpur, Chittorgarh etc. Workers from jute mills, Duncan fertilisers and other industries as well as government employees participated in large numbers in the May Day rally organised by CITU in Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. Rallies were also organised in Azamgarh, Deoria etc in the state in which large numbers of workers including ASHAs, mid day meal workers and industrial workers participated.

In Kerala, rallies were held in different places in all the districts. Around 26000 workers participated in the rallies held in 17 places in Kollam district; around 15000 participated in the 13 rallies held in different places in Kozhikode district; rallies were also held in many places in Trissur, Kannur, Mallappuram, Kasargode, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Palakkad, Idukki, Waynad and other districts in the state. In Pampady in Kottayam district, traditionally May Day is celebrated as a festival with sports events, children's programmes and cultural activities being held throughout the day. Family members of workers participated in large numbers in these programmes.

In Tripura processions and mass meetings were held in all the 19th sub divisions; a massive public meeting was held in the state capital addressed by the chief minister.

The West Bengal state committee published a special issue of their monthly journal on the occasion of May Day, covering the 14th conference of CITU in detail. Despite the violence unleashed by the TMC in the state, May Day was celebrated by the working class of the state with enthusiasm. In some places workers had to unfurl the red flag resisting the attacks by the TMC goons. All union and CITU offices were decorated with red flags and lamps. Small and larger rallies were organised in all the districts as well as at many areas in Kolkata. A mammoth joint rally of all left trade unions was held in Kolkata. The state committee printed and distributed 50000 copies of the May Day manifesto, 20000 posters, 2 lakhs badges and 4 lakhs chain flags on the occasion.

CITU Foundation Day

The Foundation Day of CITU was observed through unfurling of the red flag of CITU in its offices, including its headquarters in Delhi and holding meetings, all over the country. In Kerala, public meetings were conducted in all the districts on the occasion of CITU foundation day on 30th May. In West Bengal, it was observed at the state centre of CITU as well as by all its district committees on 30th May. Different programmes including blood donation camps, cultural and literary activities were organised on the occasion. In Kolkata established organised sector unions including in CESC,

KMC, CSTC, and CTC observed the CITU foundation day. In Tripura flags were hoisted in the morning in all the CITU offices in the state and meetings were held in all the sub divisions.

Reports of the observance of CITU Foundation Day in all the districts and industrial centres were reported from Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands etc.

National campaign of CITU

Evening dharnas were held in 175 centres in Kerala on 7th June, as part of the national campaign on the three demands per the decision of the 14th conference of CITU. This was followed by meetings of workers at the village level on 8-11 June and processions to the district administrative headquarters in all districts and to the Raj Bhawan in Thiruvananthapuram on 12th June. Around 69200 workers participated in these mobilisations. Thousands of leaflets explaining the demands were distributed.

Almost all the major CITU affiliated unions in the West Bengal along with its district and regional coordination committee implemented the campaign call of the 14th conference of CITU with earnest sincerity. Preparations for the campaign were chalked out along with the reporting of the all India conference. Some burning local problems of the workers were also taken up in several districts. 20000 leaflets, 6000 posters and 100 banners were distributed in Kolkata. The North 24 Paraganas district committee started the campaign on 21st May and continued up to 7th June. Around 10000 women workers, mostly anganwadi employees, ASHAs, mid day meal workers, municipal and health workers participated in a rally held as part of the campaign on 4th June. Around 20000 participated in a rally organised in Titagarh. In addition demonstrations and gate meetings were held all over the state including the districts most affected by violence. Thousands of beedi workers participated in Murshidabad districts. Thousands of leaflets, posters and handbills were distributed highlighting the demands. A massive rally was held on 7th June as culmination of the campaign despite the police denying permission. In Birbhum, rallies and mass meetings were held in 16 blocks from 31st May to 6th June culminating in a mass mobilisation in front of the labour department's offices in all 3 sub divisions on 7th June in which 500 – 3000 workers participated. In Burdwan district demonstrations were held in front of the DLC offices in the sub divisional headquarters of Asansol and Durgapur. Dilip Sarkar who presided over the meeting in Asansol on 7th June was murdered on 9th June. In West Midnapore district demonstrations were held as part of the campaign, defying the atrocities by the TMC. Industrial workers of Howrah and Nadia participated in a dharna in front of the labour commissioner's office in Uluberia and Kalyani on 7th June.

General body meetings were held in all districts and Bengaluru city as part of the preparations for the campaign in Karnataka. Signatures were collected on memorandum addressed to the state government. The state committee prepared plans to approach workers in more than 10 new factories during the campaign. Leaflets were distributed in 25 districts leaflets. Demonstrations were held in 93 taluk headquarters in which thousands of workers participated

In Rajasthan, dharnas, processions and rallies were held at local level followed by huge demonstrations in 6 district headquarters on 5th June. Memoranda were submitted to the district labour authorities.

Rallies, processions, and dharnas were held in 50 places in Punjab as part of the national campaign of CITU. Road blocks for 1 hour were organised in 50 places on 10th June. On 14th June, protest demonstrations, rallies and dharnas were held in front of the additional labour commissioners' offices all over the state and memoranda were submitted. Saral safai workers' union was formed and registered on the occasion of this campaign and this union also joined the campaign.

In Assam, 47000 leaflets were distributed and 12000 posters were pasted all over the state focussing the three demands of the national campaign. Huge demonstrations were held in 22 districts in which around 30000 workers from both organised and unorganised sectors participated. They included construction workers, contract workers and scheme workers;

Block level campaign was held in 4 districts of Uttarakhand through distribution of leaflets among the workers as well as the common people. District level demonstrations were held. 500 horse owners and workers in Gaurikund participated in two days' strike following this campaign, on 11 – 12 June.

The Uttar Pradesh state committee planned to conduct the campaign week all over the state. Some unions including the Sugar Mill Workers' Union in Bijour distributed leaflets in thousands. Bulundshahr district committee of CITU distributed 5000 leaflets. Dharnas were held in front of the offices of the sub divisional magistrates in several districts.

The Himachal state committee planned the campaign and printed leaflets for distribution. However many district committees did not take up the job of distribution of leaflets and campaign with due seriousness. Demonstrations were held in district headquarters on different days.

Jyoti Basu birth centenary

Almost all the state committees of CITU have commenced observation of Com Jyoti Basu's birth centenary. Kerala state committee decided to organise 3 seminars in Kozhikode, Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram as part of the observation of Jyoti Basu's birth centenary. Besides, seminars and rallies etc have also been planned in the state in all the districts during October – November. The state committee has also decided to publish a souvenir on the occasion.

The West Bengal state committee decided to celebrate the birth centenary of Jyoti Basu in a befitting manner. Programmes were held in all the centres of CITU in the state on 8th July marking the commencement of the birth centenary. It has also been decided to publish a book with articles by eminent trade union and political leaders.

A seminar was organised by the Andhra Pradesh state committee of CITU in Hyderabad on 10th August to commence Com Jyoti Basu's birth centenary.

Other activities

1. Andhra Pradesh

Due to the adverse impact of the neoliberal policies being pursued by the central as well as the state governments dissatisfaction is growing among the workers. More and more workers are

responding to our calls for campaigns and struggles on demands like Rs 10000 minimum wage, payment of pending wages, provident fund, pension etc. The state committee of CITU and the affiliated unions held state and district level struggles including strikes depending on the preparedness of the workers. Even in districts like Adilabad, Nizamabad and Warangal where the separate Telangana sentiment is strong, workers in large numbers joined the strikes on local problems at the call of CITU. Big struggles were held by workers in several sectors including IKP, Tourism Corporation, anganwadi employees etc.

The Andhra Pradesh state committee of CITU took up the work in clusters and mandal centres and in the state wide sectors related to the state and central governments as strategic tasks during this period.

Studies on the local problems of the workers were conducted in 76 clusters during this period. Plans of action were formulated on the basis of these studies in 41 clusters. Campaigns and agitations on the basis of the identified local problems were held in two districts through distribution of leaflets, meetings, and demonstrations. Through these efforts we have been able to form 79 new unions in 15 districts. As part of PS centenary programme, the CITU leaders conducted a study on the manufacturing sector in 5 districts and organised seminars on the basis of the findings. Agitations on local problems are being held in 86 clusters. Study circles for CITU activists are being held regularly in seven districts.

As per the decision of the last state committee held in March, a study was held in 163 mandal centre villages of 13 districts on local unorganised workers (other than state related) and their problems. Leaflets were distributed and agitations were held in 34 Mandal centre villages. A study was also conducted on the impact of increase in domestic electricity charges in 144 mandals by going through the bills. During this period 74 unions were formed in mandal centre villages.

Study circles were held in 532 mandal centres in March, 348 in April and in 543 mandal centres in May. Efforts are being made to conduct study circles every month for selected CITU activists in all mandal centres of the state. CITU state committee also decided to hold as many open seminars as possible in the mandal centres and study circles where seminars were not possible.

Strikes and struggles

The CITU affiliated union in AP Tourism Corporation went on strike from 8th April 2013 demanding implementation of the agreement reached in October 2012. The contract workers also joined the strike even though their demand of increase in wages was settled. Since the beginning AITUC sided with the management and tried its best to break the strike. 50% out of the total 2000 workers joined the strike. Under threat of termination of services the contract workers joined duties.

After 42 days of strike, the corporation announced removal of manpower workers and scrapping of the Agencies. Through our efforts all the workers were reinstated. Some shortcomings in conducting the strike like taking into account the adverse objective conditions, not discussing in the state centre of CITU to collectively formulate our strategy were identified.

Twenty Thousand Indira Kranti Patham (IKP) animators went on strike on 13 – 31 May demanding wages, appointment letters and identity cards. The strike was successful in 626 mandals of 15

districts. As a result of the strike, for the first time the government agreed to pay Rs 2000 every month from SERP funds through village organisations, to collect Rs 50 from each group and pay to the animators, issue identity cards and appointment letters.

The 'HR policy employees' of SERP went on strike on their own from 21st May to 8th June demanding enhancement in wages and allowances. 4000 employees participated in the strike and organised relay fast in Hyderabad. CITU intervened fully in the strike and pressurised the officials to hold negotiations. The strike was withdrawn on the assurance of enhancement in wages, reinstatement of those removed from service and no victimisation. We conducted separate meeting for them during the strike, which was attended by 150 employees from 12 districts. A comrade from CITU state centre, who was given the responsibility to help to them, was continuously with them for all the 23 days. All our organisations extended solidarity to their struggle. AITUC made attempts to wean them away from us but could not succeed.

2000 IKP computer operators working at the mandal level went on strike on their own for 11 days from 21st May to 2nd June. We intervened in their strike, held a state wide convention and formed a committee. On our intervention negotiations were held and wages were increased by Rs 1500 to Rs 3500. They have affiliated the organisation to us.

10500 of the total 12000 clusters and village activists working under the IKP Non Pesticide Management programme went on strike for one month from 1st April to 1st May. Though they are not affiliated to us we have intervened in their strike, formed a struggle committee and ensured its effective functioning throughout the strike period. Wages increased from Rs 3000 to Rs 6000 after negotiations. Now they have affiliated their organisation to us.

Our anganwadi employees' union organised a 'Chalo Hyderabad' programme on 11th June demanding the state government to enhance wages on par with central government, provision of retirement benefits, age relaxation for appointment as supervisors etc. Around 18000 anganwadi employees from all the 23 districts participated, despite the call being given at a short notice. A big procession and public meeting were held on the day. The union rejected the offer of an increase of Rs 500 for workers and Rs 250 for helpers and decided to intensify the stir at the local level. It gave call for relay hunger strikes, dharnas before mandal offices and three days strike from 8-10 July. Jathas were conducted all over the state to 'Save ICDS'. Around 1 lakh booklets were printed and sold. 15 lakhs leaflets of 6 types were distributed. District and project level demonstrations and other forms of protest were organised during the strike period in which thousands of anganwadi employees participated. 100500 anganwadi employees participated in the strike and the Black Day on 10th July.

4075 workers of the GVK run '108 ambulance services' went on strike on 18th July demanding wage rise, 8 hours work and government take over of the services. The state government is totally funding the ambulance service but the workers are paid very low wages. The CITU affiliated union has been pursuing the demands with the management since January this year. Several representations were made to the district authorities and the chief minister himself. A series of agitations were held throughout the state during the budget session of the assembly. A strike notice given earlier was withdrawn on the assurance of the commissioner of health and family welfare. But the management refused to even attend the conciliation meetings forcing the workers to go on strike. The management summarily dismissed 256 workers. 700 workers were arrested

by foisting false cases on them. 90 workers in 9 districts were sent to jail. Solidarity demonstrations were organised by the state committee of CITU all over the state with workers from different sectors organising demonstrations in support of the workers. The strike is going on at the time of sending this report.

Other activities

Our union in construction sector gave call for collection of signatures opposing diversion of Building workers welfare fund to the state budget. However, only 49520 signatures were collected, which is far below the strength of the union.

The Municipal workers' union organised a 'Chalo Hyderabad' programme on 12th June in which 13589 municipal workers from 21 districts participated. The police arrested many of them when they tried to proceed towards the state Assembly. Efforts are being made to build united movement.

Several state level mobilisations were held during the budget session of the state assembly in March to June. Altogether around 30000 workers participated in these mobilisations from anganwadi, village revenue assistants, (VRA) and municipal sectors. Mid day meal workers, hamalis, 2nd ANMs, contract outsourcing employees, NMR, contingent and university employees, road transport corporation contract conductors and drivers, MGNREG field assistants etc also conducted 'Chalo Hyderabad'. CITU extended solidarity to other sections like washer men, disabled people, traders, IKP and HR policy employees. Relay hunger strikes were conducted by the employees of '108 ambulance services', anganwadi supervisors and village revenue assistants. During Assembly session,

Trade union classes, workshops

Classes for newly recruited whole timers were held from 3-9 May in Khammam. 136 whole timers attended these classes. 44 of their family members attended separate classes that were conducted for them by AIDWA.

Classes were held for middle class employees on 14- 19 May in Hyderabad; 50 middle class employees attended. 24 activists participated in the state level classes for road transport, electricity and Singareni employees in Hyderabad on 11 – 14 May. 136 attended the classes for the LIC agents held in Hyderabad on 8-10 May

A state workshop was held in Hyderabad on 11- 13 May to discuss our work among working women. 43 women full timers from 18 districts and the state office bearers of CITU working from the state centre participated. The workshop helped us in getting a proper understanding of our work among working women, the role of CITU and the coordination committees.

Conferences

The state conference of Andhra Pradesh anganwadi workers and helpers' union was held on 17-19 March in Visakhapatnam. 330 delegates from 23 districts attended the conference. Around 6000, mainly from Visakhapatnam district participated in the procession and public meeting held on the first day.

The state conference of RTC staff and workers' federation was held on 6-8 June in Nellore.

2. Bihar

Inspired by the experience of women auto drivers in Kerala whom they met during the 14th conference of CITU in Kannur, delegates from Bihar decided to train women in driving auto rickshaws. Patna Zilla Auto Chalak Union encouraged some women from poor families to learn driving and work as auto drivers despite the hostile social environment in the state. The union announced that they would provide free training for women every Sunday. Initially they were helped by some social activists who mobilised a few young housewives for training. Soon, women from different areas in Patna including from its remote areas came to learn driving.

25 women learned driving in the first two months and obtained their driving licenses. They were also provided Karate training for self defence. The union sought financial support from the state government, which agreed to provide Rs 15000 as subsidy. The union also took steps to ensure security for the women auto drivers who are now plying between Patna railway station and airport, working during the day. It is making efforts to raise their awareness of these women auto drivers about women's oppression in the present patriarchal society, their basic human rights, the impact of the neoliberal policies etc.

The conference of Bihar Jharkhand Electricity Field Employees' Union was held on 12th April 2013 in Patna. 400 workers from generation, transmission and distribution sectors participated. A new 63 member committee was elected in the conference.

A massive rally of beedi workers was held on 16th June in which thousands of beedi workers from Jamui participated demanding wage rise, welfare benefits etc.

3. Delhi

A joint convention was held in Noida on 5th May against the police attacks and arrests of the workers on the first day of the two days' country wide general strike. This was followed by a massive joint trade union demonstration in front of the office of the district magistrate in Greater Noida on 20th May protesting against the police repression in the area. Hundreds of members of CITU, AITUC, AICCTU, UTUC, INTUC, HMS and BMS joined the demonstrations demanding the immediate release on bail and withdrawal of cases against the innocent workers arrested in connection with the two days' joint country wide general strike in February. They also demanded effective enforcement of labour laws. A joint memorandum addressed to the chief minister was submitted to the district magistrate.

4. Haryana

The Industrial Mazdoor Union affiliated to CITU led the strike of more than 5000 workers in 350 spinning mills in Panipat demanding implementation of minimum wages. Demonstrations and road blockades were organised to highlight their demands. The strike was withdrawn after eight days on reaching a tripartite agreement on increase in category wise wages, fixed working hours between 9.00 AM to 6.00 PM with 1 hour lunch break.

On the midnight of 18th May, the state government pounced upon the workers of Manesar plant of Maruti Suzuki who were staging a peaceful dharna in Kaithal, near the residence of the state industry minister since 24th March. The workers were demanding reinstatement of the more than 2000 permanent and contract workers whose services were terminated and the release of the 151 workers who are languishing in jail since around one year. Police resorted to lathi charge, demolished the makeshift shelter and arrested more than 100 workers. CITU state committee extended its full support and solidarity to the struggle led by the Maruti Suzuki Workers' Provisional Committee.

To prevent the protest demonstration and public meeting called by CITU and Sarva Karmachari Sangh on the next day, the administration imposed section 144 in the entire town and even prevented workers and people from entering Kaithal. Police resorted to brutal lathi charge seriously injuring many people including an anganwadi worker who is also a state committee member of CITU and a local councillor of CPI (M). Many workers were also arrested. False cases including attempt to murder cases were foisted. CITU along with Maruti Workers' Union organised a massive protest demonstration against this police high handedness on 20th May. Demonstrations were held by CITU all over the state on 21st May.

A conference of factory workers' union was held in Gurgaon on 9th June. Hundreds of workers from IFB, Automotive Private Limited, Ricko Auto, Lokonet Hemant India Private Limited, Raitor Corporation, Automax, American Institute of Indian Studies etc participated. A new team of office bearers was unanimously elected.

The Joint Action Committee against Repression of Maruti Suzuki Workers gave the call for a 'Right to Justice' rally in Kaithal on 20th July demanding high level enquiry into the brutal lathi charge and police repression on 19th May and punishment to the SDM and the police officers responsible for it, immediate release of all the leaders and activists who have been in jail since 19th May and withdrawal of the false cases against them. They also demanded release of the 147 Maruti Suzuki workers who are in jail since more than a year. Thousands of workers, employees and members of other mass organisations participated in the rally.

The construction workers' union and the brick kiln workers' union decided to organise a joint movement culminating in state level mobilisation. As preparations for the state level demonstration on 19th August, district level joint dharnas were organised in several districts including Hisar, Fatehabad, Bhiwani, Gurgaon etc. Memoranda were submitted to the district authorities demanding registration as members of the construction workers' welfare board, separate infrastructure for it, sheds for the workers, Rs 15000 minimum wage, increase in the compensation in cases of accidental death, smart cards to the workers etc.

Organisational workshops in four zones- Hisar, Rohtak, Kurukshetra, and Mahendragarh - were organised by the construction workers' union. 212 block level activists of the union participated in these workshops.

5. Himachal Pradesh

The Mid day Meal Workers' union held demonstrations on their demands in 8 district headquarters on 6th May in which around 1000 mid day meal workers participated.

The Anganwadi Workers and Helpers' Union in the state held a massive rally in Shimla on 27th May. Despite the heavy rain, thousands of anganwadi employees from all over the state marched to the state secretariat and submitted a memorandum demanding Rs 5000 to workers and Rs 3000 for helpers, recognition as government employees, regularisation, etc

As per the decision of the state committee different sections of workers held demonstrations in front of the Labour Commissioner's office on 25 – 29 June. Safail karmacharis, hydel workers, security workers, medical representatives and hospital employees participated in these demonstrations in different days. The Labour Commissioner avoided attending the office. Due to the pressure the meeting of the minimum wages advisory committee was held on 23rd July.

The management of Subhash Group Hydel project removed the union leaders in the Kangra district from service in June, against which the workers went on strike for 13 days. The union leaders were reinstated.

The workers in Ambuja cement went on a day's strike on 15th July at the call of the unions affiliated to CITU and BMS. This was followed by relay hunger strike for one week. The management is at present holding talks with the joint committee of the unions. However, they have also filed a case against the unions in the Supreme Court.

At the initiative of the state centre of CITU a union of JP Cement workers was organised which has now around 500 members. Around 600 workers gathered to submit the charter of demands to the management as per the decision of the general body of the union held on 20th July. The management is putting pressure on the union leadership and is itself under pressure due to the activities of the union.

CITU formed a union of workers in 'Catch', a company of producing bottled water. The management has transferred the union leaders against which workers are on strike since 27th July. 200 workers of Fitwell Company in Rampur went on a successful strike for 3 days demanding 'leave wages'. The workers of Tangun Ramai and Shimla projects went on a strike for one month on their demands compelling the management to concede them. The workers of Savda Kuddu hydro project organised a road blockade on 11th April in which around 800 workers participated. The management was compelled to pay the four months arrears.

The employees of VCS school in Shimla are conducting dharna outside the gate since the last 15 days.

6. Jammu & Kashmir

The state conference of CITU in Jammu and Kashmir was held in Srinagar on 1-2 May 2013. A massive rally of workers, mostly from the Kashmir valley was held on 1st May coinciding with May Day observation. The delegates' session started in the evening. Around 200 delegates from both Jammu and Kashmir regions representing different sections of workers including electricity employees, daily wagers in the electricity department, railway loading and unloading, coal mines, Centaur hotel, hydro power projects, Aircel, industrial workers, rural development and horticulture departments of the state government, anganwadi employees, ASHAs etc participated in the conference. The reports of the general secretary and treasurer were unanimously adopted. A new

state committee with Yousuf Tarigami as president, Om Prakash as general secretary and Sham Prasad Kesar as treasurer was elected in the conference.

Block and district level conferences of the ASHAs' and anganwadi employees' unions are being held.

7. Jharkhand

The state committee of CITU organised a big demonstration on 23rd May in front of the Governor's office demanding immediate action against the culprits of the gang rape in Chandra village. A memorandum demanding stopping of atrocities and violence against women, protection and strong action against the police officers trying to protect the accused in the Chandra gang rape case was submitted to the Governor by state committee of CITU

A joint convention against disinvestment in coal was organised in Ranchi on 23rd May in which unions affiliated to CITU, AITUC, HMS, BMS etc participated.

8. Kerala

The 14th conference of CITU was successfully held in Kannur on 4-8 April 2013. We have collected Rs 36645361 (excluding the advertisements for the souvenir). Out of this Rs 29558161 was collected from the workers. Rs 24217864 were spent for the conference.

A state level convention of state public sector trade unions was held at Trivandrum on 18th June 2013. Leadership from CITU, AITUC, INTUC, UTUC, STU and BMS participated in the convention, which was inaugurated by R. Chandrasekharan, state president of INTUC. Elamaram Kareem, general secretary of CITU state committee presented the report. The convention decided to hold industry wise joint agitation programmes to protect the public sector undertakings. It has also decided to entrust the E. Balanandan Research Foundation to conduct a study on each public sector and suggest alternate proposals to revive them.

Our Water Authority employees' union has taken up a campaign to protect the public sector water distribution system conducting meetings in every nook and corner of the state since the last two months.

CITU has decided to hold a meeting of leaders of CITU unions in central public sector units in Kerala on August 12th and start agitation programmes to protect them.

Agitations

CITU led several struggles focussing the demands of workers from different sectors during this period.

The Electricity Board employees' union organised a 4 days' day and night dharna in front of the state-secretariat on 7-10 May demanding improvement in electricity supply with the slogan 'adequate electricity at low cost'.

The mid day meal workers' union organised marches to the offices of the education officers throughout the state on 30th May.

A march of textile workers to the state secretariat was held on 18th June, demanding modernisation, supply of raw materials and reorganisation of cooperative mills with the help of NCDC.

Water Authority employees launched a massive state wide campaign to protect the public sector water distribution system. They held public meetings all over the state in June – July.

Gas agency workers staged continuous dharna from 1- 5 July.

A march to secretariat and dharna were held on 2nd July to highlight the demands of motor workers including minimum monthly pension of Rs 1000, the issues related to the motor workers' welfare fund, registration of all motor workers as members of the welfare board etc. Driving school workers too conducted a march to the secretariat demanding membership for all workers in the welfare board and appointment of adequate workers in the RTO offices.

A march to the state secretariat and dharna were held on 3rd July demanding collection of cess from the ornaments manufacturers to save the ornament workers' welfare board and effective implementation of the welfare benefits for all the ornament workers.

Kerala road transport workers' federation organised a 2 days' day and night dharna in front of the bus depots across the state on 4-5 July demanding protection of KSRTC along with other demands.

ASHAs' union held marches to the DMO's offices all over the state on 4th July.

A dharna against price rise and demanding strengthening of the public distribution system was organised on 8th July 2013 in front of all district and taluk civil supply offices. 24000 workers participated in these dharnas.

Handloom workers staged dharna in front of the secretariat on 9-10 July.

On 12th July a massive joint rally was held by the left trade unions demanding resignation of the solar scam tainted chief minister.

The lottery agency workers held district level demonstrations on 18th July.

The Life Guard Employees' union conducted a march and dharna in front of Kerala Tourism Directorate demanding regularisation of life guards as permanent workers, increase in their daily wage to Rs.500, increase in their allowances etc. The workers of India Coffee House held a dharna in front of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies demanding wage revision.

The coir workers' union which held jail bhara movement in April, organised a state level convention in Aleppey on 23rd July and planned an agitation programme for the protection of the industry.

CITU state committee decided to chalk out an agitation of the workers in the traditional sectors, all of which are in crisis, culminating in a massive mobilisation in front of the government secretariat in December this year. The state committees of the unions of construction workers, head load

workers, coir workers etc met during this period and decided to conduct a state wide campaigns culminating in mobilisations near the state government secretariat.

Workers in large numbers participated in the joint rally of the left trade unions held on 12th July in front of the government secretariat demanding the resignation of the chief minister in the aftermath of the exposure of the solar energy corruption scandal.

The head load workers' union and the construction workers' unions in the state have also planned campaigns on their demands in September – October.

Conferences and conventions

Third state conference of All Kerala Fisheries and Allied Workers' Federation (AKFAWF) was held on 26th May in Trivandrum. 196 delegates from 10 districts attended the conference.

The state convention of working women's coordination committee was held on 20th August in Thiruvananthapuram

The 56th conference of the nurses' association was held on 24- 25 May in Kanhangad. 500 nurses from all the 14 districts in the state participated.

Other activities

A campaign to increase the subscriptions to CITU Sandesam, the monthly journal of the state committee of CITU was held during June – July. It was also decided to improve the contents of the journal.

Several new unions including the union of unaided school teachers, of the Star Health Insurance employees were formed during this period.

Specific responsibility of all union verification related work was entrusted to comrades at the state and district levels

Trade Union Classes

The state committee of CITU planned trade union classes for CITU state office bearers and district office bearers in two batches. Classes have also been planned for members of district and area committees of CITU and office bearers and members of CITU affiliated unions separately.

9. Madhya Pradesh

CITU state committee conducted a continuous programme of agitation from 8 to 19 July during the monsoon session of the state assembly. Every day different unions participated in the meetings held in Sahjani Park in Bhopal. Grameen chowkidars participated in the demonstrations on 8th July, while on the same day, the supervisors in the women and child welfare department held a protest demonstration in front of the residence of the concerned minister. The daily wage workers and the gang men joined on 9th July, anganwadi employees who were observing 'Black Day' as per the call

of the all India federation joined on 10th July, the e – employees of the government's cooperative department participated on 11th July. ASHAs and USHAs, medical and sales representatives, construction workers, head load workers, weight measurers of the grain mandis, etc joined the demonstrations on different days.

On 19th July the state committee of CITU organised a state level convention of contract workers from different public and private sector mines and production units. This was followed by a massive demonstration in front of the residence of the chief minister in which around 5200 workers from different sectors participated despite heavy rains.

10. Maharashtra

ASHA's union in Maharashtra organised a mahapadav on their demands in Azad Maidan in Mumbai on 17-18 April.

11. Odisha

CITU affiliated steel workers' union in Rourkela organised a dharna in front of the Rourkela Steel Plant on 13th May demanding early wage settlement. Around 500 steel workers participated. Dharnas and demonstrations were also staged at Kalta, Roxy, Tensa and Barsuan where more than 2000 workers participated. Earlier, members of the union wore demand badge and pasted posters.

The state organisational workshop was held in Bhubaneswar on 27 – 28 July. State committee members of CITU and the president/ general secretaries of the state level unions who were not members of the state committee were invited to the workshop. 75 including 25 women participated. It was decided to conduct similar workshops at the district level by November 2013.

12. Punjab

Lal Jhanda Bhatta Mazdoor Union affiliated to CITU led the total strike of brick kiln workers in the state demanding wage rise. Around 20000 brick kiln workers participated in the strike that resulted in category wise wage rise of around 22% above the minimum wages fixed by the Punjab government. A massive victory rally was conducted by the union.

CITU affiliated Punjab Roadways PUNBUS Contract Workers' Union led 48 days' strike on contract workers that ended with the management signing an agreement with the union on implementation of the revised minimum wages effective from September 2012 and to pay the arrears within 30 days, double wages for overtime work, revoke all victimisation and withdraw all police cases against the leaders and workers. Victory rallies were held on 12- 13 June at the gates of all the 18 depots of Punjab Roadways.

Lal Jhanda Grameen Chowkidar union held a convention in Chandigarh on 18th June and unanimously decided to get affiliated to CITU. The convention demanded minimum wages and implementation of all the welfare benefits.

A state level convention of workers in the private security company SPIL was held in Mohali in which around 200 security workers participated from 9 districts. The convention unanimously decided to join the strike called by the CITU on 16th July demanding implementation of labour laws.

A state level convention of workers from different sectors was held in Ropar on 28th July in which 14 unions decided to join CITU. These unions were of ASHAs, class four employees, small scale export corporation employees, industrial workers, catering workers, construction workers, MGNREG workers, PWD workers, government secretariat safai karmacharis etc.

The UT Powermen Union, Chandigarh and Electricity Junior Engineers Association organised a convention opposing the attempts of the Chandigarh Union Territory to corporatise and privatise its electricity department and demanding immediate filling up of all the vacant posts and procure material to provide uninterrupted power supply in the city. Leaders of central trade unions including CITU addressed the convention supporting the demands.

13. Rajasthan

A dharna of workers employed in different schemes was organised on 5th June in front of the district collectors' office in Chittorgarh. Hundreds of anganwadi employees, ASHAS, education volunteers, prerak vidyarthi mitr, siksha karmi, lok jumborish, Mother Teresa etc honorarium workers participated demanding minimum wage of Rs 10000, DA linked to consumer price index, social security benefits etc.

14. Tamilnadu

After a long drawn legal struggle supported by the CITU, the contract workers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation won their case in the Supreme Court, which ordered regularisation of the services of all the 10632 contract workers in Neyveli Lignite Corporation on seniority basis calculated from the time of joining as workers.

Sixth conference of Tamil Nadu Puducherry state textile workers' federation was held in Madurai on 16-17 of July. 224 delegates including 25 women participated. A new state committee was elected. More than 500 textile workers participated in the procession held on the occasion.

Around 5000 transport workers including 200 women and their family members marched towards the head office of the Transport Corporation in Chennai on 16th July. A memorandum with the charter of demands on wage revision was submitted to the transport minister.

Joint picketing in front of the Labour Commissioner's office in Chennai and near the offices of the Labour Officers (Social Security) in all the district headquarters was conducted on 30th July. The AIADMK government has not constituted the construction and 15 other welfare boards since it came to power more than two years back. No meeting of the unorganised workers' welfare board has been held. The labour department is totally neglecting the trade unions. The central government's funds for the SC/ ST sub plan are diverted to the unorganised welfare boards. The joint picketing was meant to highlight these problems and demand effective functioning of the welfare boards. More than 30000 workers affiliated to CITU, AITUC, LPF, INTUC, BMS and AICCTU participated in the picketing but only 18563 were arrested.

15. Tripura

Processions and mass deputations were held on the occasion of the Demands' Day of anganwadi federation; a huge procession was organised in Agartala and a memorandum was submitted to the Director, social welfare and social education; district conferences of CITU have been completed; state conference will be held on 1-3 September

16. Uttar Pradesh

The UP Electricity Board Employees' Union affiliated to CITU led a series of struggles of the contract workers of the board in Bulundshahr district which led to a bipartite agreement on regular payment of wages by cheques, EPF, group insurance, identity cards, overtime rate wages, weekly off days and leave, safety measures, resting places, TA etc to the contract workers.

A seminar was organised in Kanpur on the occasion of Karl Marx's birthday. A joint trade union convention was organised in Kanpur on 2nd June which was followed by a joint rally of engineering and unorganised sector workers on 11th June.

The mid day meal workers' union in Chandoli organised a demonstration in front of the office of the Director, Education opposing the indiscriminate termination of services of mid day meal workers and demanded reinstatement of those who have been terminated from service.

The Varanasi district conference of CITU was held on 14th June. 76 delegates and observers representing 11 unions participated. The district committee was unanimously elected in the conference.

More than 1500 workers, peasants and others participated in a convention in Bulandshahr on 6th August against the state government's attempts to privatise the state electricity board. Peasants from around 300 villages and the superintendent, executive and other engineers of the electricity board participated in the convention which was jointly organised by the district committees of CITU and AIKS.

17. Uttarakhand

Mid day meal workers' union affiliated to CITU conducted a demonstration in front of the office of the district magistrate and submitted a memorandum demanding minimum wage of Rs 10000, regular payment etc. It also demanded the government to stop terminating the services of mid day meal workers. The Dehra Dun district committee of anganwadi employees' union organised a demonstration in front of the office of the district magistrate on 27th May demanding summer vacation. The state committee of the union met earlier on 12th May. PTC Employees' Union organised a demonstration in front of the state government secretariat on 25th May demanding minimum wages, regularisation of jobs, reinstatement of all the PTC workers removed from service etc. A meeting of the contract workers in the ordinance factory was held on 18th May.

18. West Bengal

By the time they returned from the 14th conference of CITU the West Bengal delegates had to

confront the severe attacks of the TMC hoodlums in the state on the pretext of an attack on the chief minister in Delhi by SFI activists protesting against the murder of Sudipto Gupta in police custody. Offices of CITU and other left trade unions and the left parties were burned, demolished, ransacked and looted in different places in the same way as the attacks following the 20 – 21 February 2013 countrywide joint general strike. Our offices in Durgapur and the coal belt of Burdwan, North and South 24 Paraganas, Darjeeling, Howrah and Nadia bore the brunt of these attacks. Thousands of anganwadi employees, electricity workers, transport workers etc participated in the demonstrations held on their demands in June. The state committee of CITU called upon the working class in the state to observe 10th June as 'Martyrs' Day' in protest against the assassination of Dilip Sarkar. Protest demonstrations were observed throughout the state.

It has been decided to organise state level conventions of contractor workers, scheme workers and to reorganise the tailors' union. The Port workers' union organised a convention on 'Save Kolkata Port'. The state committee decided to conduct a campaign on the welfare schemes for construction workers, beedi workers, transport workers and demanding PF for unorganised workers. It has also decided to conduct a campaign against the dubious attempts of the state government and the ESI Corporation to curtail the benefits under ESI.

CITU organised protest rallies all over the state defying the threat of the TMC police combine. A joint trade union delegation submitted a memorandum to the Governor demanding to put a halt to such attacks and punishment to the miscreants. CITU affiliated unions and different level of CITU organisations are organising / taking part almost everyday in the protest rallies, demonstrations etc against the misrule of TMC government.

Panchayat elections

CITU members, organisers and activists were fully involved in the recently concluded elections to the panchayats. Many CITU activists were nominated as Left Front candidates and bravely fought the elections despite the terror unleashed by the TMC goons. CITU activists, including large number of women workers in the rural areas actively took part in the campaign facing threats of kidnap, murder and rape by the TMC cadres and leaders. CITU state centre provided the campaign material for the organisers in the districts.

STATEMENT SHOWING STATEWISE MEMBERSHIP AS PER ANNUAL RETURNS RECEIVED TILL 18/08/2013

State	Unions Submitting Returns			Position of membership according to Annual Returns					
	2010	2011	2012	2010	Female	2011	Female	2012	Female
Andaman & Nicobar	9	9	0	3073	0	3443	183	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	711	694	470	546066	183750	664789	207548	220470	20154
Assam	88	82	2	84355	39905	106731	54298	811	85
Bihar	13	22	1	13654	4108	48357	17365	7242	48
Delhi	77	75	0	31870	1558	60195	6747	0	0
Goa	7	6	0	894	3	443	3	0	0
Gujarat	24	24	0	15525	3068	24974	10172	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	60	55	6	41971	23635	44009	23413	392	169
Haryana	49	49	34	87457	22888	106569	36269	99106	36680
Jammu & Kashmir	7	8	1	5781	580	7102	767	1200	0
Karnataka	157	150	56	187981	106628	228303	110972	60752	36176
Kerala	857	836	290	1443337	493442	1511383	529232	709801	282622
Madhya Pradesh	72	91	0	30280	8391	57226	24492	0	0
Maharashtra	130	133	64	125130	62896	154513	78085	88541	49188
Orissa	77	80	0	111037	24736	174495	62726	0	0
Punjab	77	69	42	102301	19274	135511	40802	109893	27730
Rajasthan	85	102	48	40447	1507	57725	3853	32459	2004
Tamilnadu	603	605	154	523405	143978	546318	154318	156112	41719
Tripura	40	38	19	185465	67886	197104	76311	116417	53943
Uttar Pradesh	77	85	8	17947	606	30235	960	860	38
West Bengal	1228	1179	592	1496151	313463	1421650	354726	676238	207095
Uttarakhand	37	42	0	19167	4699	45703	13618	0	0
Chhatisgarh	14	14	1	18259	2367	21274	3471	11904	429
Jharkhand	25	27	0	92323	23380	146109	40529	0	0
Manipur	4	0		331	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4528	4475	1788	5224207	1552748	5794161	1850860	2292198	758080

Year	No. of Unions	Membership	Year	No. of Unions	Membership
1983	1854	1890993	2000	3771	3126943(646678)
1984	2005	1575655	2001	3787	3150673(600407)
1985	1717	1716457(132536)	2002	4168	3463920(679712)
1986	2412	1844273(209348)	2003	3913	3333568(636718)
1987	2350	1680884(206482)	2004	3985	3544622(728891)
1988	2618	1919280(264507)	2005	4088	3990685(898239)
1989	3114	2425000(247388)	2006	4764	4133893(916292)
1990	2934	2095550(245060)	2007	4606	4781681(1150108)
1991	2783	2088218(291228)	2008	4485	5173363(1292838)
1992	3343	2381012(321620)	2009	4737	5015260(1357910)
1993	3156	2371405(306344)			
1994	3198	2470131(261980)			
1995	3523	2784050(358188)			
1996	3645	2805127(435285)			
1997	3804	2917200(506097)			
1998	3502	2881478(483373)			
1999	3929	3296808(550583)			

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

P RAMAMURTY FUND (STATES)

SL NO.	NAME OF STATE	MEMBERSHIP-2008	P R FUND QUOTA	RECEIVED FUND	FUND DUES	RECD.AFTER CONF.
1	Andaman	2992	14960.00	5600.00	9360.00	
2	AP	444695	2223475.00	2346399.00		
3	Assam	71991	359955.00	15000.00	344955.00	
4	Bihar	24762	123810.00	25560.00	98250.00	
5	Chattisgarh	21712	108560.00	59897.00	48663.00	
6	Delhi	36877	184385.00	56687.00	127698.00	
7	Goa	677	3385.00	1206.00	2179.00	
8	Gujarat	14849	74245.00	1000.00	73245.00	
9	Haryana	67255	336275.00	140030.00	196245.00	30990.00
10	HP	40523	202615.00	20000.00	182615.00	
11	J & K	4372	21860.00	1240.00	20620.00	
12	Jharkhand	99503	497515.00	6500.00	491015.00	
13	Karnataka	161580	807900.00	626793.00	181107.00	5028.00
14	Kerala	1269686	6348430.00	5240255.00	1108175.00	524181.00
15	MP	31516	157580.00	74274.00	83306.00	
16	Maharashtra	113732	568660.00	520000.00	48660.00	
17	Orissa	108780	543900.00	54251.00	489649.00	
18	Punjab	79000	395000.00	136247.00	258753.00	
19	Rajasthan	41432	207160.00	52000.00	155160.00	25000.00
20	Tamil Nadu	522146	2610730.00	1221150.00	1389580.00	400000.00
21	Tripura	161049	805245.00	310000.00	495245.00	
22	UP	32432	162160.00	42994.00	119166.00	
23	Uttarakhand	20102	100510.00	21500.00	79010.00	
24	West Bengal	1799140	8995700.00	2000000.00	7995700.00	
25	Manipur					
26	Mizoram	2560	12800.00		12800.00	
	TOTAL	5173363	25866815.00	12978583.00	14011156.00	985199.00

Uttarakhand Flood Relief Fund (as on 18/08/2013)

CITU, A.P. State Committee
CITU, Assam State Committee
CITU, Delhi State Committee
CITU, Kerala State Committee
CITU, Maharashtra State Committee
CITU, Orissa State Committee
CITU, Punjab State Committee
CITU, Rajasthan State Committee
CITU, U.P. State Committee
CITU, West Bengal State Committee
Federation of Medical & Sales Representatives of India (FMRAI)
M.P.& CG Medical & Sales Representatives Union.
TOTAL