



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Surmount Difficulties With United Effort Of Workers

The ineffective nature of the National Apex Body has become so glaring during the recent past that even the beneficiaries of official patronage through this machinery have to admit that the National Apex Body is not serving the purpose for which it was supposed to have come in existence.

G. Ramanujam, General Secretary INTUC in his article "New Role of Trade Unions" published in the INTUC Foundation Day Number of The Indian Worker dated 3 May 1976 has admitted that "It is obvious that harmonious industrial relations cannot be sustained for long by mere emotional appeals". He further noted, 'there was need for certain positive provision for making available to the parties a machinery that would resolve all labour management differences fairly, finally and promptly.'

Thus there is something in the present machinery which does not settle disputes fairly. The settlement is also not prompt while issues remain unsettled in the long run despite temporary solutions.

Referring to the performance of NAB he had to say this: 'But the record of achievement of the National Apex Body so far is rather disappointing'. One can easily imagine the reactions of the ordinary worker when a prominent leader feels disappointed.

The other partner of NAB, the AITUC also has expressed its dissatisfaction about the working of this organisation. New Age, the journal of the Right Communist Party on the occasion of May Day had to say the following.

"The NAB itself, as months passed, has tended to become ineffective. No decision can be taken there unless they are unanimous and employers being adamant it becomes impossible. Even if decisions are taken they cannot be enforced against

the will of the employers because there is no statutory backing for them.

"This has been amply demonstrated when the NAB directed the three closed Kanpur textile mills to be reopened and yet the owners refused to do so."

Regarding the much advertised scheme of "Worker participation in management" which was endorsed by the NAB, New Age has the following comments to offer, "The AITUC has termed the scheme as unsatisfactory and has pointed out many lacunae in it. Though the INTUC has not opposed the scheme, it is also not satisfied with it. The main point of criticism is that it does not give effective say to the workers in the running of the plants."

And therefore New Age found that "sectional struggles of the workers have not been altogether lacking during this period despite restrictions imposed by the emergency on normal collective bargaining actions like strike."

Regarding HMS, the Third partner of the NAB from the trade union side only a section of the leadership is represented. A serious dispute is prevalent and Mahesh Desai, General Secretary of the Organisation has already gone to the court against Makhan Chatterjee group who is represented in the NAB. The Court has already issued orders preventing Makhan Chatterjee group to fill vacancy of General Secretary and two secretaries of the organisation and shift the headquarters from Bombay. The Court also orders that Mahesh Desai group be allowed to withdraw specific amount from the HMS funds in the bank for expenses. Moreover the HMS group represented by Makhan Chatterjee is now inside the Congress and a recent directive of

General Secretary of the Congress states that "All the Labour leaders in Congress Organisation should affiliate their respective trade unions to the INTUC within a month" (Lok Satta Marathi Daily, Bombay 24 April 1976). It is to be seen what steps the Congressmen in HMS will take now and if they join INTUC what will be the further development inside the HMS. Therefore the position of a section of leadership of HMS in the NAB is of little significance.

One can therefore say with confidence that the participating trade unions inside the NAB are not happy about the performance of the NAB. Though the constituents of the NAB have basically supported the official position on several issues they have now come to grief.

When CITU and other organisations were excluded from this new tripartite forum the AITUC kept mum and supported the exclusion. Quite often AITUC leadership privately advocated the exclusion of the CITU and other organisations. Now they should realise that even though CITU is excluded they cannot solve the problems within the framework of the NAB machinery. Though the employers are to be blamed for the state of affairs, the class collaborationist role of the AITUC and INTUC has also played some role in strengthening the hands of the employers and emboldening them to attack the workers.

It has been the normal experience that whenever a scheme detrimental to the working class interest is launched and the workers are not aware of the defects the AITUC leadership goes on praising the sponsor of the scheme, and when the workers learn from their own experience the faulty character of the scheme the AITUC leadership also starts criticising the scheme. Perhaps this is their concept of fighting reactionaries.

Incidentally, see the following report of New Age dated 9th May 1976. 'For the first time in the history of the labour movement in the capital there was no May Day rally and procession in Delhi'. The AITUC and other organisations which planned the rally "was cancelled in protest against the Delhi administrations discriminating attitude against the working class and their unions". AITUC however keeps mum when other organisations face similar situation in some other centres.

One feels warmed up when New Age writes on 2nd May 1976 issue "Of crucial importance is the unity of the working class which the All India Trade Union Congress is pledged to build". But then why AITUC leadership feels shy of uniting with CITU and other trade union centres who are prepared to have united efforts for defence of working class interests? At present the AITUC stand appears to be to build united front with INTUC which does not favour any united efforts along with others. The AITUC will unite with other central trade unions only if INTUC is prepared to join such a united front. If this policy continues the AITUC will just become an adjunct of the INTUC which would virtually dictate the policy of the AITUC.

✓ The criticism of AITUC leadership of certain policies has some meaning only if they are prepared to unite with all forces who are critical of these policies. The approach was accepted by the AITUC long ago when it was uniting with all other central trade unions though INTUC was not prepared to join such a front. Now this policy has been given up and the present policy appears to be to unite with none except the INTUC!

This change in the policy of the AITUC can be explained by the fact that though AITUC is critical of some of the official pronouncements it does not want to lose the official patronage which it gets along with the INTUC. Its co-operation with non-INTUC organisations may lead to loss of that patronage. What else can be the fate of the organisation which has lost faith on the strength of the workers!

We however earnestly hope that the AITUC leadership will sooner or later realise the fallacy of their position and come forward for co-operation with CITU and other central trade unions so that working class interests are properly protected in the forthcoming days. The deepening economic crisis will not allow the AITUC leadership to feel secured in its present position for a long time. The working class in India which is passing through great difficulties hopes that the trade union centres would come together and guide them collectively so that the present difficulties can be surmounted with united strength of all sections of the working class.

Salary And Bonus As Property

In State of Punjab v. Iqbal Singh (1), the Supreme Court was called upon to decide the question whether pension was property, and the Court held, in approval of its previous decision in Deokonandan v. State of Bihar (2), that it was property.

There is a common notion that property is merely landed property or assets, and that salary or wages could become property only when it reached the hands of the recipient. There was a doubt whether salary or emoluments which have been earned but have not been received by the employee could be equated with property.

In the cases under consideration, earned remuneration such as pension was held to be property.

The facts of the later case (1) are as follows :

The Respondent Iqbal Singh rose to the post of Director of Public Instruction-cum-Secretary in the Government of Punjab, Education Department, and he proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement on 18 March 1958. In June 1961, he received copy of a letter dated 2 May 1961 from the Secretary to the Government of Punjab, Department of Education to the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab wherein it was stated that the Governor had sanctioned a payment of pension and death-cum-retirement gratuity after a 10% cut under Rule 6.4 of the Punjab Civil Service Rules,

under which the Government could reduce pension and gratuity if the service record of the superannuated man were not satisfactory. By a later order made after several representations, 10% cut was reduced to 5% cut.

The Respondent thereupon moved the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution against the cut in pension and gratuity. The respondent won the writ petition as well as the Letters Patent appeal which was filed by the State of Punjab before the Division Bench of the Court.

The State thereupon came in appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court approved its previous decision (2) and held that pension is not a bounty payable on the sweet will and pleasure of the Government and the right of a Government servant to receive it is property under Article 31(1) of the Constitution and the State cannot withhold the same by a mere executive order. It was also held that the right to claim pension was property under Article 19(1)(f) of the Constitution and was not saved by clause (5) thereof.

The two decisions lay down, therefore, the following principles :

- (a) pension is property under Article 31(1) of the Constitution
- (b) claim to property is a right under Article 19(1)(f) of the

Constitution and it is not saved by clause 5 of that Article. That is to say, there has not so far been any law which imposes reasonable restriction on the exercise of the right to pension

- (c) the right to pension cannot be taken away by an executive order.

We are reminded of the administrative instruction under which the Government has sought to make the day of absence of an employee due to his participation in a Bandh or strike *dies non* leading to break of service and consequent forfeiture of pension for the period of service preceding the *dies non*. If pension is not a bounty, but property within the meaning of Articles 19(1)(f) and 31 of the Constitution, it cannot be taken away save under authority of law which is not the same thing as executive order.

The next question is whether a law or a statutory order can deprive an employee of his pension. Now, pension is property and, by depriving an employee of pension, the Government retains it in its coffers and, therefore, deprivation of pension necessarily amounts to acquisition or requisition within the meaning of clause 2 of Article 31 read with clause 2A thereof. Therefore, a statutory order or a law which seeks to deprive an employee of pension must, in order to be a valid law, satisfy two conditions, namely, (a) it must be for a public purpose and (b) it must fix a compensation for such deprivation or lay down the principles for determining such compensation.

To take the second point first, if a statutory order or a law has to provide for taking away of pension, it has to give compensation which cannot in the circumstances be nothing less than the pension amount itself! In other words, it looks like that it may not be possible to deprive an employee of his earned pension at all.

Secondly, such a law must be for a public purpose and not for such purpose as, say, punishment for participating in a Bandh or strike. A law which seeks to deprive an employee of his pension for so participating in a Bandh or a strike is penal in nature and not saved by Article 31(2). I am cognisant that there may be penal provisions imposing a fine, but a fine is realisable irrespective of whether an employee is entitled to any pension. Moreover, the law must expressly say that it imposes a fine.

Lest I should be misunderstood, I should add that property which is spoken of in Article 31 or 19(1)(f) of the Constitution is lawfully acquired property. That Article does not protect, for example, a smuggler whose smuggled goods are, therefore, liable to be forfeited under the Customs Act.

I may now refer to the Life Insurance Corporation (Modification of Settlement) Bill, 1976 (which has not yet been enacted and reference to it as enacted legislation in my last legal notes was a mistake and is regretted). Under section 3 of that Bill, the settlement relating to class III and class IV employees of the Corporation whereby they would

get 15% of their salary as annual cash bonus shall not have any force or effect and shall not be deemed to have had any force or effect on and from April 1 1975.

It may be said about the retrospective functioning of the legislation that it would be clearly in violation of Article 31(2) if it contemplated forfeiting or recovery of bonus already paid to the employees under the agreement. For, it is neither for a stated public purpose nor does it fix any compensation or lay down any principles for determining the compensation for such forfeiture or recovery. Of course, as has been indicated above, compensation could mean in the circumstances the entire bonus that may have been paid to the employees and the retrospective operation of the legisla-

tion could not, therefore, be saved at all.

As to its prospective functioning, it should be ultra vires Article 31 if it is held that the agreement (whose period of operation is till 31 March 1977) has already vested the annual cash bonus of 15% of salary in the employees. That is a matter of construction of the agreement, As has been held in the Albazero (3), passing of property under a contract is always a question of intention and no general rule can be laid down as to when it passes.

Arun Prokas, Chatterjee

- 1) AIR 1976 SC 667 : 1976 LAB IC 474
- 2) AIR 1971 SC 1409 : (1971) 2 SCC 330
- 3) 197 (3) ALL England Reporter 21

The INTUC In Banking Industry

The Indian Worker, the INTUC journal in its 3 May issue while explaining the growth of INTUC membership in banking industry stated, "...the membership may cross 2 lakhs in the next three months. The INTUC is now poised for becoming the majority union in banking industry."

It should be noted that the total number of bank employees in the country are estimated to be about 3.5 lakhs.

One can only appreciate the confidence of the INTUC leaders about the exact membership they may be able to enrol in a short period of 3 months. However the next issue of The Indian Worker dated 10 May reported a statement of the spokesman of the Indian National Bank Employees Congress (INBEC) affiliated to INTUC in which he

said, "It now represents nearly 65000 bank employees in nationalised private and co-operative sectors." Thus from less than 65000 membership the INTUC aspires to increase it to 2 lakhs in a period of three months! Never before in the trade union movement such a spectacular rise in membership was witnessed. The claims of the INTUC leadership should be also seen in the context that INTUC leadership has not been able to take any step to improve the lot of bank employees. Then what is the secret of such high expectations and confidence in fulfilment of these expectations?

Will the leadership of All India Bank Employees realise what is forthcoming in the bank employees movement and take suitable steps so that the gains of the movement achieved through strenuous efforts are preserved?

Thirty Years Of Vietnamese Trade Unions

By

Nguyen Trong Con,

(Department of the History of Federation of the Trade Unions of Vietnam)

[Continued from the last issue]

For the cause of the Liberation of the South

Since the Geneva Accord of 1954 on Viet Nam, South Viet Nam from the 17th parallel southward had been placed provisionally under the control of the French colonialists, pending free general elections in 1956, and the reunification of the country by means of negotiation between the two zones North and South.

The struggle of the working class and the people of South Viet Nam then entered a new stage: the stage of a political struggle for the strict application of the Geneva Accord.

But the American imperialists intrigued with the French colonialists, to take their place in South Viet Nam, and converted this Zone into a military base, and a neo-colony of America, with the intention of perpetuating the division of Viet Nam, thus gravely sabotaging the Geneva Accord.

The puppet administration installed at Saigon by the American imperialists, struck at the very base of the Accord. By unheard of repression of the patriots, and by savage reprisals against the old resistance forces, the administration perpetrated innumerable bloody crimes.

The working class movement of South Viet Nam was also subjected to atrocious repression. Genuine trade union leaders were physically liquidated, and some so-called "Trade Unions", creature of the robber regime, were formed for controlling the toiling masses to corrupt them and keep them in check.

Faced with this situation, the genuine trade unions had to carry on their activities clandestinely, for defending their bases and holding together their forces. In spite of the many pronged efforts by the yellow trade union leaders, and of the so-called "General Confederation of the workers of Tran Quoc Buu" in particular, to dupe the workers, and to divide them in their struggles to raise their wages, for democratic liberties notably the freedom of trade unions, the workers have forged ahead. The demonstrations of May 1 at Saigon bear proud testimony; they assembled 150,000 workers in 1956, 278,000 in 1957, 210,000 in 1959.

Democratic liberty, liberation of political prisoners, negotiations with North Viet Nam with a view to the General Elections for re-unifying the country—these were the principal concern of the workers on these occasions.

Formation of the National Liberation Front.

In 1960, with the foundation of the National Front for the liberation of South Viet Nam (20 December 1960), the popular movement entered a new phase, the phase of armed struggles combined with the political struggle for the liberation of the South.

The formation on 27 April 1961 of the Union of Trade Unions for the liberation of the South, affiliated to the National Front for Liberation, marked a new progress of the trade union movement of South Viet Nam. In the liberated regions the Union of trade unions organised the workers and directed them in their emulation for production and work in the service of combat against the enemy, for the livelihood of the people, in the establishment, consolidation and defence of the liberated Zones. Fully engaged in fulfilling their daily tasks, the members kept themselves in readiness for combat and, when the occasion presented itself, in delivering courageous riposte to the attacks by the American puppets.

In the regions controlled by enemy, the Union of Trade Unions have carried on the work of agitation so that they fight against the repression, the terror and for restoring vital laws and democratic liberties. These struggles, which took several forms (strikes, demonstrations) returned blow for blow to the savage repressive measures of the puppet government. The Union of Trade Unions have exposed by all means available

the leaders of the yellow trade unions, agents of the American puppets, who betrayed the interests of the working masses and of the nation and which camouflaged itself under the cloak of trade unions to delude, divide and control the working class.

"Aid the South" campaign

In North Viet Nam, the Trade Union Federation (FSVN) launched a vast campaign of support to the anti-American war, for national salvation of the workers and the people of the South. The watch word "that everyone may work as two men for the south, so dear to our hearts" given by President Ho Chi Minh was warmly followed by all the workers and employees. For them, to give full aid and at all times to their compatriots in the South, became a sacred obligation. The products marked "for the beloved South" were sent out of the factories in unending succession, and the convoys "for the beloved South" carried these goods in regular repeated sorties. Facing a thousand difficulty, passing through ordeals, the transport workers assured the movement to the south of everything which could serve the needs of combat and livelihood.

Numerous workers got themselves attached to the army for directly participating in combat against the aggressor and the traitors. Numerous trade union cadres participated in work which directly aided the war for the liberation of the South.

In the spring of 1975, the general offensive and popular

uprising broke out which culminated in the campaign named after Ho Chi Minh. They unfolded impetuously over 55 days and ended in an extremely glorious and resounding victory: the armed forces and the people of Viet Nam have crushed completely strong puppet forces numbering nearly one million men, reversed the whole administration which was in the pay of the Americans, frustrated the neo-colonialism of US imperialism, totally liberated the South, and so accomplished magnificently the work of national liberation. In this great victory of the nation the working class and the trade unions have played their worthy role.

In the cities of the South, before the liberation, the men and women workers, by resolute struggle against the attempts of the enemy to destroy or dismantle machinery and equipment before his flight, have succeeded in saving factories, enterprises, entrepôts.

After liberation, the trade union bodies formed to liberate the south, led an agitational campaign among the workers and organised them in the struggle for resumption of production, maintenance of order and security, for a return to normal life. At the moment, the trade unions in the South are set, with all the resources at their disposal, to resolve the problem of unemployment left behind by the American puppets, to rehabilitate and promote production, to eliminate slave culture and to build a joyous and healthy life.

For the solidarity and unity of world trade union movement

These thirty years, in spite of a continuous war in extremely hard conditions, the trade unions of Viet Nam have deployed all their efforts for contributing to the reinforcement of the solidarity and unity of the World Trade Union Movement.

They have worked ceaselessly for the strengthening of friendly rapports and of fraternal solidarity and mutual aid in the vietnamese working class itself, on the one hand and, among themselves and the working class and Trade Unions of the Soviet Union, of Peoples China and of other socialist countries. They have made a great cause of the solidarity and mutual aid among the workers and peoples of Viet Nam, of Laos, and Cambodia in the war against the common enemy—American imperialism, for the independence of the three countries. They have always paid great attention to the reinforcement of friendly relations and mutual aid with the trade union organisations of CGT of France, CGIL of Italy, SOHYO of Japan and progressive trade union organisations of other developed countries. They have been especially preoccupied with consolidating the links of militant solidarity between themselves (the trade unions) and the Vietnamese working class on the one hand, and among themselves and the trade unions and workers of the land of Asia, Africa and Latin America for their consolidation or for the

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P. F. Deposit Insurance For Railmen

The Railway Minister, during his budget speech announced a Provident Fund deposit-linked "Insurance Scheme" for railwaymen, which would entitle the heir of an employee after his death during service, to an amount equivalent to the average balance in his deposit during the preceding three years. The Railway Board has now circulated details of this Scheme.

To avail of this benefit, a railway employee must die before his retirement but not before completion of five years of service, must have an average balance of Rs. 1000/- in case of class IV and Rs. 1500/- in case class III in his deposit and must not get victimised during the period of service. Under the scheme no payment will be made even if one maintains the balance of deposit but retires in due course, as the overwhelming number of railwaymen do. None would get more than Rs. 10,000/- in this scheme.

In this country some deposit linked schemes are already in operation. A UBI-Cash Certificate for Rs. 1000/- yields Rs. 7328.07 in twenty years. In LIC there is a scheme of deposit linked scheme which not only assures the life but also makes some payment at the end of the period, thus enabling the holder of the scheme to draw the amount of insurance even if he survives on the eve of retirement.

Compared to these schemes,

the one announced by the Government does not appear to have much benefit. On the other hand this is clearly an inducement to the employees not to draw loan from his P. F. deposits beyond a certain limit. At present the Railway Administration is paying $6\frac{1}{2}$ percent interest on P. F. deposits which is much below the market rate of interest for long term deposits. The difference in the interests granted by the Nationalised Banks and the Railways can cover the premium rates on the insurance by which an employee could be assured of an additional sum available on death or maturity.

The need for a genuine social security Scheme, for which the organised labour including the Loco Running

Staff Association have been agitating in the past, has assumed importance in view of the increased accidents and utilisation of over-aged rolling stock. The trade union movement should make efforts so that Government introduces a scheme which would really help the railwaymen who are the lowest paid employees in the organised sector.

AIRF decides for mass signature campaign

The Working Committee of AIRF which met at Delhi on 11 and 12 March '76 decided to start a mass signature campaign to be completed by the end of May '76 in support of the demand for withdrawal of victimisation. It has also decided to hold the Annual Convention of AIRF in July '76 in N. F. Railway. No decision could be taken about the dispute in S. E. Railwaymen's Union since it was sub judice.

CITU-Andhra Pradesh Committee Meets.

A meeting of CITU-Andhra Pradesh Committee was held in Vijayawada on April 22-23 last. P. Laxmandas, Vice-President presided over the meeting which was attended by 16 members. After paying homage to the memory of Chou En Lai, Gerald Pereira, Pilla Apparao and other departed leaders and workers of T.U. and Kisan movements, the meeting heard the reports on the activities of CITU in Andhra Pradesh and adopted the same.

Activities of the CITU

After the 46-day strike in April-May, 1975, the CITU

union in the Andhra Paper Mills Rajahmundry submitted a Charter of Demands in January 1976. Demands included interim relief, abolition of contract labour, wage revision etc. The Charter was later withdrawn when the negotiations failed. However, helped by the AITUC union, the management is trying to provoke the workers into action to enable them to start lay-off in all departments.

Led by the CITU Union, workers went on prolonged strike in 1975 in A.P.E.E.C. (Birlas) for 82 days, in Hindusthan
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MAY DAY

Unlike in 1975, May Day this year was observed by the working class in different parts of the country in different forms depending on the local situation. In many centres, as in Calcutta, May Day rallies could not be held..... Nevertheless, workers all over the country observed this International Working Class Day through flag hoistings, group or gate meetings, public meetings and in whatever other forms possible.

Calcutta : At the CITU Central Office in Calcutta, S. Mullick Choudhury, Vice-President hoisted the CITU flag and Md. Ismail, Vice-President addressed the assembled comrades. Earlier, the CITU flag was hoisted at the West Bengal State Committee of CITU by Jyoti Basu, Vice President CITU who spoke on the tasks of the working class.

At the central office of the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union (CITU) at Calcutta, the Day was observed by hoisting the Red Flag. In Howrah, processions were brought out in the evening by the workers of several Jute mills.

May Day was also observed through hoisting of Red Flags and wearing of May Day badges by the workers of J. Stone, B. E. Pumps, Clyde Fan, Braithwaite, Brook Bond, Metal Box, MMC, Lipton and many others factories in the industrial areas around Calcutta. Red Flags were also hoisted at the offices of the Calcutta Port & Shore Mazdoor Union, Forward Seamen's Union and Dock Shramik Association.

Durgapur : The whole township was bedecked in Red Flags and May Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm... The programme planned by the Hindusthan Steel Employees Union could not be carried out, but May Day was observed in short ceremonies in many places. 500 workers attended the May Day ceremony at the MAMC.

Reports have been received of enthusiastic celebrations of May Day from many other districts of West Bengal including Hooghly, Howrah, 24 Parganas.

Kerala : At Ernakulam and its suburbs May Day was celebrated under the joint auspices of various CITU Unions. A meeting was held at the Madras Cafe auditorium presided by V. Vishwanatha Menon. Red Flag was hoisted at various parts of the city and T. U. offices. Red Flag was hoisted and workers meetings were held at many factories and T. U. offices in the industrial areas of Eloor, Kalamassery and Alwaye. A demonstration was organised on the day by the Loading and Unloading Workers Union. May Day meetings were also held in the Cochin area.

Reports of May Day celebrations through hoisting of Red Flag, wearing of badges, meetings etc. have also been received from Idikki, Quilon, Trivandrum, Calicut, Cannanore and Malappuram districts.

Workers of Idikki observed the Day by holding a joint

demonstration and meeting at the Thodupuzha Town Hall. Plantation workers of Peermedu, Udumbanchola and Devikulam hoisted flags and held meetings. In Quilon Taluka, the celebrations were held through demonstrations and meetings at Quilon Town, Kundara and Chathannoor.

In Calicut district, the day was observed through hoisting of flags, postering, meetings, sale of badges etc. In Calicut town a hall meeting was held in the afternoon.

In Cannanore district, a May Day rally and meeting was held at the Cannanore Town Hall which was addressed by E.M.S. Namboodiripad. A large number of workers and employees attended the meetings.

In Trivandrum district, Red flag was hoisted at the offices of CPI (M), KSRTC, CITU District Committee and Head Load Workers Union. May Day was also observed in Malappuram through flag hoisting and hall meetings in seven centres.

Ahmedabad : The May Day was observed through hoisting of the CITU flag and a small meeting at the CITU office at Bhadra. In the afternoon, a public meeting was held at the gate of Bharat Industries where the workers had recently conducted a 71 days successful strike. A public meeting was also held on May 2 at Meghani Nagar which was addressed, among others, by

OBSERVED

Dinkar Mehta, G. K. Parmar, Chandulal Patel and other leaders.

Rajahmundry : May Day was celebrated under the auspices of CITU affiliated unions with a big cycle procession which went through principal streets and industrial areas. The CITU flag was hoisted at the offices of the CITU, A.P. Paper Mill Staff & Workers' Union, Railway Employees Unions, ILTD Co. Workers' Federation and all Rickshaw Stands. A public meeting was held at the Fort gate presided by Y. Raman and addressed by V. Subba Rao and other leaders. A public meeting was also held at the A.P. Paper Mill. 2000 workers took the May Day pledge at a meeting organised by the ILTD. Company's Workers' Federation.

Arunachal Pradesh : Perhaps for the first time in the history of Bomdila, and also of Arunachal Pradesh, May Day was observed at Bomdila by the workers and employees through hoisting of Red Flag, demonstrations, distribution of leaflet etc. A meeting was held in the afternoon.

Tamilnadu : Although rallies, processions and public meetings could not be held due to prohibitory orders which are continuing since the imposition of President's rule in the State, May Day was observed in most Union offices and factories through the hoisting of Red Flag and Hall meetings.

At Madras, the Red Flag was hoisted in all Union offices in the morning. A meeting held at the Gokhale Hall in the evening was addressed by Samar Mukherjee, MP, Secretary CITU, Gajapathi and others.

At the Neyveli Lignite Corpn., the CITU Union observed the Day jointly with other unions. A joint hall meeting was also held in the evening.

At Salem, Red Flag was hoisted at the District Committee office as well as 30 other places all over the town. A hall meeting was held in the afternoon addressed by K. Muthaiah and others.

In Kovai district, a hall meeting was held at R.S. Puram, presided by K. Ramaswamy and addressed by many leaders.

In Thiruppur, a hall meeting was held at P.R. Nelayam.

In Tanjore, May Day was observed from 1st to 3rd May in all Talukas and villages.

In Trichy, the Dist. Committee office was decorated and a meeting was held and the Red Flag was hoisted by T.G. Ramkrishnan. At Thiruverumpur, the Red Flag was hoisted by Anandan Nambiyar.

At Karur, the Day was observed through hoisting of Red Flag in over 37 places by Papa Umanath, G. Rathnavelu, K.P. Ramaswamy and others. They

also addressed the assembled workers.

In Kumari Dist., J. Mayandi Bharati hoisted the Red Flag and addressed a meeting held on May Day.

May Day was observed by CITU Unions in many other District Towns, Talukas and villages separately or jointly with others, including Mettur Dam Project, Nellai, Nagercoil, Erode etc.

Uttar Pradesh : May Day was celebrated at Najimabad (Bijnor District) and Rahul Nagar (Sultanpur dist.) through joint meetings of workers and cultural activities in which a large number of workers took part.

Punjab : In Punjab, May Day was celebrated at Ludhiana, Jullundar, Patiala, Amritsar, Rajpura, Talwara and other centres under the auspices of the CITU.

In Ludhiana, the Red Flag was hoisted at the CITU office by Comrade Kishori Lal, President of the State CITU and the assembled workers were addressed by Bhajan Singh, President District CITU, Kishori Lal, Kuldip Singh and others. An open meeting was held in the evening.

In Jullundar, a meeting was held at the CITU office to observe the Day. Comrade Kripal Singh, President District CITU, presided and was addressed by other leaders.

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May Day Observed

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In Patiala, a meeting was held at the Nehru Park which was presided by Sher Ram, Bhatha Mazdoor leader. The meeting adopted resolutions on Bonus and lay-offs etc.

In Amritsar, May Day was celebrated at the Shehrtia Industrial Centre. The meeting was addressed by Comrade Jagjit Singh Lyallpuri, General Secretary of Punjab and H. P. State CITU, Mangat Ram and Kishan Singh.

In Rajpura, May Day was celebrated by the CITU unions. A function was also organised in village Dhamoli near Rajpura. In Talwara, a Hall meeting was organised by the Ekta Mazdoor Sangh (CITU) to celebrate May Day.

CITU Union Leader acquitted

K. D. Navaratnam, Joint Secretary, Hindusthan Steel Employees Union, Bhillai, who had been implicated in a false criminal case in 1972 in connection with an alleged Gherao of the General Manager of Bhillai Steel Plant, has been acquitted by the Court on 4th May last. It may be mentioned that the BSP management has, in the meantime, terminated the services of Comrade Navaratnam from 29th November, 1975 without assigning any reason.

Consumer Price Index Numbers (Industrial Workers/Base 1960=100)

State/Centre	1976			State/Centre	1976		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Andhra Pradesh				Punjab			
Gudur	290	273	257	Amritsar	319	316	310
Guntur	311	305	303	Rajasthan			
Hyderabad	308	294	289	Ajmer	294	286	278
Assam				Jaipur	306	299	288
Digboi	302	302	303	Tamilnadu			
Doom Dooma	242	239	238	Coimbatore	299	293	289
Labac	235	244	237	Coonoor	295	288	288
Mariani	250	238	238	Madras	286	280	272
Rangapara	232	234	229	Madurai	301	295	280
Bihar				U. P.			
Jamshedpur	279	277	275	Kanpur	283	277	271
Jharia	293	283	275	Saharanpur	304	301	293
Kodarma	327	315	299	Varanasi	327	318	311
Monghyr	311	308	299	West Bengal			
Noamundi	281	286	276	Asansol	310	304	302
Gujarat				Calcutta	277	271	276
Ahmedabad	281	273	268	Darjeeling	240	238	235
Bhavnagar	302	294	290	Howrah	281	276	277
Haryana				Jalpaiguri	240	237	236
Yamunanagar	315	313	310	Raniganj	301	291	286
J & K				Delhi	325	326	324
Srinagar	269	269	274	Other Centres*			
Karnataka				Berhampur ('49)	405	390	391
Ammathi	314	294	286	Cuttack ('49)	367	356	350
Bangalore	322	312	304	Jabalpur (1949)	393	384	377
Chikmagalur	315	302	293	Beawar ('51-52)	331	311	293
Kolar G.F.	319	309	289	Tripura (1961)	268	276	276
Kerala				H. P. (1965)	230	229	217
Alleppey	359	342	339	Goa (1966)	204	201	200
Alwaye	333	318	322	Bhillai (1966)	196	189	187
Mundakayam	327	311	311	Bhilwara ('66)	182	179	172
Madhya Pradesh				Chhindwara ('66)	167	161	156
Balaghat	294	286	287	Kothagudam ('66)	187	181	182
Bhopal	288	279	270	Rourkella ('66)	204	203	201
Gwalior	305	298	293	All India ('49)	362	352	348
Indore	315	305	301	—do—('60)	298	290	286
Maharashtra							
Bombay	292	288	286				
Nagpur	304	286	277				
Sholapur	324	301	291				
Orissa							
Barbil	284	276	278				
Sambalpur	297	295	290				

* Figures in bracket indicate base year.

(Labour Bureau, Simla)

Automation In Calcutta Electric Supply Company

All the four unions including the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Mazdoor Union (CITU) representing 12000 workers, clerical and technical staff have jointly submitted a memorandum to the Labour Minister on 6 February demanding ban on installation of a computer. It may be recalled that in 1967 efforts of the management to install a computer were stalled by the United Front Govt.

A study made by the West Bengal Committee of CITU sharply brings out how, despite appropriation of huge amounts as depreciation, this British owned Company allowed its assets to run down, resulting in closure of Cossipore Generating Station from January 1975 while the Company has built up reserve worth $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the subscribed capital. Out of a total 47 boilers, which generally have a life of 30 years, 8 have been closed down after 62 years. Out of the remaining 39, 31 are already overaged. Power generation by this company which was 1955 million units in 1964, has now come to 1456 millions units in 1975. The ever increasing demand of the public had therefore to be tackled by purchase of power from State Elec-

tricity Board, which has now come to 1456 million units in 1975, almost equal to its own generating capacity. This has resulted in repeated breakdown of power in wide areas including industrial concerns causing immense difficulties to the public and loss of wages of the workers.

The consumers have been paying increased tariff. According to the new rates a domestic consumer has to pay 33.4% more while for the commercial consumer the increase is almost double i.e. 93%.

The management has brought out a scheme of external loan of Rs. 99.5 crores for which, the State Govt. being a guarantor, has allowed an extension of license for another 20 years. The company has made arrangement for a high-powered computer by 1976 which would reduce the number of workers by 2500 and the job potential will be brought down.

The document therefore justifies the demand of nationalisation of CESC, stopping of computerisation and other demands of the workers. Com. Jyoti Basu, Vice-President, CITU has addressed a letter to the Chief Minister raising similar demands.

“Revision” of Pay Structure of Railwaymen

According to a press announcement by the Railway Ministry the recent revision of pay structure will benefit 41000 Class 3 and 4 railwaymen. Definite orders however have not been received by the zonal offices. From the scrappy reports published so far this is in course of implementation of Miabhoy Tribunal Award.

The Award of the tribunal, set up in 1969, was submitted in July 1972 nearly four years ago. Claims of revision of pay scales of some categories were referred to the Tribunal which turned them down except for those of Foremen-B, Gang Mates and Keymen. While the former two categories are to get a higher

starting pay, in the case of the last category, there is only increase in the maximum of the time scale and hence there would be no change except to those who have already reached their maximum pay. There is also a provision for unskilled/semi-skilled BTM workers in the workshop to get an increment if “he had stagnated in the scale for more than twelve years even though he has otherwise qualified himself for promotion.”

It may be mentioned that during all these years sophisticated Matisa, Plaza machines were being introduced and work load was being increased as a result of which, the staff strength is being reduced. Hence the

claim that the revision would benefit forty one thousand railwaymen is exaggerated. Besides it is improbable that these workers would get the benefit with retrospective effect at least from the date of the Award as none had been given such benefit.

The moot point, however, is that the claim of railwaymen to be treated as industrial workers and get comparable wages is still a far cry. Many of those who fought for the same are yet to be reinstated in service. Hence the announcement is nothing but meagre palliative while all the outstanding issues of the railway employees still remain unsettled. Moreover all the items of the Award have not been implemented so far by the railway authorities.

Thirty Years Of Vietnamese Trade Unions

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conquest of their national independence. They have worked always, with all their forces, for the consolidation and development of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the great international mass organisation, of which the Trade Union Federation of Viet Nam (FSVN) have been a member since 1949.

The workers, the trade unions and the people of Viet Nam acknowledge with great joy and emotion that during the past years the workers and the trade unions of brother socialist countries, the workers and progressive trade union organisation of the whole world, the WFTU, the international democratic organisations and the people of all the five continents who desire peace and justice have always extended a profound sympathy and powerful support to the long, just war of the people of Viet Nam for independence and liberty.

The workers and the trade unions of Viet Nam express their heartfelt thanks to their brothers and friends everywhere for their sympathy and their inestimable support.

**Rebuilding the country better
Endowing it with greater and more beautiful constructions**

In his sacred Testament, released on May 10, 1969, our President Ho Chi Minh said, "whatever be the difficulties and privations our people will win, without fail. The American imperialists will undoubtedly have to quit. Our country will certainly be reunited. Our

countrymen of the north and the South will certainly be reunited under one roof. Our country will have the signal honour of being a small country which will by a heroic combat, defeat two great imperialisms—the French and the American, and make a noble contribution to the movement of national liberation".

These prophetic words, this last recommendation on his part, have been fully realised by the working class and the people of Viet Nam.

In his call, given on 17th July 1966, he said, among other things, "Nothing is more precious than independence and liberty, When the day of victory comes our people will rebuild the country better, endowing it with

greater and more beautiful constructions".

Conforming to this teaching and overflowing with enthusiasm and pride in the face of great victory won by the nation in the spring of 1975, enriched by the experience gained in the last thirty years, which have contributed to the common victory of the country, the workers and the trade unions of Viet Nam spare no effort for surmounting the multiple difficulties faced by them, to contribute, together with the people, to reconstruct Viet Nam, to leave behind the misery and conditions of the past, the terrible ruins of war and to make a civilised, rich and prosperous nation and inviolable powerful fortress of national independence, democracy and socialism in Indo-China and South East Asia.

CITU-Andhra Pradesh Committee Meets

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Polymers for 55 days, and in Radio Hazrath, Visakha for 11 days. The demands included withdrawal of victimisation, D.A., wage revision etc. The strike in Hindusthan Polymers resulted in victory for the workers. In Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels, Vishakha, the CITU workers played leading role in a 37 day strike led by INTUC.

The CITU also led the struggles of the Devasthanam Bus Workers, Rice and Oil Mill Workers of West Godavari and Khammam and the Municipal and PWD workers of the State.

On Bonus Ordinance

In protest against the Bonus ordinance, agitations and other forms of movement were carried on by the workers of HMT, Electronics Corporation of India Limited and other factories.

Many workers of the I. D. P. L. and E. C. I. L. were arrested on false charges and many others suspended. The employees of L. I. C. and G. I. C. all over the State held demonstrations and wore black badges in protest against the Bonus Ordinance.

Large-scale retrenchment in Tobacco Industry

Large scale retrenchments are going on in the Tobacco industry in the State. Three branches of the India Tobacco Co. have been completely closed last year and another branch has been prematurely closed this year. In other branches work is going on for about 30 days in place of 120/150 days a year. In all 30,000 Tobacco workers have been retrenched by the Indian Tobacco Co., N.T.C., Golden Tobacco Co., Navbharat etc.

Parliamentary Committee Endorses Plantation Workers Demands

ALL India Plantation Workers Federation collected signatures of plantation workers and submitted a petition to Lok Sabha demanding immediate take-over of the closed gardens, nationalisation of Plantation industry and trade and full implementation of all labour laws in plantation industry.

The Committee of Petitions made enquiries in the matter and submitted a Report to Parliament on 25th May 1976. We give below some excerpts from the Report.

The tea industry occupies a pivotal position in the economy of the country as it earns annually over Rs. 240 crores worth of foreign exchange and provides employment to over six lakh workers. Its importance cannot be minimised also from the point of view of internal consumption which, being to the tune of 250 million kilograms per year, is the largest in the world. In this context, the Committee note with concern that a number of tea gardens in general, and in North East India in particular have closed down and many more sick and uneconomic gardens may be on the verge of closure owing to poor labour-management relations, lack of managerial skill, poor management of funds, etc., thereby resulting in problems of unemployment to workers and adversely affecting the productivity of tea and country's earnings of foreign exchange by the export of tea. In fact, this

phenomenon of closed gardens is manifest only in the case of tea plantations and the problem of closure of gardens has assumed alarming dimensions in the tea industry. Immediate take over of closed gardens, with a view to rehabilitate them and also to save thousands of workers from unemployment and economic hardship is therefore called for.

The Committee have also considered the problem of unemployment amongst plantation labour which has arisen as a result of closed and sick gardens. This is a matter which has to be given the closest attention that it deserves. The Committee are unhappy to be told by the representatives of the Ministry of Labour who appeared before them that the Central Government had not got any machinery whereby they could create employment opportunities. It was stated that unless certain sectors were there where employment opportunities could be automatically generated, the Central Government could not do anything. The Committee are unable to accept this position. The Central Government, who are a beneficiary of foreign exchange earnings from the tea export, should not sit on the fence and allow things to drift. The Ministry of Labour should, in consultation with the concerned State Governments, immediately explore all avenues for providing gainful employment to

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Take-over Of Sick Tea Gardens And The Workers

The Tea (Amendment) Bill passed by Lok Sabha on 18 May enabling the Government to take over the management of sick tea gardens for a minimum period of 5 years will not go far in solving the crisis faced by the industry.

The trade union movement has been demanding since long the take over of closed gardens. It wanted to protect the interest of the workers but the Government is introducing the measure in a manner that would only protect the interest of the tea planters. The demand of the trade unions that the Government should immediately nationalise the plantation industry has also been shelved by the Government.

While the profit making industry is allowed to remain in the private sector the Bill only provides for taking over the sick gardens and hand it over to the public sector concerns or big private sector planters. The private sector planters are likely to use this opportunity to expand their business with the help of financial institutions and add to their profitability. Even the foreign plantation monopolies will extract maximum advantage of this provision and add to their loot of the Indian economy.

The Bill does not provide that all the plantation workers employed in gardens at the time of closure would be taken back on duty and there is no guarantee that the job potential of the tea

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Parliamentary Committee Endorses Plantation Workers Demands

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jobless workers in the existing plantations or elsewhere.

From the material placed before them, the Committee are inclined to agree with the complaint of workers that while plantations are earning huge profits, by having both internal

Take-over Of Sick Tea Gardens And The Workers

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gardens would be maintained. Experience of earlier take overs clearly indicates that there is a tendency to increase the workload on the workers. The concept of efficient management is being used to impose rigorous working conditions on the workers. Incidentally, the Bill fails to ensure that the terms and conditions of service of the workers would not be changed to their disadvantage.

The Bill provides for formation of co-operative sector in tea plantation industry. However it has also been the experience of the co-operative sector that it goes to the benefit of certain unscrupulous elements in the present circumstances.

It is also well known that the Plantation Labour Act largely remains unimplemented. One cannot be sure that even after take over the provisions of this Act would be genuinely implemented.

The Trade Union movement will therefore have to continue asserting for nationalisation of the industry and trade without compensation.

as well as external market, particularly in respect of tea and coffee, the employers are not considerate enough in providing benefits to workers in the same measure to ameliorate their living conditions. In fact, the Study Groups of the Committee which undertook on the spot study visits of plantations received numerous representations from workers about low wages, delay in payment of wages and violation of the provisions of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, requiring the employers to provide amenities to workers. From what the Study Groups have seen, it can not be gainsaid that there has been an inexcusable laxity, neglect and lack of urgency on the part of the authorities in enforcing the provisions of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951. The Committee feel that the Central Government cannot disown its responsibility for giving proper and timely guidance to the State Government in so far as the implementation of the various provisions of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, is concerned.

The daily wage being paid to a plantation worker in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is between Rs. 4.20 and Rs. 6.48 only on the basis of which the total annual wages earned by a family consisting of the husband and wife amount to between Rs. 2000 and Rs. 2500 only. The plantation workers do not also have any other work to fall back

upon during the lean months in the plantations. The Committee feel that a revision of the wage structure in the plantation industries is urgently called for.

The Committee note that the Equal Remuneration Act, 1975, enjoins that there shall be equal pay for equal work for both men and women workers. During their on-the-spot study visits to plantations, the Study Groups of the Committee found that the provisions of this Act were being circumvented by the dubious method of categorising male and female workers into grade I and grade II, with a view to give them different wages. The Committee would like this matter to be investigated by the Central Government with a view to take suitable corrective measures.

West Bengal Tripartite Meet On Jute Industry

In a tripartite meeting convened by the Union Commerce Minister D. P. Chattopadhyaya at Calcutta on 22nd May the GITU representatives demanded restoration of wage cut, implementation of the tripartite agreements signed since 1969, reduction in workload, full trade union and democratic rights, nationalisation of jute industry and trade and fixation of Rs. 100 per month as the price of raw jute for the jute grower.

Union Labour Minister K. V.
(On Last Page)

Govt. Press Strike Settled

The 43-day strike by 3000 workers of the Govt. Press in protest against the dismissal of an apprentice and for other demands was settled on March 5 last. According to the terms of settlement there will be no victimisation and there will be an enquiry into the dismissal of the apprentice. The JCTUO, to which most of the Trade Union Federations of all affiliations are affiliated, organised a successful general strike on February 20 in support of the strike. The Govt. failed to break the strike, although it recruited 400 black-legs for the purpose.

Strike in Ceylon Tobacco Co.

800 workers of the Ceylon Tobacco Company went on a protest strike on March 10 last protesting against charge sheets to 12 employees for refusal to do overtime work and for other demands. The strike was settled after the management agreed to withdraw the charge sheets and to concede the workers demand for higher gratuity, bonus etc.

Pro-Govt. Unions asked to break away from JCTUO

The Joint Council of Trade Union Organisations, (JCTUO), the powerful organisation of the working class of Sri Lanka, was so long composed of the Trade Union wings of the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party and other partners in the United Front. Although the Lanka Sama Samaj Party (LSSP) left the U.F. Govt. sometime back, the T.U. Federations affiliated to the

ruling SLFP were continuing in the JCTUO. At a meeting of the SLFP held sometime back, the Prime Minister Mrs. Bandarnaike directed the T.U. Federations affiliated to the ruling SLFP to sever connections with the JCTUO. The two Federations affiliated to SLFP, Sri Lanka Independent T.U. Federation (affiliated to WFTU) and Sri Lanka Independent Govt. Workers T.U. Federation are holding conventions to decide their stand on the Prime Minister's directive. The two Federations claim to control about 3 lakh membership and if they decide to leave the JCTUO it will be a strong blow to the working class movement in Sri Lanka.

W. Bengal Cinema Workers Struggle

The workers in Gem and Mini Gem Cinemas in Calcutta and Apsara Cinema in Howrah have been making collective efforts to achieve their demands relating to bonus, Ad hoc D. A., house rent allowance etc. The attitude of the management led to the failure of tripartite talks. As a result the Apsara Cinema is closed down since the last 8 months and Gem and Mini Gem Cinemas are not operating since 12th May last.

Bengal Motion Pictures Employees Union is observing Solidarity week from 1 to 7 June for the employees of these cinemas so that the management are prevailed upon to re-open these Cinemas after accepting demands of the workers.

Major Industrial Disputes During December, 1975

In the April 1976 issue of *The Working Class* we published the details of major industrial disputes during July-November, 1975. Some of the disputes mentioned there were reported to be still continuing at the end of November, 1975.

According to the March 1976 issue of the Labour Journal, some of these disputes were still continuing at the end of December 1975. These include the disputes in Indian Airlines, Bombay and U.P. Co-operative Spg. Mills, Etawa showing further loss in man-days of 8000 and 32,000 respectively. The dispute in Priya Laxmi Mills, Baroda, is reported to have been still continuing at the end of November, 1975 resulting in further loss of 55,000 man-days.

The Labour Journal also reports two new disputes in Maharashtra (Strike in Milton's Ltd, Bombay and Strike/Lock-out in Raymond Woolen Mills Ltd, Thana) which resulted in a total loss of 1.5 lakh man-days. Both the disputes ended in November, 1975. Another dispute reported from Tamilnadu (Strike and Lock-out at Madras Rubber Factory) was still continuing at the end of November 1975 when the loss of man-days stood at 55,800.

(Source : Indian Labour Journal, March 1976)

Former Chasnala surveyor says He Warned The IISCO Management

The evidence of Radhu Raman Sarkar, ex-Surveyor Chasnala Colliery on 25-26th April and 7-8 May before the Court of Enquiry clarified many points related to the ghastly accident in Chasnala mine in December last. Earlier he recorded a statement in the presence of S. P. Ganguli, Director Mines Safety Northern Zone. He confirmed before the Court of Enquiry that he made such a statement.

R. R. Sarkar, an old man of about 85 years now, was appointed as Surveyor of Chasnala Colliery in 1931. He left the mine in 1937 and rejoined after IISCO took it over in 1938. He retired from Chasnala mine in the year 1964.

Regarding the main dip between 'K' and 'L' level, now known as the hidden gallery which took the toll of nearly 400 workers Sarkar said, "In 1937 or so No. 4 incline main dip was driven during Mr. Nag's time (former owner of the mine) for a long distance of about 85 feet or so with the intention of opening 'L' level. When I left the mine for Jealgora, the main dip in no. 4 incline was waterlogged." He further noted, "...when I returned to rejoin the mine in 1938, I found that the survey was not extended along the main dips—the inclined planes shown on plan were as I had left them and the main dips were waterlogged. I requested Mr. Weir, the then manager to get the dip dewatered

so that I could survey it and also open 'L' level. He said the new company (IISCO) was not interested in going below 'K' level".

Sarkar further noted, "In the abandoned mine plan submitted to Mines Department in 1949, I had shown the main dip of No. 4 incline open signifying that its full extent had not been surveyed".

Pointing out that he forewarned the company earlier R. R. Sarkar said, "About five years ago I was called by Mr. B. Verma in Burnpur office (of IISCO) when Messrs. Ohri (Chief Executive Officer and Sarkar (Planning officer) were present. They enquired from me about the extent of working below 'K' level. I told them the No. 4 Incline main dip had gone upto about 'L' level (almost first horizon of the new mine). Later I sent a post card to Shri B. L. Verma requesting him to send a surveyor of Chasnala to my residence so that I could indicate to him the actual position as far as I know, but nobody turned up. I am feeling agrieved at the death of so many persons as they did not listen to me five years ago".

A third accident in Chasnala surface occurred recently when a worker was killed while loading the sand in the truck.

The CITU and Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India have become party to the Court of Enquiry into the Second Chasnala accident. The underground mine has now been closed down due to dangerous working conditions.

On Jute Industry

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Raghunatha Reddy, West Bengal Labour Minister Dr. Gopaldas Nag also participated in the discussion. A joint memorandum on behalf of CITU, UTUC and TUCC was submitted before the meeting explaining the workers view point.

The meeting discussed the closure of jute mills recently resulting in loss of jobs of about 35 thousand workers. The representatives of the workers pointed out that some mills declared lock-out to evade the provisions of the new legislation passed by the Government. The representatives of the IJMA tried to explain the managements justification of these closures but could not cut much ice. However they had to agree to re-open at least 4 of the closed mills immediately.

On behalf of the CITU, Kamal Sarkar, Md. Amin, Shanti Ghatak, S. S. Bose and M. K. Pandhe attended the meeting.

Earlier the CITU wrote a memorandum to the Union Commerce Minister and Union Labour Minister demanding such a meeting. A deputation of CITU met Union Labour Minister on 9 May in Calcutta to press for this meeting.

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