



# THE WORKING CLASS

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## The Elections and After

E. Balanandan

The May-June elections to the 10th Lok Sabha has once again resulted in a hung Parliament with absolute majority evading any single party. The single largest party in Parliament, the Congress (I) has come to occupy office at the Centre.

These elections were held in the background of an unprecedented threat to national unity and integrity posed by separatist, communal and divisive forces; a severe economic crisis; and an increased imperialist threat, as borne out from the dastardly assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

The attempt to foist elections on the people of Punjab has led to a further deterioration of the situation in the State. The caretaker government, by announcing elections without initiating political measures that would have led to the isolation of the extremists and thereby created conditions conducive to the conduct of a nearly free and fair poll, has but contributed to a spurt in the activities of the extremists. No less than 600 people including 24 candidates contesting the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections have been killed. The gruesome Ludhiana killing in which 72 innocent railway passengers were massacred, speaks volumes of the situations prevailing there. Repeated requests by various political parties for postponement of the elections by three weeks in view of the revised schedule in the rest of the country, to facilitate deployment of security forces to provide adequate security to the candidates and the people at large, were turned down. Just a day before the polling, however, the elections were postponed till September.

There is neither any respite from the sway of the separatists over the Kashmir valley. Though elections in Assam have been by and large peaceful, the ULFA menace still looms large.

The virulent communal campaign by the BJP and its sister outfits, the VHP/Bajrang Dal/RSS has raised the communal passions to a heightened pitch, consequent riots and polarisation of large sections in the country on communal lines. If the recent statements by the BJP leader are any indication, the nation will witness another bout of communal riots, if they are allowed to pursue their game.

It was in the midst of the election process that the gruesome assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi shocked the nation. The assassination was undoubtedly the handiwork of the enemies of the nation. While this incident should have been utilised to rouse the people's consciousness against the imperialist threat looming large over the country, we had to witness the spectacle of the Congress (I) shamelessly, implicitly and explicitly accusing the non-Congress (I) parties and unleashing largescale attacks throughout the country. While in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala and other parts of the country largescale attacks against non-Congress (I) parties took place, it was in the tiny state of Tripura that the severest of attacks took place. The intensity of the attacks can be gauged by the fact that 7 CPI (M) supporters were killed; thousands of houses, shops and establishments of CPI(M) and Left Front leaders and supporters were arsoned, looted and burnt. In the reign of terror let loose, even women related to CPI (M) members were not let alone—they were raped and sexually assaulted. Santosh Mohan Deb, the chief architect of this operation has been rewarded with a berth in the Narasimha Rao cabinet.

Not content with these attacks, the Congress (I) launched a vilification campaign against the non-Congress (I) parties. These accusations combined with the sympathy and anger that arose in people was utilised by the Congress (I) to turn the tide in its favour.

Though the Congress(I) has emerged as the single largest party in Parliament, the election results reveal that in the first phase of the elections out of a total of 204 seats the Congress(I) could get a mere 50. It was during the second and third phases, held after the assassination that the Congress(I) could get the remaining seats.

The menacing rise of the BJP to become the second largest party in Parliament is cause of serious concern. With Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and now U.P. with a state government headed by it, the threat to national unity has considerably increased.

The Janata Dal, the major constituent of the NF

has come out with flying colours in Bihar, though its showing in U.P. and Orissa where it was a major force, was not upto the mark, thanks mainly to the aggressive BJP posture and Congress(I) gains (for reasons cited earlier). The JD which had a wider appeal with various sections identifying itself with the party, these sections could not be rallied to vote for the JD mainly due to lack of organisation and infrastructure at various places.

The people of West Bengal have once again reposed their faith in the Left Front. For a record fourth consecutive term the Left Front with the CPI(M) heading it has been elected to govern the State and play its role in the unfolding political scenario in the country. 37 out of 42 seats and 245 out of 294 seats have been won by the Left Front in the Lok Sabha and Assembly respectively. The results vindicate the people's faith in the Left as a champion of their interests and as the only force that can be trusted to herald in a better tomorrow for them and their countrymen. This glorious victory of the Left in West Bengal will instil an increased confidence in the progress loving people of the country.

Though the LDF in Kerala has gained one additional seat to the Lok Sabha this time, it has suffered a setback with only 50 assembly seats out of a total of 139 which went to polls coming its way. Though the results constitute a reverse for the LDF, the margin of difference in the percentage of votes polled between two fronts is just 1.4 percent. Apart from other factors that have contributed this, the shifting of a portion of the BJP votes to the UDF has led to the defeat of the LDF in many constituencies. The sympathy generated after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination also cannot be underestimated.

In settling for a choice, the voters throughout the country however have been unanimous in their rejection of the defectors, the Samajwadi Janata Party. These violators of the people's mandate without any common ideology and any semblance of cohesiveness had opportunism as the only binding factor that brought them together. With the contempt that they deserved the electorate rewarded them a severe drubbing.

These elections have also revealed the manipulation by the governments in power of Constitutional institutions. The controversy over the role of Chief Election Commissioner and the Commission as a whole is unprecedented. The CEC appointed by the Chandra Shekhar Government at the behest of the Congress (I) has notoriously demonstrated his partisanship. Political considerations can only be attributed in the manner in which a hue and cry was raised over the electoral process in Bihar in West Bengal too whereas the Chief Electoral Officer reported no malpractices, repolling was ordered in Howrah Parliamentary Constituency by forcing the CEO to sign a backdated report. In Tripura however, the killings, arsoning, looting, assaults and rapes failed to evoke any response whatsoever from the CEC. Deputations from the Left Front in Tripura, the National Front, and a mass dharna at the Com-

mission's office led by leaders of the Tripura Left Front did not move the CEC for obvious reasons. The Left Front candidates belonging to the CPI(M) had no other option than to withdraw from the elections, which had they participated would have lent legitimacy to a farce. Likewise in the case of Punjab also, as mentioned earlier, it was only at the last minute that the elections were postponed. The democratic movement will therefore have to be vigilant against such subjugation of Constitutional bodies by parties in power.

With the Congress (I) once again at the helm of affairs at the Centre there is every possibility of the gains achieved during the 11 month tenure of the N.F. government being reversed. If the statement of the Prime Minister is any indication, the flood-gates of the Indian economy will be open for an increased multinational penetration. Liberalisation, privatisation of the public sector, increased dependence on the IMF and imperialist controlled financial institutions with all the attendant conditionalities, therefore a forgone conclusion. This ruinous path will but accentuate the severe economic crisis in which the country is already in today. The blatantly anti-minority and rank communal BJP will with its increased strength in Parliament exploit the increasing discontent arising out of such a situation to further the communal divide. The fascistic methods that it employs to curb and suppress forces opposed to it is a cause for alarm for the democratic forces in the country. Its naked display of contempt for the secular values and traditions of the country, its peddling of communalism in the garb of religion, distorting history and feeding the people on a diet of lies and falsehood, pose a serious threat to the very secular edifice of the Constitution and the country.

In the midst of such serious challenges confronting the country, the Left parties and the National Front-Janata Dal, which constitute the second largest block in the Lok Sabha are wedded with a heavy responsibility. It rests upon their shoulders to oppose any measures that the government may take to further erode the miserable conditions in which the common man in the country lives today. They will have to make a positive contribution to finding a solution to the separatist communal and divisive forces which pose a threat to national unity. While opposing all authoritarian and anti-people policies, it will have to struggle for better Centre-State relations, safeguarding and strengthening democracy and against any attack on the weaker sections of the society and for the defence of the minorities.

The working class in the country has a special responsibility on its shoulders. While resisting all attempts to negate the gains of the movement, it will have to be vigilant against moves to open the public sector to private companies. Any attempt to go back on the steps taken by the NF Government with regard to workers' participation in management, for inclusion of the right to work as  
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## Com. P.K. Kunjachan

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions deeply mourns the sad demise of Com. P. K. Kunjachan, a member of the Central Committee of the CPI (M), General Secretary of the All India Agricultural Workers Union, member of the National Commission on Rural Labour and a member of the Rajya Sabha. Com. Kunjachan died of bone cancer at Trivandrum on June 14 at the age of 66.

Born in a family of agricultural workers, Com. Kunjachan devoted his life in organising trade union and agricultural workers' movement. He worked assiduously for the formation of the All India Agricultural Workers' Union in 1981, and became its General Secretary. He joined the Communist Party in 1947 and joined the CPI (M) after its formation in 1964. Devoted to the path of Marxism-Leninism, he dedicatedly worked for the cause of agrarian revolution by guiding united movements of the agricultural workers and the peasantry and trying to forge a fighting alliance with the working class to form the core of the Indian revolution. He played a leading role in the militant and united movements of the agricultural workers and the peasantry of the four left parties in 1987, 88, 89, which included land grabbing and courting arrest and drew active support of the trade union movement in the struggle. The struggle created a big impact in the entire country to carry forward the struggle of the peasantry as a whole, completely devoid of rural vested interests.

While leading the agricultural workers' movement in pursuance of their specific demands, he concentrated on the demand for a central legislation, which was being rejected by the Cong (I) Government but ultimately accepted by the N F Government.

Com. Kunjachan was jailed several times and had to remain underground for several years as well. He was beaten and tortured by the police on several occasions. Despite his falling health and illness, he devoted himself wholeheartedly in the election campaign for the LDF in Kerala and in fact died in harness.

The CITU dips its red banner paying homage to Com. Kunjachan and sends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

## AIAWU Pays Homage to Com. Kunjachan

The All India Agricultural Workers' Union held a meeting at Constitution Club, New Delhi on June 15 to pay homage to Com. P K Kunjachan.

The meeting was presided over by Sunit Chopra, Joint Secretary of the All India Agricultural Workers

## Struggle Against Increase in Working Hours In Sail Offices

The employees of Central Marketing Organisation of Steel Authority of India Ltd. have been agitating over the demand of uniformity of working hours all over its branch offices throughout India. Since 1985, the SAIL Management has been trying to increase the working hours of the CMO employees in different branches from 6½ hours to 8 hours by all dubious means ignoring all India recognised union, All India Co-ordination Committee of SAIL Employees Union, and had been able to trap some of the branch unions to accept 8 hours working. The motive of the Management was to create a situation of surplus manpower in all the branches. But in spite of frantic efforts of the Management and all foul means adopted by them, they had not been able to introduce increased working hours in majority number of branches and till date 70% of the CMO employees are still working 6½ hours. Now situation has changed further and the employees in the branches where eight hour working has been introduced through agreement started retorting back. In all such branches termination notices have already been served by the concerned unions to the eight hour agreements. In offices and stockyards of SAIL/CMO in Secunderabad and Faridabad, the employees have gone further to revert back to 6½ hours working after the expiry of the notice period. The employees demanded restoration of the uniformity of working hours with the majority of the CMO employees all over India who were still working 6½ hours a day. The Management served pay-cut orders to all employees and have been threatening for punitive actions. In spite of that the employees of Faridabad and Secunderabad offices of SAIL/CMO have been unitedly resisting such repressive move of the Management and continued observing a 6½ hours working day. The All India Co-ordination Committee of SAIL Employees' Union have called upon the CMO employees all over India to stand by the struggling employees of Faridabad and Secunderabad offices of SAIL/CMO and warned Management of the agitation all over India in the event of any victimisation in these two offices.

Union. The meeting was attended by leaders of a number of mass organisations. Among those who spoke were E Balanandan, PB member of CPI (M) and President of CITU; S.R. Pillai, Central Secretariat member of CPI (M); P K Tandon, Joint Secretary of All India Kisan Sabha; P K Ganguly, Secretary of CITU; D D Shastri, Vice President of TUCC; Abani Roy of UTUC Surendra Mohan of Janata Dal, Dr. C S K Singh of National Labour Institute and leaders of SFI, DYFI and Janavadi Mahila Samity. The Kisan Sabha and Khet Mazdoor Union of CPI sent a message paying homage to Com. Kunjachan.

# Meeting of CITU Secretariat

The Secretariat of the CITU met at Delhi on June 22 under the Presidentship of Com. E Balanandan. The meeting was attended by Coms. Samar Mukherjee, Manoranjan Roy, R Umanath, P. Sanzgiri, Ahliya Ranganekar, Sushila Gopalan, M K Pandhe, Vimal Ranadive, Md. Amin, K.N. Ravindranath, M M Lawrence, Kanai Banerjee, Jibon Roy and P.K. Ganguly.

The meeting took the following decisions :

The Working Committee meeting will be held at Delhi for two days tentatively in the fourth week of August, 1991.

A meeting of the All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women will be held at Delhi on July 29, 1991.

The Secretariat nominated Coms. K.N. Ravindranath (Kerala-leader), Chittabrata Majumdar (W. Bengal), M. Nanjappan (Tamilnadu) and S.N. Solanki (Haryana) to visit China on a two-week good will tour in August, 1991 at the invitation of ACFTU.

The Secretariat nominated Com. Jibon Roy, Secretary to represent the CITU in the Asian Region Symposium organised by the ACFTU at Gwangtung (Canton), China in August, 1991 on Development and Employment.

The Secretariat decided to take up the matter of obtaining the land for construction of the BTR Memorial Trust with the new Govt. Unions have already started contributions to the Turst.

The meeting called for the Contribution of Rs. 1/- per member for the special fund of the CITU, to be completed by August 31, 1991.

In view of the worsening situation in Tripura, where the Congress (I) gangsters have renewed the offensive on the CPI (M) and CITU cadres since the pre-election time with fresh murders, arson and looting, which compelled the CPI (M) and the left parties to boycott the elections, the Secretariat called for raising struggle fund to help the Tripura comrades. Contributions by unions and workers should be sent to Tripura State Committee under information to the CITU central office. W. Bengal State Committee has already sent about one lakh rupees to Tripura.

The meeting also noted that W. Bengal has contributed Rs. 50,000 to Bangladesh Cyclone Relief Fund. Kerala has also made liberal contributions.

The Secretariat accepted the invitation from the African National Congress to send one representative to their Conference which is being held at Durban, inside South Africa for the first time after many years from July 2 to 6, 1991. The meeting ratified the decision to depute Com. M.K. Pandhe,

General secretary to attend the conference.

The meeting decided to call meetings of the unorganised workers and others, which had to be postponed due to elections, at the end of July.

The meeting decided to hold a full Secretariat meeting at Delhi on July 30 and 31, 1991.

## Left Gains in Working Class Areas in W. Bengal

The election results in West Bengal have once again belied all unabated campaign by the bourgeois press that the Left in West Bengal was losing its support base amongst the working class. The results have shown that specially the CPI(M)'s support base amongst all sections of the working class has improved. As many as 63 out of 70 working class assembly constituencies have gone in favour of the Left Front. In the 1987 elections the Left had won 54 such seats. In the 1991 elections it has recovered 13 constituencies from Congress while acceded only 2 to it. Out of these 13 seats, important victories came from Bhatpara and Titagarh constituencies of Barrackpore industrial belts and both the seats went to the CPI(M). Similarly, the electorate favoured the CPI(M) nominees from Asansol and Barabani constituencies in the Asansol industrial belt unseating the Cong(I) sitting members. Kulti and Hirapur of the same belt went to Forward Block and Left supported Janata Dal nominees. Important victories came in Calcutta from Entally and Belgachia constituencies where CPI(M) candidates unseated the Cong(I) sitting members. Another seat, Kabitirtha has gone to the Forward Block in the same way. Three important seats from Howrah industrial belt, i.e. Bally, Howrah North, Howrah South came in favour of CPI(M) which were won by Congress in 1987. RSP captured the Kalachini seat of Jalpaiguri tea garden area. However, four seats from where Left parties' nominees were elected during 1987 elections have been lost. Two went to the Cong (I) and two to the GNLF. The CPI(M) lost 3 seats and the Forward Block one.

The election results have shown that the working class in Bengal has achieved more maturity during the course of last 14 years of Left Front rule. During this period it got great opportunities in combining their economic struggles with political demands. The working class learnt to weigh the various contradictory positions in the class struggle to choose the form of struggle and the timing of the strike. This period has also given the working class an opportunity to combine the struggle for economic demands along with the struggle for social development. All these achievements have been translated into election victory.

# Workers Martyred to Save Public Sector

P. K. Ganguly

At least forty workers were killed and sixty injured when the police opened fire in front of Dalla Cement factory in the Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh on June 2. The workers staged a peaceful dharna in protest against the physical handing over of the factory to the Dalmias. Dalla Cement factory is one of the three units of the UP State Cement Corporation Ltd. The other two units are at Churk and Chunar.

### Move to Privatisise the Public Sector Units

It is to be noted that the Mulayam Singh Government of UP since its installation had taken a move to privatise a number of state sectors including the UP State Cement Corporation with its three cement factories on the plea that they were running at losses. A number of representations were given to the Chief Minister by the different trade unions, including the CITU, against this move. But ignoring these representations, the State Government issued an advertisement in May, 1990 inviting applications from private entrepreneurs for taking over the three units of the State Cement Corporation, and started proceedings to hand over the Corporation to the Dalmias. The CITU State Committee in its meeting held in early June, 1990 chalked out certain action programmes and decided to mobilise all other trade unions in joint actions. Nine unions in the company filed a writ petition at the Allahabad High Court challenging the privatisation proceedings started by the State Govt. The High Court gave order on October 16 stating, "until further orders, the final implementation of the decision to hand over the factories run by the Corporation shall remain stayed during the pendency of the writ petition."

### Stay Order Defied

However, in total defiance and contravention of the stay order, the State Government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Dalmia Industries Ltd in the first week of February, 1991, for handing over the Rs. 770 crores worth state property to the Dalmias on a token payment of Rs 1 crore only and for transferring 51 percent of the shares of the company to Dalmia Industries Ltd and 12 other companies controlled and nominated by it. The employees of the Corporation even submitted a proposal to run the factory on cooperative basis with details of projected profits for the next seven years. But the proposal was totally ignored by the the State Government. It even went ahead to issue orders to induct five nominees of Dalmia Industries Ltd. in the Board of Directors of the Corporation, out of which the Managing Director was also to be

appointed. The Allahabad High Court had initiated contempt proceedings against D. K. Mittal, Special Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Government of UP and against S. C. Gupta, company Secretary of the UP State Cement Corporation.

### Approval of Financial Institutions Bypassed

During this time, the Officers Association of the Company also filed a writ petition challenging the Government orders. The High Court clubbed together both the writ petitions, and the hearing started before the bench of Chief Justice B P Jeevan Reddy and Justice R.B. Mehrotra on April 30, 1991. The High Court obtained the views of the Industrial Development Bank of India, the State Bank of India and the Allahabad Bank as to whether their approvals were taken prior to the settlement, which was mandatorily required. These financial institutions admitted that their prior approvals were not taken.

The next hearings were fixed for May 21 and 22. But after the May 21 hearing, further hearing remained suspended due to the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi on May 21 night. The High Court went on summer vacation after May 24. In view of the urgency of the case, on May 24 the High Court ordered that further hearing would commence on or after July 8 on which date the High Court was to reopen.

### The Memorandum of Understanding

According to the Memorandum of Understanding the Govt. of UP and Dalmia Industries Ltd. agreed to enter in to a Joint Sector agreement in respect of the UP State Cement Corporation Ltd. The other salient features of the agreement were, (1) the Dalmias would have 51 percent shares and UP Government 49 percent; (2) the Dalmias would take over the management of the Corporation, taking over all the assets on 'as is where is' basis; (3) the shares with a face value of Rs. 100/- would be disinvested by the State Govt. to the Dalmias at a price of Rs. 75/- per share; (4) the Dalmias will pay to the Govt. an amount of Rs. 5/- crores—Rs 1/- crores at the time of signing the agreement, Rs 2/- crores after three months of signing the agreement; and Rs. 2/- crores after six months of signing the agreement; (5) the balance amount shall be paid within 24 months from the date of the MOU; (6) whenever the State Govt. decides to disinvest its remaining shares, the Dalmias will be given the first right to purchase the same at a mutually agreed price; (7) representation on the Board of Directors will be in the same ratio as the share holding—the state Govt. will have four Directors and the Dalmias will have five; (8) the Dalmias will run the Corporation

as a cement manufacturing unit for a minimum period of five years; (9) the State Govt. will not give any guarantee for any funds to be raised in future by the management of the Corporation; (10) after the joint sector venture comes into existence, the Corporation will be granted concessions of Sales Tax deferment facility for five years and rescheduling the liabilities due to the State Govt. its agencies to the tune of Rs. 25/- crores; there will be a moratorium for three years for the payment schedule, followed by payments in five equal instalments.

### **Govt. Order for Delivering Physical Possession Obtained Surreptitiously**

The Dalmia Industries in fact wanted to grab control and management of the Corporation before a new Govt. took over, as they were not expecting the return of Mulayam Singh Government to power consequent upon the election, which were under way. They also wanted to grab Rs 1.5 crores in cash from the three factories at Dalla, Churk and Chunar, kept in insured cash chests for the salaries of the employees for the month of May, which they have not received as yet, as also the original share certificates kept in safe vaults. They had no difficulty to do so, as the Mulayam Singh Government was ever prepared to oblige them. So, during this short period after May 24, ignoring and brazenly violating all High Court orders, two nominees of Dalmia Group of Industries, namely, Parveen Kumar and OP Thirani obtained orders from the State Government authorising taking physical possession of the three factories by the Dalmias under police protection.

Since the Officer's Association and the General Managers of the three factories had objected to the sell off of the State sector to the Dalmias, they were threatened by the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police on 30th May with arrest in case they refused to authorise OP Thirani, the Dalmias nominee to operate the bank accounts. The entire state Govt machinery thus colluded with the Dalmias to give physical possession of the units to them.

### **Delegation Visits Dalla**

It was against this physical hand over that the workers staged the dharna before the Dalla factory on June 2. During all the preceding months joint actions were being launched by the trade unions. They had demonstrated at Lucknow also earlier. The taking of physical possession of June 2 came up suddenly.

On hearing the news of firing, a delegation of Parliament members and Central Trade Union leaders comprising of Md Amin and Ashis Sen of CPI (M) and Gurudas Dasgupta of CPI and TN Siddhanta, Secretary of AITUC and P K Ganguly, Secretary of CITU visited the place on 6th June.

The delegation visited the place where the firing took place on the main road near the Dalla cement factory, which leads to Varanasi. The delegation talked to a cross section of people, workers, small shop owners in the vicinity, who were eye-witnesses to the entire incident leading to the firing. The common points that emerged from the talks were as follows :

1. A number of UP Government officials and the management personnel of the Dalmia group of Industries entered the Dalla Cement factory premises under police escort for delivering physical possession of the factory to the Dalmias.

2. The workers of the factory, some 5 hundred in number sat on the road in dharna at about 3.00 p.m. in protest against privatisation of this state sector undertaking an hand over to Dalmias. The dharna was absolutely peaceful.

3. Just about half an hour later, i.e. at about 3.30 p.m. the police suddenly resorted to lathi charges without any provocation notice or without any call to lift the dharna.

4. The lathi charge was almost immediately followed by tear gas firing, again without any warning. The workers were taken aback by the sudden lathi charge and tear gas firing and in a natural process started running away. The firing was first resorted to allegedly by the Dalmia personnel from their private pistols.

5. The police then started firing on the fleeing workers at random. A number of workers fell down immediately dead. Some stopped to pick up the dead and injured workers. The police fired at them from point blank range, killing them on the spot. The fleeing workers then picked up stones and threw at the police.

6. The police chased the workers to distant places, in the nearby bushes and jungles, to the hilly ranges in the vicinities and inside the residential colonies, firing at random above the waist line all through in the killing spree.

7. The claim of the police, as appeared in the press that the workers resorted to brick-battling and the police resorted to firing in self defence is absolutely false and concocted.

8. The firing continued for about two hours, i.e. upto about 5.30 p.m. It was then the police itself, alongwith some anti-socials hired by the Dalmia management, set fires to several vehicles, public buses and shops, and accused the workers for doing it.

9. Curfew was imposed the same night and the next morning quite a number of dead bodies, as alleged, were taken by the police and burnt down all to-

gether. It was reported that at least 40 persons were killed and about 60 were injured.

10. On 3rd and 4th June, the police forcefully entered the residences of the workers, beat them severely, misbehaved with the women and looted their properties including cash money amounting to several thousands. A large number of workers reportedly about 100 were already arrested and false cases were framed. The General Manager of the factory, Shri Dharam Vir Khushwaha was arrested on 4th June on the plea of supporting the workers against privatisation and charged under section 409 IPC. The other two General Managers of Churk and Chunar had escaped, as per reports.

The delegation visited the residential colony and met the families and relatives of those killed and injured.

They addressed meetings of workers of the Obra State Electricity Board, who went on 24 hrs strike protesting against the police firing and privatisation. They addressed workers' meeting in front of the Dalla Cement factory.

The delegation also went to Churk, addressed workers' meeting and met the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police.

The attitude of both the DM and the SP was extremely uncooperative. The SP was particularly aggressive in his talks. Both of them claimed that a large number of police officials were injured. When it was questioned who ordered for police firing, there was no answer. In the whole area panic is prevailing and about 60 percent of the workers had left their residences out of fear of being arrested. Shop owners and vegetable sellers have also escaped leading to an acute shortage of all essential commodities. The delegation also visited the factory gate where the security staff informed that they were unarmed and being replaced by armed police for duty inside the factory. Workers are not being allowed to go to the factory.

#### **Joint Action Programme**

All the unions irrespective of affiliations later held a meeting at Obra, which was attended by all members of the delegation. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the unions in State Electricity Board from Obra, Anpara, Cement Workers Unions and others unions in the district. The meeting decided to launch an indefinite strike in the entire district shortly in pursuance of the following demands :

1. Immediate stoppage of all proceedings for privatisation.
2. Rs 2 lakhs as compensation to the families of the dead.
3. Rs 50 thousands as compensation to the injured.
4. Release of all arrested persons and withdrawal of all cases.
5. Transfer of the DM and SP and punishment

to all police officials responsible for the firing.  
6. Judicial enquiry into the firing.

Shri Samar Mukherjee, leader of the CPI (M) group in Rajya Sabha met Shri Chandrasekhar and gave a letter to him. Shri Md Amin MP, CPI (M) has also written a letter to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Chief Minister of UP. Gurudas Das Gupta, CPI raised the matter in Parliament on 4th June, alongwith Dipen Ghosh of CPI (M).

#### **Countrywide Movement Required**

Struggle against privatisation of public sector is being carried forward by the trade unions and the Confederation of the Central Public Sector Officers' Associations since the last several years. The Dalla Cement factory firing has given a new turn to the movement. It is for the first time that the workers martyred themselves to save a public sector undertaking from being handed over to a private monopolist.

The CITU, AITUC and CPSTU have already issued statements condemning the Police firing and privatisation. All the public sector workers both in the Central and State Sectors and the entire working class must unite to launch militant actions protesting against the killing and privatisation. The CPSTU is likely to meet shortly to take up agitational programmes.

## **CITU Condemns Killing of Dalla Cement Workers**

The Secretariat of the CITU issued the following statement on June 4 :

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions strongly condemns the brutal killing of cement workers of Dalla cement factory by UP police on 2nd June evening and injuring a number of others and demands immediate judicial enquiry into this genocide.

When the workers were physically resisting the handing over of the public sector unit to a private company by Mulayam Singh Government, the police resorted to this heinous crime to help the private capitalist. The workers were peacefully protesting against the decision of the UP Govt and the firing was totally unprovoked. As reports indicate the firing was a premediated plan of the UP Govt in connivance with a private industrialist.

The CITU calls on all its unions to protest and to send telegram to Chief Minister of UP condemning the police firing and demanding withdrawal of the privatisation decision. The unions should demand adequate compensation to all the killed and injured in the firing, judicial enquiry into the firing and actions against the police officials responsible for the firing.

The CITU warns against the policy of privatisation of the public sector units at the behest of World Bank and the IMF and if further pursued it would meet stiff opposition by the united Trade Union movement.

## Public Sector Workers to Observe All India Solidarity Day For Dalla Cement Workers on 2nd July, 1991

On behalf of the CPSTU, M.K. Pandhe (CITU), Homi Daii (AITUC), U.M. Purohit (HMS), R. K. Bhakt (BMS) and Michael Fernandez of Joint Action Front, Bangalore issued the following joint statement on June 11 :

The Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions strongly condemns the brutal police firing by the U.P. police on the Dalla cement factory workers on 2nd June '91 resulting in the death of scores of workers and injuries to several others.

About 500 workers of Dalla Cement Factory were protesting against the U.P. Government's decision to handover the three state owned cement undertakings at Dalla, Chunar and Churk to the Dalmias at a throw away price and privatise it. The Govt. of U.P. blatantly violated the High Court Order staying the privatisation proceedings.

The U.P. police in connivance with Dalmias deliberately resorted to reckless firing to terrorise the workers and drown their struggle against privatisation in blood. The police later went to the residential areas of workers arrested about 100 of them and mercilessly beat the women folk and other family members while belongings of the workers were snatched away. It is reported that large number of workers have fled away with families to avoid further arrest and attacks by the policemen. The whole episode amounts to be a cold blooded murder of the democratic values cherished by the Indian people. All unions in Sonebhadra district irrespective of affiliation have decided to go on indefinite strike against the shameful incident.

The CPSTU calls upon all workers in public sector undertakings to observe 2nd July '91 as ALL INDIA SOLIDARITY DAY FOR DALLA CEMENT WORKER by holding demonstrations and meetings etc. to condemn the brutal firing, pay homage to the workers who became martyrs in the struggle against privatisation & demanding the following :

1. Immediate appointment of Judicial Enquiry presided over by a High Court Judge.
2. Immediate suspension of DM and SP at Sonebhadra and other police officials responsible for the police firing.
3. Payment of Rs. 2 lakh compensation for the families of the workers killed and Rs. 50,000 to the injured in police firing.
4. Release of all the arrested workers and with-

## CITU Supports Indefinite Strike in Sonebhadra Districts Against Dalla Firing from June 24

On receiving the information from Varanasi District CITU about indefinite strike and bandh calls, the Secretariat of the CITU issued the following statement on June 15:

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions extends full support to the call for indefinite strike from June 24 jointly given by all the trade unions in the Sonebhadra District of Uttar Pradesh demanding revocation of the order of privatisation of the UP Cement Corporation Ltd., and handing over to the Dalmias and in protest against the police firing on Dalla Cement factory workers on June 2 which killed and injured a large number of workers. The strike will embrace all the industries, both public and private sectors in the district.

The CITU further extends support to the decisions of all the trade unions and parties in the district to call for the Sonebhadra District bandh, tentatively fixed for June 27, which is likely to be extended to Varanasi district bandh as well on the same day.

The CITU calls upon all its unions and appeals to all other trade unions to extend support to the call and express solidarity with the workers of Dalla by holding demonstrations and rallies against the privatisation and police firing and carry forward the agitation unitedly on an all India level. The Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions has already given a call to observe July 2 as an All India Day on the issue.

### Protest Telegrammes

Responding to the call of the CITU protest telegrams have already been sent to the Chief Minister of UP by the Andhra Pradesh State Committee of CITU; CEL Employees' Union, Ghaziabad; Chittorgarh District CITU; Paramanu Vidyut Karmachari Union, Rajasthan Anushakti Karmachari Union and Nirman Shramik Union, Rawatbhata, Rajasthan.

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drawal of cases against them.

5. Stop all proceedings against privatisation of the three cement factories by the U.P. Government.

All Unions should also raise their powerful voice of protest in general against the policy of privatisation pursued by the Government of India.

The CPSTU appeals to all the unions in public sector irrespective of their affiliations to send material help to the Dalla workers so that they can face the situation in their hour of trial.

# Towards United Movement of Cement Workers

A preliminary discussion was held in Delhi on June 15 among the representatives of the four non-INTUC central trade unions viz HMS, BMS, AITUC and CITU to explore the possibility of reviving joint movement of the workers in cement industry.

In cement industry, though INTUC union really represents only a fraction of the workers, the INTUC sponsored Cement Workers Federation has been most arbitrarily recognised by the industry as the sole bargaining agent of labour ignoring the other trade unions which together represent the majority of workers in the industry. The INTUC federation in its turn has been helping the management to further their interest at the expense of the workers. The extant agreement between the industry and the INTUC as sole bargaining agent is nothing short of naked betrayal of workers interest. As the agreement is going to expire in March 1992 and consequently the question of a fresh agreement is coming up, it was felt that the four non-INTUC trade union centres need take determined steps in the interest of the workers in the cement industry to introduce bipartite negotiation for periodical wage settlement involving all the trade unions in the field as in other major industries, instead of the present arbitrary arrangement of negotiation with INTUC alone. The discussion on June 15 was arranged to consider appropriate steps to be jointly taken for the purpose. In the discussion AITUC was represented by T N Siddhanta, HMS by Indira Saxena, BMS by Rambhau Joshi and OP Aghi and CITU by M. K. Pandhe and Kanai Banerjee.

CITU representatives pointed out that since inception the cement industry have been earning enormous profit by resorting to cartelisation and others means but it never shared it equitably with the workers whose remuneration is miserably poor compared to other basic industries. Worst is the condition of the workers in cement plants though those are not less profitable than the major plants. Only through a persistent joint movement the present state of things could be changed in favour of workers, they said.

After discussion it was decided that a joint convention with delegates from affiliates of the four trade union centres would be called at Delhi towards the end of August or in early September. A joint charter of demands covering both major and mini-cement plants would be adopted in the convention along with a programme for sustained joint movement. A joint deputation will meet the Government to submit the charter of demands. A brochure explaining the condition of the industry will also be brought out. The final date of the convention and other necessary details would be worked out in July.

A joint circular has been issued by the four trade unions asking their affiliates to carry the message of united movement to the workers. The workers have also been asked to extend full support to the

workers of Dalla (UP) Cement factory in their struggle against the UP Government's attempt to privatise the unit and against police atrocities.

## Harassment to Airhostess Leads to Safety Danger

Air hostesses have been discriminated on the ground of sex in the airlines by the management on the question of their service conditions. This is a matter of shame for any civilised country. But what should be termed as cases of the harassment to Airhostesses on duty and that too by no important person than the Captain of the flight? It is definitely barbaric.

On 28th Feb '91, flight No. IC 410 from Calcutta to Delhi via Ranchi, Patna and Lucknow had been piloted by Capt. Munjal and the senior-most cabin crew was Air hostess Mrs. Rekha Das. Mr. Munjal was not in good terms with Mrs. Das because he physically assaulted her in the past for which there was a spontaneous agitation by the Air hostesses and Munjal was chargesheeted by the management. Out of this incident he was in revengeful attitude towards her.

On the commencement of the flight Rekha, being the senior-most cabin crew, took charge in the front galley of the aircraft and prepared the duty chart and gave the same to Munjal for his information and counter signature. Here it has to be mentioned that as per laid down rules and departmental instructions in the safety manuals, the senior-most cabin crew has to be on duty in the front galley. This is a safety requirement. But Munjal not only refused to sign the chart but even asked Rekha to perform duty on the rear galley in violation of the laid down procedure. Obviously Munjal wanted to settle the old scores with Rekha.

The entire cabin crew members insisted Munjal either to sign the duty allocation sheet or record his objection in writing. But instead of complying with the same Munjal reportedly told them that he does not like to see the face of Rekha and hence 'she is safety hazard' to him. In the process ultimately when the flight reached Lucknow the arrogant captain unloaded Rekha and two other airhostesses and the last leg of the flight was performed virtually without cabin crew.

This is a glaring instance as to how the airhostesses are ill-treated and also how safety of the air passengers are made play things by even a pilot notoriously for settling old scores with an air hostess. What is her fault? She did not bear with physical assault on her by Manjal silently.

Time and again such incidents have been taking place in Indian Airlines and after ever incident instead of taking stern action against concerned persons the authority is recirculating its instructions for safety regulations and the guilty is allowed to go scot-free denying justice to the harassed Air hostesses.

## Contract System Plunders Bokaro Workers

It is now coming to the limelight that the slogan of competitiveness aimed in dissipating the organised working class through modernisation and also through its replacement by a well entrenched contract system gives extra leverage to the employer in reducing the labour cost. Lesser commitment on wage and social overhead reduced the cost of the commodity giving competitive edge with other enterprises.

The competition to reduce the labour cost is landing the Indian industries, not with the exception of public sector, towards the degradation of industrial relations system into unalloyed slavery. Fragmentation of contract system through chains of subcontract, refusal of the principal employer and the state governments to enforce the labour regulations and increasing involvement of mafias into the operation of the contract system has thrashed on the contract workers an irremovable bondage and the Bokaro Steel Plant has become exemplary in nourishing and developing this type of slavery. Contract workers are denied of the minimum daily wages guaranteed by the Bihar state regulations. Social security measures guaranteed to the contract

workers through legislation are rarely implemented. Contractors generally collect workers through the local ruffians for whom a share is extracted from the worker's wage. Compensation for the extra time work is not generally given.

Recently a section of contract workers in brick loading and unloading and Ferro Manganese departments decided to organise themselves under trade unions and they formed the CITU union. They demanded upon the management through a memorandum for total implementation of labour laws and also the minimum wages available to similar type of jobs in other parts of the steel industry in the country.

It was enough to enrage the steel management. As a means of throwing the workers out of employment they withdrew the contract from the existing contractor, instead of compelling him to follow the labour regulations, and asked the HSCL to come in. The HSCL in turn is trying to bring new contractors into the sites with new workers. The all India leadership of CITU has intervened into the matter and has taken up with the SAIL management.

## Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers

(Base 1982 = 100)

Centre	March 1991	April 1991	Linking factor for Old base		209	209	—		220	218	5.12
				Belgaum	209	209	—	Varanasi	220	218	5.12
				Hubli-Dharwar	203	205	—	Asansol	194	195	4.77
				Mercara	187	190	—	Calcutta	206	205	4.74
				Alwaye	182	186	5.19	Darjeeling	192	191	4.55
				Mundakayam	190	193	4.67	Durgapur	209	211	—
				Quilon	191	189	—	Haldia	218	217	—
				Trivandrum	201	199	—	Howrah	216	215	4.12
ALL-INDIA	201	202	4.93	Bhalghat	201	204	5.24	Jalpaiguri	186	185	4.16
Gudur	177	175	4.33	Bhilai	187	187	3.49	Raniganj	192	192	4.40
Guntur	195	194	5.60	Bhopal	209	207	5.46	Chandigarh	206	205	—
Hyderabad	190	191	5.23	Indore	215	213	5.18	Delhi	208	210	4.97
Visakhapatnam	200	200	—	Jabalpur	229	226	6.41	Pondicherry	215	216	—
Warrangal	185	186	—	Bombay	210	216	5.12				
Doom-Dooma-				Nagpur	212	212	4.99	<b>Additional Series of Labour Bureau</b>			
Tinsukia	183	184	4.05	Nasik	214	218	—	Kothagudem	211	207	3.25
Gauhati	197	197	—	Pune	206	207	—	Himachal Pradesh	198	200	3.75
Labac-Silchar	176	179	3.96	Sholapur	206	211	5.03	Bhilwara	204	204	3.20
Mariani-Jorhat	194	194	3.95	Barbil	191	191	5.00	Chindwara	214	210	2.59
Rangapara-Tezpur	198	198	4.29	Rourkela	186	187	3.59	Tripura	199	203	4.37
Jamshedpur	195	197	4.68	Amritsar	196	195	5.19	Goa	214	214	3.40
Jharia	190	190	4.63	Ludhiana	201	202	—				
Kodarma	178	175	5.43	Ajmer	209	210	5.01	<b>Other Series of Labour Bureau</b>			
Monghyr	203	195	5.29	Jaipur	200	199	5.17				
Noamundi	195	194	4.58	Coimbatore	188	189	5.35				
Ranchi-Hatia	208	202	—	Coonoor	207	206	4.80	Centre	Base	Mar.	Apr.
Ahmedabad	207	208	4.78	Madras	197	197	5.05		1990	1991	
Baroda	207	210	—	Maduri	195	197	5.27	Ammathi	1960	873	895
Bhavnagar	209	210	4.99	Salem	191	185	—	Chickmagalur	1960	887	894
Rajkot	204	206	—	Tiruchirapally	204	203	—	Kolar Gold Field	1960	910	914
Surat	217	220	—	Agra	198	198	—	Gwalior	1960	1022	1025
Faridabad	194	192	—	Ghaziabad	211	204	—	Sambalpur	—	—	—
Yamunanagar	193	197	5.53	Kanpur	211	208	4.69	Berhampur	—	—	—
Srinagar	194	196	5.47	Saharanpur	204	204	5.06	Cuttack	—	—	—
Bangalore	196	197	5.66								

Note: Figures on old base can be obtained by multiplying the Index Number on New Base by the linking factor given and rounding off the result to nearest whole number.

—Dash denotes new centres under 1982 series.

## Com. Sukhdev Singh

Com. Sukhdev Singh, President, PRTC Motor Mazdoor Union (CITU) Sangrur Depot and district CITU leader was shot dead by the Khalistani terrorists on 26th May, 1991 at 2.15 P M., while he was performing his duties on bus stand. Com Sukhdev Singh was one of the founders of the CITU union in Pepsu Road Transport Corpn, which is affiliated to CITU and All India Road Transport Workers Federation. Being a CITU activist, he was in the forefront of struggle being carried forward against the anti national and imperialist supported Khalistani terrorists, strengthening class unity and in defence of unity and integrity of the country and that is why to silence his voice the secessionist terrorists have martyred Com. Sukhdev Singh. Com. Sukhdev Singh who was 46 left behind his wife and three children aging from 7 to 16 years.

Punjab State Committee of CITU paid revolutionary tributes to Com. Sukhdev Singh, while condemning the violent activities of secessionists and pledged that the banner of secularism and patriotism shall be kept aloft and CITU cannot be cowed down by such threats. The Central CITU and the Punjab State Committee send heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

## Com. Varinder Kumar Gagan

Com. Varinder Kumar Gagan a promising young State Committee member of CITU and Jalandhar Dist. Secretary of CITU was martyred alongwith four other comrades at 8.15 P M. on 8th June by Khalistani terrorists while coming back to Nakodar town from election campaign. Com. Gagan was a CPI(M) candidate for assembly constituency from Nakodar. Com. Gagan left behind three children and his wife, who is also an activist in women's organisation. In the death of Com. Gagan, the State CITU lost a valuable leader.

The State CITU paid revolutionary homage to Com. Gagan, Surjeet Singh, Dist Committee member of CPI(M), and Sat Pal and other security guards who sacrificed their lives while struggling to expose the imperialist agents who are out to disrupt the unity and integrity of the

country. The CITU pledges to carry forward the unfinished struggle into success and sends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

## J. K. Bose

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions mourns the passing away of Com. J. K. Bose, General Secretary, National Coal Organisation Employees Association (CITU) at Ranchi on 8th June 1991 after prolonged illness. Com. J. K. Bose was the Secretary of the All India Coal Workers Federation and a member of the Bihar State Committee of CITU. He played an important role in wage negotiations in the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry. His contribution in getting the union affiliated to the CITU is significant. Com. Bose was employed in the Headquarters of the Central Coalfields Ltd., Since the days of NCDC he was actively associated in building the NCOEA.

Com. Bose prominently participated in all the countrywide struggles of the Coal workers. Despite his falling health he was active in conducting struggles of the workers. In his death the coal workers' movement under the banner of CITU lost a great stalwart whose contributions will ever be remembered. The workers in CCL and CMPDIL will always remember his valuable contribution to their movement. He guided the recent struggle of the CMPDIL workers and achieved success.

The CITU pays homage to the memory of Com. J. K. Bose and sends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of his family.

## Com. K. George

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions expresses deep sorrow at the passing away of Com. K. George, the General Council member from Andhra Pradesh, who died of heart attack on May 15. Com. George was a founder of the Singarene Colliery Employees' Union in 1978. He was the Secretary of the All India Coal Workers' Federation and also a member of the Andhra Pradesh State Committee of CITU. The CITU sends heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

## Meeting Pays Homage to S. A. Dange

A meeting to condole the death of Com. S. A. Dange was held on 3rd June 1991 in the Central Office of the AITUC. Speakers from various central trade unions spoke paying tributes to the role played by him in the trade union movement. B D Joshi, Vice-President, AITUC presided over the meeting.

M K Pandhe, General Secretary CITU referred to the pioneering role played by Dange in giving a leftist orientation to the T. U. movement. He

mentioned his important contribution in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Parliament.

Homi Daji General Secretary AITUC moved a condolence resolution and all participants stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

Deb Kumar Ganguly (WFTU), Ramlal Thakkar (INTUC), Bhakti Bhushan Mardal (UTUC) and representatives of HMS and AIBEA spoke on the occasion.

## List of CITU Special Fund Receipts

(The Kanpur General Council meeting held in July 1990 gave the call for contribution of Re 1/- per member to CITU Special Fund. The Seventh Conference of the CITU held at Calcutta in February 1991 endorsed the call. The contributions were to be deposited at the Central Office by 30th May, 1991, the foundation day of the CITU. We are giving below the list of the receipts unionwise/statewise till 20.6.91—Ed)

### West Bengal

Hoogly Printing Employees Union Calcutta	500.00
NPCCL Workers Union of India, Calcutta	1,035.00
Hindustan Steel Employees Union, Durgapur	3,500.00
Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union	25,000.00
CITU State Committee, West Bengal	<u>67,755.00</u>
	97,790.00

### Assam

Kagaj Kal Thikadar Sramik Union Lanchagram Dist. Hana Kandi	427.00
Badarpur Rikshaw Mazdoor Samity, Badarpur Dist. Karionganj.	<u>100.00</u>
	527.00

### Delhi

Bharat Electronic Employees Union, Ghaziabad	1000.00
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### Maharashtra

Grind Well Norton Workers Union, Morathran PANAB Karanja Dist. Raigad	500.00
Balmer Lauril Employees Union, Bombay	<u>163.00</u>
	663.00

### Goa

CITU State Committee, Vascode Gama	489.00
—do—	<u>3,511.00</u>
	4,000.00

### Gujarat

Kheda Jilla Factory Kamdar Union, Nadiad	1,068.00
Nondseri Village Kamdar Karamchari Union Vallabh Vidyanagar	273.00
Lal Vawta Kamdar Union, Junagarh	485.00
Com. Subodh Metha Bhavnagar for 3 Unions (i) Bhavnagar Kamdar Sangh (ii) G.S.M.T.C. Mazdoor Sangh & (iii) Mill Kamdar Union	<u>541.00</u>
	2,367.30

### Karnataka

ITC Workers Union, Bangalore	1,691.00
Bangalore East Industrial Workers Union, Bangalore	<u>1,203.00</u>
	2,894.00

### Rajasthan

Rashtriya Anil Steel Mazdoor Sangh, Jaipur	185.00
J K Tyre Karmachari Ekta Union ? Kakroli, Udaipur	<u>1,600.00</u>
	1,785.00

### Andhra Pradesh

A. P S RTC Bustand Contract Sweepers Union, Kurnool	51.00
The Chilakahupet Rikshaw Workers Union, Chilakaherpet	145.00
Saw Mill Workers Union, Chikharupet	63.00
A. P State Warehouse FCI Go down Hamgli Union	80.00
Kallur Parchayathi Hounali Union, Kurnool, Kalluru	30.00
Market Yonal & Ballary Road Hamali Union, Kurnool	100.00
M G Brothers Employees, Union Kurnool	84.00
Municipal Employee Union, Pithapuram	<u>94.00</u>
	647.00

### Punjab

Lal Jhanda Punjab Fiber Mazdoor Union	500.00
Lal Jhand ABC Workers Union	650.00
Zeenath Paper Workers Union	350.00
Shivalak Fertilizer Workers Union	150.00
Swaraj Majda Workers Union	122.00
Sreyans Paper Mill Workers Union	275.00
Mernak Chemical Employees Union	180.00
Sanati Mazdoor Union, Amritsar	1,000.00
Theen Dam Workers Union, Pathankot	5,667.00
Lal Jhanda FCI Workers Palledari Union	2,111.00
Karkhoma Industrial Workers Union Pathankot	351.00
Lal Jhanda Rita Bazari Mazdoor Union	702.00
Small Scale Industries Workers Union Sangrur	100.00

CITU Dist. Committee, Patiala	1,500.00
Kartar Glass Mazdoor Union, Hoshiarpur	222.00
Lal Jhanda Ludhiana Fiber Workers Union, Hoshiarpur	180.00
Chemical Mazdoor Union Rembaxy, Hoshiarpur	124.00
Lal Jhanda Rajnid Rosian Workers Union, Hoshiarpur	65.00
Lal Jhanda Amar Industries Workers Union? Hoshiarpur	21.00
Lal Jhanda Hosiery Mazdoor Union, Ludhiana	200.00
Hyhil Workers Union Talwara Township	1,025.00
Shah Nehar Ekta Mazdoor Union Talwara Township	98.00
Kandi Canal Ekta Mazdoor Union	63.00
Lal Jhanda Rehri Palkadar Union Dhuri	100.00
Oswal Agro Farm Workers Union, Bhasoor	100.00
Gre Sood Workers Union Maberokotta	100.00
GIS Workers Union Akbarpur	100.00
Lal Jhanda Combine Workers Union Sangrur	200.00
Lal Jhanda Bharang Mazdoor Union, Baranala	160.00
Dozi Workers Union Malerkotta	100.00
Lal Jhanda Imarti Mazdoor Union, Sangrur	200.00
Malina Synthex Workers Union, Sangrur	60.00
PTRC Motor Mazdoor Union, Patiala	1,000.00
La Tech Workerr Union, Chandigarh	23.00
Meter & Instrments Workers Union, Chandigarh	220.00
Chandigarh Steel Rolling & Engg. Workers Union	357.00
Chandigarh Spun Pipe Wokers Union, Chandigarh	47.00
Bhushan Industry India Metal & Archana Steel Workers Union, Chandigarh	274.00
Raja Ram Co. Products Workers Union, Chandigarh	145.00
Panipat Woolen Mills Workers Union, Kharar Dist. Ropar	400.00
Punjab State Tube Well Corporation Workers Union, Jalandhar	900.00
Kharar Textile Mill Workers Union, Kharar Dist Ropar	620.00
Karkhana Industrial Workers Union, Pathankott	399.00
Micron Instruments Employees Union, Chandigarh	394.00
Lal Jhanda Punjab Bhatta Mazdoor Union, Jalandhar	1,000.00
	<u>31,555.00</u>

## May Day in Punjab—Workers Demonstrate aganist Governor

A state level function was organised by the Government in Punjab on May Day at Bhatinda. All the state level leaders of different organisations were invited. The CITU was also invited. The Governor presided over the function. Big mobilisation was made by the CITU. About ten thousand workers participated.

Trade union leaders gave their views on labour problems being faced by the working class in the special situation. Many issues of lawlessness were highlighted. Balwant Singh, President, CITU Punjab unit spoke on behalf of CITU. He called upon the working class to work for the unity and integrity of the country taking it as the main task, as the working class was the only class that can be a reliable class to fight for secularism and democracy. At the end Governor, retired General O. P Malhotra spoke. He in the opening sentence rejected the demand of May Day as holiday and then stressed that no wages will be paid to the roadways workers for the striking period, no wages will be paid to J.E.s for the striking period. He repeated it thrice that if some trade union leaders take the workers on strike, workers should not listen to them, since they always misguide and exploit the workers. It was a most irresponsible utterance by the Governor. Balwant Singh along with the BMS and AITUC leaders stood up on the stage in protest and slogans were shouted against the Governor. All the workers in the rally gheraoed the stage. The Governor with folding hands tried to pacify the workers. But the angry workers went on shouting slogans and held a big demonstration outside the pandal against the dictatorial utterances of the Governor.

### Tamilnadu

Ramnad Dist Cement & Quarry Workers Union	165.00
Maruthu Pandiar Transport Workers Union	906.00
Theepuravu Thozhilalar Sangam, Sattar	49.00
Nippur Thozhilalar, Sangam, Sattar	100.00
Elayeram Pannai Sumaithukkam Thozhilalar Sangam	20.00
	<u>1,240.00</u>
Grand Total	143968.00

# CITU Publications

- The following CITU publications are available for sale :—
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<b>Total</b>	<b>3,750.00</b>

## Caretaker Govt. has no Right to Constitute Women's Commission

A delegation of representatives of women's organisations met the Chief Election Commissioner, T N Seshan, on June 6 in connection with reports that had appeared regarding the constitution of a National Commission for Women by the Caretaker Chandra Shekhar Govt. Though the setting up of such a commission is a long-standing demand, the delegation pressed upon the CEC that if this is done at this time, it will be a clear violation of the rules laid down for the functioning of an interim, caretaker Govt. by the Election Commission. The caretaker Govt has no right to constitute such a commission or to nominate its members. For, whereas the caretaker Govt has only about two weeks left to function, the members of the Commission have to serve a term of three years. Clearly, only a government which has the backing of an electoral mandate, has the right to constitute such a commission which holds a special importance in the struggle for gender equality.

The delegation therefore urged upon the CEC that it must intervene and prevent the caretaker Govt from taking a step which is in clear contravention of its rights and jurisdiction, besides having extremely adverse implications for women's struggle for justice.

The delegation comprised Vimal Ranadive (All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women), Brinda Karat (All India Democratic Women's Association), Lotika Sarkar (Centre for Women's Development Studies), Jyotsna Chatterjee (Joint Women's Programme), Ranjana Kumari (Mahila Dakshata Samiti), Vimala Farooqi (National Federation of Indian Women) and Mary Kehmchand (Young Women's Christian Association).

The CEC assured the delegation that he would look into the matter and take appropriate action.

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<b>Total</b>	<b>55,055.00</b>

## Victorious Left Candidates in 10th Lok Sabha

(Elections held on May 20 and June 12 and 15, 1991)

### CPI (M) Winners

1. Jiten Das (W. Bengal)
2. Subrata Mukherjee (do)
3. Zainal Abedin (do)
4. Syed Masudal Hossain (do)  
(G C. Member, CITU)
5. Ajoy Mukherjee (do)
6. Dr. Ashim Kanti Bala (do)
7. Radhika Ranjan Pramanik (do)
8. Amal Datta (do)
9. Malini Bhattacharya (do)
10. Tarit Baran Topdar (do)  
(W.C. Member, CITU)
11. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee (do)
12. Susanta Chakraborty (do)
13. Hannan Mollah (do)
14. Sudarshan Roy Chowdhury (do)
15. Rup Chand Pal (do)
16. Anil Basu (do)
17. Satyagopal Mishra (do)
18. Sudhir Giri (do)
19. Rupchand Murmu (do)
20. Basudev Acharya (do)
21. Sukhendu Khan (do)
22. Purna Chandra Malick (do)
23. Haradhan Ray (W.C. member, CITU) (do)
24. Sudhir Ray (do)
25. Saiffudin Chowdhury (do)
26. Somnath Chatterjee (do)
27. Ramchandra Dome (do)
28. Shivaji Patnaik (W.C. Member, CITU) (Orissa)
29. Ramchandra Gangare (Maharashtra)
30. Ramanna Rai (Kerala)
31. T. J. Anjalose (do)
32. Susheela Gopalan (Vice President, CITU) (do)
33. B N. Reddy (Andhra Pradesh)
34. Prem Chand Ram (Bihar)
35. Uddab Barman (Assam)

Note : Election in Purnea Constituency in Bihar has been countermanded. The party withdrew from Punjab and Tripura polls.

### CPI

1. Bhogendra Jha (Bihar)
2. Tej Narian Singh (do)
3. Ramashray Prasad Singh (do)
4. Kamal Mishra Madhukar (do)
5. Vijay Kumar Yadav (do)
6. Bhuvaneshwar Mehta (do)
7. Suraj Narain Singh (do)
8. Indrajit Gupta (W. Bengal)
9. Geeta Mukherjee (do)
10. Manoranjan Sur (do)
11. Lok Nath Chowdhury (Orissa)
12. Vishwanath Shastri (U.P.)
13. B. Dharma Biksham (A.P.)

Note : (Announcement of result from Munger withheld).

## CITU Holds CIL Management Responsible for Singrauli Mine Accident

M. K. Pandhe, General Secretary CITU and President, All India Coal Workers Federation has issued the following statement on June 11:

The shocking news of the accident in Dudhichua Colliery Project off the Northern Coalfields Ltd, on 8th June 1991 once again highlights the callous attitude of the Coal India management towards safety regulations which was mainly responsible for the accident leading to loss of lives for about 150 workers engaged in the construction work of the Coal Handling Plant. The CIL management failed to ensure implementation of the safety regulations by the South Korean contractors firm which led to the loss of such a large number of precious lives of construction workers.

Despite repeated criticism by the trade unions in coal industry the CIL management has been paying scant regard to them and forcing the workers to continue to work in hazardous conditions. The CITU demands immediate suspension of the officers who were responsible for the accident. The management should not wait till the report of the judicial enquiry is submitted to the Govt.

The fact that even after two days of the accident, the rescue work could not commence, only pin points the inadequacy of the rescue organisation in coal industry. The CITU demands immediate steps to strengthen the rescue organisation in coal industry so that such inordinate delays would not take place in future.

The CITU demands substantial compensation to the families of workers to be paid by the coal India Ltd and jobs to the dependents of those killed in the accident. The CIL management should take stern action against the South Korean contractors firm for violating the safety rules and compel them to pay liberal compensation to the dependents of those killed in the ghastly accident. The CITU demands that the M. P. Government should arrest the senior officials of the South Korean firm so that they are prevented from tampering with the crucial evidence of the accident.

### R.S.P.

1. Nani Bhattacharjee (W. Bengal)
2. Piyus Tirkey (do)
3. Sanat Mandal (do)
4. Palas Burman (do)

### Forward Block

1. Chitta Basu (W. Bengal)
2. Amar Roy Pradhan (do)
3. Chitta Mehto (do)

TOTAL : 55

# Pension As A Third Retirement Benefit

M. K. Pandhe

The struggle for pension as a third retirement benefit has assumed special significance during the last wage agreements. As a result of the directive of the Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions (CPSTU), the trade unions in public sector in a large number pressed the demand for Pension as a third retirement benefit in addition to the Provident Fund and gratuity during the wage negotiations and managements, were forced to accept the demand and agree to discuss with the trade unions the modalities of working out the scheme.

As a matter of fact, in steel industry as early as in 1982 the management had to accept a clause relating to the pension scheme in the form of Notes of Conclusions. It provided contribution of 2 percent of the total wages every month by the workers and equivalent contribution by the management so that a special Pension Fund would be created to be managed by a joint trust of workers and the management. This clause was agreed in the presence of the then Minister for Steel who approved the proposal for implementation.

Similar clause was provided in the notes of conclusions signed in the coal agreement. The relevant clause was approved again by the Minister of Energy. He went to the extent of making a statement in Parliament and announced that coal miners would be given the benefit of the Pension Scheme as an additional retirement benefit.

The BHEL agreement during the year also provided a clause to discuss the Pension Scheme as a pending item with the trade unions and finalised during the period of agreement.

However the Pension Schemes could not be given a concrete shape due to refusal of the Government to give approval to any pension scheme. In coal industry a Pension Sub-Committee was formed by the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) and with the help of LIC actuary prepared a Pension Scheme which was approved by the JBCCI in the presence of its Chairman. However, the Govt of India did not give approval to the scheme which created difficulties in implementing the scheme. On 15th August 1987 Vasant Sathe, the then Minister for Energy made a public announcement that the JBCCI was authorised to take all decisions concerning the coal industry but it remained on paper. In steel industry also a joint committee prepared an outline of the scheme but could not give a concrete shape due to the obstructive tactics adopted by the Government of India. In BHEL the clause relating to the Pension remained on paper and no progress was achieved during the entire period of agreement.

## New Thrust in Campaign

The CPSTU decided that all unions in public

undertaking should fight for a pension scheme during the 1986-87 round of negotiations. When bureaucrats in the BPE learnt about the progress in negotiations, it issued directive to all the units in public sector not to include any clause in the agreement on the pension scheme on the plea that it was considering the question of preparing a pension scheme for all the public sector undertakings. However due to the pressure of the trade union movement the managements of several public sector undertakings had to sign separate settlement providing a clause on the pension scheme.

In steel industry, the management had to agree deduction of 2 percent of the wages from the wages of workers from 1st January 1989 and agree to give equivalent contribution from the management. In coal industry the deduction commenced from 1st April 1989 of the same percentage and the management had to agree to give equivalent contribution to the pension fund. BHEL, BEL, Fertilizer and some other undertakings had to agree for the formation of sub-committees to work out the pension scheme. Thus despite BPE's obscurantist attitude the public sector undertakings had to go ahead with the pension schemes, though in a limited form. General demand for pension became popular among the workers.

However, a controversy was raised in some quarters about the justification in asking for pension as a third retirement benefit. They argued that already workers are getting PF and gratuity. The PF quantum was raised from 8 to 10 percent while the gratuity ceiling was increased by the Government recently. It was their opinion that these 2 benefits were quite adequate. The practical experience, however, tells us that when the workers borrow money from the PF account for house building purposes or some other urgent necessity, not much amount is available from the accumulations of the PF. The gratuity payment is spent by the workers in their post retirement period to meet several family commitments which includes payment for the loans incurred for building their house since PF accumulations are not enough to meet the high cost of house construction these days and thus workers later are left without any fund to rely on. The pension scheme alone will sustain a worker and his family in the post retirement life.

## Concept of Pension With Only Workers' Contributions

Meanwhile, some trade unions have done immense damage to the struggle for a pension scheme by signing settlement on the pension scheme without any contributions by the management. The recognised AITUC union in Indian Oil Corporation has signed a settlement with the management which

would substitute employers' contribution by withdrawal of some existing facilities such as uniform allowance, canteen subsidy, employment of employees' dependent after death of a worker etc. The agreement further provides for giving more benefits to the employees who would retire shortly by reducing the benefits of the younger employees.

The leadership of AIBEA has agreed to work out a pension scheme in banking industry with employees contributions only and save the bank management from any burden of financial commitment on the pension scheme. This is causing strong resentment among the workers and the BEFI has rightly demanded contribution by the management for the pension scheme.

The leadership of Indian Aircraft Technicians Association has signed a settlement for a pension scheme without managements' contribution which created strong resentment among the workers. This forced the union leadership to withdraw the commitment. Some of the public sector managements have worked out pension schemes with employees' contributions only but the Associations of Executives are resolutely opposing the schemes and demanding equivalent contribution by the managements for the pension schemes.

#### **Movement of Bank and Insurance Employees**

A significant development on the pension front is the formation of Co-ordination Committee by the unions in banking and insurance industry to fight for pension as a third retirement benefit. A call for one day all India strike was given on 23rd July 1991 which had to be deferred due to the announcement of Parliamentary elections. They may chalk out a new programme of action after the formation of a new Government. The concerted move by the employees in banking and insurance industries have given a new dimension to the movement for pension for the public sector workers. If they launch determined struggle the Govt will find it extremely difficult to resist the pressure of their movement.

#### **The Struggle of the Coal Miners**

The seven lakh coal miners fought a successful struggle against the vile attempts of the CIL managements to obstruct the implementation of the pension scheme. The management tried to take the advantage of enhancement of the PF contribution to 10 percent and tried to divert the additional 2 percent to the pension fund and avoid any additional commitment. The CITU and other TUs in coal industry opposed this game of the management. That the pension fund has to be created in addition to the enhancement of the PF contribution. When the management resorted to dilatory tactics and resorted to disruptive attempts by signing a settlement with INTUC only, the CITU, HMS and BMS unions jointly gave a notice for one day strike in all the coal mines on 7th January 1991. Ultimately the manage-

ment had to give the following commitments to the unions in coal industry on 8th December 1990:

1. The enhancement of 10% of PF contribution will be in addition to the contribution to the pension fund.

2. An account of the deposit of the workers will be prepared by the management and the managements' contributions will be deposited to that fund.

3. A Joint Trust will be created to administer the fund of the Pension Scheme.

Thus the Joint movement of the coal workers resulted in defeating the game of the CIL management and the coal miners asserted their right for the Pension Scheme over and above the PF and gratuity schemes.

Meanwhile the TISCO management has already implemented the pension scheme on the basis on 2 percent contribution of the workers and management and made it effective from 1st January 1989. It is reported that the company has already received income tax clearance for the scheme. However TISCO has not made applicable the pension scheme for the mine workers employed in TISCO collieries.

The CIL management has also not fully implemented the commitments given to the coal unions in the wake of strike. Coal mine workers movement will have to take up the issue once again and force the management to implement the agreement in full.

#### **The New BPE Circular**

The Department of Public Enterprises has issued an atrocious circular on 12th April 1991 stating that "the individual public sector enterprises may, if they so desire, work out a suitable Annuity Scheme through the LIC, based on purely voluntary contributions made by the employees, through a fund outside the PSE without any liability on the PSE/ Government."

Thus the Government has ruled out any contribution by the management. The circular is an insult to all the bipartite commitments given on the question in public sector undertakings. As if the insult is not enough, the circular further states that "The managements' contribution to the Superannuation fund which would be established by the PSE's would be restricted to Rs 100/- per annum for all the employees taken together"

The BPE has thus practically prohibited all the pension schemes in public sector with management's contribution. The above circular is thus an affront to the entire T. U. movement in the public sector undertakings and TUs will have to campaign to get

(Cont'd on page 20)

# Defeat the Move to Privatisise Vayudoot

S. Dev Roye

The move to wind up the third level feeder airline of the country—Vayudoot has been intensified by the central government with support from the press controlled by the monopoly capital. Although the vicious circle behind the move have been attributing various reasons to justify their decision, chief of which is mounting losses, there cannot be any doubt that it is a part of the Government's policy to denigrate the public sector.

Vayudoot came into operation in January, 1981 with services to 14 centres as per the recommendation of the National Transport policy Committee (NTPC) to provide air services in the north-east region. While justifying the necessity of such feeder air services in areas where there is no adequate surface transport facilities due to geographical reasons, the committee had opposed general expansion of shorthaul services.

The operational result of Vayudoot in its initial years was good and it did make profit but subsequently could not sustain. Now for any and every ills in the public sector it has become a pet formula to put the workers on the dock by the advocates of privatisation. What are the factors behind the mounting losses in Vayudoot, and are the workers responsible for the same?

Contrary to the NTPC's opinion the management went on recklessly expanding its operational areas and at one point it reached a total destination of 105. Most of these expansions took place at the instance of influential politicians and business magnets for their own convenience irrespective of the economic viability of such expansions. Moreover, that the Vayudoot had to take off in rough weather in the beginning itself is evident from the fact that it was provided with phased out and loss-making aircrafts. According to the Chairman in-charge of the company, "the type of aircraft chosen was wrong. They were old and unsuitable. Secondly, the network operations and fare structure were not well planned." No sensible person can make the workers responsible for these odds.

To add fuel to the fire, the management of Vayudoot introduced high profile but uneconomic adventurous projects like the Himalay Airtrek, Courier Service, Rent-a-plane, Holiday Package Tour and Night Mail Service. According to the Financial Adviser of the company—"the revenues from these projects are not worth quoting at all." Who are to be blamed?

It is quite evident that the responsibility for the mounting losses in the company squarely lies with the management. In addition to above, the perennial disease of the public sector undertakings i.e., mismanagement, financial irregularities, lack of proper planning, g. bureaucratic bungling etc. have also been in operation in Vayudoot. Further, it has been said that Vayudoot has been "a good rehabilitation centre

for the retired top notches of IA." Incidentally it would not be out of place to mention here that the history of almost all the ill shaped PSUs reveals one common fact that all of them have been serving as 'rehabilitation centre', 'training centre', 'transit camp' etc. for the incumbents of Chief Executives. In other words these PSUs have not been provided with serious and competent personnel in top management.

Still startling facts behind the losses of Vayudoot are there. North-east sectors of the airlines are subsidised ones. But Vayudoot has not been paid its due subsidies. Further the airline has been put to operate in many routes already connected by the Indian Airlines. How can this third level feeder airline compete with the gigantic IA with sky high difference between the two in infrastructural support.

Thus the opinion of the pundits that 'liquidation is the most viable solution to Vayudoot's problem' is not tenable. If the ills inflicted on it are removed then it can be run smoothly, as was originally planned and it did in its initial years. Moreover another fact bears testimony to this effect. Many private parties including NRIs have offered to take over the Vayudoot. It is totally unexpected that any private investor would pump capital on any non-viable project.

Reportedly the possibility is being explored whether the Vayudoot can be merged with the Indian Airlines. Although the move may appear to be positive, it has its inherent negative aspects all the more. The infrastructure of Vayudoot including the small aircrafts, operational technique and as trained personnel would not be suitable to IA. So leaving apart the danger of retrenchment, how to meet with the requirement of feeder airlines. Further, the National Airports Authority have spent about Rs. 300 crores for construction of aerodromes for exclusive use of Vayudoot. Thus the underlying idea of merger might be to privatise the feeder airlines.

The public sector airlines of the country have been targetted by the capitalists since long and in fact the successive central governments have been moving towards privatisation of the airlines through a process of slow poisoning. The Constitution of the Board of Directors of IA and AI with incumbents from the monopoly houses is indicative. Apart from this, off-loading of perennial nature of jobs to parties progressively on the increase. Also, private houses and multinational companies like United Breweries, Asiatic Airlines are allowed to operate along and beyond the IA routes keeping IA flight idle.

The case of Vayudoot cannot be viewed in isolation. The menace of privatisation has engulfed the entire public sector aviation industry and hence

the total trade union movement in the industry must come out with full strength to fight the onslaught unitedly. Even the basic trade union right of the workers are under severe attack. Only massive united movement can save the industry, its workers and their trade union rights.

By doing away with practice of bilateral wage negotiations, the government have arbitrarily appointed a tribunal to finalise the wage structure and other service conditions of the IA and AI workers. This constitutes a direct and naked attack on the right to collective bargaining of the workers. It is welcome that the workers have lodged their protest against the move. But the past notorious records of anti-worker character of the management suggests that mere lodging of protest will not do.

The Vayudoot Employee's Association has already resolved to defeat the privatisation move and has appealed for solidarity support to the trade unions in general and aviation industry in particular.

The Air Corporation Employee's Union is an established leader of the trade union movement of the industry. Here is a cause for which it cannot remain cool. It is not known whether they have discussed specifically the issue of Vayudoot in their recently concluded General Council meeting. But the ACEU will have to act not only by extending their powerful hand of solidarity but also by guiding the Vayudoot workers in their hour of trial and thus only they can defend their championship for the cause of aviation workers.

**B. T. Ranadive**

on

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Unions have started sending protest letters to the Prime Minister against BPE's interference in the formulation of Pension Schemes in the PSUs. The Paramanu Vidyut Karmachari Union, Rawatbhata, Rajasthan has sent such protest letter to the Prime Minister.

(From Page 18)

it withdrawn which alone will make it possible to make an advance in the direction of achieving the pension scheme for all the public sector workers.

#### **New Pension Scheme By PF Organisation**

The new pension scheme prepared by the PF organisation is in conformity with the BPEs approach and the trade union movement in public sector cannot accept it. The scheme merely diverts the management's contribution to the PF fund to the Pension fund. The Central Govt contribution of 1 1/6 percent to the Family Pension Fund will also be diverted to the Pension fund. It is also proposed that the accumulations of Rs. 3,538.51 crores of the Family Pension Scheme, whose subscribers failed to get any benefit, will also form corpus of the new scheme. It means all the workers who have contributed for the last 2 decades to the family pension scheme and whose families were denied any benefit after the death of the subscribers will continue to be victims of the scheme. A question also arises: What is the guarantee that the experience of Family Pension Scheme will not be repeated in the new Pension Scheme? The way the PF organisation is corroded today one cannot expect efficient handling of the fund by this organisation.

Moreover, the benefits under the Pension Scheme are much on the lower side and workers would be getting much less than what they deserve. It is necessary to prepare a detail critique of the scheme.

Public Sector employees movement will have to review the developments in the field of evolving a proper pension scheme based on management's and workers' contribution in addition to PF and gratuity. It is necessary to organise a powerful countrywide movement of workers so that concerted pressure is brought on the Govt to accept the proposals advanced by the TU movement of the public sector.

Though 2 percent contribution from each side does not give a full fledged scheme, it creates a basis of a pension scheme which can be extended further to make it comprehensive and adequate.

The employees in private sector have also been agitating for a pension scheme for them. The public sector employees movement will have to co-ordinate their activities with the employees in the private sector so that all sections of workers are brought in the movement.

The argument that a contributory pension scheme will put a crushing burden on the industry is also not tenable. The average wage cost in public sector is only 10 percent while in the organised private sector a little over 9 percent. The burden on the industry therefore will be merely 0.2 per cent of the total cost of production.

The TU movement in our country must assert on this question and force the employers in public and private sectors to implement contributory pension schemes as soon as possible. This will ensure post retirement social security to our employees which was callously neglected by the employers all these years.

# First Bihar State Conference of Anganwadi Women

The first state conference of Anganwadi women and employees was held in Bihar in Sikandara, Mungher district on May 5th 1991. Delegates from 20 districts of Bihar participated in the conference. Besides the delegates, many men and children of the sevikas and Sahayikas came along with them and heartily participated. A reception committee was formed earlier for the preparation of conference in which the workers of Bihar Health Employees Karmachari Sangh and Bihar non-Gazetted Karmachari Mahasangh had taken lead.

The conference began with flag hoisting and offering flowers to the martyrs column by Vimal Ranadive, President of Anganwadi Federation. The delegates too offered flowers on the "Shahid Vedi". The presidium comprised of Susheela Devi, Madan Mohan Prasad, Rampukari Devi and Sarita Sinha.

The inauguration of the conference was done by Vimal Ranadive. Ramanika Gupta, the CITU leader, Sudhabindu Mitra, JMS greeted the delegates. Chand Prasad, Vice President of CITU while addressing the delegates welcomed the holding of the conference which would form into a state committee of Anganwadi women. Radha Raman Sinha, general secretary of the "Janswasth Karmachari Sangh, and Sarita Sinha, vice president of the Sangh greeted the conference and promised all help to fight for their demands. Rampukari while addressing the Anganwadi women explained their wretched conditions and promised to help them to build the organisation. Shiv Shankar Singh, the organiser of the conference in Sikandara was very happy to greet the delegates. Susheela Devi while addressing the gathering appealed to build up the organisation soon. In her inaugural speech Vimal Ranadive said, "I am happy to inaugurate the conference of Bihar Rajya Anganwadi Women which was long due. The present gathering of women workers and helpers coming from different parts of the state once again shows the urgent necessity of uniting all the forces under one banner to fight for their demands." She then explained about the formation of the All India Anganwadi Workers Federation recently in Udaipur and welcomed the joining of the new Bihar unit to the Federation. The important demand of anganwadi women is to accept them as Government employees, who are in fact working under the Central Government. But they are treated as "social workers" and given an "honorarium". She said in fact it is not honorarium (Mandhan) but 'Apamandhan' an insult for the women, who work five hours or more and serving for the upliftment of women and children in the rural and urban areas. She explained how women in Anganwadi fought for their demands under the Governments of Congress. She ended her speech by informing them that, "Now women all over India have been organised under their federation and have formed All India Samyukta Sangharsh Samiti of five different organisations, which is fighting for their demands and will soon meet the Minister to place a memorandum of the demands."

The discussion on the report placed by Shanti Misra was very encouraging and resourceful.

Welcoming the guests and the delegates, Satya Narayan Das, the President of the Reception Committee said, "to get together all the Sevikas and Sahayikas is one of the happiest occasion today which shows the strong will to fight for their demands. I remember that during 1988, the Anganwadi women in Bihar launched 75 days strike under the leadership of Shanti Misra, which showed the strength of the union. After all these struggles and demands today we come here for holding our first conference." He said, "the main demand of the Anganwadi women is recognition as the Government employees. For that they have to come together to fight for the demand. These sevikas have done well to inform others about their conditions who have come here united."

Shanti Misra, the General Secretary of the Reception Committee greeted all the delegates and observers. Turning to their unbearable conditions, she said, "we are now tired of requesting to grant our demands to the authorities. Now, it seems their ears have become deaf. I ask you, one question: Do you all know as to why the authorities have become so deaf? And what are the reasons for it? This is because our isolation from the common movement. Today we have all reasons to demand in one voice and fortunately we got guidance from Mahasangh. I am sure, unless we are all united we will not get our demands."

About fifteen women delegates participated in the discussion. In the speeches of the delegates which were full of enthusiasm and pride for starting the organisation, many facts were revealed such as corruption of CDPO's. Many delegates said that they had to compulsorily bring cases of family planning, otherwise their TA were cut and they faced discharge from services. Each speech was itself a story of the worst happenings in Anganwadi centres under the gracious name "honorarium" and work "as social workers."

A charter of demands was placed before the delegates and passed. It was also decided that the formation of the new Anganwadi union should be named as Anganwadi Sevika, Sahayika and Karmachari Sangh, which will be affiliated to All India Anganwadi Federation.

The conference elected the following office bearers :

*President* : Smt. Susheela Devi; *Vice President* : Suneeta Devi, Susheela Hansda, Janaki Devi and Girija Devi; *General Secretary* : Shanti Misra; *Jt. Secretaries* : Smt. Sheela Sinha, Ram Vadehi Devi and Parvati Devi; *Working Secretary* : Dharmashila Devi; *Treasurer* : Subhadra Singh.

The following three members were elected for the All India Anganwadi Women's Federation: Susheela Devi, Shanti Misra and Sheela Sinha.

## Dandeli Paper Mills: CITU Wins Secret Ballot

The CITU registered a massive victory, marginalising all other trade union centres, in the first ever secret ballot held to elect a "Negotiating Committee" based on proportional representation at West Coast Paper Mills Ltd, Dandeli, Karnataka on 8.5.1991.

The results are as follows:

T.U. Centre/ Trade Union	Votes Polled	Percentage	Seats won in the Negotiating Committee (@ One seat/15% votes)
CITU	2,433	74.52%	Five
INTUC	562	17.2%	One
BMS	154	4.72%	Nil
IRTUC	49	1.5%	Nil
AITUC	28	0.86%	Nil
Staff Assn.	23	0.4%	Nil
HMKP	16	0.49%	Nil
	3,565		
Invalid	36		
Total Votes	3,301		

The Mill employing 3,700 workers had 13 unions. Leaders of all the unions including the erstwhile local leaders of CITU union had kept out the CITU union's President and State CITU General Secretary from any negotiation of struggle by continuously slandering them. These leaders who were pocketed by the management, had betrayed the workers when they signed an agreement last December, taking the plea that they were forced to do it by police.

The workmen launched a spontaneous strike which lasted for 22 days. Management brought in BMS leaders and workers were backing them, but subsequently they betrayed the workers and joined the collaborators CITU union president, who went in the factory, and others were arrested and workers including 400 women workers were brutally lathi charged inside the factory on 22-23rd midnight. CITU Union President on release, went on indefinite hunger strike demanding that the management must talk with a negotiating committee elected by the workers. This struggle resulted in an agreement being concluded which included the term to determine the representative character of all the 13 unions by secret ballot.

The management then got together five unions and the leaders thrown out by CITU union joined the INTUC and got a Congress(I) MLA to lead the same, which has just scrapped through in the elections. Management's effort to foist AITUC leadership also failed, though they brought more state leaders of AITUC and accommodated them in guest house, holding public meeting etc.

The struggle and the present electoral victory boosted the morale of CITU leaders and rank and file workers who are presently engaged in negotiations for a fresh long term settlement for the period for which the present elected negotiating committee is to last.

## CITU Foundation Day Observed

Delhi

The 21st Foundation Day of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions was observed at the Central Office premises at New Delhi on May 30, 1991.

The meeting was attended by about 200 workers from the industrial centres of Delhi and the adjoining areas. Presiding over the meeting Samar Mukherjee, Vice President explained the purpose of the formation of the CITU and called upon the workers to carry forward the task of building up trade union unity and the formation of a Confederation.

On the occasion, the second volume of Com. BTR's writings was released. Samar Mukherjee presented the first copy to H. K. S Surjeet, the P. B. member of CPI(M) and President of the All India Kisan Sabha. In his speech, Surjeet called upon the workers to follow the guidelines of Com. BTR, who was the founder President of CITU. He exhorted upon the workers to build up a fighting worker-peasant alliance, fight the communal and divisive forces and carry forward the tradition of anti-imperialist struggle by the CITU. M. K. Pandhe, General Secretary of CITU stressed on the united struggle of the working class and independent actions by the CITU on various issues confronting the working class. S B Bharadwaj, General Secretary of the Delhi State CITU also spoke on the occasion. The meeting was attended by several Central Secretariat and C. C. members of the CPI(M) and other office bearers of the CITU.

### Gujarat

The Gujarat State Committee organised a meeting at Veer Bhagat Singh Hall, Ahmedabad to observe the foundation day on 30th May. The meeting was addressed by Hasmukh Bhai Patel, District Secretary of CPI(M) and CITU leaders, namely, Raghuvir Prasad Mali, Deosajin Yadav and Satish Bhai Parmar. The meeting was presided over by Anand Bhai Parmar.

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a fundamental right in the Constitution, all-India minimum wages for agricultural labourers recognition of representative trade union through secret ballot etc, should not be tolerated. The working class at the same time with its united might will have to confront the communal danger and caution the people against the increased danger from imperialism. Of no less importance is the continued effort to mobilise larger and larger sections of the people to launch a movement against escalating prices, for employment and for better living conditions. We are quite sure that the working class in the country will rise to the occasion to meet the challenges.

## Prime Minister Advocates Appeasement to World Bank and the IMF

The Secretariat of the CITU has issued the following statement on June 23 :

The Prime Minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao in his address to the nation after assumption of office has blatantly come out with a package dictated by the World Bank and the IMF conditionalities which will seriously affect the country's self reliance and the living standards of the common people of India. The CITU condemns this stand of the Government of India which totally ignores the views of the left and democratic opposition in the country in this critical juncture.

The Prime Minister's call for tightening up of the belt and necessary sacrifices is clearly indicating that a heavy dose of taxation on the common people is in the offing in the forthcoming budget.

In the name of removal of cobwebs coming in the way of rapid industrialisation, huge concessions are likely to be offered to the big business houses in the country. Moreover, he has given green signal for the foreign direct investments to exploit our economy while Non-Resident Indians have been offered undue incentives. In the name of building a competitive economy, multinational companies will be given special favoured treatment further relaxation of controls by Narasimha Rao Government.

The assurance given by the Cong(I) Election Manifesto to bring down the prices drastically within one hundred days of assumption of office is conveniently forgotten. In the light of Prime Minister's acceptance of humiliating conditionalities of the IMF that the subsidies should be stopped, his announcement that the public distribution system would be extended to the villages appears to be meaningless. Gone is the promise that one crore jobs would be created every year if the Cong(I) party would come to power. All the lip sympathy expressed in the Prime Minister's speech for the poor and the rural population is only a cover up to hide the fantastic package of concessions offered to multi-national companies. On the plea of introducing fiscal discipline in the economy toiling masses will have to face broads in their standard of living.

The economic policies of Congress(I) party pursued during 80's which emphasised import liberalisation, increased consumption of luxurious goods and excessive thrust on export of Indian goods, have brought the national economy into this critical situation and pursuing the same policies would only mean further aggravation of the crisis in the Indian economy.

The CITU appeals to the working class to resist these policies and prepare for a countrywide struggle to force the government of India to change these policies. The CITU is firmly of the opinion that India would never achieve self-reliance by succumbing to the dictates of the World Bank and the IMF.

## CITU Supports Struggle of Korean People for Unification

*The Secretariat of the CITU issued the following Statement on June 15 :*

The Secretariat of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions expresses its solidarity with the Korean people on the eve of the International Solidarity month to be observed during 25th June to 27th July 1991 and reiterates its firm solidarity with their just struggle for reunification of fatherland.

The South and North parts of the country are kept separated to suit the design of U S imperialism since last four decades despite the fact that the Geneva accord on Korea provides unification of fatherland as a major thrust. The U S imperialism uses the separation as a ploy to continue imperialist interests in Asia.

The U S Administration aiming at the perpetuation of its military presence in the region, is mobilising more forces and arms in their bases in South Korea and pursuing the line of continuous military confrontation against DPRK. This military build up alongwith the stationing of Nuclear Armada in the Peninsula has remained a constant threat to peace in the Asia-Pacific in particular. The U. S. imperialist taking advantage of U S army which is in virtual occupation of South Korea counterfeits all genuine move towards re-unification. They continue to manipulate public opinion in South Korea through various dubious measures and use the Government to ruthlessly suppress any democratic struggle of the people.

The CITU condemns the U S imperialists for its expansionist role in Korea and demands immediate withdrawal of U. S. army, military bases and nuclear weapons from South Korean Peninsula.

The CITU expresses its condemnation against brutal suppression of ongoing student movement in South Korea resulting in the killing of a number of students and maiming several others.

The CITU firmly believes that the Korean people irrespective of the division would continue their struggle for the union single mindedly and would ultimately succeed in achieving the prosperous, peaceful united Korea. CITU expresses its further faith that the Governments of both the parts, free from any outside interference can reach an amicable solution to meet the popular demand for unification. In this respect CITU appreciates the proposal enunciated in the new year's speech of Com. Kim Il Sung, the President of DPRK for the most realistic proposal on the current situation which can form the basis of unification of Korea.

The CITU appeals to the trade unions in India to express solidarity with the heroic people of Korea during the month and support the just struggle for the unification of the fatherland.

## Complaint to ILO by the Confederation of Public Sector Officers' Associations

The National Confederation has registered a complaint with the International Labour Organisation against the Government of India for alleged unfair labour practices in respect of Managerial and Supervisory staff of the Public Sector Undertakings. The Confederation has alleged violation of Convention 87 and 98 of ILO by one of the founder members of the ILO.

The National Confederation has contended that the Officers in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) do not have an effective freedom of association. It is claimed that any formal associations established by them under various constitutional legislations are rendered meaningless and powerless because they are not given official recognition and are not accorded any rights to collective bargaining. They are specifically debarred from the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 by the definition of the word 'workman' under section 2 (s) of the Act.

The Confederation has alleged that there is no recognition of collective entities of Officers in PSU; and collective bargaining. There is no formal or informal procedure for wage settlement in respect of the Officers. The system followed is 'Sanction by the Govt. in consultation with the Management'.

Referring to the agitation that Confederation has been spearheading the demand for a wage revision for the Officers which was due since, 1986, it states that "inspite of several letters, petitions, memoranda, protest rallies, strikes etc both the Government of India and the enterprise managements refuse to either enter into a dialogue with the Confederation, its affiliates or to announce a revised wage or to pay interest for the period during which revision was delayed entirely for the employers' delay."

The Confederation has complained that "there is a lack of external dispute settlement machinery in contradiction to the 'workers' covered by the Industrial Dispute Act 1947 or 'Government Servants' who fall within the purview of constitutional protection and the jurisdiction of special administrative tribunals." The confederation claims as a consequence, "There is no protection from arbitrary employment practices, because there is no effective internal machinery and the PSUs (backed by the Govt. of India) are not subject to accountability." It is alleged that "in almost all the undertakings, victimisation of office bearers is rampant. Victimisation is done through the instrumentalities of denial of promotion; transfer of office bearers; denial of work assignment and harassment."

The Confederation contends that any informal

negotiations within PSUs are entirely illusory because the Govt. is in total control of all policy decision makings concerning such officers of PSUs.

The complaint further states that Officers have rights without effective remedies. In addition to the absence of any bargaining rights, individual officers have no recourse to industrial and administrative tribunals and can only approach the High Courts for a limited judicial review.

The Confederation has argued that "notionally, officers in PSUs are employees of the particular undertakings in question. A such a contractual relationship subsists between the particular PSU and any individual officer. But in actual fact, each aspect of this contractual relationship is controlled by the Government of India. It is the Government of India that determines recruitment policy, conditions of service, wage conditions and wage revision and general service and financial policy. Thus, the Government of India is both the employer as well as the policy maker. In its role as policy maker it has created legislation which provides for a restricted definition of the word 'workmen' which deliberately denies the 'Officers' all the rights laid down in the ILO conventions 87 and 98. The Government of India then acting as an employer assumes the right to effect changes in our wage structure and service conditions unilaterally. Officers are not privy to these discussions even though such discussions are wholly and entirely determinative of their work, pay and service conditions.

The Complaint states that "in 1978 (Bill No. 143 of 1978 Published in the Gazette of Indian Extraordinary Part II 1275- 288) sought to provide protection and security of service to all managerial employees NOT protected by the Industrial Disputes Machinery. But this Bill was never presented to the Parliament. More recently in 1990, there was consideration for according some limited participation for Officers, through a bill titled, "The Participation of Workers in Management Bill 1990 (Bill No. XXVIII of 1990)". However, this bill is pending before the Parliament and has not been discussed so far.

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