



THE WORKING CLASS

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2ND NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF TRADE UNIONS
21st AUGUST 1983
TALKatora INDOOR STADIUM NEW DELHI
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
OF TRADE UNIONS



Resolution of the Convention

TWO years have passed since the First National Convention of Trade Unions was held in Bombay on June 4, 1981 under the auspices of eight Central Unions. 40 Industrial Federations and several independent Trade Unions participated in that Convention. The Convention adopted a charter of demands and authorised the National Campaign Committee (NCC) to implement, step by step, a programme of agitation and mass action, which was unanimously approved by the 4,000 delegates attending the Convention. This was intended to oppose and resist the anti-labour, anti-people, anti-democratic and pro-monopoly, pro-multinational and repressive policies of the Government.

2. This Convention notes with satisfaction that despite the many hurdles created in organising country-wide mobilisations for the first time, the movements led by the NCC, facing heavy repression, have achieved significant measures of success. They have created a new heightened level of consciousness in the Working Class. Above all, the experience in these movements has created a new awareness among the workers on the vital necessity of strengthening the unity of the working class and united actions by the Trade Unions on common demands and issues, despite different Trade Union affiliations. As a result, the NCC has emerged as a joint trade union platform and central rallying point for the working class. The need of the hour before is to carry forward and further develop the consolidation already achieved during the last two years.

3. The successful campaign launched through state-wide Conventions, protest demonstrations and rallies culminated in an unprecedented march of the workers from all over the country to Parliament on 23rd November 1981 and an All India Strike on January 19, 1982, in which about 1 crore and 25 lakh workers participated. In several states Bandhs were observed and in several cities, towns and even rural areas the entire people participated in these protest actions.

5 lakh employees in the public sector launched a country-wide movement under the active leadership of the NCC against the arbitrary guidelines of the Enterprises on wage revision. The Convention in Steel, Coal, and the All India Public Sector in Hyderabad in October 1982, among the workers and led struggle. Then followed seven lakh Coalmine workers on 17-19 January for a one day strike in with this situation, the down and the wage EL, NTPC, Oil and overboard the BPH's similar agreements

other Public Sector undertakings. The official INTUC unions had to take the same stand as the other unions in the negotiations.

The Government also had to agree to appoint a tripartite committee for the upward revision of the DA formula worked out by the BPE. These achievements in the Public Sector will have their impact in many private sector industries.

The powerful campaign against ESMA and NSA, the protest actions against the anti-labour legislative measures, and the Bihar Press Bill, the solidarity actions with the historic protracted strike of Bombay Textile workers—all these brought together several lakhs of workers on the same platform.

The Convention warmly greets the lakhs of workers in different industries and occupations, and the peasants and agricultural labourers, students, youth and others who courageously responded to the call of the NCC braving police lathis and bullets, mass arrests and victimisations.

4. During the course of 1982-83, the Central Trade Unions comprising the NCC boycotted the tripartite labour conference convened by the Government as a mark of protest against its refusal to hold prior consultations with the unions on new labour legislations and also against its refusal to withdraw the ESMA and NSA, which are violative of the fundamental principles of collective bargaining and the right to strike.

Although the Government, the employers and the official INTUC leadership tried to belittle and ridicule our boycott, subsequent events have proved that the Government cannot afford to ignore or browbeat the boycotting Trade Unions and has to deal with them.

5. Despite the important gains for the working class in the recent period the prospects for the working class are grim in the near future. The crisis of our economy as a result of the capitalist path of development that our Government is pursuing is being further aggravated by the world-wide capitalist crisis. It has its disastrous effect on our country's economy and the working people. The advanced capitalist countries, the Multinationals and the International Financial Institutions serving their interests from whom our Government borrows heavily and on whom it depends for transfer of so-called sophisticated technology, seek this opportunity to transfer a good part of the burdens of their crisis to our country and other developing countries. The Government and the capitalists in their turn try to transfer their burdens on to the shoulders of the working class by retrenchment, increased workload, depressed wages and denial of adequate compensation for rising cost of living.

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6. Repeated periodical claims by the Government spokesmen that the price line has been held, are belied by Government's own published figures of wholesale and retail prices. In two months (May and June) the Working Class Consumer Price Index has risen by 25 points—the highest since last year so far. These inflationary policies are enabling industrial houses, multinationals and black-marketeers to earn unimaginable profits. As a result industrial production has not only stagnated but in the year officially proclaimed as the "Productivity Year", industrial production has actually fallen. But the Big Business Houses, Monopolists and Multinationals are being given more and more concessions.

7. Deficit financing, additional taxation, periodical increase in the price of coal, steel, oil, cement, railway and transport and freight passenger fares and postal charges impose unbearable burdens on the common people.

Accumulation of huge foreign debts by borrowings from the World Bank, foreign Commercial Banks and the International Monetary Fund have not eased the crisis. On the other hand the conditionalities imposed by the IMF of removing import restrictions, while these advanced countries resort to protectionist policies, have actually worsened the balance of payment position. Further, the intensification of unequal terms of trade aggravates the crisis and leads to further stagnation of industrial activity.

8. Closures and lock-outs are increasing. Unemployment and mass poverty increase by leaps and bounds. Government refuses to take over closed and sick units. This sickness is the result of the policy of the Government which allows the looting of these factories by the tycoons and diversion of funds into more profitable pastures.

Land reforms are not implemented. Producers of agricultural commodities especially the small and middle peasants are denied a remunerative price. The Minimum Wages Act has remained a dead letter as far as the agricultural labourers, workers in the unorganised sector and under contractors are concerned. Food production is seriously affected by floods and drought in large areas. The Public Distribution System has virtually collapsed, particularly in the rural areas leading to rocketing prices in the open market. The plight of agricultural workers and tribals is worsening day by day.

9. The employers have become more recalcitrant and are forcing strikes on workers. These strikes are becoming more and more protracted and the repressive machinery of Government is more and more blatantly used against the workers. This is their general strategy to tire out and starve them out into submission on humiliating terms. The classical example of this has been the historic strike of the Bombay Textile workers.

10. The basically anti-labour policies of the Central Government continue. The policy of restraints on wage increases, though defeated in the major public sector undertakings is being pursued relentlessly elsewhere.

It has refused to agree to the legitimate demands of the Government employees and workers in departmentally run undertakings for parity in wages with the Public Sector. Instead it has announced a paltry interim relief and referred the whole question to a Pay Commission — the usual method of shelving the issue.

It had amended the LIC Act, issued a notification in GIC and taken away the Right of Collective Bargaining which they had enjoyed for years. It had further attacked their bonus by the same amendments. The service conditions of these employees have been unilaterally changed.

In the vast unorganised industries, and workers under contractors even in the Public Sector and Government Projects, the 'notified' minimum wages are far below subsistence level. These millions of worst exploited workers including tribal and agricultural workers have no job security, no social insurance, no trade union rights and wherever some protective legislation exists, it is violated with impunity.

Atrocities on women have increased. Dowry deaths have become a common day occurrence. The condition of working women is deteriorating day by day. Job opportunities are diminishing for them. Protective legislations for them are blatantly violated. Employers, both private and Government refuse to employ them to avoid statutory obligations.

11. Curtailment of Trade Union rights, blatant violation of the ILO Conventions on Freedom of Association and Right of Collective Bargaining, draconian new Bills such as the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 1982, the Hospital and Other Institutions (Settlement of Disputes) Bill, 1982 etc. are being pushed through despite the opposition of the entire trade union movement. Use of Articles 310 and 311 2(c) of the Constitution for summary dismissal of the Government employees has become frequent.

12. Despite near unanimity of the trade union movement demanding recognition of unions on the democratic basis of secret ballot, the Government gives the veto power to the official INTUC and refuses to accept the demand. On the other hand, it bolsters up the official INTUC and imposes the discredited procedure of "verification of membership". The longest ever fought Bombay Textile Workers' strike has exposed the hollowness of the BIR Act and of the policy of foisting stooge unions on the workers.

13. The Convention notes with grave concern the increasing casteist and communal riots and the activities of the divisive forces in many parts of the country. Pitting caste against caste and community against community and engineering riots is the

specific weapon used by the Ruling Classes to divide workers and toiling people, divert their attention from their pressing problems and make them enter into fratricidal war. The Convention warns the working class and the working people to be vigilant against these machinations of their exploiters and to defeat them. The Convention in particular notes the alarming situation in Assam and Punjab which is adversely affecting the trade unions.

14. This National Convention reiterates the correctness and importance of the basic outlook proclaimed by the Bombay Convention of 1981, viz, that the struggle of the working class, closely linked up with the struggle of the working people is an integral part of the general democratic movement. The working class must also champion the demands of the peasantry and agricultural workers as well as of other exploited and oppressed sections. The demands and slogans of the Bombay Convention must be taken up with redoubled vigour. They are:

- (i) Need-based minimum wages on the basis of norms laid down by the 15th Indian Labour Conference;
- (ii) Full neutralisation of the rise in cost of living. Removal of Ceiling of Rs. 1.30 per point rise in price index (1980) base arbitrarily fixed by the BBE;
- (iii) Amendment of the Payment of Bonus Act providing bonus for all workers without ceiling and preconditions;
- (iv) Enactment of legislation for agricultural workers' wages and job security;
- (v) Ban on retrenchment and closures; introduction of unemployment allowance to the unemployed;
- (vi) Withdrawal of all victimisation measures against workers and TU activists;
- (vii) Rectification of fraudulent cost of living indices;
- (viii) Recognition of TUs through secret ballot;
- (ix) Full guarantee of collective bargaining and T.U. rights without any discrimination;
- (x) Repeal of National Security Act, ESMA and other repressive measures etc.
- (xi) Job security of working women including job opportunities and protective legislation to them.

15. In order to invest the next phase of our all-India movement with a higher level of consciousness and militancy and a broader base for united mass mobilisation and striking power, this National Convention wishes to highlight the undermentioned issues with added emphasis, in the light of the common experience of the last two years:

- (a) To make price-control of essential commodities and their public distribution, effective, take-over the wholesale trade in foodgrains and other necessities of daily consumption and their distribution both under the supervision of elected citizens' committees;
- (b) Nationalise or handover to the workers key industries which are being ruined by the mismanagement and profiteering of private owners, viz., Jute, Tea, Sugar, Drugs, Textiles;
- (c) Stop taking loans from IMF, World Bank and foreign Commercial Banks.

(d) Curb the activities and powers of the foreign multinationals operating in India either within or without the regulations of FERA and the MRTP Act; drastically curtail import of technology and give encouragement to our scientists, engineers and technologists to achieve self-reliance in all fields;

(e) Democratise the management of the public sector undertakings;

(f) Demand the right to work as a fundamental right; resist the offensive of look-outs, closures and retrenchment, and introduction of mechanisation, computerisation and other labour saving devices, with consequent imposition of higher workloads and intensification of labour; jobs or unemployment allowance; a reduction in statutory hours of work;

(g) A minimum living wage for the millions in the unorganised and small-scale sector, with full statutory protection for rights of medical treatment, housing and social insurance;

(h) Government should not return the factories taken over from the former owners to any private agency but should nationalise them.

16. Experience of the past has shown that it is of utmost importance that apart from fighting for these immediate demands, the working class in cooperation with toiling people must take up the challenge and fight for the reversal of the entire policy of the Government. Without this in the conditions of the deepening economic crisis, whatever gains have been won will be lost and the wage and other conditions of the workers will be eroded rapidly.

17. This Convention denounces the gruesome massacre of the Tamils in Sri Lanka and the Tea Gardens workers of Indian origin.

18. This Convention warns the working class against the looming danger of a nuclear war. It urges on them to carry on an unremitting campaign for peace and disarmament.

19. This National Convention appeals to all its participants to carry its message and programme to every section of the working people in the organised as well as unorganised sectors, through extensive propaganda and intensive coverage of those outside the influence of the previous NCC campaigns.

This alone can ensure more effective implementation of our next phase of All-India Action Programmes including

- (i) State and District level Conventions by the end of November 1983;
- (ii) A Special Convention against lock-outs, closures and retrenchment and lay-offs.
- (iii) A special Convention of working women,
- (iv) Marches & Conventions; against price rise and unemployment.
- (v) A special all-India Convention of workers in the unorganised sector;
- (vi) Central demonstration before Parliament during Budget Session, 1984.

The Convention authorises the NCC to decide and prepare for such other actions as it thinks necessary and appropriate from time to time.

Forward to Second Phase of Movements

- Step up United Struggles
- Defeat Divisive Forces

THE Second National Trade Union Convention held at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi on August 21 demonstrated the growing urge of the Working Class and all sections of the working people to further develop the united struggles to effectively meet the offensives of the authoritarian Indira regime. The representations overshoot the target of 5000 set by the National Campaign Committee. As compared to the 3,000 delegates in the Bombay Convention of June 4, 1981, the number was 6,250 this time. While 40 national federations were represented in the Bombay Convention, here the number was 57 apart from the eight Central Trade Unions. The delegates started streaming into the Capital from three days before the date. A large number of them could not make the entry because the huge stadium was overflowing its capacity.

Mounting Attacks

Thus within two years the number of the toiling workers joining the mainstream of the struggle simply doubled up. And naturally so, because of the mounting attacks on all that matters to the working class.

The resolution elaborately pinpointed to the series of authoritarian measures taken by the Congress(I) Government during the two year period. The notorious ESMA and NSA, the anti-trade union legislative measures, the resultant offensives due to the IMF loan conditionalities, the barbarous physical attacks on the working class and the peasantry followed by rampant closures and lockouts, spiralling prices of all commodities and inflaming the divisive, communal and separatist forces to disrupt and divert the united trade union movement — all this was the scenario in the Indian Sub-Continent produced by the bourgeois-landlord Government in collaboration with the multinationals.

Rising Struggles

While noting the mounting attacks on the working class, the Convention also noted the rising struggles of all sections of the working people to protect their interests. The January 19 strike of 1982 was a red letter day in the united movement of the working class. The glorious struggles of the public sector employees, the strike actions by the coal workers, the struggles of the peasants and agricultural workers, struggle against the notorious Bihar Press Bill, the Bombay textile workers' strike — all

- Fight Against Lock outs and Closures
- Struggle For Peace

these added new chapters in the united trade union movements of the Indian working class.

Growing Consciousness — the Significance

The significance of the Convention, which must not be overlooked or underestimated by the Central Trade Unions, was not merely the doubled-up number, but the growing consciousness of the Indian working class of worsening crisis of the capitalist path of the development and its impact both in the national and international sphere. While the Bombay Convention made the first dent at the anti-labour and fiscal policies of the Government of India which led to the attack on the working class, and the price rise, the Delhi Convention deliberated on a much wider spectrum of offensives and dangers created by the capitalist crisis. While on the national sphere it took serious concern over the increasing lock outs and closures, galloping unemployment, the IMF loan, problems of contract workers, unorganised labour, working women and the danger from the divisive and separatist forces, in the international sphere it noted the crisis of the capitalist world and visualised the growing danger of a nuclear war. It also drew attention of the delegates to the holocaust in Sri Lanka and adopted a resolution condemning the Govt. of the Sri Lanka and the conspiracies of the ruling classes to pit the ethnic groups against each other. While expanding the working class outlook to all these spheres which did affect their interests, the convention reiterated its call to champion the cause of the peasantry and the agricultural labourers and the demands formulated by the Bombay Convention. It rightly set the task before the workers to further consolidate the unity achieved through the joint struggles of the past two years, embrace still larger sections of the working people, irrespective of their affiliations and further develop the united struggles for an alternative economic policy. It laid particular stress on the problems of lock outs and closures, on unemployment, unorganised labour, working women and price rise and set the task of organising special conventions on them.

The Convention

A presidium consisting of M.K. Pandhe (CITU), B.D. Joshi (AITUC), Sushil Bhattacharjee (UTUC), D.D. Vashist (HMS), P.D. Paliwal (TUCC), N.C. Ganguly (BMS), J.S. Dara (INTUC-Dara) and Gyan Singh (UTUC-LS) conducted the proceedings of the Convention.

Moving the resolution, Indrajit Gupta (AITUC) highlighted the developments since the Bombay Convention. He briefed the rising struggles of the workers and the success achieved by the public sector workers in throwing overboard the guidelines of the BPE. He also drew attention to the growing danger of nuclear war and urged to wage consistent struggles for peace.

P. Ramamurti's Speech

Speaking on the resolution, P. Ramamurti, Vice-President of CITU elaborated the advance of the struggles guided by the National Campaign Committee. The overthrowing of the BPE guidelines by the public sector employees was a significant achievement. He however warned the working class of the grim future, as true to its class character the Government was bent upon depriving them of their basic rights of trade union actions and the right to strike won after inestimable sacrifices and martyrdom. In this respect, he traced back the history of the eight month strike in the Buckinham Carnatic Mills, Madras in 1919 which was ruthlessly suppressed, killing ten workers by firing. The management later filed a petition for damages to compensate the alleged loss of profits because of the strike and the High Court decreed the same to be paid by the union leaders. Since then because of the valiant struggles waged by the workers, the British Government was compelled to pass the Trade Unions Act. And today, the present bourgeois-landlord Government seeks to take away these rights by various legislative measures and unleashing repression like the then British Government. In the name of defending the rights of the workers' trade union activities, it wants to graft its stooge unions, belonging to the INTUC, on the workers. P.R. said that the Government has yet not learnt the lessons from the historic Bombay textile strike and other struggles where the valiant workers have exposed to the whole world that stooge unions however patronised by the employers and the Government, cannot deliver the goods.

He said that the Government's adoption of draconian and repressive measures is the result of the deep crisis of the capitalist world to which our economy is linked. The imperialist countries and their tentacles—the multinationals, seek to transfer the major part of the burdens of their crisis to our country and the other countries of the Third World. The Government of India and the capitalists, in their turn, are trying to transfer their burdens on to the shoulders of the working class and the toiling people by retrenchments, lockouts and closures to force the workers to accept increased work load and depressed wages to boost the profits of the monopolists. The ESMA, NSA, the anti-trade union bills and the IMF are the latest weapons, in this respect, to curb the trade union rights and contain the rising struggles of the workers. He condemned the Government for extending its begging bowl to the imperialist countries and coming down heavily on the workers even at the risk of loosing its

sovereignty. He pointed to the resultant danger of a nuclear war created by the imperialist countries as a way to wriggle themselves out of the crisis of their own make and said that it is only by advancing the united struggles for trade union rights, peace and democracy that the working class, the peasantry and the toiling people can put the authoritarian Government as well as the imperialist war mongers into straight jackets. (P.R.'s speech was repeatedly punctuated by applause.)

Others who spoke on behalf of the Central Trade Unions were Ram Naresh Singh (BMS), S.R. Kulkarni (HMS), A.P. Chakrabarty (TUCC), Nani Bhattacharjee (UTUC), J.S. Dara (INTUC-Dara) and Pritish Chanda (UTUC-LS)

The Federation Representatives

Apart from the representatives of the Central Trade Unions, representatives from 48 National Federations addressed the Convention. It was noted that representatives of some Federations made a discordant note opposing nationalisation and one of them went further to say that there are two NCCs in West Bengal. Mohd Amin on behalf of Jute Workers' Federation, successfully refuted both the contentions. He explained how the Jute barons are amassing great wealth at the cost of the jute growers and the workers. Nationalisation will enable the people and the workers jointly to pressurise the Government to take appropriate steps to safeguard their interests. Expressing his disapproval of the raising of the subject of trade union unity in West Bengal in this platform, he said that the working class of West Bengal know through years of their experience how to rise over all differences within. The workers in W. Bengal, irrespective of their cast, creed, race or religion, unitedly struggle for their demands. He informed the delegates that in West Bengal all the unions including the INTUC are unitedly preparing for a long drawn strike in the jute industry on the demand of its nationalisation.

Mohd Amin concluded by saying that the situation demands a greater unity of the working class for a struggle on correct demands and policies. The questions may be debated in the NCC and once decided upon, all should work together to wrench the just demands of the workers.

Saroj Chowdhury (AIEA), Sukomal Sen (State Government employees) Ashis Sen (BEFI), M.M. Lawrence (Waterfront) Mohd. Ismail (Road Transport) B.P. Kashyap (Coal Workers Federation) Dilip Majumdar (Steel Workers) S.K. Dhar (LRSA), J.S. Majumdar (AICAPEF), N.I. Joseph (FMRAI) and Vimala Ranadive (Plantation Workers Federation) addressed the Convention among others.

Another highlight of the Convention was that Umraomal Purohit (AIRF) wanted to say that AIRF will participate if there is a continuous strike. Many representatives of railwaymen, like S K. Dhar (LRSA), N.S. Bhangoo (AIREC), Srikrishna (IRWF) and others said that they are however

prepared to support any call the N.C.C. might give in future including a one day strike which AIRF itself called for in 1968. They announced that they have already built up a similar Campaign Committee for Railwaymen and hence it would be possible for greater participation of railwaymen in the future struggles.

After the main resolution was unanimously passed, R. Umanath (CITU) moved a resolution on the Sri Lanka situation. T.N. Siddhanta (AITUC) seconded the resolution which was unanimously passed by the delegates.

Jana Natya Manch presented a drama after the Convention.

Speech of R. Umanath on Sri Lanka

The resolution at this Convention shows that the recent massacre of Tamils of Indian origin in Sri Lanka is not just a concern of the people of Tamilnadu only, but the concern of the entire Indian people, the entire country, and of the entire Indian working class.

Unofficial figures put the number of dead at 2000. More than a lac of people are rendered homeless. The dead bodies of these prisoners in Government custody whose eyes were brutally gouged when they were alive and shot dead, can alone describe the nature of the holocaust. Sections of the army themselves organised these massacres. President Jayawardene just winked at it. The voters' list was used to identify Tamil houses, drag the entire family into the streets and liquidate them physically.

The reason which sparked off this madness and utilised by the imperialist countries was that the Sri Lankan economy was in doldrums. Unemployment was reaching unimaginable proportions. Poverty was increasing. The IMF tablets and failed to clique. On the other hand, united resistance of the masses was growing. The Sri Lanka Ruling Classes saw that if this trend is allowed to grow, it will drown them. So they turned it against the minority Tamils of Indian origin to drown the growing popular movements in the blood of the minority.

It is reported that Rs. 1,000 Crores worth properties have been destroyed. The blow at the minorities turned out to be a heavy blow on Sri Lanka's economy itself. Hundreds of factories were destroyed. And so more than a lakh and a half workers lost their jobs once for all. They include a good section of Sinhalese workers also. The massacre of Tamils of Indian origin turned out to be a massacre of jobs of the working class as a whole.

We the working class will assert and support all measures meant for normalisation of the situation and permanent solution of the problem. The only way to protect the lives, rights and properties of the Tamils of Indian origin is for both Sinhalese workers and Tamil workers to unite as one class,

which they are, and confront the ruling classes and fight against unemployment, poverty, and for the rights of the ethnic minority.

We appeal to the Sinhalese workers to learn lessons from their bitter experience and take the initiative to forge the unity of both sections of the workers. Around this unity as the core more democratic forces will rally around and isolate the ruling classes. The Indian working class asserts that it will render utmost fraternal assistance in this process.

Resolution on Sri Lanka

This 2nd All India Convention of Trade Unions condemns the barbarous (heart rending) violence on ethnic minorities and Tamil speaking minorities of Indian origin in Sri Lanka in the recent period and expresses its heartfelt condolence to the families of those who died in the carnage.

The Convention condemns the Government of Sri Lanka whose police and armed forces connived at and actually participated in these brutal killings.

The Convention lends its support to all steps that may be taken to first bring about normalcy and then find a long standing resolution of the problem of the ethnic minorities.

The Convention warns the working people — both Sinhalese and Tamils of Indian origin that the Government of Sri Lanka, unable to solve the mounting problems of unemployment, poverty and starvation, has resorted to the traditional weapon of pitting the minorities and majorities against each other and divert the attention of the working people from their immediate problems and struggle.

The Convention urges the working people of Sri Lanka to learn the lessons of the recent holocaust, see through the conspiracy of the ruling classes, defeat them and fight for the democratic development of Sri Lanka.

Casualty of Lock Outs

From January to April, 1983, 36 lakhs 70 thousand mandays were lost in the country due to lockouts only. This was admitted by Dharam Veer, the Union Minister of State for Labour in Rajya Sabha on August 1.

In the preceding three years the total mandays lost due to lockouts and strikes were as follows:

1980 — 2 Crores 19 Lakhs.

1981 — 3 Crores 65 Lakhs.

1982 — 3 Crores 33 Lakhs 80 thousands (excluding Bombay Textile Strike).

Working Women's Meeting Decide Parliament March

The All-India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women (CITU) met on 22 August at New Delhi to review its activities and chalk out the future programme of action. The representatives from Kerala, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar and Delhi participated in the meeting. The report of the various struggles launched during last two years by women workers and the middle class employees was submitted by Vimla Ranadive, the secretary of AICCWW. In the discussion on the future programme of action, Sushila Gopalan, M.P., Vice-President of CITU suggested that a well prepared demonstration of working women should be held in front of the Parliament preceded by the 2nd All India Conference of Working Women. Prior to this programme the state wise Conventions of Working Women should be held on the charter of demands specified in the last Convention of working women at Madras. The following comrades participated in the discussions: Mythily Shivaraman, Arati Dasgupta, Shbhasini Ali, Ranjana, Sharada, Damayanti Parikh, Jaswant Kaur and Soni Kamath. It was decided to give stress on working among the women workers in industry under CITU and also in the unorganised industries where women have no equal wage, no statutory legislation of any kind and their working conditions are very poor.

An extended meeting of the Co-ordination Committee was held at the Constitution Club at 1 P.M. with 50 working women attending the same. The women working in Reserve Bank, the State Government employees, Nurses, primary and nursery teachers as well in the Government industry, Phillips, hotels, India Meters, etc. narrated their experience of jobs, against unequal wages, sexual harassment, for permanency, bonus and other matters. Some of the strikes in Kanak Industries in Bombay continued for months. Women in the garment industries in Delhi decided to go on strike for securing minimum wages. Working women in state Government employees in Kerala and West Bengal narrated how they participated in all the struggles waged for their democratic rights and against the rule of the Congress (I).

In the report submitted it was noted that 50 women delegates attended the 5th Conference of CITU which was a definite step forward. There was a large scale participation of women in the struggles in all the states under CITU or independently. In West Bengal, Bihar and other places women workers participated in thousands when the call was given for the strike in Coal Mines in November, 1982 and January, 1983. The participation of women in Kerala, Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat on 19th January Strike of 1982 was also on a very large scale. The women workers in plantations in Kerala and Assam faced unprecedented repression by anti socials and goondas of the Management supported by the

Congress (I). Special mention was made about the heroic fight of women plantation workers in Kokrazar in Assam and Cardamom women workers in Iddikki in Kerala. Women contract workers in Bhilai are still continuing their fight against abolition of contract labour and for minimum wages. The women are gradually developing class consciousness and about their role in CITU and they protected their leaders and fought against the INTUC who wanted to establish their leadership as it was shown in Rajpura Textile Mills in Punjab, Jharsuguda Textile Mill in Orissa. Women textile workers in Bombay fought side by side with the male workers who stood all the repression by INTUC and police demanding regularisation of the 'Badli' workers and for the recognition of their union. The participation in the rally held on 23rd November 1981 of working women who came in hundreds from different states was notable no doubt.

The concern expressed about the atrocities on women and for equality mentioned in the resolution passed in the 2nd Convention of Trade Unions on 21st August '83 and the call for the Conference of working women was welcomed by the extended meeting of Co-ordination Committee.

The enthusiasm of the working women showed that the programme of March to Parliament at the time of the Budget session next year followed by the All India Conference of Working Women should be a success no doubt.

Women Court Arrest

About 200 women broke section 144 and courted arrest just opposite the main gate of the Parliament on August 26, demanding introduction of the anti-dowry (Amendment) bill. The call for the action was given by the Dahej Virodhi Chetna Manch, consisting of six women's organisations. In fact, the Prime Minister had promised to the Manch, when its representatives met her last, that the Bill would surely be introduced in the current session. But it was clear that she went back on her promise and the Bill was not introduced. The leaders of the manch made a scathing criticism of the Government for shelving the burning problem of the increasing number of dowry deaths, ignoring the repeated demands made by the women members of the Parliament and the agitations launched by the Manch including the March to Parliament last year. Among those who spoke during the rally were Sushila Gopalan, Kanak Mukherjee (AIDWA), Vimla Ranadive (AICCWW), Vimla Farooqui (NFIW), Mary (YWCA), Gyatri, Kailash Lekhi and Pramila Dandavate (Mahila Dakshata Samity). Prominent among those arrested were Sushila Gopalan, Il a Bhattacharjee, Pramila Dandavate (all MPs), Vimla Ranadive, Vimla Farooqui, Rita Karat, etc. Samar Mukherjee, Madhu Dandavate, A.B. Bajpai-MPs came to support the cause.

The Holocaust in Sri Lanka

P. Ramamurti

THE ethnic violence unleashed on Tamils has shocked the entire Indian people and particularly the people of Tamilnadu, where people who had lost their kith and kin and all their properties had come back as refugees. Reports of these horrible and undescrivable atrocities had appeared in the foreign press of all countries. The connivance of the army and the police and in many cases direct their participation in the burning, looting and butchery has roused the consciousness of all honest men at the fragrant violation of human rights, particularly because the Government of Sri Lanka had been a party to the contention on Human Rights.

The Historical Background

In order to understand these events one must understand the historical background. At the dawn of history Sri Lanka was a country with sprawling tropical forests and plenty of rainfall and with a small population of aboriginal tribes scattered throughout the island.

About two thousands years ago, the Tamils from Coastal Tamilnadu crossed over to the Northern and North-Eastern part of the island. They absorbed the tribal population through inter-marriages.

About the same time one Kumar Vijay Singh, a Prince of Bengal came with his own troops and occupied the other parts of the island kingdom. Following him, many people from Bengal and Orissa came and settled in that part of the country.

Two kingdoms were there for centuries — one in North and North Eastern part comprising of the present districts of Jaffna and Trincomalle (Trincomalalai) and another in the other parts of the island. The Tamil population was only about 10 per cent of the total population. Two distinct languages and cultures in these two separate kingdoms, — the Tamil language and culture and the Sinhalese language developed through centuries by a mixture of Bengali and Oriya languages with the various dialects of the local aboriginal. For nearly two centuries, there were no conflicts between these two kingdoms or their peoples.

In the eleventh century A.D., however, the situation changed when Raja Rajendra Cholan, who had consolidated his empire over the whole of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, invaded the island and vanquished the rulers of both the kingdoms. He had left one of his relations — Eclan by name, — to rule the country as a feudatory king, paying an annual tribute to the Chola emperor.

Eclan and his successors ruled the country only for forty years when the people rose in revolt and

overthrew his rule. However, after this Tamil Chola dynastic rule was overthrown, both the Tamil Parts and the Sinhalese Parts remained separate kingdoms, peacefully co-existing with each other.

When Raja Rajendra Cholan conquered the country, he tried to convert the people in Hinduism from Buddhism which they had embraced during the period of Asoka, the great, who had sent his own daughter, Sanghamitra, and a large number of other Buddhist monks to the island. The Chola emperor, however, could convert only the Tamil population and his attempts to convert the Sinhalese met with resistance and often open rebellion, and he had to give up his attempt.

Thus, apart from the feeling that a Tamil emperor had subjugated them, the seeds of a religious conflict were also sown between the two peoples.

Role of British Imperialism

The history of the island followed the same course as that of India, with Portuguese, Dutch and British East India Companies vieing with each other for political domination. Until at last the British succeeded and established a crown colony.

The colonial government used its traditional weapon of 'Divide and Rule' to perpetrate its rule. It established schools, colleges with English medium mainly in the Tamil areas, and the first university in the colony was established in Trincomalle — the North Eastern part of the city populated by Tamils.

The result was that the services were dominated by the Tamils to the extent of 80 to 90 per cent. The other professions like teachers, professors, technicians and lawyers and doctors were dominated by the Tamils.

Further when British Planters came to the island to start tea plantations in the Central Highlands (Kandy District) they ruthlessly evicted the Sinhalese peasants with little compensation. The landless labours from Tamilnadu were brought under what is called the Indentured Labour System with prospects of earning and saving and of returning home. However the law prevented these workers from leaving the estates under penalty of one year's rigorous imprisonment and on release, return to the same plantations in which they had worked.

The evicted Sinhalese peasantry looked upon these poor labours living with poor wages and in shanties as their enemies who had been responsible for the loss of their lands and means of livelihood. Clashes between them had been frequent and every time the colonial administration came down on the Sinha-

lese evicted peasantry with a heavy hand and brutal repression.

All these, had ignited flames of hatred among the Sinhalese against the Tamils.

After Independence

These conditions changed after the island attained independence in 1949 and a constitution with adult franchise was adopted. The Sinhalese, constituting nearly 85 per cent of the population, naturally dominated Parliament and their parties, — United National Party (UNP) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) formed government alternately. Educational facilities were expanded in the Sinhalese area and large number of educated Sinhalese went in for jobs in Government services and competed with the Tamils in the professions.

The successive Governments of Sri Lanka followed the same path of capitalist development like India, depending mainly on Western aid and heavy borrowings from the World Bank and other International Financial Institutions. Like in India, this resulted in increasing poverty and unemployment.

During the last three years of the outbreak of the world-wide capitalist crisis, the economic situation further deteriorated. The present Government of Sri Lanka resorted to heavy borrowing from the International Monetary Fund accepting all the onerous conditionalities imposed by the Fund.

This, naturally, far from relieving the distress, fanned the flames of inflation and led to massive unemployment. The discontent of the masses reached new heights.

A vivid demonstration of this was seen in the last May Day demonstrations when the trade unions were able to rally over a lakh of workers in their united rally and the joint meeting was attended by over 2 lakh workers and white-collared employees.

Reactionary and chauvinist forces, mostly in the Ruling Party, took alarm and they unleashed a venomous propaganda of hatred against the Tamils. They told the Sinhalese people that if the Tamils are driven out of the country, the Sinhalese unemployed would get their jobs, and the peasants could get their lands.

During these 33 years since independence, all attempts to protect the linguistic and cultural rights by the Tamil minority were frustrated by extremely chauvinist elements from both the minority and majority communities.

The US Imperialism

Imperialism — chiefly US Imperialism fished in troubled water, financing chauvinist elements from both the communities. Those elements hired goonda gangs and hoodlums who burnt houses,

looted shops, burnt alive men, women and children as described in the beginning.

India cannot be a passive spectator to what is happening in the neighbouring island state which is only 18 miles away from the Southern Coast of Tamilnadu.

The mobilisation of world-wide opinion by International Correspondents whose graphic reports of the gruesome killings and carnage which were reported in the international press, helped to ease the situation.

It is this mobilisation of public opinion that has forced the Sri Lanka Government to take steps to stop the violence and accept the good offices of the Government of India for a permanent solution of the ethnic minority.

Consolidate Left and Democratic Forces

A lasting solution of this problem can only be found by the working people of both the communities joining hands and fighting shoulder to shoulder against the anti-people, anti-democratic, pro-multinational policies of the Sri Lanka Government and for a reversal of these policies and depending on loans from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Unfortunately, however, that the leaders of the Tamils have so far kept the overwhelming majority of the ethnic Tamils from joining hands with left and democratic forces. The silver lining is that some of these leaders have now realised the folly of these policies and are exposing the myth that the left and democratic forces are responsible for the present holocaust.

It is to be hoped that the Tamils will learn the past, forge unity with the left and democratic forces in fighting against the policies of the Government. Therein lies the bright future of a united Sri Lanka developing on democratic lines and a resilient democratic economy free from the scourge of poverty and unemployment.

Erratum

In the August issue the heading of the Railwaymen's News on page 11 was wrongly printed. The correct heading should be: "A.I.R.F. Backs Out of Unity Efforts". This mistake is regretted. — Editor

National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen

TWENTYFIVE thousand railway workers converged on the Boat Club lawns on August 19, to protest against the setting up of Pay Commission with a paltry interim relief. The railway authorities flouted all normal rules and cancelled a special train and several bogies to stop the gathering of railway workers. The zonal unit of AIREC in Eastern Railway had deposited Rs. 10,000 for a special train of 10 bogies. After protracted correspondence this was accepted by the authorities. Similarly requisite deposit for three bogies for CLW Labour Union was accepted. But all on a sudden, these were cancelled without any valid reason. But this could not stem the tide of the mounting protest which surged into a massive procession and rally of railwaymen.

The organisers of the protest thoroughly underestimated the response to the call for such a mobilisation. Railwaymen started coming in by batches from August 17 and by the evening of August 18, all the accommodation which were reserved by them to lodge the protest marchers were overflowing their capacities. Additional accommodation had to be secured in order to provide some shelter to the workers. Several thousands joined on the day of the protest march and all including the Press took note of the rally.

The AILRSA, AIREC and IRWF and various other all-India as well as zonal organisations of railwaymen outside the J.C.M., whom the Finance Minister, in his wisdom had called "riff-raffs", proved through this rally that they do represent a large section of railway workers, who are prepared to struggle for the demand of parity in wage with public sector employees, as they did in 1974.

A presidium consisting of K. Rajanna (AILRSA) Srikrishna (IRWF) and C.M. Singh (AIREC) conducted the proceedings of the Boat Club rally, which was addressed by Samar Mukherjee, Dipen Ghosh, Indrajit Gupta, Ram Avtar Shastri all Members of Parliament among others. A delegation consisting of S.K. Dhar, (AILRSA), N.S. Bhangoo (AIREC) and Srikrishna (IRWF) along with Samar Mukherjee met the Deputy Speaker, and handed over a memorandum to him and explained their demand for bilateral settlement on the question of wage parity and interim relief.

The Convention

A Convention held on August 20, was attended by over 4000 delegates representing about 80 organisations of railwaymen who had participated in the protest March. S.K. Dhar (AILRSA) presented a report on behalf of the organisers of the Convention

in which the justifications for the demands were explained in detail. About 70 speakers representing various organisations supported the report.

Among others who spoke was R. Umanath of Dakshin Railway Employee's Union (CITU).

The NCC of Railwaymen

The Convention approved a programme of intense campaign at all levels on the basis of the report which was adopted unanimously. A "Demand Day" would be observed on September 19 all over the country. A National Campaign Committee of Railwaymen was formed through this convention with one representative each from the participating organisations and S.K. Dhar, N.S. Bhangoo and Srikrishna were elected as Joint Convenors. The Committee would meet at the end of November 1983 to chalk-out their next programme of action.

One of the highlights of the Convention was that when a resolution was moved calling upon railwaymen to observe September 1 as the "Day of Peace" in close cooperation with other trade unions and mass organisations, one of delegates tried to say that it is a political resolution. The presidium patiently explained to him that most of the participating organisations like AILRSA, Guards Council, AIREC, IRWF, etc. have adopted resolutions calling upon railwaymen to participate in the struggle for peace against the dangers of war, particularly nuclear war. The entire Convention supported the resolution by clapping as soon as it was read out.

The Railway trade union movement is once again trying to be back on the rails. The voice for securing the just demands has become strident. Once again the movement is poised for a take-off. The Convention called upon all railwaymen to further their own cause by establishing unity from below and all sections of militant railwaymen must back this.

Successful Observance of Protest Week

The Central Working Committee (CWC) of the AILRSA which met at New Delhi on August 18, heard reports from different zonal railways about observance of the week. It was reported that the protest demonstration were held in almost all sheds on July 25. In 44 divisions out of 52, the divisional demonstration took place on July 30 as was decided in the last annual meeting at Vijayawada. It was also reported that the authorities as usual tried to prevent the loco running staff from joining in the demonstration. In Chakradharpur Division, the authorities arranged a special checking on that day

so that those participating in the demonstration could be arrested if they were found travelling without ticket. The Association took no chance as arrest may divert the attention from the demonstration. A sum of Rs. 4000 was spent to purchase tickets. The CWC reviewed the developments and decided that in accordance with the decision of the annual meeting, the loco Running Staff would once again march to parliament on November 28 on the demands of the Loco Running Staff. A tour programme of some of the office-bearers was also drawn up in order to help the weaker areas so that the locomen's march to Parliament on November 28, becomes a massive one.

Movement of Casual Labour

A week long dharna of casual labour was organised before the General Manager's Office in Central Railway by the National Railway Mazdoor Union (AIRF) as the authorities were not implementing the orders of the Railway Board properly. The programme was so arranged that on each day the workers of a particular section come on to the Dharna and on concluding day, workers from all the divisions converged together. A delegation to the Union Office Bearers met the authorities on the demands of the casual labour.

Coal and Ash Workers Struggle

In order to deny the claim of absorption of Coal

Speech of R. Umanath at the Railwaymen's Convention

On behalf the DREU I extend warm greetings to this convention.

I support the proposed campaigns & organisational proposals. But one contrast should not be missed and that is: In 1974 it was the AIRF which took the initiative to unite all railwaymen and their organisations but today in 1983, it is we of this convention who are taking the initiative to build-up all in unity of Railwaymen and their organisations, and the AIRF leadership is running away from this struggle for unity. So 1983 is not 1974. There is a reversal of roles. And this convention is a silver lining. And we cannot allow the AIRF leadership to run away like that. We have to see their own followers are prepared for that.

And we shall also not miss the fact that the day following our convention, that is, tomorrow, another historic All India Convention of the Trade Unions, is being held to plan the line of action to meet the offensive against the working class. If these two streams meet, no force can stop our onward march. We have to remember that we have to meet the offensive of government which has no shame in backing out from their commitments. Latest is their blatant violation of their commitment on the terms of reference regarding upward revision of D.A. in the Public Sector. In the face of economic crisis, the agreements, awards and labour legislations have simply collapsed. We have to meet the offensive of

and Ash handling workers who are serving for 15 to 20 years at a stretch the authorities have now embarked on a plan of whole sale dismissal of the workers by the method of changing the existing contractors. By arrangement, the newly appointed contractors refuse to take on rolls those who are serving now and taking advantage of the huge unemployment outside, appoint new workers, thus pitting the unemployed against the employed.

Such a situation developed at Rampurhat (ER) and new Bongaingaon (NFR). In the former, the Cong. (I) elements and in the latter the AASU elements supported the Contractors. At the intervention of the democratic masses the struggle of the Coal and Ash handling workers at Rampurhat succeed and the contractor was forced to talk all the employees back except 15 who were retrenched for whom a case has been filed. But at NBQ, the whole lot of workers were arrested and put behind bars of the Police and the Contractor has been able to start work with new hands.

A delegation on behalf of the Union met the Minister of Railways on August 22 under the leadership of Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary-CITU when the Railway Minister assured that the Member Staff Railway Board will visit these two stations for enquiry and settlement. Preparations for a writ in the Supreme Court are being made.

a government which has committed to the IMF to reduce non-development expenditure, one of which, according to the Government is the salaries and wages paid to the Central Government employees. But once we are united we can make a break-through, as is seen in some of the Public Sector Undertakings.

Hence our task will be to extensively educate the railwaymen about the implications of the compromise by the AIRF leadership and rouse their anger and prepare the entire Railway workers for united mass resistance. This will mean that we from this convention jointly approach not only the railwaymen who have rallied behind us, but also those railwaymen who have rallied behind AIRF and other organisations for joint actions and broader unity. The unity that we build from below must be so wide that, either the AIRF leadership will have to follow line with the mainstream, and erase their signatures on the settlement, with their iron hands, or face the prospect of their own followers erasing them. In face of such a powerful unity, we can successfully meet the offensive of the Railway Board and the Government of India and go ahead. To build such unity is an uphill task. But you cannot bypass this key task, without which we cannot win. In fact Indian Railwaymen are the ones who created history, by conducting the longest strike in Railways (for 21 days) in the world. Rouse these traditions, anger and sense of all-in unity and united actions and we are sure to succeed.

Women's Participation in Peace Struggle

THE All India Coordination Committee of Working Women (AICCWW) and All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) were invited in a bilateral seminar held at Moscow from July 18-26, between the Soviet Women's Committee and the Women's organisations in India. Vimala Ranadive, Secretary, AICCWW and Manjari Gupta, President, AIDWA represented their respective organisations. The other organisations represented were the National Federation of Indian Women, All India Women's Conference, National Association for Rural Women and the Indian Housewives' Federation. The total Indian delegates were nine while the Soviet women were represented by 15 delegates.

The main subject of the Seminar was "Women's Social Status and Participation in the Struggle for Peace". The other subjects discussed were women's involvement in public, political and cultural life, women and the family and women's labour activities in town and country. Manjari Gupta and Vimala Ranadive presented papers on women's position in family and women's labour activities in town and country respectively.

The Seminar expressed deep concern at the worsening international situation because of the aggressive actions of the imperialist forces led by the USA. The participants supported the Soviet peace initiatives for preventing a nuclear war and noted that these initiatives played a great role consolidating all the forces opposing the danger of war. The Seminar also highlighted the role of the Non-Aligned Movement to carry forward the anti-imperialist, anti-war and anti-colonialist policy, which was demonstrated in the New Delhi Conference. The Seminar noted that women around the world can make contributions to the struggle against the arms race, against the aggressive and expansionist policies of imperialism, and for peace, security and national independence. The participants agreed that women's true equality and development was possible only in conditions of world peace.

The Seminar also noted with profound satisfaction the development of the traditional friendly relations between the people of India and the Soviet Union and voiced confidence that the all round cooperation between the people of the two countries based on the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation would continue to develop successfully in the interest of peace and social progress.

Following the Seminar the Indian delegation visited the UZBEK Soviet Socialist Republic,

learned about the life and work of Soviet women and also visited several industrial, agricultural, medical and educational establishments.

HSCL Workers' Struggle

The management of Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd., a Government of India undertaking has made an illegal closure of the Singrauli Unit at Saktinagar, UP from 28 July. The closure notice was served on 28 July itself retrenching eighty eight highly skilled workers. It is to be noted that when the workers protested against threatened retrenchment in July, as the work taken up by HSCL in NTPC was nearing completion, the Labour Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh had advised the management not to resort to retrenchment. The Chief Engineer of the Singrauli Unit had also given in writing to the union that there would be no retrenchment. The Chairman of HSCL also made the same assurances, but throwing all norms into the wind, the management suddenly declared the closure and terminated the services of the workmen.

A delegation of the Union led by Samar Mukherjee, MP, General Secretary of CITU met the Union Minister of State for Steel and Mines at New Delhi on 9 August and urged for absorption of the workers in other Units. Most of the workers at Singrauli had in fact joined the unit having been transferred from other units of HSCL from different parts of the country and were working for the last 10 to 15 years. While the management of HSCL had retrenched the workers in one unit they were continuously opening new units also. In the recent past new units have been opened at Neemuch, Tandoor, Tanda, Daitari, Farakka, Saharsa, Baila Dila, Purnea, Kishanganj, Vizag, etc. But the Minister did not give any assurance to the delegation. In the absence of any assurance, the union has decided to launch industrial actions. The All India Co-ordination Committee of HSCL Workers' Unions will meet shortly to chalk out the action programmes.

On the same plea of "no work" the management of HSCL has planned to retrench about 200 workers at its Korba unit in Madhya Pradesh. Even though the NTPC has offered more jobs to HSCL, it is reluctant to accept them or absorb the workers in other units. Led by CITU the workers have started agitational actions to foil the management's designs.

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Trade Union Rights Day Observed

THE Trade Union Rights Day was observed all over the country on August 4. The call was given by the National Campaign Committee to voice opposition to the two anti-working class Bills viz, Trade Unions Amendment Bill and the Hospitals and Other Institutions (Settlement of Disputes) Bill, as well as to demand repeal of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act and the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Act. The observance of August 4 was part of the campaign conducted by the NCC against increasing attacks on trade union rights beginning from NSA followed by ESMA prohibiting strike in so-called essential services and then the present series of anti-labour amendment Bills introduced last year to impose further curb on trade union rights from their very formation to the day to day functions. A brochure prepared by the NCC in this respect was circulated by the constituents to the State Committees and the federations.

In W. Bengal the left trade unions jointly observed the day by holding meetings in all the industrial places, factories and the coal mines. Gate meetings were held in all the shifts of the factories.

At Meghalaya a mass rally of workers and employees was held at Shillong under the banner of the State Campaign Committee. The rally adopted a resolution demanding withdrawal of the two Bills and scrapping of the two Acts.

In Assam also the day was observed despite prohibitory orders and refusal of the authorities to give permission even to hold meetings. AOC Labour Union and other trade unions adopted resolution and sent them to the Union Labour Minister.

In Tamilnadu rallies and meetings were held in all the industrial places. A massive procession and rally was held jointly by the CITU Unions at Mettur. The procession started from the gate of Madras Aluminium Co. and culminated at the Mattur railway station where a public meeting was held. The meeting adopted a resolution and sent it to the Prime Minister. The Insurance Corporation Employees Union, Coimbatore held a rally and issued a statement demanding withdrawal of the Black Bills. At Karnataka the Unions held meetings and distributed leaflets.

Mass meeting and demonstrations were held in various industrial places in Bihar. The Purnea District Coordination Committee of Unions and Associations held a mass rally and adopted a resolution to step up the struggle till the black bills are withdrawn. In all the collieries in the State massive rallies were held and leaflets were distributed. Joint meetings were held at Patna, Dhanbad, Muzaffarpur and other places.

At Indore the CITU and other trade unions held a demonstration before the office of the Labour Commissioner under the banner of Joint Trade Unions Council. They distributed hundreds of

leaflets to the workers. At Udupi a large number of workers from beedi, tile, handloom industries and bank, LIC and other trade unions converged at the local Municipal office compound and held a big demonstration.

At Nagda in Madhya Pradesh CITU and other trade unions jointly staged a day long Dharna at the Azad Chowk. The LIC workers came out of the office at 2 P.M. and demonstrated for half an hour against the anti-trade union bills. The IDPL Kamgarh Union, Rishikesh and various other unions in UP held demonstrations and adopted resolutions.

Apart from these various other unions in P and T, banks, railways and other salaried employees in various parts of the country held meetings and adopted resolutions to carry forward the united struggles against the black bills.

Unemployment

Answers in Parliament

Applicants on Live Registers of Employment Exchanges:

The number of applicants on the Live Registers of Employment Exchanges at the end of 1980, 1981 and 1982 was 162.00, 178.38 and 197.53 lakhs respectively, all of whom were not necessarily unemployed. The number of placement effected by the Employment Exchanges during 1980, 1981 and 1982 were 4.78, 5.04 and 4.73 lakhs respectively. The qualification-wise break-up of applicants on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges during 1980, 1981 and 1982 is given in the following table:

Description	<i>(in thousands)</i>		
	No. on Live Register as at the end of		
	1980	1981	1982
1. Below Matric/illiterates	8036.7	8819.9	9983.9
2. Matriculates	4568.2	5008.1	5560.2
3. Higher Secondary/ Intermediate/Under Graduates	2070.9	2325.5	2439.5
4. Graduates (Total)	1389.8	1542.8	1599.3
Engg Graduates	21.4	19.9	21.9
Medical Graduates	14.8	15.5	17.7
5. Post-graduates (Total)	134.6	141.9	170.2
Engg. Post-graduates	0.4	0.5	1.1
Medical Post-graduates	1.8	0.6	0.8
6. Diploma holders in Engineering	90.3	106.2	N.A.

(The Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 9766 dated 3-5-1983).

Govt. Refuses to Revise Terms

The second meeting of the Tripartite Committee on DA for public sector undertakings held in New Delhi on 6th August 1983 did not result in any tangeable conclusions because of the failure of the Government to come forward with any positive proposal for the rise in the rate of DA.

All the central trade union representatives strongly recorded their protest at the refusal of the Minister of Finance to delete the terms of reference which asked the Committee to study the impact of the rise in the rate of DA to the public sector employees on the Central and State Government employees, workers in the private sector as well as unorganised and agricultural workers. The central trade unions pointed out that this would only bring irrelevant issues in the functioning of the Committee and will only delay its outcome.

All the trade union representatives categorically asserted the need for upward revision in the rate of DA so that the real wages of the workers can be protected. Criticising the guidelines issued by the BPE on wage negotiations the workers' representatives observed that they had only prolonged the wage negotiations and added to the strained industrial relations in public sector. They pointed out that the decision of the question of DA should be taken in the next meeting positively. They strongly opposed dilatory tactics adopted by the Government representatives in not accepting the just demands of the workers.

The workers' representatives deplored the attitude of the Government representatives who were still arguing that the present rate of D.A. was adequate and were thus bypassing the term of reference, when the Government has already accepted the need for upward revision and asked the Committee to decide how much the additional rise should be. They charged the Union Finance Minister for going back on the commitment given to the representatives of the Central TU organisations on 18th January 1983 and creating obstacles in the work of the Committee. The time limit of three months given to the Committee would be over by the end of August and the Committee had yet to commence work in right earnest.

The CITU warned the Government not to consider the patience shown by the public sector employees on this question as a sign of their weakness. If the Government refused to settle the question within a short time it will have to face a powerful agitation of the public sector employees all over the country.

Water Front Workers to step up Struggles

The extended Office-bearers' meeting of the Water Transport Workers' Federation of India met at Madras on July 9 under the presidentship of M.M. Lawrence, MP, Secretary of CITU. Mohd Ismail, MP, Vice-President of CITU was also present.

The meeting expressed serious concern over the erosion of job opportunities in the major ports and introduction of private contractor labourers in the area of port operations and resolved to open dialogue with the leadership of other federations for an united programme of action against this as well as other demands including need based minimum wage, 25 per cent house rent allowance, 15 per cent CCA, etc. The meeting also decided to organise a countryside movement of the clearing and forwarding workers to ensure their employment and wages at par with the workers in the major ports. It also planned countryside movement for regularisation of the workers engaged in perennial nature of port operations and also engaged in the different establishments like canteen, institute, etc., established under the Welfare Scheme for port workers.

The meeting also took a serious note of the fact that despite the 72 hour strike by the Seamen in November, 1982, their dharna before the Prime Minister's residence on March 30 and the assurances given by the Minister of Shipping and Transport, there was further erosion of jobs both at Calcutta and Bombay. The meeting resolved to step up the struggle of the Indian Seamen if the Government fails to take appropriate steps by August, 1983. The federation appealed to all organisations of the Seamen to stand united and prepare for joint struggles to achieve their demands.

Over Thirty Lakh Agricultural Workers Join Strike

A total of over thirty lakh agricultural workers participated in the strike on July 15 jointly called by the All India Agricultural Workers' Union and Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union demanding enactment of a comprehensive Central legislation (reported in the last issue).

The states responding to the call were Bihar — four lakhs, Kerala — four lakhs, Andhra Pradesh — four lakhs, Punjab — two lakhs, Uttar Pradesh — two lakhs, Haryana — fifty thousands and Orissa — fifty thousands. Apart from this twelve to fifteen lakh workers participated in the strike in W. Bengal which was observed on July 25 at the joint call of the Kishan Sabhas and the agricultural labour organisations. Having struck work, the workers demonstrated and held public meetings in the various blocks. CITU State Committees extended solidarity to the striking workers.

(Contd. on page 14)

Bank Employees to Strike

THE Bank Employees all over India organised under the Bank Employees' Federation of India (BEFI) will observe one day's strike on September 6. The call for the strike has been given by BEFI demanding of the Indian Banks' Association to stop victimisations, attack on trade union rights, scrapping of mechanisations and computerisation and demanding negotiated settlement of the charter of demands served by the federation in November, 1982.

Of late, the managements of the banks have resorted to an unprecedented spate of offensives. An unwarranted and rampant transfer of employees and gross interference into the day to day activities of the unions clearly show the vindictive attitude of the managements to curb the trade union rights of the employees and their united actions. Apart from this, they are imposing heavier work loads on the employees without increasing the staff strength. Furthermore, the Bankers' policy of mechanisation and computerisation has not only threatened the security of the existing staff complement but also diminished the job potential in the bank industry. While perpetrating these offensives on the employees, the Indian Banks' Association has remained silent on holding negotiations with the BEFI on the charter demands despite several representations. Mass deputations were given by the units all over the country urging upon the managements to negotiate the demands. Demonstrations, leaflet distributions are continuing in various units. A massive 2000 strong demonstration was staged at Bombay on July 21. Thus the adamancy of the Indian Banks' Association has compelled the BEFI to serve the strike notice. BEFI has appealed to all workers and organisations to launch united movements to compel the management to accede to their demands.

Joint Move against Coins Shortage

The Alipur Mint Employees Coordination Committee and Reserve Bank Employees Association, W. Bengal have taken a joint move to expose the policy of the Government of India over the present crisis of shortage of small coins. In a joint statement they said that the policy aims at systematic curtailment of production of coins of various denominations and withdrawal of small coins from circulation. Coins of 1p, 2p and 3p have already been discontinued. Instead of evaluating the requirement of coins in conformity with the rising demand as a result of inflationary effect on economy, the authorities are resorting to sharp reduction in the production of coins. In the Calcutta Mint alone the production has been slashed to worth Rs. 24 lakhs in 1982-83 from a quarterly allotment worth Rs. 1 crore in 1981-82. Synchronising with

this policy the Mint authorities are progressively reducing the total working hours of the workers and deliberately keeping about 500 existing posts at Calcutta vacant. This has drastically affected the production capacity. The decision to replace currency notes of Re. 1 and Rs. 2 by coins have added further load on the already reduced capacity of the mints at Calcutta, Bombay and Hyderabad.

Time and again both the organisations took up the matter with the respective authorities and urged upon them to augment the production of small coins, but to no avail. The statement appealed to all organisations to raise their united voice against the policy of the Government and demand increased production of small coins and fill up all the posts kept vacant.

Struggle By Syndicate Bank Employees

The struggle by the Syndicate Bank Staff Union against the corrupt practices of its Chairman, R. Raghupati has brought to light certain facts which fully justifies his removal. The Central Bureau of Investigation had filed on FIR against the Chairman in February 1983 indicating that he was guilty of amassing an illegal wealth to the tune of Rs. 13 lakhs, disproportionate to his known and declared income.

The demand of the union found powerful support from the public, press, eminent jurists and parliamentarians. The former justice, V.R. Krishna Iyer demanded public accountability of the banking institutions. Members of the Parliament viz P. Ramamurti and Somnath Chatterjee (CPI-M), Madhu Dandavate (Janata) and others had questioned the Government of allowing Raghupati to continue at the helm of affairs not only of the Syndicate Bank but also as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association and the Exim Bank.

Even Janardhan Poojari, the Union Deputy Minister for Finance while replying to a call attention motion in Rajya Sabha conceded that the question of "Placing Raghupati under suspension is under the active consideration of the Government of India". But the tacit support of the Government in the corrupt practices of Raghupati became evident when the Deputy Minister refused to meet a delegation of union at Bangalore on August 14 or accept a memorandum. The union has now taken steps for a Public Interest litigation by moving a Writ of Mandamus and a Writ of Quo Waranto in the Supreme Court.

(from page 13)

While congratulating the workers for participating in such massive numbers in the first all India strike of the agricultural workers, P.K. Kunjachan, General Secretary of the All India Agricultural Workers' Union condemned the Government for going back on its earlier commitment to bring in a Central legislation and called upon the workers to prepare further for actions to achieve their demands.

AGAINST WAR

B.T. Ranadive

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THE CITU calls upon all its unions, all its workers, its State and District Committees to protest on 1st September against the nuclear war plans of US imperialism.

The CITU will protest in association with such other trade union organisations which are prepared to fight the war danger and US plans of aggression.

The CITU, AITUC, UTUC, TUCC and Rastriya Mazdoor Congress have issued a joint call asking the workers to demonstrate unitedly against the US plans for a nuclear holocaust.

Never before in the history of the world was such a conspiracy hatched against humanity, against all countries against all peoples. For the destruction unleashed by the nuclear war will spare none. Warring and non-warring countries, Eastern and Western hemispheres, countries and peoples who have nothing to do with the war will be either directly destroyed by nuclear blasts or killed by radiation.

Moscow and Washington, London and Paris, Delhi and Calcutta can be destroyed in a minute.

It is a war which not only threatens the soldiers, the active combatants, it threatens wholesale devastation of civilian population, the worker in the factory, the peasant ploughing his field, the housewife doing her house chores and the children playing in the tanks and attending schools.

Never before in the history of the world was there such a demoniac and selfish class as the present day US imperialists.

The CITU calls upon India's working class, all progressive sections to raise their voice of protest and join their hands across the seas with their brethren in Soviet Russia, and in Europe and the USA to stop this march of nuclear destruction.

The war plot is a challenge to the internationalism of the working class, those who have the honour to hold the Red Flag. It calls upon the working

class of India to intervene in time to save the lives of millions of workers in other countries who are threatened with direct destruction by the USA.

The war that is organised is not just war of one country against another. It is a war of US imperialists allying with British and other imperialists against the Socialist Soviet Union — a war to destroy a hundred years' conquests of working class in blood.

It is a war of imperialists to impose permanent slavery on the world working class and to restore the global domination of the US.

As a result of widespread destruction the US imperialists hope to impose servitude on countries like India. The Diego Garcia base, the rapid deployment force, the arming of India's neighbours are part of this conspiracy.

Millions in Europe and elsewhere will be protesting against the war preparations. We must join our voice with them. Along with them we must demand that there should be no deployment of Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe. These are being placed to directly attack the USSR and they are intended to make nuclear war inevitable.

The Soviet Union finally holds the banner of peace and offers several proposals to save the world from war and millions of lives of the common people. The working class of India hails these proposals and fully supports them.

It is the privilege and duty of India's working class to rouse the people to the danger of war. It is the duty of CITU workers to carry the message to workers of other organisations. Let the voice of our working class ring clearly in defence of socialist achievements, against the US imperialists.

**No planting of missiles in Europe
Freeze all nuclear weapons
Down with nuclear war-mongers
Working class unity will win
Peace must triumph.**

Appeal By the Central Trade Unions

Observe September 1 as Day of Peace

MANKIND faces the grave and growing danger of world war with nuclear weapons capable of destroying hundreds of millions of people all over the earth.

The United States is making furious efforts to

form a world-wide military coalition of imperialist powers and to instal reactionary regimes in a number of countries and arming them and has succeeded to a considerable extent in these efforts. The USA and its allies have increased their military budgets to astronomical figures and increasing attacks on

workers' living and jobs. They have decided to instal a large number of Pershing & Cruise missiles on the soil of several countries of Western Europe, including West Germany bordering on the socialist countries.

The United States has secured military bases in a number of countries throughout the world, including Diego-Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The rapid deployment force is a menace to the freedom and independence of our own country also.

The threat of nuclear war against the USSR not only endangers the lives of millions of people of the Soviet Union, but spells danger to all countries.

All efforts made by the Soviet Union to reduce armaments, freeze nuclear weapons production and gradually move towards total disarmament have been frustrated by the United States.

On the other hand, the US imperialists have been forging new weapons of mass destruction and stock piling them.

And now, under the guise of agreeing to negotiate on disarmament, the USA and its NATO allies are seeking to alter the balance of forces and gain superiority in military might over the USSR.

The world-wide mobilisation of all sections of peoples for peace has been growing in all continents including the USA.

In this hour, when the threat of nuclear war has immensely increased, spelling destruction of not only millions of people all over the world but also the creations and achievements of the mankind in all fields of human activity from time immemorial, this mobilisation against the war mongers and for world peace must be intensified manifold times. With this noble objective, the World Federation of Trade Unions had given a call to observe September 1 all over the world as a Day of Peace and against war.

Last year, the day was jointly observed all over the country leading to the historic Delhi Peace March of October 4 which was participated along-with others by thousand of workers and employees.

The Indian Working Class, together with all toiling people must gather in millions all over the country, in cities, and towns and villages and call for an end to the Armament Race, for total disarmament and for peace among nations.

We appeal to all our affiliates to observe September 1 on a wider scale than last year, by means of peace marches, meetings and demonstrations, for the banning of nuclear weapons and for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

Samar Mukherjee
General Secretary
CITU

Indrajit Gupta
General Secretary
AITUC

A.P. Chakrabarty
General Secretary
TUCC

J.S. Dara
President
Rashtriya Mazdoor
Congress

Pratul Chowdhury
Member W/C-UTUC

LIC Employees Strike

Fortyfive thousand Class III and IV employees of Life Insurance Corporation throughout the country struck work on August 18 in protest against the continued silence of the LIC management and the Government of India over the charter of demands submitted by the unions six years back.

The call for the strike was jointly, given by the All India Insurance Employees' Association, All India LIC Employees Federation, All India Life Insurance Employees Association and the National Organisation of Insurance Workers. In fact there has been no revision of wages for the Class III and Class IV employees after the settlement in 1974. On the contrary the Government of India has been scuttling even the 1974 agreement by withdrawing one benefit or other by issuing various ordinances and notifications. Whereas in as many as 24 public sector corporations new wage agreements have been concluded with the approval of the Government of India, there is absolutely no move by the LIC management and the Government of India for any negotiation or settlement in LIC, although the unions made repeated representations to the management and the Government for negotiated settlement.

As per reports the strike paralysed work in all the LIC offices in the country. The workers held rallies in front of the offices which were addressed by leaders of various trade unions. In New Delhi the rally was addressed among others by M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU; B.D. Joshi, Vice-President, AITUC; O.P. Aghi, Secretary, BMS, etc.

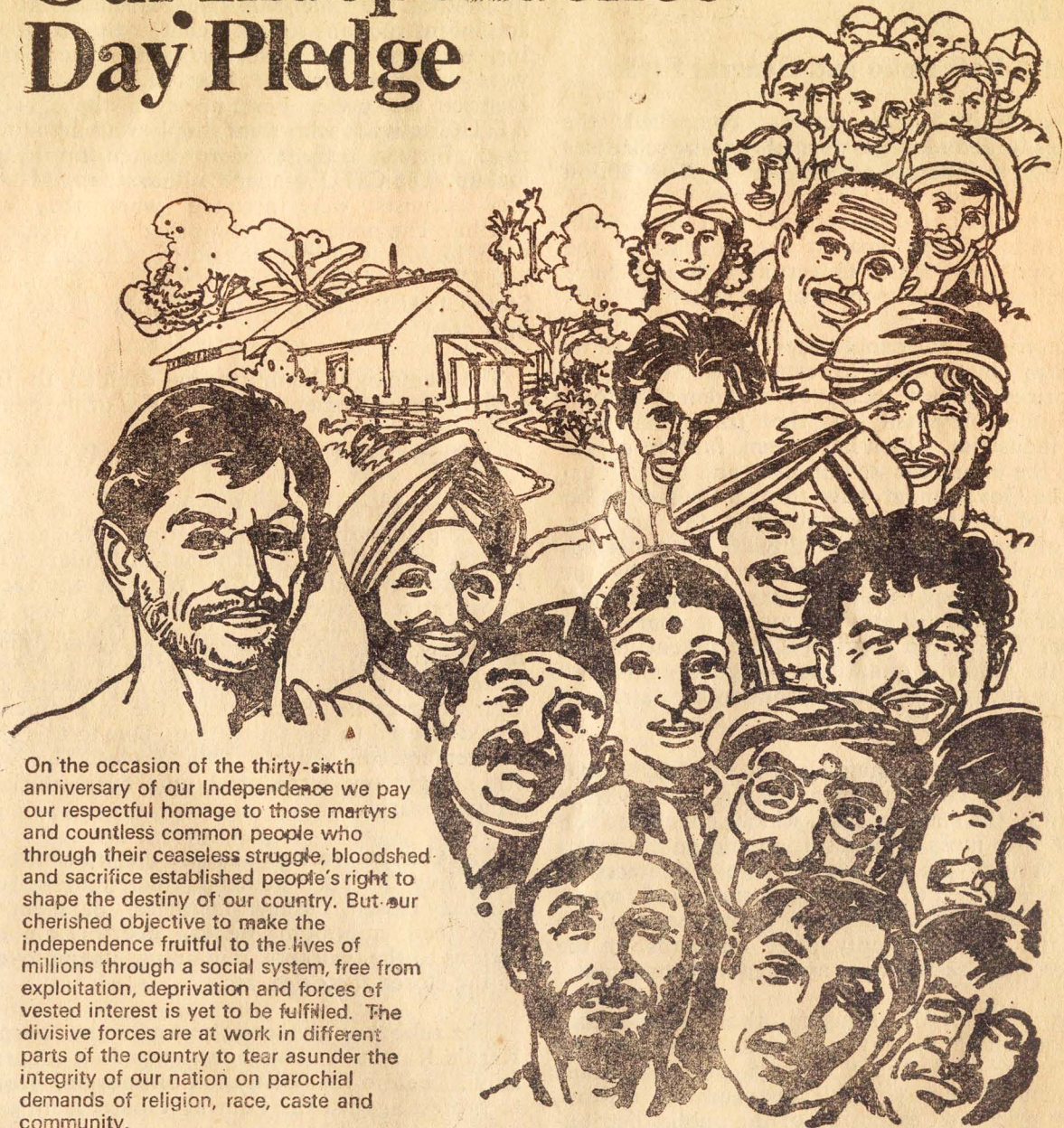
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Our Independence Day Pledge



On the occasion of the thirty-sixth anniversary of our Independence we pay our respectful homage to those martyrs and countless common people who through their ceaseless struggle, bloodshed and sacrifice established people's right to shape the destiny of our country. But our cherished objective to make the independence fruitful to the lives of millions through a social system, free from exploitation, deprivation and forces of vested interest is yet to be fulfilled. The divisive forces are at work in different parts of the country to tear asunder the integrity of our nation on parochial demands of religion, race, caste and community.

In West Bengal, the Left Front Government always strove to uphold the democratic rights of the people and stood by the masses in the struggle against exploiters in their bid for a better living. As a result of our determination to observe the tenets of national integration, West Bengal is free from the stresses of any

regional, communal and caste conflicts.

We believe continuous vigil and concerted efforts by our people will safeguard the integrity, unity and solidarity of the nation.

On this auspicious day we reaffirm our faith in the people.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

TCP/CA 819/83

AROUND THE STATES

KERALA

Successful Rail Roko and General Strike

Massive Rail Roko actions compelled the authorities to abandon the normal running schedules of the trains in the state on August 8. The action programme was decided in the State Convention organised by the Left-Democratic Front at Cochin on June 16 to protest against the policies of the Central and the State Government which have heaped miseries on the people of the state.

The miseries of the people, especially the peasants, the working class and the lower middle class due to rising prices, power cuts, curtailment of food rations, unemployment in the traditional and modern industries, which have been further aggravated by the unprecedented drought and the callousness of the Government, have thrown the people on the path of struggles since the last few months. Instead of coming forward to allviate the sufferings of the people, the UDF Government led by the Congress(I) is trying to suppress their struggles and create communal disharmony amongst them. On the other hand, the Central Government is not allotting the requisite quantities of goodgrains and continuing the import of cash crops to the detriment of the producers in the state.

The rail roko programme was preceded by jathas led by the LDF constituents, covering every village and town in the state by foot, which concluded on August 6 with mass demonstration and public meetings at various places. On 8th the volunteers in thousands marched to the railway tracks and squatted a different places. The trains could start much behind the schedules only after hundreds of the volunteers and leaders were arrested and removed.

Alongwith the LDF struggle, the United Campaign Committee of Trade Unions organised the general strike on August 9 with 25 point demands which included supply of full quantum of rations, check on price rise, extension of the public distribution system, etc. The strike turned into a virtual bundh as shops and hotels downed their shutters and the taxis, auto-rickshaws and buses were also off the roads. In all the Government offices, establishments, university offices, banks, LIC offices and the industrial centres the strike was successful. Fishermen and more than two lakh agricultural workers also participated in the strike.

Repression

The success of the strike and bundh so much provoked the Government that although it was totally

peaceful in all the places, it let loose its repressive machineries and the police lathicharged the workers at Trichur, Ernakulam and other places and arrested large number of workers and trade union leaders all over the State from the previous night itself. Panicked by the success of the rail roko actions, it is understood the Chief Minister Karunakaran issued special instructions to lathi charge the demonstrating workers. Three workers with severe injuries were admitted in the hospital. In Cannanore District the police beat up even the CITU and AITUC activists who were simply walking along the road. Fifteen activists were beaten up in police lockup. The CITU leader O. Bharathan, MLA and fifty activists were arrested when they started a jatha. The police was compelled to release them when hundreds of people led by Chadayan Govindan CPI (M) District Secretary and C. Kannan, the State CITU President marched to the police station in protest.

The Campaign Committee has decided to further step up the movements in pursuance of the demands.

Strike by Coir and Cashew Workers

Coir workers all over Kerala went on strike on July 28 demanding implementation of the agreement entered into by the Government in January with the Joint Action Council of Coir Workers and the Coir Cooperative Workers and demanding a stop to the import of coir products. As the Government has not allotted any special fund to the Coir Marketing Federation, it has not made any payment to the Coir Cooperative Societies for the sale proceeds of coir delivered to the federation. Due to this the coir workers are not getting their wages. The workers will not get any wage or bonus even during the Onam festival.

The Cashew workers also are on indefinite strike since July 28. Their demands include take over of the sixty closed cashew factories, payment of the prescribed minimum wages, distribution of free rations to the workers remaining unemployed due to the closed factories, etc.

The rubber cultivators also under the auspices of Kerala Karshaka Sangham staged a dharna on July 27 before the District Collectorate, Kottayam to protest against the Central Government's policy of import of rubber.

BIHAR

Successful Bihar Bandh

The massive Bihar Bundh called by the eight opposition parties on August 9 gave the final blow to the already tottering Jagannath Mishra who had to be sacked from the post of the Chief Minister by the Centre. The call for the bundh demanding his removal was jointly given by CPI (M), CPI, Forward Block, R.S.P., D.S.P., Marxist Coordina-

tion Committee, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Bihar Janata Party.

Thus culminated the series of protest actions launched by the Campaign Committee of the eight parties and actively supported by CITU and other trade unions against the Congress (I) misrule which had attained its height of notoriety because of rampant corruption, unprecedented repression on the working people, ruthless exploitation of the peasantry and agricultural labourers, repression on the Harijans and the other weaker sections, the notorious press bill, the Bhagalpur blinding cases and what not.

Despite a massive police arrangement, repression, section 144 and widespread arrests including of children in the age group of 10 to 14, lathi charge at Dharbhanga and Muzaffarpur and firing at Nalanda, the bundh resulted in a total paralysis of the State on the day. The massive procession and rallies held all over the state demonstrated the unique show of unity in action for the common cause against the common enemy—the Congress (I). Prominent among those arrested were Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, the Central Committee member and State Secretary of CPI (M), the State AIKS Secretary, Subodh Roy, Srikant Sharma, the Patna District Secretary of CPI (M), the SFI leader Sudhir Prasad, the AISF leader R.P. Sinha, the CPI M.P., Ram Avtar Shashtri. At Patna a huge rally was addressed among others by Yogeshwar Gope and Chandi Prasad, President and General Secretary of the State CITU respectively.

Strike by Life Pharmaceutical Workers

The workers of Life Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd. went on a successful three day strike from August 11 to 14. The call for the strike was given by the Patna Druggist and Chemical Workers' Union (CITU) demanding withdrawal of suspension order of four workers of the factory, against police harassment etc. The management tried to scare the workers by deploying anti-socials and communal elements. But the determined and united strength of the workers frustrated all the evil designs of the management and the strike was complete. The Deputy Labour Commissioner further connived with the management to confuse the workers by producing a false settlement. The angered workers marched to the Deputy Commissioners' office and held a massive demonstration supported by all other trade unions. Among those who addressed the rally were Chandi Prasad the State CITU, General Secretary, Chinta Prasad, General Secretary of the Union, C.S. Sharma, Vice-President of the Union, Khokan Ghosh, General Secretary of the Calcutta Union, Ram Narian of N.G.E. Federation, etc.

ORISSA

The Glorious Bundh

August 9 was the red letter day in Orissa. Despite a barbarous repression unleashed by the Congress

(I) Government, the bundh was a total success. The bundh was jointly called by CPI (M), CPI, HMS, Lok Dal, BJP and a wing of Janata protesting against the closures lockouts, repression on the peasantry and agricultural workers and the Government's failure to give adequate relief to the drought stricken people.

The police opened fire at Balipal killing one and injuring five people. They opened fire at Aska and Nimpara also. Lathi charge and teargas firing were resorted to at Brajraj Nagar. Armed police was deployed all over the state and more than 3000 people were arrested.

Despite the violence resorted to by the Government machineries, the shops banks, LIC, GIC, schools, colleges, private establishments were all closed. 13 of the 15 newspapers did not come out. Transport was paralysed throughout the state. Some empty State Transport buses could come out of the depots only after 10 A.M. after the arrest of the picketeers.

TRIPURA

Tea Gardens Workers Strike

Eighteen thousand workers of 52 tea gardens in Tripura went on one day's token strike on August 19. The call for the strike was given by the Tripura Tea Garden Workers' Union in pursuance of some long pending demands against the ruthless exploitation of the workers by the owners.

Out of the 52 gardens, thirteen were closed down by the owners earlier. While in the 52 gardens the production of tea was previously 22,000 Kg the production in the present 39 gardens has gone up to the tune of about 58 lakh Kg. Yet the owners make a plea of loss and refuse to accept the legitimate demands of the workers. Lakhs of provident fund amount of the workers have not been deposited in the P.F. office and the Central Government has not taken any steps to remedy the situation. Out of 18 thousand workers only 8,500 are permanent. In every garden an army of unemployed workers are engaged frequently at wages much below the prescribed minimum wages. Workers are coerced to accept extra load with a paltry amount of only 9 paise per each Kg. of extra plucking, while their demand is 20 paise per extra Kg. Since June 6 mammoth rallies were being held in all the Sub-Divisions in preparation of the strike. In a statement, Bimal Singh, the Vice-President of the Union has said that the workers will ceaselessly step up the struggles for achievement of the demands.

TAMIL NADU

Struggle Against Closures and Lockouts

The State Committee of CITU in its meeting held at Coimbatore from July 28-30 has called for State-

wide actions against closure, retrenchment and lockout in Tamilnadu. Massive demonstrations will be held in September in all the district centres to protest against the increasing attacks by the employers and the pro-employer policies of the State and Central Governments.

As in other parts of the country, attacks against the working class by closure, lockouts, layoffs, retrenchments in Tamilnadu has also increased. The employers are using this as a weapon to increase workload, reduce wages and alter service conditions of the workers and deprive them of their hard won rights.

The management of E.I.D. Parry has declared that their Sugar factory at Nellikuppam will be closed from 8th August. The reason given by the management is that the CITU union refuses to accept retrenchments and wage reduction proposed by the management. Nearly 2000 workers and 15000 cangrowers will be affected by this. Even though the strength of the work force was determined by a special Tribunal appointed by the State Government, the management wants to retrench nearly 800 workers. In the same way, the wages of the unit were settled through bipartite settlements. The company wants to reduce it for the alleged reason of accumulated losses. But, according to the company's annual reports, the company is earning huge profits and the Sugar unit has its share in growth of profits.

Workers as well as canegrowers are building up a movement in the district against this closure and have demanded take over the factory.

In the Ambattur Industrial Estate, N.S. Krishna Rao Body Works, a factory employing 600 workers has served closure notice on the plea that the workers led by the CITU refuse to accept increased work loads.

Another unit in Madras, the Sheet Glass Factory employing 300 workers have also served closure notice after continuous lay offs for months.

Transformer and Switch Gears with 300 workers are closed for the last 20 months. 600 workers of the Government owned boat building yards are on streets after the closure of the 4 boat building yards at Madras, Manapam and Negapattinam. SRC mills, a textile unit at Tiruppur, employing 1000 workers is closed for the last one year. A coir factory in Kanyakumari district is closed for the last 8 months. Workers of all these units are continuing their struggle demanding reopening of the unit.

The AIDMK State Government has accorded permission to the management of Simco Meters to retrench 340 workers. The company was under lockout for nearly 10 months and has now reopened. An engineering unit at Ranipet, Upper India

Bearings has served retrenchment orders to its 150 workers. Workers have served strike notice here.

Workers are being laid off for at Mettur Chemicals in Salem District and in South India Viscose in Coimbatore. In the latter factory, workers were on strike for 4 months demanding Bonus. Even after a settlement was reached on this, the management continues to layoff workers and has not paid the Bonus also.

In the Madras factory of Ashoka Leyland, production was cut down and was working only for 3 to 4 days for about a year. Now the company is working for 5 days; the 6th day being optional working day and even lay off wages need not be paid for that day. WIMCO had also laid off its full contingent of workers for about 4 months.

New offensives have started in textile mills in Tamilnadu and Pondicherry. In the name of modernisations, large scale retrenchments are being planned. In Premier mills, the management has come out with a dubious scheme of voluntary retirement and reappointment after modernisation to those who accept all the conditions laid down by the management, i.e., to be a new set of slaves. They are asked to forego all their statutory benefits and even Trade Union rights.

In Anglo French Textiles in Pondicherry, the management has been continuing lay off for the last 4 months. Now, they have come out with proposals of increase in workload. with the same machines, by which they will be able to reduce nearly a third of their 7000 workers.

In Gudiyattam, a textile unit was kept closed for 8 months and has now reopened with increased workloads. Here, the management has denied even statutory lay off wages for the workers. In small scale units, the effect of recession, power cut and non availability of raw materials is much more and thousands of workers have been affected.

In the traditional sectors like Handloom, Beedi and Cashew thousands of workers are affected. In handloom with huge accumulated stocks and non payment of dues from State Government and apex bodies, the cooperative sector workers have been rendered jobless. Handloom workers are on struggle against this and are also demanding implementation of minimum wages. In beedi industry, even the statutory minimum wages are denied to the workers by wage cut in the name of compensating loss on leaves and tobacco. Beedi and Cigar Act is also not being implemented. In Kanyakumari nearly a lakh of Cashew workers are jobless now.

The attitude of the State Government has been out and out anti-labour. They are openly taking sides with the managements and approves all their actions of retrenchments and closures.

Resolutions

Resolutions on the struggles of different sections of working people were passed by the State Committee. A resolution in support of the AP Government employees was also adopted. A resolution on the recent developments in SRI LANKA was also adopted condemning the attack on the Tamil speaking people in that country and supporting the decision for a state wide General Strike on 2nd August 1983.

W. BENGAL

Closure of Bengal Paper Mill

Yet another closure. The management of Bengal Paper Mill has notified in the newspapers that the plant is going to be closed down from September 1. The reason furnished is "Labour Unrest". In a press Conference held at Asansol on July 13, Bikash Chowdhury, MLA, General Secretary of Bengal Paper Mill Mazdoor Union (CITU) has denounced the management for the slanderous campaign. He said that the management has, on the contrary, created an abnormal situation in the factory by its refusal to discuss any item of the charter of demands submitted by the union on December 1, 1981. It has already closed one unit of the plant, refused to regularise the contract labourers, payment of wages is grossly irregular, deliberately kept a number of posts vacant for the last two years, arbitrarily withdrawn various benefits and facilities in vogue for the last 30 years, etc. Apart from these, the management wants to impose the most anti-labour and unacceptable preconditions to retrench over 500 workers and stall the charter of demands for operation of the mill. The Union has demanded withdrawal of the closure notice and take over and nationalisation of the mill.

Nationalise Bengal Immunity

The quibbling of the Government of India over the nationalisation of the Bengal Immunity Co. Ltd., the pioneer pharmaceutical company of the country producing various life saving drugs is evident from the fact that whereas the Company was taken over from the erstwhile corrupt private owner in 1978 with a view to its nationalisation, it has not been nationalised as yet despite so many assurances by the Union Ministers. After repeated demands by the union both the present Minister and Deputy Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers visited the plant at Calcutta in 1982 and assured the workers that the Bill for its nationalisation would be introduced in the Parliament soon. The same assurance was given by the Union Minister to Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of W. Bengal and Vice-President of CITU in May this year. Again the same assurance was given by both the Ministers to the various delegations of the union led by Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary of CITU, Niren Ghosh, M.P., Secretary, CITU and Aravindo

Ghosh, M.P., including to the last delegation on August 11. P. Ramamurti, Vice-President of CITU also made a representation. But the Government is still sitting pretty over the matter. The union has decided to step up the struggles for achievement of the demand.

Worker's Death in Mine Accident

Prabhakar Bauri was killed on August 10 due to a serious accident which occurred at Mathani Colliery under the ECL in Sitarampur. Another worker, Habib was seriously injured. In the preliminary enquiry it was revealed that the accident was caused because of lack of precautionary measures tantamounting to gross negligence by the management. Even the dead body was not found out yet. The management is trying to chalk out some evil designs to escape the responsibility and put the blame on the workers. This has caused considerable unrest among the workers. In a joint statement issued on August 12, B.P. Mukherjee, General Secretary of Burdwan District CITU, Sunil Basu Roy, General Secretary of All India Coal Workers Federation and Santosh Dutta, Secretary, Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India (CITU) have demanded thorough probe into the matter and setting up a court of enquiry, penal steps against the responsible officials, payment of adequate compensation to the concerned family and the workmen, employment to the dependent of the deceased and ensuring safety in the mine.

Agreement in Engineering Industry

An agreement was reached in the Engineering industry in W. Bengal on August 16. The tripartite agreement was reached at the intervention of the Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, the Vice-President of CITU. The long drawn struggles of the engineering workers thus met with success. Apart from a one day strike on March 16, the workers gave notice for indefinite strike in case the employees failed to settle the demands by August 16. Three lakh workers are to be benefited by the agreement.

According to the agreement, the wage increase will be Rs. 78 per worker. In the last settlement which expired in 1981 it was Rs. 63 per month. The D.A. neutralisation per point would be Rs. 1.50 as against the previous 1.30. Apart from this there will be an annual increment of Rs. 2 for every stage of pay scale. The agreement will be effective for three years and implemented with retrospective effect from March 15. The settlement was reached between the Association of Engineering Industries of India and the Federation of Metal and Engineering Workers' Unions and Engineering Workers Federations of all affiliations.

ASSAM

Rural Bank Employees' Federation

The first Annual Conference of the North Eastern Region Regional Rural Bank Employees' Federation,

affiliated to the All India Regional Rural Bank Employees' Association, was held at Gauhati on July 10. The Conference adopted several resolutions covering the socio-economic problems of the region and the various demands of the employees.

The Conference elected a new 13 member Working Committee with P.P. Deb as the President and will J.C. Gohain as the General Secretary.

Jute Workers Demand Day

Over 3.25 lakhs jute workers observed Demands Day all over the country on April 17. The call was given by the All India Jute Worker's Federation in pursuance of a 6-point charter of demands, viz, (1) Immediate nationalisation of the jute industry on the basis of the resolution unanimously passed by the West Bengal Assembly and the memorandum submitted by the all party delegation of MLAs to the Prime Minister on June 29; (2) Fixation of raw jute price at Rs. 300 per quintal and monopoly procurement of raw jute directly from the growers by the Government agencies like the Jute Corporation of India; (3) Immediate reopening of the 25 Jute mills which have been kept closed or locked out in the country; (4) Full implementation of the tripartite settlement of 1979 including introduction of grades and scales of pay and the decision on workload given by the West Bengal Labour Minister with retrospective effect in terms with the last tripartite settlement; (5) Immediate settlement of the 30-point demands placed before the industry after the expiry of the last tripartite settlement on December 31, 1982 and (6) Immediate reinstatement of all the victimised jute workers and the leaders of Kanpur J.K. Jute Mills, Assam Gloster Jute Mills in West Bengal and others. It is to be noted that out of the 25 jute mills which are closed or locked out, 20 are in West Bengal affecting about 80,000 workers.

Demonstrations, dharnas and rallies were held in all the jute growing centres in the country like in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Assam and Tripura. As per reports, in all the jute mills thousands of workers demonstrated and submitted the 6-point demands to the respective mill managements. In West Bengal massive gate meetings were held which were addressed by Laxmi Sehgal, President, Niren Ghosh, M.P. General Secretary and Kamal Sarkar, MLA, Joint General Secretary of the All India Jute Workers' Federation. The leaders congratulated the workers on the successful observance of the day. They condemned the jute barons for fleecing the workers and the people and earning huge profits and at the same time keeping 25 jute mills closed on the fake plea of crisis. They denounced their audacious attitude of non-implementation of the settlement and warned them that the price of keeping over one lakh of workers unemployed and ruination of the jute growers will have to be paid by them in the long run. The leaders called upon the workers to prepare for the continuous strike scheduled to commence at the end of the year.

Bengal Bundh — Sept. 28

A massive Convention of trade unions held at Mahajati Sadan, Calcutta on August 11 called for a Bengal Bundh on September 28. The Convention was jointly organised by CITU, BPTUC, UTUC, TUCC, NMS, 12th July Committee, Bank Employees Federation and the Federation of the Mercantile Employees Unions. In a resolution adopted unanimously, the Convention demanded more financial and constitutional powers for the State, reopening of the closed and locked out units, nationalisation of the jute industry and the taken over establishments, remunerative price to the peasants, fixation of minimum wage for the agricultural labourers and repeal of all anti-democratic and anti-trade union draconian and repressive legislations.

Moving the resolution, Monoranjan Roy, General Secretary of W. Bengal State CITU said that it is the anti-labour and anti-people fiscal policies of the Central Government that have resulted in the accentuation of the miserie of the people and the regional imbalances. The entire Eastern Region and particularly W. Bengal have been among the worst sufferers for the discriminatory policies of the Central Government. Denouncing the slanderous campaign of the Centre, he said that a strong Centre is certainly welcome, but a strong Centre could not be visualised without strengthening the States as well. The States have to be given more financial and constitutional powers for their development according to their needs. He warned the workers of the conspiracies of the Congress (I) to disrupt the bundh call and said that only united and determined struggles could defeat the anti-people policies of the Central Government and ensure achievement of the demands.

The Gujarat Convention

The State Convention of Gujarat organised by the State Campaign Committee was held at Ahmedabad on July 30. The Convention was attended by 833 delegates representing a large number of organisations from various industries.

Among others who spoke was M.K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU, who highlighted the various experiences of united struggles made by the National Campaign Committee.

The convention assured full support to the decisions of the forthcoming Second National Convention in Delhi on August 21.

*Organised by the Gujarat State Committee of CITU, a 2,000 strong procession of workers marched from Pathia Ashram to Gandhinagar, the State Govt. Head Qrs, on August 2, to protest against the anti-labour policies of the Government. The rally at Gandhinagar demanded implementation of minimum wages as per the Act and put a stop to retrenchment, lock outs and closure, equal wage to women workers, abolition of contract labour, take over of the closed mills, etc.

The police resorted to lathi charge injuring several workers including a women worker. Defying the police highhandedness, a large number of workers courted arrest.

Rajasthan Govt in the Service of Singhania

WHILE the Public Financial Institutions advanced loans to the J.K. Synthetics Ltd. in order to earn a share of the fabulous profits, the Govt. of Rajasthan pressed into service the entire repressive state machinery at the beck and call of the Singhania to that the over six month old dogged resistance of the heroic workers of J.K. Synthetics KOTA could be broken down.

The diabolical plan unfolded with an open advertisement by the management of the J.K. Synthetics to the effect that workers who are willing to join duties are being threatened by a group of anti-socials, though in reality there was no such incident at all. On August 5, another advertisement appeared in the news papers at KOTA that adequate protection has been arranged for all those who wish to join their duties and the factory is being opened from August 6, 1983.

Police Repression Starts

KOTA was turned into a virtual battle field with over 1500 armed Police men having been inducted there who started roaming round the town, terrorising the workers and people alike. The first blow was struck on August 5 at about 11 A.M. when the Police brutally lathicharged about 60 workers who were on a peaceful "Dharna" before the main gate under a "Samiana" erected by the striking workers. It must be noted that no order was promulgated under Section 144 of Cr. P.C. and as such those in Dharna had violated no law. But their presence at the gate itself was deterrent for all black legs who could not muster courage to go into the factor while the workers were present in the dharna and hence the workers were forcibly removed from the scene unlawfully by the Police who were supposed to be the keepers of law. About 50/60 cycles on which these workers came to the factory gate were left behind strewn about near the camp which was broken and the Samiana taken away by the Police without providing any seizure list.

Agents of the Management Active

The plan was made out in connivance with P.N. Dhanda and his followers and Mohan Punamia was present at Kota to lead his followers. Open meetings were held by him calling upon all these who were not retrenched, to join their duties as otherwise they will lose their services. He had all the liberties to hold meetings wherever he liked.

But when the struggling workers organised a protest meeting in the evening of August 5, the Police brutally lathicharged those who had assembled and arrested a few workers. The mike etc were taken away.

Poor turn-out

Despite all these attacks by the police the workers could not be cowed down. For the first two days there were not even 250 workers who resumed duties. Thus the myth that a large number of workers were eager to join their duties was blown out.

When the workers did not come of their own accord, the Police started arresting the workers and taking them to the factory and asking them to join duties. If they refused, they were taken to jail under arrest. About 30 workers who so refused were arrested from the factory and taken to the jails.

Mohd. Ismail, M.P. visits KOTA

Immediately on receipt of the news of such Police terror Mohd. Ismail M.P., Vice-President, CITU visited Kota on August 7 and 8. He found the Police moving round in open trucks, with arms going through workers' colony. He held a meeting and condemned the Police terror. Though they could not prevent him from addressing the meeting they tried to disrupt the meeting by making an attempt to arrest some workers from the meeting itself.

Terror intensified

As soon as he left Kota, the Police terror was intensified. The police made it a point to arrest some one and beat him at public places, so that others could get terrorised. They asked the whereabouts of the workers from their family members at the point of gun. Children even were not spared.

A team of M.Ps Visit

A team of M.Ps, Basudev Acharia and Saifuddin Chowdhury visited Kota on August 11.

They visited workers' colonies and got full report of these atrocities. They met the District Collector who pleaded his ignorance about these happenings and promised to enquire.

Protest Hunger Strike

In protest against these atrocities of the Police, Prem Kishan Sharma started a hunger strike from August 11 near the residence of the Labour Minister. It is pertinent to note that this Labour Minister in a letter dated July 30 to the Labour Minister of Tripura who had earlier asked him to intervene, stated that the Govt. was fully convinced of the fact that the management had violated the laws of the land by resorting to the illegal retrenchment and started a prosecution against the management

which was stayed by the High Court and hence he was unable to take any action. He did not explain as to why no effort was made to move the Supreme Court for vacating the stay.

But this Labour Minister immediately acted when the hunger strike was started. During the early morning hours of August 12, the Police came and arrested Sharma and eleven others who were also on hunger-strike with him.

CITU'S Complaint to I.L.O.

On hearing these reports, Samar Mukherjee, M.P., General Secretary-CITU drew the attention of the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Labour Minister on the subject. E. Balanandan, M.P. Treasurer-CITU in a telegram to I.L.O. lodged a complaint against violation of basic trade union rights. Subsequently on the same day a letter confirming the telegram and giving details were sent. B.T. Ranadive, in a statement issued on the same day condemned this brutal repression of the workers, struggle and appealed to all trade unions and democratic mass organisations to raise a voice of protest.

Attempt to divide the Workers

Having failed to terrorise the major section of the workers to join their duties, the management put into operation their last plan of dividing the workers by offering jobs to the retrenched while threatening to dismiss the striking workers. It was known that the Dhanda group had about 300 followers while about 250 followed the B.M.S. In case this plan was put into operation another 500 retrenched workers will be prevailed upon to join. Under this pressure and continued police repression in which the leading workers were unable even to move about, majority of the workers have joined.

Issue raised in Parliament

Sukomal Sen, M.P. raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha on August 10, aptly terming that Kota has become a besieged city. Mohd Ismail, M.P. had raised the issue in the meeting of the Consultative Committee for the Labour Ministry on August 19 and as the Minister could not give any satisfactory reply, walked out of the meeting in protest. The meeting could not take place due to lack of quorum as a result of the walk out.

Struggle Continues

The management who have forced all the workers to sign some bond before the workers were taken back to duty may feel happy that they have been able to crush the resistance. Let there be no delusion. The fact is that the work load has been doubled on those who have now joined and they are already in ferment. The exploitation of these workers, ere long will give birth to another struggle on a higher pitch.

Meeting of J.K. Group Workers

A meeting of the workers of J.K. group of Kota and Kanpur held at New Delhi on August 22, had decided to hold a convention of all unions in the J.K. groups of industries on October 9, at Kanpur to decide how the struggle against the monopoly house of Singhanias can be strengthened further. The struggle is thus being carried on against the anti-social act of the Singhanias who have thrown nearly 5000 workers and their families to face starvation.

Agreement Signed in NTPC

An agreement has been signed in the National Thermal Power Corporation on 12 August 1983. This is a major agreement in the power sector and will have repercussions on the wage negotiations in the State Electricity Boards all over the country.

The agreement provides for a minimum wage of Rs. 758.90 at 485 Index (1960—100) ensuring a guaranteed minimum benefit of Rs. 120 plus two increments. Though the total wage is still below the BHEL an attempt was made to make good the difference partially. The total additional commitment of the management comes to about 17 per cent much above the guidelines issued by the BPE.

The agreement provides for Rs. 550 as the basic wage and rate of increments were ranging from Rs. 11 to 50.

The NTPC was not paying overtime to several workers despite legal provisions. The agreement ensured implementation of these rules. Provisions for fully paid leave during absence due to accident while on duty has been agreed to for the first time in the industry.

The agreement provides for washing and night shift allowance as in Steel and BHEL agreements. The transport subsidy has been raised from Rs. 15 to 25 at the minimum level and from Rs. 30 to 40 at the maximum level. Though the scooter allowance has been fixed to Rs. 50 in comparison with Rs. 100 in Steel and for moped to Rs. 35 as against Rs. 55 in Steel, the element has been introduced for the first time in the industry.

Some of the issues like level of induction of skilled workmen, LTC, extension of medical reimbursement scheme, standardisation of entitlements to uniforms and canteen facilities and promotion policy are yet to be discussed and it has been agreed to settle the issues in a period of six months.

The agreement will be effective from 1st January 1983. It is the first national bipartite wage agreement in the undertaking and representatives from all the sites participated in the discussion.

On behalf the CITU the agreement was signed by M.K. Pandhe, S.B. Yadav and Jagdish Chand.

Wage Revision of ONGC Employees

AFTER a protracted negotiation starting from December 21, 1982 to August 19, a settlement on wages and allowances has been arrived at in ONGC. The salient features of the settlement are as follows.

1. The earlier 9 scales of Pay have now been reduced to 6 with Rs. 400-10-460-12-520-15-550 as the minimum and Rs 725-25-850-30-1000-40-1080-50-1480 as the maximum Scale of Pay at 200 C.P.I. (1960-100).

2. A fitment benefit ranging from Rs. 110 to Rs. 220 will be added to the present basic pay and special pay if any would be merged and the total pay thus arrived will be fixed at the same stage or the next higher stage. This means that all those who have completed more than two years of service would get a fitment benefit of Rs. 120 or more in basic pay alone.

3. Status-quo of calculation of V.D.A. at the rate of Rs. 1.30 per point over 200 C.P.I. numbers will remain till the Committee set up by the Govt. on the question gives their report and the Govt. takes a decision. The Union has kept its claim of full neutralisation of rise in prices open which works out to Rs. 2 per point at the bottom level.

4. The present rate of drilling allowance shall continue.

5. The transport subsidy for all is revised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 for all and for those who having mopeds from Rs. 65 to Rs. 80 and for scooters/motor cycles from Rs. 65 to Rs. 110.

6. The tea allowance for the entitled category will be enhanced from 50 paise to Re. 1 per day per employee.

7. The rate of washing allowance is increased from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15.

8. Hill Compensatory Allowance at Dehradun is revised to 15 per cent of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 100.

9. Leave Fare Assistance can now be encashed on option.

10. Employees and their spouse shall be entitled to avail medical facilities on retirement on contributory basis. (The rate of contribution is fixed as Rs. 5.)

11. It has been decided to supply terricot uniforms to the employees.

12. The present rates of House Rent and operation allowances will continue and the anomalies in operational allowances will be settled.

A minimum basic pay of Rs. 400 on 200 C.P.I. numbers is the best among the agreements concluded so far. This would

enable the Committee on D.A. to advocate the principle of full neutralisation for the sub-staff and 75 per cent neutralisation for the skilled and above which is already existing in some of the industries and the Govt. employees.

The second point which has to be noted is that in all the agreements made so far, the unskilled worker does not get the benefit of equal rate of increment even though he reaches the pay stages of semiskilled and skilled workers. This anomaly appears to have been covered to a great extent in the pay scales agreed upon in the ONGC.

Consumer Price Index Numbers

Base 1960

State/Centre	April 1983	May 1983	June 1983	State Centre	April 1983	May 1983	June 1983
Andhra Pradesh				Orissa			
Gudur	446	450	451	Barbil	500	507	540
Guntur	509	542	551	Sambalpur	565	590	602
Hyderabad	498	527	539	Punjab			
Assam				Amritsar	514	519	511
Digboi	491	494	503	Rajasthan			
Doom Dooma	401	401	439	Ajmer	526	530	528
Labac	417	436	459	Jaipur	530	542	546
Mariani	407	418	440	Tamil Nadu			
Rangapara	415	432	440	Coimbatore	542	550	571
Bihar				Coonoor	542	550	564
Jamshedpur	475	489	506	Madras	510	525	550
Jharia	485	493	505	Madurai	545	558	578
Kodarma	567	573	588	U.P.			
Monghyr	533	555	556	Kanpur	497	495	517
Noamundi	513	529	546	Saharanpur	528	531	536
Gujarat				Varanasi	568	568	577
Ahmedabad	505	525	535	West Bengal			
Bhavanagar	522	534	538	Asansol	505	509	513
Haryana				Calcutta	473	483	489
Yamunanagar	544	530	535	Darjeeling	424	434	438
J. & K.				Howrah	456	462	472
Srinagar	556	556	558	Jalpaiguri	413	425	431
Karnataka				Raniganj	488	497	501
Ammathi	518	535	559	Delhi Territory	527	533	536
Bangalore	561	578	591	Other Centres			
Chikamagalur	517	530	532	Berhampur ('49)	730	751	770
Kolar G.F.	479	503	514	Cuttack ('49)	650	678	696
Kerala				Jabalpur ('49)	682	687	697
Alleppey	544	577	599	Beawar ('51-52)	602	609	609
Alwaye	522	551	575	Tripura ('61)	460	471	468
Mundakayam	501	518	546	H.P. ('65)	376	380	383
Madhya Pradesh				Goa ('66)	364	371	376
Balaghat	551	544	544	Bhilai ('66)	330	342	356
Bhopal	543	552	562	Bhilwara ('66)	326	330	334
Gwalior	524	528	530	Chhindawara ('66)	274	276	280
Indore	544	556	567	Kothagudem ('66)	321	325	338
Maharashtra				Rourkela ('66)	356	359	371
Bombay	532	547	559	All India ('49)	617	633	648
Nagpur	515	530	548	All India ('60)	508	521	533
Sholapur	522	546	554				

(Figures in bracket indicate base year)

