

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

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Jaipur, Rajasthan

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Comrades,

At Ghaziabad General Council on 28th to 30th May 1999 we have taken note of the imperialist offensive of NATO aggression against Yugoslavia and took decision on the tasks ahead after detailed discussion on the General Secretary's Report. Now we have to take stock of the developments since then in detail which is dealt in the General Secretary's report. I shall confine myself only to a few issues.

Before I begin Comrades, Let us express our grief and agony on the greatest national disaster, the super cyclone that struck

Orissa at the end of October. It has resulted in unprecedented destruction and loss of lives and properties. Conservative estimates put the affected at one and a half crore people, covering eleven districts of the state. The entire coastal belt of over 200 Kms was hit by the cyclone on October 29 and 30. Two districts of the state had already been hit by a cyclone earlier on October 17.

This time, however, high velocity winds of upto 300 Kms per hour struck the entire coastal belt for hours together. The port town of Paradip was the worst affected with the storm lasting for 32 hours. Paradip town and its surroundings have borne the brunt of the cyclone. The standing crops in all the affected areas have been destroyed. All coconut and banana trees have been uprooted. Telecommunications and electricity supply have been totally disrupted. Even after a week only one telephone was functioning in the entire State of Orissa. It will be a gigantic task to restore telephone and electricity connections in all the affected areas.

Like always in cases of such natural tragedies, it is the poor who are the worst sufferers. People living in the slums and under thatched roofs have found themselves homeless suddenly. Most parts of the state are still inaccessible, as roads have been damaged badly. Lack of communication is making it difficult to assess the actual amount of damage and help that is necessary. Large parts continue to remain marooned.

The extent of the calamity can be gauged from the fact that despite a weak having passed, the state Government

or any other agency is unable to give an account either of the extent of the damage caused or the number of people killed or affected.

It is indeed a matter of regret that the Central Government has not yet declared it as a national calamity.

Comrades, We have to take initiative to mobilise the working class in the entire country to rally behind their brothers and sisters who are in distress in Orissa. We will have to take steps for large scale mobilisation of resources, both in kind and funds to help the relief operation in Orissa.

Comrades,

During this period we have lost one of our most beloved and respected leaders, Com. Vimal Ranadive. What a shocking end to a glorious life! It was a spinal injury that brought her down. Three surgical operations performed in a span of few months failed to bring recovery. Things went from bad to worse and finally she succumbed to her illness in a Mumbai hospital on 24th July, 1999.

Vimaldi, as she was popularly called, joined the freedom struggle at a very tender age of 12 or 13. She was sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment at the age of 15 only during the civil disobedience movement in 1930. Thereafter she found new light in the ideas of Marx and Engels, Lenin and Stalin. Her inspiration was Las Passionara. Already during 1936-37 she started actively participating in political work and came into contact with Com. BTR. Her baptism in the cause of the working class and communist movement was complete. She was arrested again in 1948, and again for the third time during the India-China conflict in 1962. She had to remain underground during the emergency.

She played a pivotal role in organising the working women and mobilising them as a part of the working class in trade union movement. She especially devoted herself in organising the most downtrodden sections of the working class and the working women in the vast unorganised sector, which included the Plantation, Beedi, Anganwadi, etc. It is because of her relentless work that the CITU has been able to form all India Federations in

these sectors. Her contributions to the working class movements and her determination to organise the most vulnerable sections in all India federations will serve as a beacon light to the CITU and the entire working class movement in the country. I pay my respectful homage to the memory of Vimaldi.

Comrades,

The elections are over and the BJP-led NDA has come to power. My intentions are not to analyse or review the elections here, which of course you will do when you participate in the discussions. But the fact is that despite all efforts we have not been able to bring the left, democratic and secular forces to the fore, and instead are faced with a Government which is threatening to stay with twin dangers. The BJP, as you know, is based on a most right reactionary and fascist outfit, the RSS. So the dangers are of undermining, rather dismantling the secular democratic character of the country, and of vigorously pursuing an extremely right reactionary economic policy in collaboration with imperialism. So the questions before us are how to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country and how to safeguard the economic sovereignty of the country as well.

No sooner than it came back to power, the Government has been vigorously carrying forward the policy of communalising every institution which it pursued during its earlier 17 months of governance. An arbitrary and saffronised approach to history facilitates the Sangh Parivar's objective of communalisation of the entire society at the ground level as it pervades and proliferates to a very broad spectrum of society, winning new and young adherents. That is what Murali Manohar Joshi has sought to do with the appointment of B.L. Grover and M.L. Sondhi as the Chairmen of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) respectively. It is to be noted that all the Ministers were screened by the RSS. While the BJP has happily given away even very important Ministries like Defence, Railway, etc. to its allies, it has kept those of HRD, Information and Broadcasting, etc. under its control. Education and information, according to RSS, are the two most vital subjects which go a long way in conditioning and controlling the minds of the people. The RSS has always given the highest importance to these two subjects. In the earlier Janata Party Ministry also the Jana Sangh did not bother to get any high profile Ministries, but opted for Information and Broadcasting. The Sangh cadres were placed in strategic positions in the information sector and the premier news agency of the country was specially targeted. Then in the BJP Ministries in 1996, 1998 and now in 1999, the party has taken good care to keep the Ministries of Information and Education to itself. During its previous stint the BJP went all out to dismantle Prasar Bharati brick by brick so as to acquire full

control of the powerful information engines of Doordarshan and A.I.R. Pramode Mahajan publicly stated that Prasar Bharati has no relevance in the present scheme of things.

The Ministry of Education (HRD) is much more important of the two, and that is why it is headed by a committed ideologue, and the vial institutions like ICHR and ICSSR, etc. are headed by persons with firm commitment to the Sangh ideals as stated above. It is to be recollected that M.L. Sondhi is a former MP of the BJP, who had won the New Delhi seat in 1967 on Jana Sangh ticket defeating the then Union Minister Meher Chand Khanna of Congress. And, B.R. Grover was that historian who furnished the so-called "evidence" to the VHP about the existence of a Ram temple at the site of the Babri Masjid before Babar's army demolished it.

Now there is a move to revamp the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) also, which prescribes syllabus for the schools. You know, they had shamelessly dropped the study of Marxism from the syllabus of political science studies in Class XII, but had kept fascism in the course to brainwash the young minds. They had to restore it only after an uproar in Parliament. It is with such designs that these vital institutions are being "revamped" and communalised. The HRD Minister openly talks of bidding adieu to the Congress vision of our past. History books will be rewritten and the students would imbibe a saffronised view of their cultural heritage. With undue glorification of the past, revivalist, perverse and reactionary values will be promoted. As they often say, all these can be cloaked as the legitimate aspirations of the people - the propagation of a "common culture" as symbolized by the language, rituals and traditions of the majority community. The RSS slogan that "Hinduism is nationalism" will be stamped on impressionable minds through this process. The colonial version of the past is sought to be ushered in the name of nationalism. As the RSS juggernaut will roll on, democracy, secularism and universal truths will be the casualties and barbarism and fascism will take their place. Barbarism we have seen a lot in the past against the Muslims. Now it is on escalation against the miniscule minority, the Christians. Burning of Graham Stein, rape of nuns and what not? Now a hue and cry was raised against Pope's visit with a ludicrous demand that the Pope must apologise for mass conversions to Christianity in Goa in the 17th and 18th Centuries. A march was also organised from Goa to Delhi during his visit to communalise the people. The Government instead of curbing these activities called for a national debate on conversions.

In this background, the President's address to the joint session of the Parliament referring to Constitutional amendment has to be viewed with serious concern. Al-

ready lot of offensives have been made against the secular democratic foundation of the Constitution. The efforts are now being made to install a Presidential form of Government and a five year term of the Government to replace India's secular democracy with a fascist Hindu Rashtra.

Economic Policy:

Comrades, you will have a good scope to discuss on the General Secretary's report about the economic policies of the BJP Government and your experiences. However, as I have stated before, the economic policies of an extremely right reactionary Party like BJP are bound to be unprecedented and totally against the people, against national interest and particularly directed against the working class - the most organised force fighting against them. You have already experienced its aggressive nature during the last 17 months.

Vijaya Dashami Day is a very auspicious day for the RSS. It was formed on that day, and it makes its policy pronouncements on that day. On the Vijay Dashami day this year they made two policy pronouncements. While the RSS Chief Rajendra Singh castigated the concept of Secularism as the consequence of a slave mentality, H.V. Sheshadri, the Sarkaryavah of RSS made the pronouncement for a "new economic order", taking the clue from America. This obviously means a big rightward shift in economic policies. That is, more vigorous and speedy implementation of the imperialist borne policy of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. This in turn will see an unprecedented and most devastating form of structural adjustment programmes. The recent Diesel price hike and other moves taken like gradual dismantling of the public distribution system etc. are only the tip of the iceberg. On one hand the Government has reassured the USA and its cohorts under the fascist garb of Swadeshi that the multinationals can step into each and every sphere of Indian economy, on the other hand it has warned the people to prepare for harsh measures.

The President's Address is ridiculous in various aspects as they are diametrically opposite to what is being done or pronounced. The Presidential address moans that crores of people are still to be provided with basic services such as clean drinking water, shelter, education, health services and so on. But the Finance Minister had pronounced that in pursuance of the harsh measures (that is, to the benefit of the monopolists and multinationals), people have to pay for the basic services they avail of, like education, health, public distribution system, power, telecom and so on. As clearly stated by the Prime Minister, the Government will wash off its hands from social services, which will be given away to the private sector step by step. Thus there will be huge extra burden on the people to satisfy the profit hunger of the private sector.

The address has said that to achieve all these things

what is required is rapid economic growth, which in turn will give one crore additional employment each year. This is the height of stupidity. The world is witnessing since the last one decade of liberalised and globalised economy that this new modus operandi of sustenance of capitalism has resulted in jobless growth - fattening of the monopolists and MNCs on one hand, and unemployment, price rise and poverty on the other hand, to the teeming millions. The claim is that employment will be particularly provided in the areas of agriculture, agro based industries, small scale, tiny scale, cottage industries, housing and constructions, etc. But the liberalised economy has particularly impoverished these sectors. Poverty and unemployment have gone deeper and expanded in these particular sectors, which are being thrown open to ravage by private investments. The Presidential address of course has specifically said that for such rapid economic growth what is necessary is to revamp the infrastructure. He candidly points out that for development of infrastructure private sector participation will be encouraged.

The Presidential address has further concretised the steps. In the power and energy sector the Centre and the States will work closely for time bound corporatisation of the State Electricity Boards. Generation, transmission and distribution of electricity will be unbundled as separate activities, and warns of tariff reforms, i.e. increased tariffs, privatisation of transmission and distribution of power.

In the same breath modernisation of airports through private participation, of telecom, etc. and of more dereservation of items for manufacture in the small scale sector have been talked of.

The address also tantamounts to official pronouncement that since this Government is going to stay, and if necessary by Constitutional amendment, for a full five year term, private sector and nothing but private sector all around will be the motto of the Government. So the blitzkrieg steps of dismantling of the Public Sector will start now. While the Sick PSUs may simply be wound up and PSUs from the non-core sector will be taken away, the Prime Minister has already indicated his preference for taking the public sector disinvestment under his personal charge. This is meant to expedite the dismantling of the profit making Public Sector undertakings in the core sector - the Nava Ratnas and Mini Ratnas, and handing them over to Indian and foreign corporate houses on a platter. Privatisation of Insurance and many nationalized banks is already in the process with massive offensives on the employees. The M.S. Verma Committee report on the three banks, viz., Indian Bank, United Bank of India and United Commercial Bank is the indicator.

In pursuance of these policies the Government has now gone ahead to prune its labour policy. It has unilaterally constituted the Second National Commission on Labour without any discussion with the trade unions

and rejecting their suggestions outright. It has filled the Commission with the followers of RSS and BJP. From trade unions it has selectively included the BMS. The proposal is to amend the labour laws to put trade union movement into straight jacket. Planned offensive on trade union movement is in the offing. You will discuss all these issues in the General Secretary's report.

And the last but not the least, through the Presidential address the Government has conveyed the message to USA its pliant desire to serve imperialism as its junior partner. The President States, "India seeks to further deepen and broaden her relations with the United States of America. This is the reflection of the economic policies in the foreign policy of the Government. What a downgrading character of the Government! Once a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement as its founder-member to contain the thrust of imperialism, it has now under BJP stooped so low to plead for being its junior partner betraying all national interests and exposing the people to the full blast exploitation by imperialism.

In this background the WTO is holding its next Ministerial Conference at Seattle, America from 30th November to 3rd December to review the different aspects of WTO. I am not going to discuss the detailed issues which are going to come up for discussion in the Seattle Conference. Over the years we have seen how globalisation started as parasitic capitalism, as a neo-colonial form of exploitation and took quick strides with the march of time for markets. The GATT no longer remained concerned with goods and tariffs alone, but having turned into WTO, it entered every aspect of our economy including investment, services, health, intellectual property rights, agriculture and even the seeds to be used by farmers. We are also now experiencing how India is capitulating step by step to each and every measure as directed by the imperialist countries. We also see how the BJP has exhibited the worst sort of betrayal on almost all the issues. Patent Act amendment and the IRA Bill stand as glaring examples of its diametrically opposite stands when it was in opposition and when it came to power.

Apart from reviewing implementation of the older issues the imperialist countries are likely to add new issues in the Seattle Conference, like the social clause to be linked with multilateral trade. UNCTAD has warned the developing countries about the negative effects of globalisation and has been particularly critical of the TRIPS. In this perspective the question arises can the BJP Government take a stand to fight these issues along with other developing countries? The answer is obviously in the negative as we are experiencing in all the issues as stated above.

Comrades, the only answer is, you have to move unitedly and take up the responsibility of launching united and strong movement along with other trade unions and

mass organisations. Only a sustained and long drawn struggle can change the situation. It should be discussed and planned accordingly.

Comrades, I have not dealt with several other issues like the Kargil war and international situation. You will have opportunity to discuss the Kargil issue while speaking on the General Secretary's report. But I want to say a few words about USA's strategy to world domination and how the Vajpayee Government is succumbing to the USA compromising India's national sovereignty as well.

Last time at Ghaziabad I have dealt with the aggression by NATO forces which was justified by the United States and NATO allies that it was done to stop humanitarian catastrophe in which more than one lakh Albanians were killed as part of the ethnic cleansing by the Serbian authorities. The Russians have expressed suspicion about the number of casualties projected by NATO. Recently a report has been published in Britain by the international experts after detailed enquiry about the number of casualties in the Kosovo before the beginning of NATO operations, which is below 2500. Therefore the claim made by the NATO authorities for intervention in the Kosovo, flouting International law and ignoring United Nations is proved false. This was a planned attack by the United States to complete their plan to push to the east upto Russian borders the NATO Forces in order to control the oil and gas pipeline that goes from the Caucasus and to control the strategic area of Southern Europe. The NATO powers have encouraged the Kosovo Liberation Army with money and arms to prepare ground for NATO aggression. Now after the peace keeping forces entered Kosovo, large section of Serbian people are being killed by the KLA under the cover of NATO forces. Thus they are creating a humanitarian catastrophe by forcing all non Albanians, Serbs and Gypsies to run away or get killed.

The attack against a sovereign nation using NATO forces under false alibi is still being justified by them in the name of protecting their "national interests" which is evident from the document published by the White House in October, 1998 called "National Security Strategy for a new century".

Let me quote what they say about Iran and Iraq, "South West Asia, both Iraq and Iran have the potential to threaten their neighbours and the free flow of oil from the region" is a "threat to US interests". It can be seen from above that the United States consider the obstruction to free flow of oil from these countries are a threat to US interests and therefore the real purpose of the attack against Iraq and the threat against Iran is only for getting control over their oil resources. The attack against Yugoslavia was also with same objective.

The American strategy for World domination is now assuming new dimensions. The German armed forces

were pressed into action in the aggression against Yugoslavia first time after 50 years since the second world war. Now after shifting the capital of Germany to Berlin the German authorities have decided to increase their defence budget and strengthen their military power in connivance with the United States. At present 1,00,000 US military forces are kept in Europe, now United States wants to include Germany in their game plan to extend their domination in Balkans and upto Russian borders and beyond. Though Russia has fallen in to the capitalist orbit, the US does not want a powerful Russia having veto power in the UN Security Council.

Simultaneously, the United States is encouraging Japan to increase their military might in the name of security threats emanating from North Korea. They have already improved their Naval capability and now started developing missiles and spy system. As per the Japanese Constitution they are barred from building an offensive capability. But now in alliance with United States as noted above they have started strengthening their military might. Though threat from Korea is projected as the reason the fact is that the US wants Japan to be their partner in their anti-socialist China strategy.

The US while talking about arms control and disarmament large amounts are being spent to improve their military power which attracted criticism in American Congress. In spite of that they are acquiring Supersonic Jets, large Warships and heavy weapons for the ground units and they have now decided to increase their defence expenditure which was 45 Billions in 1997 to 65 Billion Dollars by the year 2005. Therefore the United States itself is strengthening their military potential while keeping all the sophisticated nuclear weapons which are also updated by them. Thus we see that how the United States is implementing their so called new world order.

In the light of the above we have to take note of the recent conference held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, the fourth summit of Shanghai group of five on August 24 and 25, in which they have focused on the importance of jointly fighting international terrorism, the ethnic separatism and religious fundamentalism. In this conference it is stated that China and Russia have expressed serious concern about

the United States' bid to redraw the Geo Political Map of the world in its favour, and criticised their growing tendency to trample on the sovereignty of the nations. Here we see that the new strategy of United States for world dominance is being strongly opposed by the Russians and Chinese.

The US in order to bring India under their sphere of influence is using the sanctions imposed after the Pokhran blast. The Vajpayee Govt. was trying to placate US by agreeing to speedily implement the new economic policy dictated by IMF & World Bank. And they are trying to accommodate the view of United States on the question of CTBT and the WTO conditions. Besides, of late, it is reported that the new government has agreed to allow the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation to operate within the country. 139 Indian agents have been already recruited for this purpose. And it is also reported that the Govt. is succumbing to the pressure to start negotiations for a global Fissile Material Cut off Treaty (FMCT). All these go to show a very dangerous trend that the Govt. is almost succumbing to US on vital issues, which in effect is compromising our national sovereignty. This has to be opposed by all the patriotic Indians.

Comrades, I have given a short account of the policy being pursued by US to subjugate the world. It is necessary to emphasise the importance of opposing these imperialist designs.

Before I close let me bring to your attention that the Govt. of India is taking orders from the big capitalists of this country in all matters of economy while even formal consultations with trade unions are becoming a formality. Large scale attacks against the working class and the common people are vehemently being pursued though this demands that the question of trade union unity is not a matter for theoretical discussion but an immediate necessity to fight back the offensive. Therefore, I appeal to all the trade union leaders to come together and plan out a strategy to meet this disastrous offensive of this government and that is the need of the time.

Thank you,

E. Balanandan
President

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Comrades,

Since our General Council met in Ghaziabad on 28-30 May,

1999, several important developments have taken place in the country and abroad which have far reaching consequences for the working class and the trade union movement in India. A new challenging situation is facing before us and the trade union movement in our country must meet the challenges unitedly and effectively which alone can save the country from falling into the hands of MNCs and imperialist forces.

1. In international arena, many important developments have taken place which require our attention in the fast changing world situation. However, the Presidential address have covered them and hence I do not propose to deal with them.

1.2 When the General Council met at Ghaziabad, Parliament was dissolved within 13 months of Vajpayee Government's rule after the withdrawal of the support by AIADMK, one of the constituents of the ruling combine. Since alternate Government could not be formed, due to refusal of the Congress Party to support the third front Government and refusal of Mulayam Singh to support the Congress led Government, fresh Parliamentary elections were announced. The General Council, therefore, gave importance to the electoral battle and called upon the working class and the people to defeat the BJP combine and strengthen the Left and Democratic forces in Parliament. It also called upon the trade unions to campaign for the formation of secular Government at the Centre in order to save the country from the danger of communal and divisive forces.

1.3 The General Council decided to campaign during the electioneering on issues faced by the working class and the people and expose the anti-labour, anti-people policies of the BJP Government.

1.4 The outcome of the last General Elections, however, did not fulfill the expectations that we were having in the

last meeting of the General Council. The BJP and the NDA got a clear majority in Parliament, though BJP improved its strength marginally only by one seat. This they could do by arousing national jingoism out of Kargil war with Pakistan. The campaign of the BJP and its allies were heavily financed by MNCs, Indian big business houses and landlords who were striving for BJP's coming to power once again so that a Government which should favour them would be in the saddle. The BJP in its election campaign did not highlight any issues, particularly, the peoples' problems, but only emphasised that Vajpayee should be the Prime Minister in their electoral campaign. The casteism also played a very important role in this election. The 24 party alliance of BJP was an opportunistic alliance that parties having different ideologies were sticking together only with the sole objective of snatching power at the Centre. The election results showed that the strength of the Left Parties in Parliament was reduced from 48 to 43 and voting percentage also showed a decline. The CPM, however, could improve its tally from 32 to 33, but still in West Bengal it lost 3 seats though there were gains in other states. The weak position of the left in the country is adversely affecting the overall campaign against the economic policies of liberalisation and religious fundamentalism and there is a need to strengthen the left forces which alone is able to ensure pro-poor and pro working class policies at the Centre.

1.5 The Congress Party, which was talking about forming a Government at the Centre on its own strength and attacking openly coalition politics, drastically reduced its membership in the Parliament from 140 to 112, the lowest ever strength since independence. The campaign of the Congress was also annoying its own allies during the campaign. Those who were expecting that the Congress would be fighting the BJP had come to grief and Congress party proved its inability to effectively fight the communal forces. The support given by the congress to the BJP's economic policies also isolated it from a large section of the people which also was responsible for its defeat in the election. The emergence of a viable alterna-

tive to the BJP government could not effectively be focused in the election campaign which also helped the BJP to hoodwink the masses and get votes. It also must be noted that the working class and the people in various parts of the country failed to realise the dangerous consequences of the BJP coming to power and the threat it posed to the national unity and integrity by advocating the communal agenda in its activities, though outwardly they are pretending to be not pursuing the communal agenda. The people of India were not prepared for an early poll in such a short time. That is why the voting percentage was less in some parts of the country which also to some extent helped the BJP. The failure to form an alternate government was used by the BJP in such a situation to win sympathy among a section of the people in the country.

1.6 Moreover, the BJP misused official electronic media to its advantage. This media was openly advocating the cause of the BJP which was an important tool for obtaining electoral victory through the propaganda barrage. They manipulated opinion polls and exit polls which were recklessly used by the BJP to its advantage. A psychosis was created all over the country by the media that BJP was coming to power which also helped the BJP in getting support during the elections.

1.7 Foreign origin of Sonia Gandhi was also conveniently used by the BJP which influenced a section of the voters in the country. The Congress could not fight this BJP campaign because it was not having any alternate policies to the BJP Govt. The split of the Congress just before the elections gave added advantage to the BJP. In Maharashtra, it helped the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance in parliamentary elections despite the alliance's discredited government due to its misrule.

1.8 Most of the bourgeois parties were not referring to the question of price rise, unemployment, growing sickness of industrial undertakings, privatisation of public sector, MNCs' capturing Indian markets and adding to their profits, atrocities against women and attack against minorities. Perhaps, in no other election, the BJP used so many aeroplanes and helicopters as in this election. The Telecom scam which took place on the eve of the elections was so clear before the public eyes but still it got all financial resources for the BJP to generate a favourable atmosphere for the party.

1.9 The election results, however, did not show BJP's supremacy all over the country. In West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, the left and democratic forces by and large maintained its strength. The BJP received a big jolt when its tally in UP came down to 29 from 59. The corrupt regime and the open infighting between the upper caste and lower caste supporters of the BJP was responsible for its defeat in UP. The newspapers openly stated that Chief Minister Kalyan Singh was clandestinely working against

the upper caste BJP candidates. Despite multi-cornered contests, the BJP failed to take advantage of the situation because of its own internal problems. It should be worth knowing here that the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party together got 40 Parliamentary seats in UP, more than the BJP could win this time. The tally of the Congress increased from zero to ten which is significant gain for the party in UP. The upper caste and lower caste divide in UP in the BJP campaign became so open that Public statements were issued by BJP leaders against each other despite national leadership's attempt to underestimate the gravity of the situation. The conflict among the BJP leaders in UP would continue to aggravate in the forthcoming period with an open talk of removal of Kalyan Singh from Chief Minister's post. The reported coming together of Kalyan Singh and Mulayam Singh Yadav on a particular caste agenda was also openly talked about in the press. These developments in UP, therefore, are likely to prove difficult for BJP in the near future despite its all India victory.

1.10 In another stronghold of the BJP and allies, viz, Punjab, the BJP combine could get only 3 of the 14 seats which gave an election boost to the congress and its allies in the state. The defeat of former Minister, SS Barnala and the son of Punjab Chief Minister are among the major setbacks in the saffron alliance in the State.

1.11 In Karnataka too, the opportunistic alliance with JD (U) by the BJP and the merger of Lok Shakthi, Samata in JD (U) created chaotic situation. Several BJP candidates were put up against their allies while the discredited Patel Government became a liability to the alliance which led to all round defeat of the BJP alliance in Karnataka which also got an added advantage to the congress to improve its tally to form a government in that State. In Maharashtra, despite division of the Congress, the gangster role by the BJP-Shiv Sena allies in that state helped the congress to get majority to form a coalition government. Though the BJP combine could get majority of seats in Parliament from Maharashtra, they lost heavily in the Assembly seats which shows the discontentment of the people of Maharashtra against this alliance.

1.12 It should be noted that a long period of gap between the downfall of the govt. and the completion of the electoral process on 28th October 1999 was utilised by the BJP to strengthen the position of the alliance by misuse of state power. A number of important decisions were taken by the Govt. including certain basic policy matters during the period of caretaker government, some of which were rejected by the Supreme Court and the Election Commission.

1.13 The formation of the 70 member jumbo cabinet showed the strained relation among the alliance which could not form a compact cabinet. Vajpayee has to satisfy

so many allies and has to take many decisions based on pulls and pressures within the alliance which also shows the weakness of the opportunistic alliance. The Telugu Desam Party, the second largest party in the alliance with 29 members in the Parliament preferred to remain outside the govt. Similarly, Chautala of INLD, preferred to remain outside. The humiliation of Hegde who was dropped from the cabinet without even informing him immediately created bad blood within the NDA. Three members of Parliament from JD(U) from Bihar openly issued statements condemning the leadership for ignoring the claims of Bihar. Similarly, even some BJP leaders in Delhi expressed open resentment in the manner of formation of cabinet by ignoring the claims of Saheb Singh Verma and VK Malhotra. Even in the matter of allotment of portfolios, a number of Ministers expressed unhappiness. Out of 70 ministers in the cabinet, 47 belonged to the BJP which also has annoyed some of the non-BJP allies.

1.14 The RSS activities behind the scene could sometimes come in the fore which also created embarrassment to the Prime Minister. The reckless penetration by the RSS in bureaucracy, Judiciary and Armed forces was also disliked by many alliance partners of BJP. All these developments are likely to create continuous difficulties for the NDA and also underline the instability of the government despite a clear majority received by the alliance.

1.15 The announcement made by the Prime Minister to the people to be prepared for hard decisions clearly indicated a frontal attack on the people. The BJP's endorsement of these policies highlighted that these hard decisions would hit very ferociously the common people of the country who will experience continuous deterioration in their living standards.

1.16 Under the BJP rule, the Indian economy is in shambles and the conditions of the national economy have been continuously deteriorating because of the policies of implementing the structural adjustment programmes.

DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION

2.1. In the General Secretary's report placed in the General Council meeting of CITU held on last May, the situation in the economic front during the first tenure of BJP-led regime has been outlined in detail. It was an all round decline in most of the sectors of the economy, both industry and agriculture and consequent deterioration of the standard of living for the workers and the common people.

2.2. It was also pointed out that, in the industry sector, the sharp decline in growth was particularly witnessed in the domestic manufacturing sector, along with sharp fall in consumption of electricity by industry indicating a

gloom or recession in the economy, besides erosion of the domestic industrial base.

2.3. The Agriculture also witnessed a marginal growth of only 3.9% in 1998-99 after a sharp decline of 6% in absolute terms in 1997-98 meaning thereby a worse situation compared to 1996-97 despite good monsoon. Still foodgrain production fell by 4 million tonne in 1998-99 compared to 1996-97, signifying deterioration of the food-availability for the people. Further, as per projection made by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) agricultural growth, in 1999-2000, is also expected to decline by 1.5% and lower agricultural growth is expected to adversely affect the GDP growth.

2.4. During the same period, contrary to all claims by the Govt., the employment situation worsened severely, job losses due to retrenchment lock out/lay off, and VRS, far outstripped the meagre job creation in the informal sector.

2.5. The General Council report noted in specific terms "On the whole a deep rooted recession has been setting in the Indian Economy, slow down in industrial activity, aggravation of industrial sickness and widespread closure, drastic cut in production in the basic industries like steel, coal, electricity, oil etc. have been casting gloom in the national economy, aggravating inflationary spiral, and eroding the manufacturing base of the economy in a big way. But such a development could not yet bring the protagonists of liberalisation to sense"

2.6. The intervening period since last General Council meeting has witnessed more vigorous drive by the BJP-led Govt. in the centre to intensify the pace of liberalisation of the economy. This includes renewed effort to privatise the profit making PSUs through speeding up the disinvestment process, further liberalisation of import expanding the list of OGL items, further deregulating Foreign investment clearance machinery and allowing foreign companies to take over and/or assert greater domination on the Indian industries.

2.7. During recent times, the protagonists of liberalisation have Started talking loud on the recovery in the economic front citing the example of higher growth in Industrial activities in the current months, increasing revenue collection, and decline in inflation rate, and boosting of stock market, which they claim to be signals of sound economic health.

2.8. So far as the growth in industrial activities and sale is concerned, it is witnessed mainly in consumer durable sector and partly in Cement and Steel, which, even the economic observers from the camp of liberalisation admitted, to be more the result of de-stocking, ie, clearance of old stocks by the companies following the depressed market condition, than signaling recovery from the

recessionary situation. Study on the recent economic Scenario conducted by ASOCHAM pointed to a depressed market situation for the manufacturing sector and depressing price line of the manufactured goods, behind the falling of inflation rate in recent times (Observer, 20.7.99). Another study published in the Observer dated 27.10.99 noted that "Both in capital and intermediate goods sector, growth in 99 was less than August '98,..... growth of spending of economy was less in the investment sector compared to the sector that produces consumer durables ...The relatively poor response of consumer non durables shows that the recovery in the industrial sector has not been broad based" and hence not sustainable if the imbalance is not corrected.

2.9. The reality behind the increased revenue collection (claimed to be a sign of the economy returning of health) also exposes the mechanism as to how the whole burden of recession has been passed on to common people while allowing the business/corporate lobby a total hey-day. As per Finance Ministry Sources, and as reported by the Business Standard on 7.9.99, the tax collection during April-August 99 has gone up by 11.6% to Rs. 50,325 crores although the direct tax figures showed a decline of 6.9% during the period. The corporate tax collection declined by about Rs.1400 crores during April-August 1999 itself.

2.10. Further, despite increase in tax revenue, the imbalance in receipt and expenditure got further aggravated during the period to an alarming extent. Even the Finance Minister could not but admit before the National Council meeting of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) on 15.10.99 that the country is 'on the verge of an internal debt trap' as only interest payment liability of the Central Government for the internal debt alone runs to Rs.90,000 to Rs.1,00,000 crore a year. (The Observer 16.10.99). And the Business Standard has editorially commented that "while the Centre's tax revenue increased by 33% in last three years, the interest payment liability increased by 54%."

2.11. The Editorial of the Economic Times dated 27.9.99 noted in clear terms "Data released by Comptroller General of Accounts revealed that in the first quarter of 1999-2000 the Govt. managed to collect only 18.4% of the revenues it has budgeted for. This is lower than the first quarter collection in two previous years. Total receipts, including non-debt capital inflows totalled 17.6% of the budget estimate - again lower than previous two years' figures" The above situation clearly spells out the most tardy management of the economy by the BJP-led combine.

2.12. The state of affairs of the economy, as reflected by the consistent decline in investment during last three years debunks the claim of the Vajpayee Govt. of bringing the economy to rails of growth. According to Economic Update Report of M/s Duff & Phelps Credit Rating (DCR)

India, the net fresh investment slumped from Rs 1,71,810 crore in 1996-97 to Rs 47,200 crore in 1997-98 and further to Rs 23,620 in 1998-99 in July 1998. As per the report of Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the Gross capital formation has fallen by 62.6% in 1998-99 compared to 1997-98, and the year-over-year growth of Bank Credit to industry has turned negative.

2.13. Again, as per the report of DCR (India), during the tenure of entire BJP-led regime prospect of economic growth worsened further. More number of capital projects have been abandoned than completed. In three years ending July 1999, capital project worth Rs 1,88,470 crores were completed, whereas projects aggregating to Rs 2,59,160 crores were abandoned. As per year wise breakup, projects worth Rs 84,660 crores were abandoned in 1998-99, compared to Rs 97,560 crores in 1997-98 and Rs 76,910 crore in 1996-97 (abandoned). Most of the projects belonged to core sectors like steel, coal, oil refinery etc.

2.14. Lot of noise is being made by the ministers and govt officials on falling inflation rate, which is claimed to be signaling sound economic health of the country. But this inflation reveals almost nothing about the real situation in the price front. The price collection methodology and the machinery, on the basis of which wholesale price index are calculated are so much defective and unrepresentative that it becomes a gross underestimation of the price situation. But even with such defects, the recent phenomenon of falling point to point inflation rate does in no way mean any decline in general price level or any relief to common people, because the manipulated inflation rate has fallen for some period in June-July 1999 since the price level was abnormally high in June-July 1998 and inflation rate this year (June-July) appeared small due to higher base effect in point to point calculation methodology. In reality even in June '99 when inflation rate has declined to 1.5%, the price of food articles has increased by more than 3% compared to immediately preceding week as observed even by ASSOCHAM. As per a ASSOCHAM study, because of the slump in the market of manufactured goods reflected in the subdued prices of industrial commodities owing to depressed and squeezing market situation, the aggregated price indices moved slower compared to last year despite considerable rise in the prices of other necessities.

2.15. Moreover, if measured in terms of various consumer price indices (CPI) reflecting retail prices instead of wholesale price index (WPI), the inflation rate would have been much higher. As observed by The Observer dated 30.8.99, "While WPI went up by less than 2% the annual inflation rates measured by consumer price indices of various cities vary between a range of 7% to 12%."

2.16. The study published by the Financial Express on

30.8.99 on the price of essential commodities in the last two weeks of August 1999 reveals that despite all claims of falling inflation rate to 1.56% in mid August '99, the prices of essential commodities increased phenomenally during the period. As per the report published in the said newspaper "index of vegetables has risen by 2.3% during the current week (ending 30.8.99)...index of primary article rose by a sharp 0.4% (from the last week) on account of sharp increase in prices of major food and non-food articles. Index of food articles climbed up by 0.3% percentage points during the current week due to costly Jowar (4%) barley (3%), maize, gram and vegetables (2% each) and ragi and eggs (1% each)." On the whole despite tall claims by the BJP-led combine about bringing back the country's economy to rails, the economy continued to remain in absolute shambles conclusively proving the disastrous impact of the policy of economic liberalisation.

2.17. Despite deep recession in the economy, the corporate houses could manage to increase their net profit considerably. A study of 382 companies revealed that their net profit has risen by 26.1% (The Business Standard, 27.10.99) during April-September '99, while some companies like Reliance and particularly the MNCs could manage to garner higher profit by around 50%. But despite such rise, the direct tax collection including the corporate tax dipped by 6.9% during the same period. This signifies a total indulgence by the Govt towards tax evasion by these corporate houses and MNCs. This is further substantiated by the chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in his interview with the Financial Express, when he said "73 foreign companies out of 82 found guilty of tax evasion in 1998-99. The amount of evasion is over Rs 500 crores...Large corporate houses and MNCs were emerging as primary area of default." (The Financial Express, 15.5.99).

DISASTROUS INDICATIONS AHEAD

3.1. The BJP-led Govt. at the Centre, after assuming office for a renewed term after the election to 13th Lok Sabha have declared to further accelerate the Reform process to its second generation which bears ominous indications.

3.2. Even before the election result was out, the diesel price have been hiked by a massive 40%, resulting in further price rise in all spheres. The prices of Kerosene, and cooking gas are expected to follow suit. Several other doses of price rise are also being expected as almost all the ministers of the newly sworn Govt have announced that subsidies on food, fertilizers etc. would be curtailed and all other subsidies on education, health care etc. would be "rationalized".

3.3. On the day of swearing in itself the Confederation of Indian Industries submitted a charter of demand to

Govt. which include inter alia (1) Speedy privatisation of PSUs (2) Passage of economic legislation including the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill (3) Downsizing the Govt. by further dismantling all regulations on the operation of Business Houses (4) Privatisation of Bank and more concessions to private sector financial agencies (5) change of labour laws to ensure complete deregulation of labour market and greater labour-flexibility.

3.4. Immediately after assuming office, the Prime Minister has announced acceptance of all their demands. The Presidential address to the Joint Session of parliament which outlined the immediate agenda of the Govt. has also confirmed the same.

3.5. The Govt. has declared its acceptance to the recommendation of the Verma Panel regarding restructuring of the so called Weak Banks, which proposed to cut down Bank's manpower by 25% to start with, and impose wage-freeze and push them ultimately towards total privatisation.

3.6. The Govt. has declared to get the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill passed in the next session of the parliament alongwith bills relating to Amendment of Companies Act, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (to be replaced by a new Act called FEMA) Money laundering Bill and other economic legislation which are all aimed at giving more concessions to corporate houses and foreign capital at the cost of country's exchequer. The Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill has already been introduced in the opening sessions of 13th Lok Sabha. The shares of profit making PSUs have been put on sale at discounted prices right from the beginning of the year.

3.7. The Govt. also declared its commitment to ease down the regulations further to enable the foreign companies to enjoy more liberty in their thrust for controlling the Indian Economy. Already regulations have been dismantled for the foreign institutional investors (FII) in their speculative activities in the country's stock market. During January-April 1999 US \$ 683 million have been pumped into Indian Stock market by the FIIs. Again, during last two months around US\$600 million have flown out of the Indian market owing to desperate sale of shares by the Foreign Institutional Investors and these transaction of several billion dollars are not contributing in the least either to increase production capacity or generate employment in the Indian Economy except offering fortuitous profit to foreign speculators in Indian soil.

3.8. Moreover, the Govt. has become liberal enough to remove all hurdles for foreign companies taking over Indian companies for a song. Not only that, Govt. of India has become liberal in allowing foreign companies to have separate 100% owned unit, despite their having Joint venture with Indian Companies in the same sector/products, despite opposition of a section the Indian industry

itself. Such moves by the Govt. of India have been gradually clearing desk for the take over the vital productive sector of the economy by the foreign companies much to the detriment of our selfreliance.

3.9. The Vajpayee Govt. promised to generate one crore jobs every year during their earlier term. But what is happening ground below so far as the employment generation is concerned? During 1998-99 itself more than 20,000 jobs were lost in two public sector companies viz BHEL and SAIL only through VRS route. As per an estimate, in the organized sector alone, more than one lakh jobs were lost in 1998-99.

3.10. It is not without reason, the Govt. at the centre in their renewed term practically ruled out prospect of employment generation in industrial sector. In his address to 13th Lok Sabha, the President of India visualised the prospect of additional employment "Mainly in the areas of agriculture, agro-based business, small scale and cottage industries, housing and construction, services and self employment". When agriculture and agro sector are itself over populated and facing a decline over years, public investment in construction activities have been drastically pruned by the Govt. in their anxiety to contain fiscal deficit, and small scale sector has been rendered sick and handicapped by the pro-monopoly, pro-MNC policy of the Govt., talking about additional employment generation in those areas, is nothing but a crude joke on the common people.

3.11. The Presidential address to 13th Lok Sabha states "FDI plays a crucial role in rapid economic development... The Govt will create an enabling policy to ensure a FDI inflow of at least US\$10 million per year". Since the advent of liberalisation every Govt cherished the target of annual FDI of US\$10 billion. What, however, is the net out come? During the period from 1991 to May '99, only 30% of approved FDI proposals or around 40 billion dollars have actually landed in India and during last three years in particular annual FDI flow remained below 2.5 to 3 billion dollar on the average. And whatever FDI has come, 75% has gone for take over of Indian companies which has neither created factories nor generated any employment. Rather in all the taken over companies, employment has gone down due to massive labour shedding in the name of restructuring. Thus all policies for alluring FDI could neither attract expected FDI to generate additional manufacturing capacity of the economy. The indebtedness of the country has got severely deepened, the total external debt reaching \$ 98 billion.

3.12 The Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisations will be held in Seattle (USA) from 30th November 1999. Further attempts would be made by the MNCs to strengthen their grip over the world trade. Already the share of the developing countries in the world

trade is declining and the measures proposed by the developed countries will further hit the interests of the developing countries. The long drawn controversy concerning the social clause to be tied up with world trade will further erode the share of the Third World countries in the global trade and the MNCs are likely to press this point very hard despite opposition from developing countries. In the matter of agriculture they are likely to impose further restrictions on developing countries and control the bio-diversity at global level. The MNCs are also making attempt to impose a regime of Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), which will permit MNCs to invest anywhere in the world without any restriction and conditionality and obligation to host country and drastically curtail the sovereignty of the nation to decide the nature of investment in that country.

3.13. The trade union movement was very much interested in taking a stand on these issues in the Seattle Conference and the Indian trade unions unanimously demanded that their representative should be included in the delegation from India so that the workers views would be properly focused in the Conference. The Vajpayee Govt, however, rejected this demand of the trade unions and merely called a meeting on 15th November 99 to discuss the issues with the trade unions. Taking into account the policies of the BJP Govt., one cannot expect that the Govt. would take a firm stand against the offensive of the MNCs and the BJP Govt.'s survival on the World Bank and IMF's dictates clearly indicates that the BJP govt is likely to capitulate before the MNCs dictating policies. The trade union movement, therefore must educate the workers on the issues involving the WTO depredations so that the working class is roused to fight against these policies.

3.14. On the whole, the liberalisation has already put the country's economy on the track of decline and disaster in all fronts. That pace got further aggravated during the BJP-led regime, who, behind their Swadeshi mask could prove themselves to be a greater loyalist to the imperialist design of World Bank, IMF and WTO, to completely subjugate the Indian economy. In fact they have put the country on sale! The working class, the common people and the country's self reliant development are becoming the worst victims.

// CONSPIRACY TO WIPE OUT THE PUBLIC SECTOR

4.1. During their very short tenure of 13 plus 5 month rule the BJP-led Government did the severest damage to the public sector through different anti-public sector steps. Obviously with the same political forces back to power, the public sector has been made the priority target of attack. Immediately after assuming the office of the Minis-

ter of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Shri Manohar Joshi informed the press that privatisation of PSUs would be speeded up. He said that, out of the 48 PSUs under his ministry, 24 had already been identified for privatisation through equity off loading to private Indian or foreign companies. Further, the minister has made a statement at Pune to the effect that 12 PSUs under his ministry had been identified for closure!

4.2. It may be recalled that the budget for 1999-2000 presented by the BJP-led Government has reduced the annual Plan outlay for many public sector industries, budgetary support withdrawn, leaving the concerned PSUs fully dependent on internal generation and borrowings, while the target for disinvestment from PSUs had been doubled to a whopping Rs 10,000 crore. Speaking at a post budget meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Yashwant Sinha, Finance Minister announced that while full-time machinery for implementing disinvestment of PSU shares would be established, the Disinvestment Commission would be delegated with fresh powers and large-scale strategic sale of PSUs would be launched by the Government.

4.3. The Disinvestment Commission (DC) have so far given 12 reports to the Government and have dealt with all the 58 PSUs referred to it. The DC have recommended 100% disinvestment of shares for 18 PSUs, between 51% to 80% for 14 PSUs and between 25% to 50% for 11 PSUs. The DC have recommended strategic sale/trade sale for 33 PSUs. Almost all the profit making units in different industries in public sector are included in the recommendation of the DC. While some of the units have been recommended for closure, many others are proposed to be handed over to the 'Strategic Buyers,' which means that 50% of the shares of the given unit shall be off loaded, at the first instalment, to a single private party along with the management control. Rest of the holding will be transferred to the strategic buyer in a given time frame. Thus on implementation of the recommendations of the DC the overwhelming majority of the PSUs shall be either closed or privatised.

4.4. The devastating doses of the DC are religiously administered by the successive Central Governments. However, the observation of the Commission is worth noting: "...such disinvestment has resulted in reduction of government's equity in blue chip companies merely to bridge the budgetary deficit of the Government. This lends support to the criticism that precious family silver is being sold off to meet day to day expenses. Disinvestment should...not be made to serve merely as a means of raising revenues for the Budget."

4.5. The BJP-led Government embarked on the disastrous path of cross holding of shares by public sector companies and compelled the oil PSUs to buy each other's

shares. In the process the Government snatched from the best profit making PSUs sum of Rs 6,500 crore in the financial year 1998-99 which include Rs 2,280 crore from IOC, Rs 1,500 crore from ONGC. It is obvious that in their current tenure, the Vajpayee Government is definite to pursue the same path more vigorously. Already all round attack has been launched by different ministries in privatising the PSUs under their administrative control.

4.6. The BJP-led government have already initiated several steps towards dismantling the public sector. The Telecom Commission in its meeting held on 28th October, 1999 has decided to appoint a consultant to devise suitable strategies to privatise the department of telecommunications. The Union Power Minister has said that policy decision has been adopted by their Government for privatising the power transmission sector. He further said that methodology for off-loading equity of the ten Central power utilities is under finalisation. In the meantime, consultant has been appointed for disinvestment in the Power Grid Corporation of India. Pursuant to the decision of the BJP-led Government to go for global depository receipts for Rs 180 crore by divesting 180 million shares of Gas Authority of India, (GAIL) so far 155 million shares has been off-loaded abroad. Apart from allowing the private sector to partially take over the Indian Airlines and Air India, steps are taken to "ensure that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's dream of corporatising (read privatising) the five key international airports is materialised" (The Economic Times 4.11.99). The shares of blue chip oil PSUs, VSNL, BHEL, etc have already been put on sale.

4.7. It is shocking to note that off-loading of the shares are being done even in total violation of the simple trading principle. The prices of the shares are fixed at a rate much below the current market rate let alone commensurate to their real asset value. Thus it is sheer frittering away of the national wealth. The GAIL share has been sold at a price much below the current market price both in respect of GDR sale and domestic placement. The shares of VSNL were put on sale at a discounted price of Rs 750 at a time when the stock market price was around Rs 1000.

4.8. Disinvestment initiative proved that privatisation drive is not guided by financial or managerial prudence but because of the ideological position taken by IMF/WB/WTO with United States leading from behind, that there should be no public sector anywhere in the world. Private oligarchies want complete command over the entire world economy and they wouldn't tolerate even a token presence of PSU on their way. The BJP-led Government is more than obliging to meet their dictates.

4.9. The fate of the sick PSUs is clear from the pronouncement of the Government that they are not going to do

anything for revival of sick public sector units and decision of closure of eight public sector units taken during their previous tenure shall not be altered.

4.10. It is very clear that the motivated, unfounded blame of inefficiency attributed to the so-called 'sick' and 'un-economic' PSUs is nothing but a ploy to justify the closure of such PSUs. Had that not been so, then why the most efficient and consistently profit making oil PSUs are pushed towards privatisation by robbing them of their investible surplus. It is evident that whether loss making or profit making, good or bad record of performance, the onslaught of Fund-Bank dictated policy of closure, disinvestment and privatisation of public sector shall spare none. Therefore the movement for revival of sick units and protecting the profit making units cannot be separate but must be a united movement of the entire public sector workers in the country.

4.11. Anti-public sector policy of the Govt has also been hitting the PSU workers hardest. The workers of most of the sick PSUs have been deprived of wage revision almost for a decade. Even they have been denied of the revised dearness allowance rates. In many sick PSUs like HSCL, NPCC, cement Corporation, NTC, IDPL, etc the workers are not getting salary for months together and have been passing days in severe hardship. ,

4.12. The wage revision for other PSUs although falling overdue since 1.1.97 has not taken off even after passage of almost three years. The circular of DPE on wage revision of PSE workers has reimposed ban on wage revision to the workers of sick and loss making PSUs. Further the conditionalities of 10 years' tenure for wage agreement as mentioned in the DPE circular has posed a serious challenge before the PSU workers. And other conditions mentioned in the said circular of DPE have practically put a barrier in starting meaningful wage negotiations. And in the meantime, the acceptance of the Justice Mohan Committee's report on Pay Revision of PSE Executives by the Government vis-a-vis the directive of the DPE on wage revision of PSE employees exposes the dichotomy in the approach of the government.

4.13. It is expected that the CPSTU shall meet immediately after our Working Committee meeting. All of our state committees, the affiliated unions and our unions in public sector in particular, must take new initiative to ensure that the trade unions which were so long not associated with the CPSTU participate in the movement in the face of the new onslaught of the Government.

PRIVATISATION ONSLAUGHT ON FINANCIAL SECTOR

5.1. Even before the BJP-led Government started their second innings Yeshwant Sinha, Finance Minister as-

sured U.S. capitalist masters in Washington on 29th September, 1999 that if BJP is returned to power, within three days the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill would be tabled in Parliament. True to his commitment to the US capitalists the Insurance Regulatory and Development Bill, 1999 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 28th October, 1999. The rhetoric and deceptive proviso of the Bill apart, the privatisation of the insurance industry is bound to have its serious adverse impact on the Indian economy and the policy holders shall become victims of cheating on several counts.

5.2. While the Public Sector LIC and GIC have got an excellent track record in all respect in our country, the record of the private insurance companies all over the world is one of cheating and fraud on the people. Naturally, along with opening of the insurance sector to the domestic and foreign private capital will inevitably inflict all the ills of privatisation in the country.

5.3. The income from insurance premium under LIC and GIC have been continuously increasing. This provided cheap capital to the Government for funding various planned developmental projects. Now with the entry of private sector, flow of capital from insurance premium for executing developmental and welfare schemes of the Government are bound to affect, because the private insurance companies will cheat the Government by not fulfilling their obligations on investment. While the insurance business shall be grabbed by the foreign insurance companies through various foul means they shall even not fulfill the legal obligations of payment of tax, dividend etc. It may be noted that in the single year of 1997-98 the LIC paid to the Government Rs.700 crore on account of corporate tax. From various experience it can be said that the cap of 26% foreign equity participation will also be violated through different loopholes in the laws.

5.4. The worst victims of privatisation shall be the rural poor. Today, over 51% of LIC's new policies are sold in rural areas, over half of its branches are located in mofussil and half of the LIC agents are from rural areas. This rural thrust shall be totally missing in the privatised insurance business. Over 1.20 crore landless agricultural labourers, 1.23 crore IRDP beneficiaries, over 50.19 lakh persons belonging to 24 occupations amongs the most weaker sections of society have been benefited from the group insurance covers provided by the LIC. The private insurance companies entering into our country at the invitation of the BJP-led Government shall not provide such group insurance covers to the weaker section of our society.

5.5. With the privatisation of the insurance industry, the days of misappropriating the hard earned small savings of the people shall emerge in our country along with the private foreign insurance companies. While investigating into the cases of frauds by insurance companies, the

American Congress came out with a report titled: "Failed promises" listing out frauds indulged in by the American insurance companies. The cases of hundreds of foreign insurance companies' collapse mainly on account of speculative and unethical practices have been reported in the recent times. The BBC carried a feature entitled: "the great pension gamble" describing the fraudulent and unethical acts of the foreign insurance companies.

5.6. The trade union movement in the insurance industry have unitedly opposed the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill by observing a nationwide total strike on 29th October, 1999. They have also formed a joint platform with unions in the banking sector to carry forward the movement against privatisation. The CITU unions throughout the country must play active role in mobilising the working class and the people against the steps of the Government to privatise the insurance industry.

5.7. In great hurry, immediately on assuming office the Vajpayee Government have made policy pronouncement that banks shall be privatised through different routes. The Banking Secretary while addressing a meeting of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries on 3rd November, 1999 in New Delhi has announced that: "the Nationalised Banks Act and Banking Regulation Act will be amended to bring down the government stake in public sector banks below 51 per cent." He has also said that the amendments are likely to be carried out in the forthcoming winter session of Parliament.

5.8. In the meantime the Verma Panel appointed by the BJP-led Government have submitted their report. It has prescribed restructuring exercise for three public sector banks, which are in effect, closure of bank branches, retrenchment of employees and imposition of wage freeze. It also prescribed to "to resort to an across-the-board wage cut." The Panel have given a target of more than 20,000 workers to be thrown out of the role of the three banks. The Panel did not hide the fact that they have formulated their recommendations based on IMF's "well-researched document...on operational restructuring".

5.9. The main factor contributing for the major ills of the public sector banks is the menace of Non Performing Assets (NPA). The latest available figure of NPA is around Rs.48,000 crore. But for the "evergreening" exercise of the banks management in league with the industrial houses, the actual figure could have been far more. Even the notorious Narasimham Committees had to admit that the huge NPAs of the banks is the main cause behind the banks' weak commercial position. The Verma Panel too had to fall in the line. It is reported that out of the total amount of NPAs overwhelming amount is from the loans taken by the big Industrial Houses in the country. The shocking fact is that in deference with the will of the ruling parties,

the real culprits behind the NPAs have never been brought to light. Since these economic offenders provide political funds to the bourgeois ruling parties in the centre, they are always left scot-free at the instance of the central Governments. In such a situation it is obvious that burden for the remedies of ills of the public sector banks are prescribed at the cost of the employees and consumers. It is revealing to note that a Reserve Bank study have identified inter-alia the following major causes for the banks' sickness or for that matter the problem of NPAs. They are: the motivated diversion of funds by the big industrial houses, time/cost overrun while implementing the projects, (deliberate) business failure by the borrowers, willful default, siphoning of funds, frauds, misappropriation. The study has pinpointed diversion of funds by the borrowers as the single most important cause for NPAs. It is, therefore, not difficult to understand that without addressing to the major causes of the ills afflicting the public sector banking industry, the privatisation prescription shall not serve any lasting purpose.

5.10. Like the past such committees, the Verma Panel also has not uttered a single word about the actual defaulters of NPAs, let alone prescribing any stringent measure against the defaulting big industrial houses. Strangely without taking any lesson from their ineffectiveness and dismal performance of the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT), for addressing the acute problem of NPAs, the Verma Panel have recommended setting up of Asset Reconstruction Fund (ARF) to be managed by an 'independent private sector Asset Management Company (AMC). Such exercise may help the defaulters but certainly not the banks.

5.11. The 'second generation reform' initiated by the BJP-led Government has concentrated its attack on the public sector and particularly the financial sector. For the Government such reform has attained urgency to satisfy the Fund-Bank duo which have been expressing their unhappiness for the slow pace in reforming (read ruining) these two sectors in India, thanks to the resistance movement launched by the trade unions. The World Economic Outlook released by the IMF on 22.9.1999 in Washington noted: "The priority for the new government (in India) will be, in addition to public sector reforms ... prioritise faster progress in privatisation of state-owned banks, combined with measures to increase labour market flexibility." The economic agenda placed before the Vajpayee Government by the CII also stressed the necessity of privatising the public sector banks. Financial sector privatisation is bound to spell doom on the country's economy.

5.12. The welcome development is that all the bank employees and officers have come together to form the United Forum of Bank Unions with the resolve to oppose the Verma Panel recommendations. Similarly the united move-

ment of insurance and bank employees have taken joint initiative to mobilise all the employees of the entire financial sector to unleash a countrywide agitation against the disastrous steps of opening up and privatisation of the financial sector. The unions have already announced their decision to stage massive demonstration all over the country as well as before Parliament on 29th November, 1999. They may resort to intensify the struggle through other forms of actions including strike.

5.13. The state committees must ensure that our affiliated unions must extend active support in each and every phase of the movement. Our total strength must be pressed into action to ensure maximum mobilisation in support of the programmes of agitation of the financial sector employees. We must demonstrate our clear understanding that to oppose privatisation of Bank and insurance sectors is not the responsibility of the financial sector employees alone. It is a national task to safeguard the economic sovereignty of the country.

OFFENSIVE AHEAD ON LABOUR RIGHTS

6.1. The near future is going to witness a big onslaught on trade union and democratic rights of the working class. Thorough exercises have been carried on during the last 18 months tenure of the BJP-led Govt jointly with the employers' organisations on details of changes to be brought about in labour laws. BJP led NDA Govt after its electoral success is going to act on those exercises to bring about complete deregulation in labour laws to impose conditions of virtual slavery on the working class.

6.2. During last 18 months BJP-led regime, two Task Force Teams constituted under Prime Ministers' office worked on the proposed change in labour laws and made recommendations. The Task Force Teams were comprised of the representatives of big corporate houses like the Tatas, Birlas, Wadias and Mittals etc and none from the trade unions. The said Task Force under PMO categorically recommended changes in Industrial Dispute Act "to make it possible for the industry to not only shed surplus manpower, but also to be able to continue business without having to face labour unrest."

6.3. Another Task Force under PMO has called for withdrawal of all restrictions and regulatory provisions relating to working hours and compulsory rest periods etc in the Shops and Commercial Establishment Act and related rules. It recommended introduction of "Flexi-time" in regulating working hours in an establishment, the flexibility being unilaterally decided by the employers.

6.4. The Ninth Plan Document echoed the same recommendation. While dealing on labour, the Ninth Plan document observed, "The basic objective of initiating the pro-

cess of economic reform was tolay the foundation of an economic regime characterised by de-licensing deregulations and decontrols, besides removing all irritants and stumbling blocks to the production system.... it is imperative to bring about corresponding changes in labour laws."

6.5. Precisely, on the premises of above exercises and recommendations of the employers' lobby, the Govt of India has constituted Second National Commission on Labour mostly with the yes-men of the employers lobby and the BJP combine to give concrete shape to the nefarious design of completely stripping the workers of all their rights. The terms of reference of the Second National Commission on Labour clearly stipulates inter alia: "2(a) to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in organised sector (b) to suggest an 'umbrella' legislation for ensuring minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector. While developing the framework for its recommendations, the Commission may take into account..... The emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, requiring response in terms of change in methods, timing and conditions of work, in industry trades and services, globalisation of economy, liberalisation of trades and industry....and the need of bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands; the minimum level of labour protection and welfare measures and basic institutional framework for insuring the same, in the manner which is conducive to a flexible labour market....."

6.6. From the exercises already made and statements made by various ministers and govt officials, and also from the terms of reference of the Second National Commission on Labour it has become amply clear that the entire direction of the labour law reform is to dismantle whatever protection for labour exists in existing labour laws, to free the employers class from all its obligations and to empower them with the right to 'hire and fire' and through that casualise the entire workforce. The chairman of the Task Force on Employment constituted by the Govt, who is also a member of Planning Commission minced no words in commenting before the press "The Employers should be given the right to fire in order to encourage them for hiring more."

6.7. The joint exercise by the Labour Ministry of the Employers' lobby targetted for removal of section 25(0) (chapter V) of the Industrial Disputes Act to remove all restrictions on retrenchment, and also to render totally defunct the already loose shunted machinery for grievance settlement provided in the act. The amendments are also aimed at rendering the right to strike virtually illegal through various provisions of long roped formalities and unattainable conditionalities.

6.8. The Trade Unions' Act on which an amendment Bill has already been made ready, are designed to create

unsurmountable hurdles even in registering a trade union and setting in the process of de-registration of thousands of trade unions in the country.

6.9. Moreover, various employers' organisation like CII, FICCI, Assocham, have raised demand for taking the entire service sector out of the purview of definition of industry for the purpose of industrial relations disputes and related rights. As per a specific proposal of CII to Govt, the banks, water supply electricity, transport and many other departments & units, servicing the main production units should be pushed beyond the purview of definition of industry. CII also demanded that the existing requiring provision in the ID Act to serve notice to workers for effecting any change in service condition should be removed altogether to allow the employers to bring about changes in working hours, shifting, workload and related rights and facilities without any hurdle.

6.10. The Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act is another major target of the ongoing exercises. The whole concept of 'abolition of contract system in permanent nature of job is being sought to be removed to legitimise contractarisation of the entire workforce. Instead, the new concepts of 'Core' and periphery' are going to be incorporated in the amended Act as per which except for few core jobs of direct production, in all other jobs of material processing, maintenance of machineries and servicing, constituting more than 80% jobs in a production network, deployment of contract labour would be legitimised although all those jobs are permanent and perennial in nature and continuously integrated with direct production work.

6.11. In fact, the whole exercise on the amendment of Contract Labour Act being carried on by the Govt and employers' lobby jointly is for complementing the right to hire and fire to be given to employers through amendment of Industrial Disputes Act. And such changes in Contract Labour Act, if carried on successfully by the Govt would render all the judgements of the High Court and Supreme Court in favour of contract workers totally infructuous.

6.12. The status of implementation of the existing labour laws by the enforcement machinery both in the centre and states have been so tardy that violations of labour laws by the employers with impunity has become the order of the day. When trade unions are jointly demanding proper enforcement of the existing labour laws and improvement of the same to ensure expansion and widening of their scope and coverage and plugging of all loopholes to give the workers more rights to defend and protect themselves in the changed environment of hostility generated by the liberalised economic policy regime, the Govt of India has been considering the existing labour laws as "irritants and stumbling block" and trying for

bringing about total deregulation to do away with all the rights of the workers on the one hand and give the employers full power to enslave the working class through an in-built system of casualisation. Trade union rights are also being sought to be thoroughly curtailed and TU movement to be marginalised through that process. What is being aimed at ultimately is the demolition of the strength of opposition to all economic misdeeds carried out by successive Governments in the name of liberalisation.

6.13. While the legitimate demand of the trade unions to enact law to protect agricultural and unorganised workers, to amend the Payment of Bonus Act by removing the arbitrary ceilings, to enact a Bill on workers participation in management, to introduce Bill as per directive of the Supreme Court on sexual harassment of women at the workplace, etc is systematically put in cold storage, the existing laws won through bitter struggles by the trade union movement are sought to be watered down to ensure higher profitability of the employers.

6.14. The working class has to defend its rights and must defeat the nefarious design of the BJP-led govt and the employers' lobby to bring about changes in labour laws as per their design, not only to defend the workers and the trade union movement but also in the greater interest of the struggle against liberalisation.

6.15. The design to enslave the working class is the integral part of the conspiracy of enslaving the country, through process of liberalisation and globalisation. The working class has a uphill task before them. The working committee must appreciate the depth of the challenge before and must prepare to confront the same in effective manner.

STRUGGLE AGAINST DRACONIAN POLICIES

7.1. We have seen the dangerous level of the policies of the BJP combine which are causing unprecedented damage to the national economy and the common people. The CITU has to take initiative to mobilise larger sections of the working class and the toiling people to organise countrywide resistance to these policies. The Sponsoring Committee held two meetings after assumption of power by the Vajpayee Government. In a meeting on 5th November it was decided to organise countrywide demonstrations on 29th November 1999, the opening day of winter session of Parliament. A demonstration will also be organised before Parliament on that day to condemn the policies of privatisation and selling out of public sector undertakings to the private sector at throw away prices.

7.2 As we have noted earlier the Financial sector has become the main target of attacks. If the capitalists succeed

in their game then the other sectors will follow suit. These policies have roused strong reactions among the employees in the financial sector. An all in unity of these employees could be achieved and they have given a call to organise demonstration before Parliament on 29th November 1999. On 10th November all unions in banks and insurance industry are meeting in Mumbai on 10th November and they are likely to fix up a date of nationwide strike in the entire financial sector. The Sponsoring Committee of trade unions decided to organise solidarity actions all over the country in support of the employees in the financial sector.

7.3 The Port & Dock Federations are also meeting on 11th November to consider among other things a struggle against privatisation of ports in India. We have made attempts to synchronise these action programmes so that powerful countrywide actions can be launched against these policies.

7.4 The West Bengal CITU has taken initiative in bringing together unions of all affiliations including INTUC to organise protest demonstrations all over W.Bengal on 29th November 1999. State Committees in other states should emulate this example so that massive actions are organised on that day all over India.

7.5 The public sector workers are also having deep resentment about the delay in commencing wage negotiations and the unworkable guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises. The Core Group of the Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions is meeting in New Delhi on 23rd November to chalk out further programme of action. Meanwhile the CPSTU has called upon all the unions to hold demonstrations in all PSU centres on 29th November and join the demonstration being organised before Parliament. The BJP government is out to wipe out the public sector in India and the workers must be roused to fight out these policies so that whatever public sector is left in the country should be saved.

7.6 The workers in power sector in coal mines are also preparing for nationwide struggle against privatisation. Nationwide strikes are likely to be planned in these industries and necessary preparations have to commence right from now onwards. The CPSTU earlier decided to organise two day strike which had to be postponed due to fall of the government at the Centre. Now the programme has to be planned once again so that the two million public sector workers join the nationwide movement against these anti-national policies.

7.7 The question of industrial sickness is growing at a faster rate both in public and private sectors. A campaign against this sickness and refusal of the Central Government to give any assistance to revive the sick units must be launched so that the Central Government is forced to take steps to save these industrial units from closure. There

is frustration among a section of workers of these sick industries who feel that the trade unions are helpless in tackling the problems of sickness. A determined nationwide struggle will alone overcome the frustration and unity of the workers can be built up to fight the menace of industrial sickness the root of which lie in the faulty economic and industrial policies. We have to put forward positive proposals before the Government so that concrete steps are taken to revive the sick units and the government of India is forced to provide required funds and policy-assistance to overcome the sickness.

7.8 We also have to activate National Platform of Mass Organisations so that all the mass organisations can be involved in the countrywide struggle against the economic policies of the government of India. There is a proposal to hold a massive nationwide convention of the NPMO to build a countrywide struggle on a bigger scale against the economic policies. A proposal has been made to organise a massive demonstration before Parliament during the budget session.

7.9 There is a tendency in some states to organise the calls of the NPMO and Sponsoring Committee in a ritualistic manner. Hence the programmes are not involving large sections of the masses. Even we are unable to involve our entire membership in the arena of struggle. This weakness we have to overcome so that our programmes become really powerful to bring sufficient pressure on the government of India.

7.10 Without effective initiative of our State Committees and industrywise federations these programmes will not become effective and powerful. The members of the working committee should consider this problem seriously and explain how they are going to organise these programmes more effectively in their states. The BJP Government wants to pursue the economic policies most aggressively. Our resistance also must be strengthened all over India which alone can defeat these policies.

7.11 I hope our comrades will realise the gravity of the situation and act without any delay more powerfully so that the entire working class is mobilised in a determined struggle to reverse the IMF World Bank dictated policies.

WORKING WOMEN

8.1. In the last General Council meeting, we reviewed our work among working women, devoting one session for the discussion. Certain tasks were also chalked out to improve our work which included that all the State Committees should have a similar review of their work among working women and prepare a plan, identifying industries with large number of women in the work force and defining the priorities. But, there is no report from any state committee whether this task has so far been under-

taken. This may be due to preoccupation with the elections. It is, however, necessary that this along with the other tasks like forming state Coordination-committees of working women, industrial subcommittees, allotting a state office bearer to the work, and a full timer for working women front wherever possible, should be taken up immediately. Preliminary reports indicate that in many states, women have voted for the BJP and its allies in large numbers. Unless we pay serious attention to organise the working women, whose number in the unorganised and home based sectors is increasing, our task of rallying the entire working class to fight against the economic and communal policies of the BJP led government cannot be fulfilled.

8.2. A 3 day trade union class was organised with the help of ILO for working women activists in plantation industry in south India from 22 to 24 October 1999, at Coonoor in which 20 women activists and 2 organisers from Kerala, Tamilnadu and Karnataka participated. The class was useful and the women wanted to have state and estate level classes. The state committees of CITU and the plantation workers' unions should organise classes at the local level so that women plantation workers can be developed as trade union activists and leaders.

8.3 A Hindi newsletter for working women "Patrika," has been started and two issues have been published so far - 3,000 copies of the first and 4,000 copies of the second issue were printed. It is mainly sold among the anganwadi workers. The membership of the Anganwadi federation in the Hindi states itself being around 19,000, there is vast scope to increase the sale of "Patrika." If a proper distribution mechanism is worked out by the State Committees, the 'Patrika' can be brought out regularly - once in 2-3 months to start with. Efforts should be made to take the "Patrika" to other sections of the working women also.

8.4. **The Voice of the Working Women:** The circulation of The Voice of the Working Woman has improved to some extent and now the circulation is around 3,000. But still there is vast scope to increase the circulation. If the state committees take initiative and approach the educated sections of the working women the circulation can go up still further. The State Coordination Committees of working women should take up this as an important task, which will help to spread the CITU's policies among the working women.

8.5 **Campaign on issues of working women:** Working Women are the worst affected by the economic policies and their number in the casual, contract, piece-rated and home-based workers is increasing. It is necessary to mobilise them by conducting state wide campaigns in all the states on issues like minimum wages, maternity benefits, creche, law on sexual harassment, separate toilets etc. The CITU state committees should discuss and pre-

pare a detailed plan, and conduct this campaign by activating the committees of working women at the state, district, and industry level.

8.6. The CITU Centre sent a note on anganwadi, for discussion by all the state committees, including the states where the unions are not affiliated to CITU, with a request to send their remarks and comments before 30 June 1999. But, unfortunately, no state has sent their comments so far, in spite of a couple of reminders from the centre.

8.7 **Anganwadi:** The Anganwadi Federation has conducted a workshop on organisation on 9-10 October, '99 at Delhi which was attended by 28 comrades from 8 states. The workshop decided that the following steps should be taken to strengthen the unions in different states

8.7.1. State level workshops on organisation to be held in all the states before the end of January 2000.

8.7.2. Efforts to be made to develop functioning state centres and regular contact and coordination with CITU state committees.

8.7.3. Concentrate on cadre development.

8.8. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab have planned the workshops on organisation. State level classes have been held in some states like Haryana, and Maharashtra. Karnataka and AP will have classes in December. CITU State Committees should help anganwadi state committees to conduct the workshops on organisation and the classes.

8.9. The CITU should take initiative in the near future to organise a nationwide campaign for ensuring maternity benefit to all working women. The Indian Government has so far not ratified the ILO convention on Maternity benefit. If we unify the trade union movement on this pressing issue it is possible to organise a big movement of working women on this most pressing issue. The Working Committee members should give their suggestions in the matter so that we can take necessary initiative in the near future.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

9.1. The past few months following the last General Council meeting at Ghaziabad saw a significant growth of CITU's international relations. A number of CITU delegations took part during this period in international conferences and symposia organised in various countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. These meetings provided a good opportunity to our comrades to interact with the trade union functionaries of various countries and broaden our understanding on current issues confronting the world trade union movement.

9.2. MK Pandhe, General Secretary CITU, was a mem-

ber of the delegation to participate in the ILO Conference held from 1st to 17th June 1999 at Geneva. He participated in the Committee on Application of Labour Standards and spoke on several issues that came up for consideration in the meeting.

9.3 The Second International Conference Against Globalisation and Neo-liberalism, which was held at Rio-de-Janeiro (Brazil) from Sept 1-3 1999, was attended by a five-member delegation from CITU. The delegation was led by Sukomal Sen, General Secretary, All India State Govt Employees Association and TUI Public and Allied Employees and member of our Working Committee. Other members of the delegation were N M Sundaram, General Secretary, All India Insurance Employees Association, A K Padmanabhan, Secretary, CITU, K Gangadharan, President, Tamilnadu State Govt Employees Association and K V A Iyer, Secretary, Water Transport Workers Federation of India. The conference was hosted by Brazil's Central Unica dos Trabalhadores (CUT) which adopted a declaration renewing its confidence in the international consolidation of working class for launching strong worldwide actions against globalisation and neo-liberalism. Our delegation participated effectively in the entire deliberations of the conference.

9.4 The Committee for Asian Women (CAW) held a South Asia Sub-Regional Workshop on Women Workers' Participation in Workers' Organisations at Kathmandu, Nepal, from 20th to 24th Sept 1999, which was attended by 12 organisations including CITU from 5 countries. Nisha Ray, Working Committee member from West Bengal and A R Sindhu from the central office represented the CITU in the workshop. The workshop discussed problems of women workers in the organised and unorganised sectors and stressed the need for promoting more and more women activists to leading positions in the unions.

9.5 Eight member CITU delegation participated in the 1999 World Conference Against A & H Bombs held at Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan) from 3-9, August 1999. The delegation included K Karunakaran from the Tamilnadu State Committee of CITU, Muniyandi Duraipandian from the Tamilnadu Committee of the Confederation of Central Govt Employees and Vijayanand Y Kadam, A Thanga Raj, Rajender Kumar, Pradip Saha, Nibedita Bagchi and Samiran De, all from the Indian Airlines. Some of the delegation members also took part in the Peace March organised on the occasion. During their stay in Japan the CITU delegation met the functionaries of Zenroren, one of the major trade union centres of Japan and held friendly exchange of views with them. The CITU expressed gratitude for the hospitality extended to our delegation.

9.6 A joint workshop was organised for South Asian

trade unions in Dhaka by the Bangladesh Garment Workers and Employees Federation from 9-13 Sept 1999 on problems related to health, safety and occupational hazards in garment industry and labour rights. The workshop was attended by 10 delegates from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. T A Latha, Joint Convenor, Coordination Committee of Working Women, Tamilnadu, represented CITU in the workshop.

9.7 A two-member delegation of Construction Workers Federation of India (CITU) consisting of Gurupada Barman and Sudarshan Manna, participated in the 25th International Symposium of ISSA, Construction Section, which was held at Vienna (Austria) from 6-8 October 1999.

9.8 A three-member delegation from CITU participated in the International Conference of Trade Unions in the Oil and Natural Gas Sector held in Paris from 18-20 Oct, 1999. The delegation consisted of Swadesh Dev Roye, Secretary, CITU besides T S Rangarajan, and Swapanesh Mitra, both leaders of the oil sector workers from Tamilnadu and West Bengal. The conference was organised by CGT, France. Our delegation made important contribution in the deliberations of the conference.

9.9 Another CITU delegation participated in the World Trade Union Forum on Energy held in Grenoble (France) from 24-26 Oct 1999. The event was organised by the International Organisation of Energy and Mine Workers (IOEM) with active support from CGT. The CITU delegation to the forum comprised of W R Varada Rajan and Ardhendu Dakshi, both CITU Secretaries, S Kumar, President MP State CITU, G K Antony, Vice President, Kerala State Electricity Board Workers Union. W R Varada Rajan also represented CITU in the Conference of Iraqi Trade Union Federation to be held from 9-11 Nov in Baghdad.

9.10 Yet another CITU delegation took part in the international trade union conference viz Southern Initiative on Globalisation and Trade Union Rights (SIGTUR) held at Johannesburg (South Africa) from 25-29 Oct 1999. The members of the delegation comprised M K Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU, Chittabrata Majumdar, and M M Lawrence both Secretaries, CITU, Debanjan Chakraborty, General Secretary, Construction Workers Federation of India, Sadhan Kanjilal, General Secretary, FSUI, R C Dasgupta from SWFI, Somen Mukhopadhyay and Neera Thakur from Air Corporation Employees Union, R G Karnik, President, State Govt Employees Federation, and A K Brahmachari from National Confederation of Officers Association in Central PSUs (NCOA). Moreover, Gopal Adhikari, Amal Nayak and Apurba Kumar Das, all cultural activists in West Bengal trade unions, also accompanied the CITU delegation to give their performance.

9.11 A four member delegation of Egyptian Railway

Workers' Federation (ERWF) paid a five-day visit to Mumbai at the invitation of CITU from Oct 11 to 15, 1999. The delegation was led by Hussain Ali Ahmed Wahb, Vice President of ERWF and comprised of three other prominent leaders of Egyptian railwaymen namely Fathy Hebba El Sayed, Hosni Ali Mohammed Nabout and Rafaat E Metwally.

9.12. During their visit the delegation was given a warm reception by the HMS affiliated National Railway Mazdoor Union of the Central Railways and the Western Railway Employees Union. The delegation also paid a visit to the Maharashtra State Committee headquarters of CITU, where they exchanged views with the state leaders. Both sides shared concern about the dangers of unrestricted entry of transnational corporations in the economic and industrial spheres in the third world countries including India and Egypt.

9.13. M K Pandhe, as Vice Chairman of the National Safety Council of India attended a meeting of the Asia Pacific Organisation on Safety and Health held at Manila (Philippines) on 28-30 October 1999. He utilised the opportunity for having a discussion with the leadership KMU for strengthening the bilateral relations.

STREAMLINING OF OUR ORGANISATION

Dear Comrades,

10.1 As we have seen, the present situation calls for utmost intensification of the struggle which is being carried out for the past decade. Once again the CITU is required to play a vital role in organising the struggles and strengthening with wider sweep. In this context the question of upgrading the CITU organisation assumes great urgency.

10.2 Conscious of the historical role it is required to play in advancing most broadbased struggle of the working class, all toiling people, and all democratic forces, in the early nineties, the CITU realised the inadequacy of its organisation in shouldering the historical responsibilities and started the exercise to identify the weakness and shortcomings and to devise steps to overcome them in the shortest possible time. The Bhubaneswar resolution adopted in 1993 records the result of the exercise. It remained for the organisation to implement the task laid down in it. It was itself a great challenge and we must frankly admit that we have not met the challenge quite successfully.

10.3 Four years after the adoption of the Bhubaneswar document, we carried out a review of the progress of implementation of the task laid down in the document in the meeting of the working committee held in Shimla in Octo-

ber 1997. In the General Council meeting held in Chennai in April 1998 attention was once again drawn to the main points that emerged in the course of the review. While it was not intended to carry out a fresh review in the working committee meeting held in Ahmedabad in December 1998 it was announced that another round of detailed review with adequate preparation would be undertaken in a subsequent meeting. The State Committees and federations were advised to undertake their own review so as to provide the centre with necessary input for preparing an over all review report to serve as the basis for the proposed review discussion. Once again in the Report to the General Council meeting held at Ghaziabad in May 1999 a brief review of progress in the implementation of the Bhubaneswar document both at the central and the state levels as well as in the industry wise federation was presented. However, this was by no means the fullfledged review that was proposed to be undertaken in a subsequent meeting. Therefore, in the Ghaziabad meeting of the working committee itself the secretariat announced that a workshop on organisation would be organised shortly for the detailed review, and it was endorsed by the working committee. Accordingly, the Secretariat had tentatively decided to hold the workshop towards the month of February

10.4 As a preparatory measure, two questionnaires have been circulated, one for the states and the other for the industry wise federations to collect necessary information regarding the state of industries and the state of the CITU organisation including the federations. The state committees and the federations were requested to send reports on the basis of the questionnaires by 25th October so that some important points might be incorporated in the present report for a preliminary discussion in the working committee which would have helped us to identify the aspects are required to be paid most attention in the workshop. Regrettably till the 30th October only Assam State Committee and the Electricity Employees' Federation of India submitted the report. It is therefore not possible to provide in the present report, as originally planned, some sort of overview of the present position of the CITU organisation as well as of the federations. The West Bengal state committee has however expressed the feeling that the time given for preparing and sending the report on the basis of elaborate questionnaires was inadequate and therefore more time should be allowed. In any case the reports must reach the centre fairly in advance so as to enable it to properly process the information furnished for formulating the issues in a manner that would facilitate a fruitful discussion in the ensuing workshop on organisation. However, it may be useful to briefly refer in the present report to some of our main weaknesses for a preliminary discussion in the light of the analysis of the Bhubaneswar resolution.

10.5 The document noted that after an initial growth spurt lasting for several years, the CITU Organisation was showing signs of stagnation. It has limited spread, it is weak in some states which have developed modern industry, it does not have significant strength in some important big industries. Over the past years it could not make any considerable progress in expanding itself territorially as well as industry wise. The membership has failed to record the desired increase; similar is the case with the number of affiliated unions. To play its historical role the CITU must emerge much stronger in all respects. In the workshop we are to examine what step we took in terms of the Bhubaneshwar document, what has been our experience, and what steps we are to take in future.

10.6 The Bhubaneshwar document elaborately discussed the various weaknesses in the functioning of the different organs of CITU such as the state committees, the district committees, the affiliated unions and the federations, detected in the course of discussion on organisation, which are among other factors, are responsible for the tendency towards stagnation. In the first place, the document emphasised the importance of broad trade union democracy which requires involvement of the general workers and ordinary members in the decision making process, their involvement in day to day working of the unions. It seems that this point dealt with very sharply in Com. BTR's concluding speech in the foundation conference of CITU, in the Bhubaneshwar document and later in the commission document adopted by the Kochi conference of CITU has not been taken up seriously for implementation anywhere.

10.7 The document further underlined the importance of democratic and collective functioning of CITU organs including the affiliated unions. According to the document, democratic and collective functioning demands, among other things, constant sharing of information at the leadership or the secretariat level, sharing of job, collective checkup and review, frequent meetings of state committees, councils, district committees with sufficient duration allowing all members to fully express their views, written report by the Secretariat/Secretary, circulation of decisions, attendance by all members proper and organisational effort and mechanism to involve common workers/members in decision making/implementation process and so on. Exchange of reports between higher and lower levels was considered to be of great importance.

10.8 It has been observed that there was improvement in some states and federations in respect of frequency of meetings, attendance, circulation of decision etc. Not all states recorded such improvement and so far the improvement, where it has at all taken place, is hardly any thing but marginal. More over it is not clear whether the improvement that took place is sustaining.

10.9 The document attached great importance to ideological work, trade union education and cadre development with special emphasis on recruiting from minority community and SC/ST. Little has so far been done in this regard by the Centre as well as by the states.

10.10 The document urged for more attention being paid by the centre to the weaker states particularly those in the Hindi belt. It demanded special attention to the task of organising the working women. Some steps have of course been taken in regard to both, by the centre in respect of the former and both by the centre and some of the states in regard to the latter. As far as Hindi belt is concerned some improvement is observed in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. Most glaring weak point however is the most important state in Hindi belt, Uttar Pradesh. Maharashtra and Gujrat, the major bases of modern industry do not seem to be showing signs of improvement.

10.11 Another area of our failure is the circulation of our journal and other publications. Though there has been some improvement in the quality of our journals, there has not been any notable increase in its circulation. The circulation of the Hindi edition, the CITU Mazdoor, has actually gone down. Booklets on subjects of current interest pile up at the central office. Large number of copies are found in some state committee offices also lying unsold. Large sum on account of publications remain outstanding. There are instances of sales proceeds being spent instead of sending them to the centre.

10.12 Still another area where our failure is glaring is that of submission of returns and affiliation fees of the unions to the Centre. In spite of repeated hammering there has not been any significant improvement. It is not only the unions which are to blame. Even the fees sent to the State Committees are retained there for inordinately long time while the Centre suffers from shortage of funds.

10.13 What should worry us most is the percolation of alien class ideology amongst us at different levels. Individual style of functioning still constitutes a grave danger towards democratic functioning of the mass organisation. Undesirable trends are also seen operating in the organisation which, if, not checked, would corrode the entire organisational fabric. All these aspects need our immediate attention if the vitality and militancy of our organisation is to be preserved.

10.14 These are some of the instances of our failure in implementing the Bhubaneshwar document. The list is by no means exhaustive. There are many other areas of failure which have come up for discussion some time or other. However, in the proposed workshop our main object will be to examine in depth the causes of our failure to implement the tasks, particularly those of more basic nature. While participating in the discussion in the present

meeting all comrades must contribute towards identification of the issues requiring attention in the workshop. A successful workshop will doubtless put the organisation on a rapid growth path ending the current phase of relative stagnation.

ON MEMBERSHIP

11.1. The process of verification of membership of central trade union organisation has been initiated by the Government of India. The last date for submission of claims by the Central TUs has been fixed for 30th November 1999. Continuously our State Committees were being posted with the latest position of membership which is given as Annexure I.

11.2 This is another area of concern where our state committees failed to respond satisfactorily. As a result, CITU's membership for the year 1997, which is the cut off year for verification, stands at 26,14,475. Even 1995, 1996 membership is better than 1997, when in fact as per individual state reports the CITU membership should be around 30 lakhs.

11.3. However, our State Committees will have to ensure that atleast our affiliated unions should maintain their records properly and participate in the ensuing verification to substantiate our claim.

11.4. This brings to the other aspect. The affiliation fees. The 1998 record shows that we have received only 7,13,222 membership. Moneywise, it is only Rs 3.5 lakhs. Against the backdrop of our expenditure in the coming days 0.50 paise membership fee itself is very less and non-collection in time makes financial condition critical still. Considering the huge expenditure in coming days I had suggested in my report to the General Council that the membership fee should be increased to Re 1 per member. The matter has already been discussed in the meeting. The State Committees were asked to send suggestions in this regard but since no suggestion has come. A constitution amendment will have to be passed to be placed in the next CITU Conference for increase in membership from 0.50 pm to Re 1/-. There was also the proposal for dual rate of affiliation fee for unorganised and organised workers. We should take a final decision in the matter so that notice can be given for amending the Constitution prior to our next conference to be held at Hyderabad in December 2000.

ON B T R MEMORIAL FUND

12.1 Last time, I had reported that the construction work of BTR Bhawan now is complete. I am happy to announce today that we have planned for its inauguration on 19th December 1999 i.e. on the birthday of Com.BTR. In all

probability Com.Jyoti Basu will be inaugurating the same. I take this opportunity to invite the Working Committee members to attend the inaugural function.

12.2. I had been reporting for the past so many meetings that once we shift to our new building our expenditure is going to increase substantially. Currently, our monthly expenditure is around Rs 1,10,000. Immediately due to water, electricity, rent, taxes and other activities, our monthly expenditure is going to increase by 40-50 thousand rupees. As against this, our collection, the only source being the affiliation fees, is on the average around Rs 1,00,000 per month. This leaves a wide gap.

12.3 Time and again we have been stressing on the need for fulfilling the collection towards BTR fund so that a corpus fund could have been created and kept as fixed deposit so that we could have utilised the monthly interest to cope with our expenses. But it is unfortunate that only about 50% of the agreed quota has been collected so far and that too in 4 years (See table Annexure II).

12.4. This is a matter of deep concern. The saddest part is that due to paucity of funds we could not complete interior work and fittings. If we do not think seriously even now, then we shall be put in great difficulty. We should ponder over it seriously. Several bills are yet to be paid amounting to about Rs 20 lakhs to the contractors. Unless state committees cooperate with the CITU centre it will be difficult for the CITU centre to discharge its responsibilities.

12.5 We have also decided to plan a research centre on TU movement and to establish a trade union school as a part of the activities of BTR Memorial Trust. Unless the quota is fulfilled by the state units we will be faced with serious problem in undertakings these activities.

12.6 I hope while speaking on the General Secretary's report state leaders will speak about their plans to complete the target of collection of funds for BTR Memorial Trust. Meanwhile by 19th December we will require at least Rs 20 lakhs to meet the immediate essential requirements of shifting the CITU centre to the new building.

THE NATIONAL CALAMITY IN ORISSA

Comrades,

13.1 While we are meeting in Jaipur, the people of coastal Orissa are still suffering from the cyclone tragedy in which thousands of people have perished and scores of thousands have been uprooted from their houses. Despite incalculable loss suffered by the people of Orissa, the Govt. of India has not declared this as a National Calamity or extended necessary assistance to meet the acute difficulties faced by the people. The conditions have become so

serious that looting of shops and materials have started in several areas. While demanding immediate assistance for Orissa we should also extend necessary assistance to the acute sufferings, through which the people of Orissa are passing today. West Bengal State Committee of CITU has already contributed Rs.2 lakhs while Tamil Nadu State Committee has already sent Rs.25000/-. I am sure that all other State Committees will come forward and do their best in extending the much desired relief to the people of Orissa who are urgently crying for such help.

OUR IMMEDIATE TASKS:

14.1 This meeting of the Working Committee is extremely important since its outcome will decide the future course of our movement. Our efforts to build all-in-unity of the working class to oppose the policies of globalisation must continue and we must widen and strengthen this unity further so that bigger struggles can be launched by us in the forthcoming period.

14.2 In order to mobilise millions of workers and the toiling people in the common struggle, we have to organise a massive campaign of education of the working class on the disastrous effects of globalisation. It is necessary to counter all capitalist propaganda about the virtues of globalisation so that the working class is ideologically prepared for a joint movement to resist the offensive of globalisation. Despite severe discontentment of the working class, our strength of the movement and mobilisation does not appear to be sufficiently wide and strong to defeat the policy of globalisation. Though the earlier euphoria of globalisation has come down, people are still being hoodwinked by the media propaganda that without globalisation, no progress is possible. To channelise discontentment among the people, there is an urgent need for effective leadership and the CITU has to carry forward the task to give that leadership. It is also necessary to involve larger and larger number of women in the struggle against globalisation.

14.3 With rising prices of essential commodities, the living standard of the working class is getting eroded very fast. However, within the trade union movement, attempts are being made to demoralise the working class by creating an impression that we cannot fight globalisation. They argue that in all the countries of the world including some of the former socialist countries, globalisation has come to stay. Therefore, they argue that, we cannot effectively fight globalisation and we should accept this as fait accompli. The CITU units must equip themselves with necessary information to counter this propaganda so that the working class in India assumes effective role in resisting the efforts of the World Bank and IMF. If the State Committees and the Industrial Federations launched a vigorous campaign among the masses against the poli-

cies of the globalisation, they will be able to involve sizeable sections of the working class in the common struggle that hit their standard of life. One of the reasons for our inability to organise bigger mass actions arise from the fact that a section of our cadres are not having close link with the masses. They are giving emphasis on symbolic actions and not involving larger and larger sections of the working class in the mainstream of struggle.

14.4 We have to equip our cadres with knowledge so as to make them competent to bring all our membership against globalisation in common actions. Unfortunately, we see that today even all our members do not participate in the actions called by us. We must seriously ponder over this weakness and ensure that all the membership of the CITU is made active to participate in these struggles. Our cadres must also be equipped to involve rank and file workers of other organisations in our struggle so that our own rank and file members will also strengthen the massive character of our movement. We should also try to involve all rank and file members of other allies of the movements.

14.5 If our movement becomes all pervasive and powerful, it will create an impact even among the ruling partners in the ruling combine and some of them may even find it difficult to justify the policy of the govt. before their own ranks. Therefore, our efforts must be directed to build such a broad-based unity involving participation of even those workers who have not joined our movement so far. We will also have to lay special emphasis on the involvement of other constituents of National Platform of Mass Organisations in common struggles so that their effective involvement in the struggles will make a sweep of our struggle much wider. In order to achieve this objective, our State Committees and Industrywise Federations must build industry level, state level, district level and local level unity and united forums so that every corner of our country get involved in the action programme that would be chalked out at the national level. The State Committees and the Industry level federations have to play an important and crucial role in wider involvement of masses in action programmes.

14.6 We also have to prepare psychologically the masses for a long drawn struggle and create confidence in their minds that if they fight with determination they can achieve success in the legitimate struggle.

14.7. The task of exposing the reactionary character of the communal and divisive forces of Indian society cannot be underestimated. The RSS ideology is finding its way among the working class and they are trying to divert the attention of the working class from the real class issues. The BJP's penetration in bureaucracy and other forums of executives is leading to suppression of legitimate struggles of the working class. If their ideology is

allowed to further penetrate in the working class, the unity of the country itself will be seriously threatened. Our struggle against economic policy will suffer severe setback if the communal propoganda is not counteracted effectively by the working class. If, however, our economic struggles are made broadbased, the workers under the influence of communal forces can also be drawn in the common struggle against globalisation. Therefore, the struggle against structural adjustment and against communalism cannot be separated. The struggle against the communal ideology and the disruptive game of the communal forces must be carried on by the working class side by side with the struggle against globalisation. The CITU must vigorously campaign against the pernicious communalism to ensure wider mobilisation of the working class and the toiling masses in the struggle against globalisation.

14.8 The working class and the toiling masses all over the world are reeling round the path of struggles as was clearly seen in several International Conferences of Trade

Unions organised in the recent past. Even the World Bank and the IMF in their recent document are admitting lack of success in their programmes and indirectly pointing out that the structural adjustment programme has not received the desired results. Therefore, the possibility of defeating the IMF-World Bank dictated policies are made real provided we rise to the occasion and mobilise many times more masses in our programme of actions.

14.9 I expect that the working committee member will contribute during their discussions on this report how in their states they will be able to organise these struggles more effectively.

14.10 The fight of the working class must be strengthened in the near future with greater determination and with the support of other sections of the toiling masses we can definitely march forward to defeat globalisation and achieve both self-reliance and social progress when the country is entering the new millennium.

With greetings,

M.K.Pandhe
General Secretary

STATEMENT SHOWING STATEWISE MEMBERSHIP AS PER ANNUAL RETURN RECEIVED
TILL 08.11.1999

Name of state	Unions Submitting Returns				Position of membership according to annual returns	
	96	97	98	1996	1997	1998
Andaman & Nicobar	6	8	1	2059(-)	2048(-)	275(-)
A.P.	676	755	388	191802(37083)	222675(45024)	110575(30066)
Assam	75	77	66	38315(9953)	42088(11717)	33040(11022)
Bihar	29	27	15	42557(6234)	37940(5595)	12649(259)
Delhi	65	57	15	43296(1842)	41069(1804)	6204(588)
Goa	6	7	1	2583(-)	2431(139)	481(08)
Gujarat	16	16	2	11211(714)	14660(232)	1687(28)
Haryana	19	19	-	18559(4419)	21753(5958)	-----
H.P.	23	20	9	6002(2843)	5386(2341)	2764(-)
J&K	1	1	1	550(9)	572(12)	469(12)
Karnataka	73	69	09	55466(23728)	60390(29765)	12314(1641)
Kerala	833	770	216	767224(194372)	771946(206481)	225673(505579)
M.P.	44	67	44	27862(4300)	25583(3958)	9188(982)
Mahara-shtra	19	26	12	26594(7720)	29955(3212)	18268(1020)
Orissa	26	34	10	20966(3944)	21027(4613)	3172(385)
Punjab	69	53	21	53598(97)	36987(203)	35124(110)
Rajasthan	43	62	17	31221(290)	34301(275)	3273(16)
Tamilnadu	411	423	3	208495(21992)	241136(25225)	36336(1997)
Tripura	24	19	1	36372(3018)	33861(2197)	7175(2870)
U.P.	67	80	74	27586(193)	19384(171)	20273(345)
W.B.	920	769	333	1083405(75071)	951305(74396)	174282(40971)
	3445	3359	1238	2695723(397822)	2616297(423318)	713222(142899)

Total No. of Unions submitting Annual Returns		Memberhsip as per return
1983	1854	1890993
1984	2005	1575655
1985	1717	1716457 (132536) Figures in bracket indicates
1986	2412	1844273 (209348) Female Membership
1987	2350	1680884 (206482)
1988	2618	1919280 (264507)
1989	3114	2425000 (247388)
1990	2934	2095550 (245060)
1991	2783	2088218 (291228)
1992	3343	2381012 (321620)
1993	3156	2371405 (306344)
1994	3198	2470131 (261980)
1995	3512	2784050 (358188)

BTR MEMORIAL FUND

STATEWISE BREAK UP OF RECEIPTS (UPTO 7.11.99)

Name of the State Committee	Amount Received	Committed Amount
WEST BENGAL	Rs. 5,541,615.00	Rs. 10,000,000.00
ANDHRA PRADESH	Rs. 370,165.50	Rs. 1,500,000.00
ASSAM	Rs. 64,180.00	Rs. 500,000.00
BIHAR	Rs. 74,522.00	Rs. 800,000.00
DELHI	Rs. 100,930.00	Rs. 200,000.00
KERALA	Rs. 2,742,500.00	Rs. 5,000,000.00
M.P.	Rs. 13,842.00	Rs. 200,000.00
ORISSA	Rs. 23,608.50	Rs. 500,000.00
PUNJAB	Rs. 447,152.00	Rs. 1,000,000.00
RAJASTHAN	Rs. 300,615.00	Rs. 500,000.00
TAMILNADU	Rs. 562,580.00	Rs. 3,000,000.00
TRIPURA	Rs. 30,280.00	Rs. 500,000.00
KARNATAKA	Rs. 210,016.00	Rs. 700,000.00
H.P.	Rs. 8,756.00	Rs. 200,000.00
HARYANA	Rs. 40,750.00	Rs. 200,000.00
MAHARASHTRA	Rs. 211,182.00	Rs. 1,000,000.00
U.P.	Rs. 151,750.00	Rs. 500,000.00
GOA	Rs. 50,000.00	Rs. 150,000.00
GUJRAT	Rs. 12,000.00	Rs. 100,000.00
A & N	Rs. 5,000.00	
INDIVIDUALS/UNION/FEDERATIONS	Rs. 296,174.00	
BANK UNIONS/FEDERATIONS	Rs. 403,149.00	
INSURANCE AIIEA	Rs. 143,500.00	
AISGEF	Rs. 631,670.00	
TOTAL	Rs. 12,435,937.00	Rs. 26,550,000.00

RECEIPTS SINCE 29TH MAY, 1999

Textile workers union, Haryana	Rs. 12,000.00	Central Med. & Sales Rep. Union, Assam	Rs. 8,500.00
Lal Jhanda Bhatta mazdoor Union, Haryana	Rs. 5,000.00	Canara Bank Staff Union, Mumbai	Rs. 500.00
Com. Darshan Singh, Haryana	Rs. 500.00	Rubber Workers Union, Haryana	Rs. 8,500.00
Com. Narsingh Sorath, Haryana	Rs. 500.00	Com. Uma Shankar Shukla, Bihar	Rs. 500.00
Com. Subhas Mistri, Haryana	Rs. 500.00	Fire Bricks & Ceremics Kamgar Union, Bihar	Rs. 500.00
Com. Sri Ram, Haryana	Rs. 100.00	Com. Ajoy Mukherjee, Bhilai	Rs. 1,000.00
Sri Tek Chand, Haryana	Rs. 500.00	Com. A.K. Velayudhan, Calicut	Rs. 250.00
A.P. State Committee of CITU	Rs. 33,570.00	Hinterland Seamen union, Port Blair	Rs. 5,000.00
Orissa State Committee Of CITU	Rs. 1,000.00	North Gujrat General Labour Assn. Sidpur	Rs. 2,000.00
Com. Chandra Sekhar Paswan, Bihar	Rs. 1,000.00	BHEL R & D Staff Workers Union, Hyderabad	Rs. 1,000.00
W.B. State Committee of CITU	Rs. 200,000.00	Com. Vishwanath Singh, Bihar	Rs. 500.00
CITU Centre against collection	Rs. 0.00	Com. Ramesh Pd. Singh, Bihar	Rs. 500.00
Com. K. Hemlatha	Rs. 2,500.00	Centre of Working Class (BEML), Kolar	Rs. 3,000.00
Com. M.K. Kamalamma	Rs. 2,500.00	J.C. Mill Emp. Union, Gwalior	Rs. 600.00
Com. P. Rosa	Rs. 3,500.00	Krishna Gramin Bank Emp. Union, Karnataka	Rs. 25,000.00
Com. Rukhshana	Rs. 3,500.00	Kamdar Pragatisheel Mandal, Gujrat	Rs. 1,000.00
Com. Ranjana	Rs. 2,500.00	Geoffrey Manners Emp. Union, Bihar	Rs. 100.00
Com. A.R. Sindhu	Rs. 1,500.00	A.P. State Committee of CITU	Rs. 53,157.50
Com. Selvan Gorki, Tamilnadu	Rs. 200.00	Anand Kheda Zilla Factory Kamdar Union, Gujrat	Rs. 6,000.00
Com. Hemlatha, CITU Centre	Rs. 2,200.00	Nandeswari Vibhag Kamdar Karmachari Union, Gujrat	Rs. 2,000.00
W.B. State Committee of CITU	Rs. 3,000.00	Vadodara Zila General Kamdar Union, Gujrat	Rs. 1,000.00
T.T.D. Transport Bangalore	Rs. 1,800.00	Orissa State Committee of CITU	Rs. 250.00
Kerala State Committee of CITU	Rs. 100,000.00	Total	Rs. 498,927.50
G. Janardhana Rao, Hyderabad	Rs. 200.00	Receipts Upto 15.5.99 (Ghaziabad G.C. Meeting)	Rs. 11,937,009.50
		Total (Upto 7.11.99)	Rs. 12,435,937.00

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

COM VIMAL RANADIVE

This working committee meeting of CITU being held on 13-16 November 99 at Jaipur deeply mourns the sad demise of Comrade Vimal Ranadive, Secretary, CITU and Convenor of All India Co-ordination Committee of Working Women (AICCCWW) at Mumbai on 24th July 99. She was 84.

Born on 10th April 1915 in Maharashtra, Vimaldi, as she was affectionately called by comrades and friends, plunged into the freedom struggle at an early age. As a young student of 16 years she joined the civil disobedience movement and was jailed several times. During the freedom movement, Vimaldi led popular struggles in Bombay and in the state of Maharashtra, mobilising mass of women as well. She took active part in the general strike of Bombay Textile Workers in 1939 and from then on dedicatedly served the trade union movement.

She also took part in the militant working class struggle in Bombay in solidarity with the historic Naval Mutiny in 1946.

Com. Vimal Ranadive was married in 1939 to late Com. B T Ranadive, a stalwart of the communist movement. Together they worked for over 50 years in the revolutionary movement sharing all the difficulties of underground life and imprisonment as well.

She joined the undivided communist party of India in 1942 and later, Communist Party of India (Marxist). She was elected to the Central Committee of the CPI(M) in 1988 in which capacity she served until death and set a shining example of a foremost woman communist leader of the country. After the formation of CITU she became its General Council member in 1973 and then became all India secretary of CITU in 1987. When CITU took the initiative in organising the working women in the frontline of trade union movement, Com. Vimaldi took up the responsibility of steering the All India Coordination Committee of Working Women as its convenor. She took initiative in organising the Anganwadi workers and formed their All India Federation of Anganwadi workers and helpers. She was convenor of Joint Committee of

Anganwadi unions of various affiliations. She was also the President of the All India Plantation Workers Federation. Com. Vimal Ranadive was, till recently, the Vice President of All India Democratic Women's Association.

This Working Committee meeting of CITU remembers with reverence her steadfast adherence to the spirit of class struggle and her single minded devotion to the cause of the working class in general and women workers in particular.

The CITU dips its banner in homage to Com. Vimal Ranadive and pledges to carry forward the tasks for which she dedicated her entire life. The working committee conveys its heartfelt condolences to her son, daughter in law and 2 grand sons.

COM SAROJ CHOWDHURY

This Working Committee meeting of CITU held in Jaipur from 13-16 November 1999 expresses its deep sorrow at the sudden passing away of Com. Saroj Chowdhury on 16th June 1999 at Calcutta at the age of 72.

Com. Saroj Chowdhury, who was the treasurer of CITU for one term started his life in trade union movement as an employee of Hindustan Insurance Company and engaged himself in organising the insurance employees' trade union. He was one of the architects of All India Insurance Employees Association, which commands the support of the overwhelming majority of Insurance employees all over the country. As a leader of Insurance Employees he also contributed to the struggle for nationalisation of insurance sector.

As a frontline leader and organiser of the trade union movement on all India plane, comrade Saroj Chowdhury played important role in building up the unity of the trade union movement and also spreading class consciousness through experience of struggle. As a member of the All India Secretariat of CITU, he also played important role in united movement of the working class against the economic policies of the Government of India. His death is an irreparable loss to the trade union movement in India.

The CITU pays its respectful homage to Com.Saroj Chowdhury and offers its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

ON CONDOLENCE

This Working Committee meeting of CITU being held in Jaipur on 13-16 November 1999 offers its respectful homage to Com.Saroj Vashist, one of the most militant woman activists and state committee member of Haryana CITU who was brutally murdered along with her 6 year old daughter in Rohtak. This meeting pays its respect to Com.Manik Jha a veteran communist leader, Com.Pranati Bhattacharya, West Bengal State Secretariat member of AIDWA, Com.Dilip Sengupta, Vice President of West Bengal—Gana Natya Sangha, Com.Ayodhya Singh, a veteran freedom fighter and communist leader and prominent leftwing journalist and writer-editor of Swadhinata, Com.Durgadevi Vohra, a renowned freedom fighter and other leaders of the TU and democratic movement who breathed their last during this intervening period since Ghaziabad General Council meeting.

HOMAGE TO MARTYRS

This Working Committee meeting of CITU held at Jaipur on 13-16 November 1997 pays its respectful homage to all those who laid down their lives in the struggle championing the cause of the toiling people as well as against separatist, divisive and communal forces safeguarding the unity of the people and integrity of the country.

The meeting pays its respectful homage to the martyrs of the Indian armed forces who laid down their lives at Kargil, defending the the country against intrusion of Pakistani forces.

The meeting recalls the towering determination with which innumerable comrades of the democratic movement as also the leaders, cadres and activists of the trade union, peasants, agricultural labour, women, youth and student movements who have embraced martyrdom confronting the heinous and ghastly attacks of the political gangsters, the police and the employer sponsored hoodlums.

This meeting expresses deep anguish over the barbaric police action on workers of Manjola Tea Estate, Tirunelveli who were demanding fair wages. It also ex-

presses shock and condemns the brutal killing of Chilka fisherman by police and local administration. Their sacrifice will remain a constant source of inspiration in our fight against injustice and oppression.

The meeting respectfully remembers the comrades who fell victim to the ghastly attacks of RSS, TUJS, Trinamool Congress gangsters and anti-socials sponsored by employer-landlord class in UP, Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, Kerala and elsewhere in the country, upholding the cause of the democratic movement.

This Working Committee of CITU expresses its deep shock and sorrow at the tragic Railway accidents of GT Express and another at Gaisal and conveys its condolences to the bereaved family members of the victims of the tragedy.

APPEAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CYCLONE VICTIMS IN ORISSA

The devastating cyclone that has struck Orissa recently has been a national calamity. The intensity and extensive nature was such that almost one third of Orissa is fully devastated even after 15 days, remain cut off from the rest of the country. Thousands of people appear to have lost their lives and several thousands have been uprooted from their villages and towns. Damage to property is unimaginable.

This Working Committee meeting of CITU held in Jaipur on 13-16 November expresses its deep sense of sorrow at the death of thousands of cyclone victims and considers it a bounden duty to rush to the aid of the suffering people of Orissa and appeals to the working class in general and to CITU comrades in particular to ensure material and monetary relief to the affected people of Orissa. CITU appeals to all its state committees and affiliates to raise funds immediately for the cyclone affected people and send the same to CITU centre.

When such a great calamity has taken place, the BJP Government has not been prompt in giving necessary relief to the affected people. This has resulting in riots and looting in several places. While expressing dismay at the Govt's reluctance to declare the Orissa situation as national calamity, CITU urges upon the Govt of India to extend all required monetary material assistance to restore the cyclone-devastated Orissa to normalcy and for rendering all support to disaster-stricken population.

15, TALKATORA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

Receipts

Opening Cash and cheques in hand	Rs. 101,325.21
Cash at Bank	Rs. 436,641.25
Affiliation Fee	Rs. 918,083.10
Bank Interest	Rs. 10,875.00
BTR Book Sale	Rs. 6,521.00
Donation	Rs. 246,600.10
Misc. Receipts	Rs. 661.00
Publication Sale	Rs. 13,190.25
B.T.R. Trust	Rs. 62,257.50
C.P.S.T.U	Rs. 878.00
Suspense	Rs. 500.00
CITU Mazdoor Income	Rs. 105,030.00
VWW Income	Rs. 125,184.00
Working Class Income	Rs. 109,155.00

Exp.	Rs 14,369.00
charges	Rs. 3,105.00
Meeting Exp.	Rs. 25,272.00
ance Exp.	Rs. 32,563.00
tion Exp.	Rs. 650.00
ity & Water Bill	Rs. 88,008.00
ssets	Rs. 3,000.00
l Council Meeting Exp.	Rs. 9,993.00
l Exp.	Rs. 7,064.40
xp.	Rs. 9,598.20
A/c	Rs. 5,495.00
iodical & Books	Rs. 17,208.50
xp.	Rs. 46,969.80
delegation Exp.	Rs. 3,000.00
Bill	Rs. 97,999.00
xp.	Rs. 52,472.50
tion Exp.	Rs. 39,120.00
tax Exp.	Rs. 72,552.00
& Maintainance Exp.	Rs. 45,860.00
ery & print Exp.	Rs. 32,526.00
ffin Exp.	Rs. 11,969.90
nion Workshop Exp.	Rs. 9,637.00
ng Exp.	Rs. 22,599.00
Maintainance Exp.	Rs. 16,114.00
	Rs. 291,675.00
g Committee Meeting Exp.	Rs. 450.00
Advance	Rs. 11,500.00
azdoor Exp.	Rs. 129,671.75
xp.	Rs. 63,424.00
g Class Exp.	Rs. 137,240.50
Hand	Rs. 35,220.91
Bank	Rs. 800,573.95

Rs. 21,36,901.41

Rs. 21,36,901.41