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PRIME MINISTER'S INTERFACE WITH TRADE UNIONS

The Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, along with the Union Labour Minister Sahib Singh Verma, met the representatives of all the Central Trade Unions on 18th October 2002. At the recently concluded 38th Indian Labour Conference (28-29 September, 2002) all the trade unions were vociferous in their criticism of the Government hobnobbing with the employers' lobby in formulating the anti-people anti-national policies. This might have prompted the Prime Minister to have an interface with the central trade union.

The leaders who attended the meeting included P K Ganguly(CITU), Gurudas Dasgupta(AITUC), Umraomal Purohit(HMS), G Sanjeeva Reddy(INTUC), Hasubhai Dave(BMS), Sunil Sengupta(UTUC) and Achintya Sinha(UTUC-LS). In the meeting, the trade unions recalled that on an earlier occasion, in the face of the notice served for two-days' countrywide strike in the PSUs against privatisation in the year 2000, the Prime Minister had given commitment in a similar meeting, that henceforth he would meet all the central trade unions at least once in every six months to discuss the policy matters. That commitment did never materialise. But, the Govt. and the Prime Minister have been closely associating with the employers' lobby and

declaring important policy decisions from their fora. The unions also pointed out to the grievous impact of the so-called reform process on the economy. There was continuous decline in almost all the sectors of the economy, including manufacturing and agriculture; job losses and unemployment were increasing; thoughtless downsizing and reckless selling off of the profit making PSUs, with their huge asset base, was going on; every privatisation deal smacked of horrendous scam, through deliberate under valuation; even the CAG had to make stringent comments on those gross irregularities. All the trade union leaders raised their opposition to such anti-people policies and demanded their reversal. The trade union movement has already been on the move, preparing for countrywide agitation against such anti-people policies.

The trade unions also voiced their strong opposition to the recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour, which has prescribed a hire and fire regime and wholesale contractorisation in all kinds of jobs, besides attacking the trade union rights. It was also pointed out that there was some expression of pious intention for an umbrella legislation for unorganised sector workers, but the recommendations in that regard were merely indicative and extremely vague. The unions demanded a thorough going discussion before any step or action on the report is even conceived by the Govt.

The Prime Minister responded to the points raised by the Trade Unions with just a reassurance to have further talks with the trade unions on the policy matters such as disinvestment and labour related issues. The Prime Minister, while expressing concern on the unemployment situation, called for suggestions from the trade unions on remedial measures. The trade unions promptly responded by suggesting reversal of the ongoing economic policy both in content and direction. The Union Labour Minister conveyed that the trade unions would be consulted on the recommendations of the Second National Commission Labour.

ON OTHER PAGES

1. Prime Minister's Interface with Trade Unions P - 2
2. United Challenges by Trade Unions - *W R Varada Rajan* P - 4
3. Conclusions of Indian Labour Conference P - 7
4. AIFAWH Call: Reorient, Expand, Consolidate - *Hemalata* P - 8
5. China's Impressive Economic Growth: A Fact Sheet - *W R Varada Rajan* P - 12
6. October Revolution - *M K Pandhe* P - 11
7. On Privatisation Scandal P - 14
8. Gupta Panel on Targeting Employment P - 16
9. Downright Treachery and Fraud - *S Dev Roye* P - 18
10. Report & Events From Page 20
11. Price Index P - 26
12. State Wide Strike in Tamilnadu P - 27

THE WORKING CLASS

CITU MONTHLY

NOVEMBER 2002

HERE & NOW | Sudhir Tailang



The nation will heave a sigh of relief if the Togadias and Singhals had a sore throat!

Courtesy: Hindustan Times

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EDITORIAL

A DASTARDLY KILLING

On the *Dussera* day, 15th October 2002, five persons all hailing from the *dalit* community have been lynched to death in open daylight by the VHP/Bajrang dal activists at Jhajjar district of Haryana in active connivance with the police.

The victims, all licensed dealers in animal skins, were carrying skins of dead cows in a canter on 15th October 2002, when police intercepted them. It was reported that the police asked for bribe over which there had been some verbal altercation. Following that, the police took all of them into custody, along with the vehicle. Incidentally, the VHP/Bajrang dal have been carrying on a month long campaign, around the *Dussera* day, on "protection of cows (*Gomata*)". The police reportedly passed on the information of the arrest of five *dalits* with animal skin, following which a gang armed with lethal weapon, led by the local VHP/Bajrang dal activists arrived at the police chowki. The gang dragged the victims out from the police custody and beat them to death on the road, right in front of the police.

There is a further shocking revelation. It was also gathered from the local sources that the police beat one of those five arrested to death, while they were held in custody itself. Thereafter, to escape from the criminal charge of custodial torture to death, the police informed the VHP goons to give it a colour of mob-violence, for which the four others had to lose their lives.

This dastardly killing of the *dalits* by the *sangh parivar* outfits in complicity with the local police administration deserves downright condemnation. Immediate arrest of the VHP/Bajrang dal miscreants responsible for the murderous act and also awarding exemplary punishment to the police officials of the concerned police-outpost of the Jajjar district is the least that is expected of the Haryana Government.

This is not an isolated incident. This is nothing but part of the aggressive *hindutva* agenda pursued by the *sangh parivar*, which condemns the *dalits* to the most inhuman and horrendous existence. For them the carcass of a dead cow is more valuable than the lives of human beings, if such humans happen to be *dalits*!

The working class has to raise its voice against this scourge. The *dalits* constitute the most economically exploited and socially oppressed section of our class. Defending their lives and livelihood and rooting out the rank communal prejudice perpetrated by the hindu fundamentalist forces represented by the *sangh parivar* is a paramount task before the working class and the trade union movement.

UNITED CHALLENGE BY TRADE UNIONS

W.R.VARADA RAJAN

The present NDA Government delayed convening of the annual session of the apex tripartite forum in the country viz. Indian Labour Conference (ILC), normally held in the second quarter of every year, till September last. When the session was slated to be held on 2-3 September, 2002, it was postponed due to indisposition of the Minister of Labour. This deferment was utilised by the Government to include the Report of the Second National Commission on Labour (SNCL) as an additional item of agenda for the 38th session of the ILC, when it met at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 28-29 September. The Standing Committee on Labour (SLC) had decided the other items of the agenda comprising impact of globalisation, disinvestments, problems of small-scale sector and social safety net. The Government proposal was to discuss these items in four different committees on the first day and take up the SNCL Report in the plenary session on the second day. The Government move was to secure some sort of a green signal from the tripartite forum for a go-ahead on implementation of the Report of the Second National Commission on Labour. The leaders of all the central trade unions, who met at the INTUC office on 27th September decided to stoutly oppose the

unilateral move of the Government to dispose of the SNCL Report in just one plenary session lasting a few hours. They met the Minister of Labour, Sahib Singh Verma, the same evening and conveyed their protest.

The CITU pointed out that the copy of the Report was itself made available to the Central Trade Unions only towards the end of the first week of September, 2002. The Ministry of Labour circulated an agenda paper on this item, which only incorporated certain brief highlights of the main recommendations of the Commission on select topics. The agenda paper had not even framed the issues for deliberations on this subject. The report of the SNCL is so voluminous and covers a very vast area. Contending that it would not be possible to have an in depth debate on this report in just one plenary session in the ILC, the CITU urged that a special tripartite session be convened for an exclusive debate on the Report of the SNCL.

NO TO LABOUR PANEL

Yet, the Government placed the commission report for discussion in the ILC. The Prime Minister while inaugurating the ILC claimed that the Commission report had endorsed 'the broad thrust of for labour reforms envisaged by the Government' and asserted: "the Government

is currently examining the recommendations of the Commission and will take suitable action thereafter. He also appealed to the trade union representatives to extend support to the Government's agenda on labour reforms".

Even the brief deliberations in the ILC witnessed various social partners placing their viewpoints unambiguously, disagreeing with the main thrust and contents of the SNCL Report, which are anti-labour, to say the least. All the trade unions, in a spirited display of unity, cautioned the Government against acting in haste and demanded an exclusive tripartite meet for an in depth debate on the report. The CITU placing its views in writing (see box).

The President of the BMS, who was the vice-chairman from the workers group, speaking in the presence of the Prime Minister, ruled out any support to the Government if it went ahead with legislative changes on the lines recommended by the Commission report. The INTUC President, who is a signatory to the Commission Report, also demanded that the Government should come out with its views on the different recommendations of the Commission and hold dialogue with all the trade unions for altering the bad and harmful aspects of the report.

Most importantly resistance to the Government agenda on

labour reforms came from the Labour Ministers of various State Governments, who voiced their concern and stiff opposition to any unilateral move to give legislative shape to the recommendations of the Commission.

The employers' side, while complaining that the report was not 'realistic' and sought to place 'unbearable burden' on the employers, however, exhorted the Government to initiate action on the report, even before

Diwali, overlooking the trade union objections. But ultimately, the Government had to yield and put on hold any action on the report and opted to have wider consultations again.

'CLASS CONFLICT'

The Prime Minister in his speech attempted to give his own (mis) reading of history. He indulged in a totally unwarranted and out of context remark that "there was a time when some people advocated an irreconcilable class conflict in this relationship

(between labour and capital). History has proved them wrong". M.K.Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU, resented the Prime Minister's remarks and asserted that as the capital seeks to maximise profits by more intensive exploitation of labour, no one can wish away class conflicts and class struggle. He added: "History has not come to an end. It marches on. It will once again testify to the validity of class struggle. You will realise what class conflict is,

CITU COMMENTS ON LABOUR COMMISSION REPORT

An agenda item on "Report of the Second National Commission on Labour" was included after the session of the Indian Labour Conference originally slated for 2-3 September, 2002 had to be postponed. The Ministry of Labour circulated an agenda paper on this item, which only incorporates brief highlights of the main recommendations of the Commission on select topics. The agenda paper has not even framed the issues for deliberations on this subject. The report of the SNCL is so voluminous and covers a very vast area. It will not be possible to have an in depth debate on this agenda item in just one plenary session.

The CITU, therefore, urged that a special tripartite session be convened for an exclusive debate on the Report of the SNCL.

The CITU note, however, contained some brief observations in the nature of a preliminary overview of the Report of the SNCL.

The CITU placed on record that the very composition of the SNCL and its terms of reference, unilaterally decided by the Government without proper consultations with the social partners, had not inspired the confidence of the workers in the country. Except the two central trade union organisations, which were represented on the Commission, all other central trade union organisations had recorded their resentment over the way the Government decided to ignore the views of the trade unions and resolved not to cooperate with the Commission. Of the two representatives of the trade unions, who were members of the Commission, one had recorded his dissent on almost all the recommendations in the chapter on "review of Labour Laws" in the SNCL Report. As a part of the consultations the Minister of Labour had with the various social partners, the CITU had placed its viewpoints unambiguously, disagreeing with the main thrust and contents of the SNCL Report, which are anti-labour, to say the least.

The SNCL Report has taken pains to elaborately narrate the negative impacts of the globalisation policies. But, it has chosen to accept the inevitability of the adverse effects on the living conditions of the workers and the people, as also of the economy, without question. It has fallen a victim of the TINA (There Is No Alternative) syndrome and gone ahead to fit the working class of the country in the window of "labour market reforms". It is an irony that the capital market reforms as well as labour market reforms will only benefit the business class, corporates and multi national corporations and ruin the lives of the workers and the common people. The CITU asserted that we cannot go along with such a dispensation and rejected the anti-labour recommendations of the SNCL Report.

if and when you decide to implement the anti-labour recommendations of the Commission'.

Md. Amin, Labour Minister of West Bengal, also joined issue with the Prime Minister and said that the process of globalisation was inevitably leading to intensification of class conflicts, which was in evidence in ample measure, all over the world.

CONSENSUS URGED

Md. Amin, speaking in the ILC pointed out that the State Government had been kept quite in dark about the constitution of the composition of the Commission and the terms of reference made to it by the Government of India. He strongly objected to all the retrograde recommendations taking away the existing rights of the workmen. He voiced his apprehension that the Government of India might act on those retrograde recommendations keeping in abeyance other favourable recommendations. He urged the Government of India to take steps on the basis of consensus arrived at in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Trade Unions.

His was not a lone voice. Labour Ministers from various other States, cutting across political affiliations were unanimous in demanding that the Central Government should consult the States, as labour was a subject in the concurrent list.

When the Labour Minister from Punjab referred to the plight of agricultural workers and

demanding central legislation safeguarding their interests, Sahib Singh Verma commented that the Agricultural Workers' Bill was referred to the States for their comments and the previous Government in Punjab had opined that such legislation would lead to social tensions. The CITU representative referred to this comment and queried why the Trade Union Amendment Bill was not similarly referred to the State for eliciting their views? "As it is only the State Governments who have to deal with the social upheavals resulting from the policies of the Central Government, it is essential that the States are duly consulted before initiating any step for implementation of the Commission report", he urged.

LABOUR REFORMS HALTED

The elite columnists in the media, who vie with each other in carrying the 'reforms' virtually on their shoulders, had earlier made much of the BMS opting out of the July 15 Assembly of Workers and the INTUC Chief's statements, to predict that it would be a cake walk for the Vajpayee Government in pushing through the labour law changes in Parliament. They are dismayed over the developments in the ILC, describing them as a setback for reforms. They have started blaming the Government of yielding to pressures from trade unions and indulging in populism at the cost of reforms.

Even on issues of impact of globalisation and disinvestments, the trade unions

were unanimous in unequivocally condemning the policies of the Government. The ILC deliberations and conclusions were, therefore, on predictable lines. While the ILC noted what was held out as positive and negative impacts of globalisation, by the employers and workers respectively, three divergent views of the employers, trade unions and the Government were recorded on the disinvestments issue. The ILC underlined the need to take measures like simplification of rules and procedures in respect of SSI sector.

The ILC, however, reached unanimity on the urgent need to provide a social safety net to all workers. It recommended evolving a national policy on social security, setting up of a National Social Security Authority, annual allocation, by the Government, of 1 to 2 per cent of the GDP towards public expenditure on social security, ratification of the ILO conventions on the subject, functional and administrative integration of various social security institutions, besides several other measures. It is, however, doubtful whether the NDA Government would assign any priority to these conclusions.

The trade union unity, which had reasserted its opposition to the 'hire and fire' labour policies of the NDA Government, must also spring into action on the ground, mobilising the mass of workers in the struggle to defeat the anti-labour Commission report.

CONCLUSIONS OF INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE

ON SOCIAL SAFETY NET

The ILC emphasised the need to urgently evolve a National Social Security Policy covering all sections of workers. It also urged the establishment of a 'National Social Security Authority' under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister with adequate representation to all social partners.

Public expenditure by the Government on social security measures is merely 1.8% of the GDP in India. Many other countries are spending much more. The expenditure on social security should be increased by 1 to 2 per cent of GDP annually, till a satisfactory social safety net is in place.

The existing social security provisions are considered inadequate in as much as 92% of the workers in the country are out of coverage. In such a situation, there is an urgent need to extend social security to the workers in the unorganised sector.

All the labour legislations relating to social security should be consolidated and one comprehensive social security law needs to be enacted.

Contributions towards social security should be by the Government, employers and the employees. In a welfare state, the commitment on the part of the Government to take care of social security of the workers is more essential.

The existing social insurance schemes should be modified

and made more effective.

All the safety related social needs of workers, viz, health care, unemployment benefits, old age benefit, accident compensation, skill development, safety, etc., should be addressed.

Steps should be initiated for achieving functional and administrative integration of the existing institutions/agencies administering various social security benefits. This would result in increasing the coverage and also avoid duplication of benefits.

The key issue facing the country today is lack of an adequate safety net for workers who lose employment. It was felt that an insurance scheme to provide minimum financial assistance to such class of workers till they find alternative employment could be introduced in consultation with all the stakeholders. However, initially it could cover a reasonable duration of unemployment.

Healthcare provided by ESIC suffers from several weaknesses. The ILC recommended improving the health care system after exploring different options, better coordination of health services and reduction of administrative cost.

The Government should provide safe avenues for investment of the social security corpus with adequate inflation indexed real rate of return.

The ILC recommended expeditious measures to ratify

the ILO conventions and standards related to social security.

The committee underlined the fact that the best guarantee for social security is provision of jobs to all those who are entering the labour market. Adequate generation of employment should be the prime objective of the Government in coordination with all social partners.

ON DISINVESTMENT POLICY

The trade unions strongly felt that the policy of disinvestments should be reviewed. They told that it was their experience that the disinvestment policy did not serve the national interest. They also felt that no profit making public sector undertaking should be disinvested.

The employers on the other side felt that although they favoured the policy of disinvestment for enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of the enterprises, PSUs operating in strategic sector should be exempted from disinvestment.

The employers also felt that the emphasis should be on broad basing ownership of privatised companies. They also stated that employees' interests should be kept in mind.

While reiterating the need for pursuing the current disinvestment policy and programme, the government noted the cross section of views expressed and felt that some of the positive suggestions would facilitate finetuning the process of disinvestment further.

REORIENT, EXPAND, CONSOLIDATE!

Hemalata

The Fourth Conference of the All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, which concluded on the 1st October 2002, at Puri, gave a clarion call to reorient the work of the Federation and the affiliated unions to expand the influence and consolidate the organisation in the coming days. The Conference started on 29th September 2002, in Vimal Ranadive Nagar, Puri, with an impressive procession and rally. Thousands of anganwadi employees, and unorganised sector workers from different districts in Orissa participated in the rally along with hundreds of anganwadi workers and helpers from all over the country. The rally, presided over by Neelima Maitra, President of AIFAWH was addressed by Suryakant Misra, Minister for Health and Panchayat Raj, Subhash Chakraborty, Minister for Transport in the Government of West Bengal, Hemalata, General Secretary of the Federation and Bishnu Mohanty, General Secretary, Orissa State Committee of CITU.

384 delegates and observers from 19 States participated in the Conference, whose deliberations were conducted by an 11 member Presidium. Kanai Bannerjee, Secretary, CITU inaugurated the Conference.

ICDS UNDER ATTACK

The Conference noted with grave concern the increasing

attacks on the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme as part of the Government's attempts to withdraw from Welfare activities, and their impact on the anganwadi workers and helpers who are the key functionaries of the Scheme. In several States, the management of the anganwadi centres was being handed over to the Panchayats or to the 'Mother's Committees' in the name of community participation. The Panchayat Pradhans or Mukhias were demanding money even for the payment of the meagre honorarium of the anganwadi workers and helpers. The anganwadi employees were subjected to severe harassment including sexual harassment by some Panchayat Pradhans. Their services were at the mercy of the local political leaders.

The ICDS Scheme, is appreciated as one of the best Schemes in the country, meant for the poor women and children in rural and tribal areas and urban slums, provides supplementary nutrition for the malnourished children below 6 years of age, and pregnant and lactating mothers; it also provides immunisation, health education and pre primary education for the children. Started in 1975 with 33 ICDS Projects in the country, it has now been expanded to 4,568 ICDS Projects in all the States, employing more than 11 lakhs

anganwadi workers and helpers, who are all women. Several studies by the Planning Commission indicate that the Infant Mortality Rate, severe malnutrition among children and the drop out rate of children from schools have significantly come down in villages where anganwadi centres were functioning. But now, the BJP led NDA Government is trying to dismantle the Scheme. In Kerala, the UDF Government was resorting to a system of grading the anganwadi centres and the centres graded as 'C' 'D' and 'E' were being closed. Similar attempts were being made in Haryana. In Punjab, the posts of 2,600 anganwadi workers and other ICDS staff, which were lying vacant, were abolished and the centres were closed down. In Tamil Nadu, the Government tried to terminate the services of 30,000 anganwadi and Noon Meal employees, on the pretext that they were surplus. The Government of India has decided to universalise the system of 'Take Home Ration' (THR) by which the Supplementary nutrition would not be distributed in the anganwadi centres, but would be given to the families once in a month. The Conference strongly felt that given the poverty in the rural and tribal areas and the lack of awareness among the parents, this food is most likely to be misutilised,

which would adversely affect the nutritional status of the children. THR was a ploy to gradually dismantle the ICDS.

The workload on the anganwadi employees was also being increased. While as per the Scheme, they have to work only for four and half hours, they were compelled to perform several jobs, unrelated to ICDS, like small savings, insurance, adult literacy, surveys of BPL families, leprosy patients, handicapped, distribution of old age pensions, etc. With the second generation reforms, many State Governments have started reducing the number of regular employees in different departments and this has further increased the workload on the anganwadi workers and helpers. While some States were paying some additional remuneration for these jobs, most of the States did not pay any additional remuneration. These additional responsibilities affected the functioning of the anganwadi centres. The Government is closing down those centres on the pretext of poor performance.

MULTIFARIOUS ACTIVITIES

The Conference reviewed the activities since the last four years. The General Secretary's report pointed out that broadly three types of activities were taken up by the Federation during this period- i.) Sustained campaigns were conducted on the major demands of anganwadi workers and helpers; ii.) Efforts were made to educate the anganwadi workers and helpers on the relationship between their living

conditions and the policies of the Government and the need to fight these policies along with other sections of the toiling people; and iii). Efforts were made to strengthen the organisation.

The Federation made conscious efforts to link these three types of activities and conduct them in a balanced way. Efforts were made to involve the largest number of anganwadi employees in the activities of the Federation. AIFAWH also participated in all the NPMO programmes and the calls given by the CITU and the joint calls of the Central Trade Unions. Lakhs of anganwadi workers and helpers joined in the all India strike in December '99 and May 2000. They have also participated in the 16th April strike, which was supported by the Central Trade Unions, against privatisation and anti working class policies of the Government. In several States, where the anganwadi employees are being organised by the State Government Employees' Associations, like Punjab, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, and Tripura, they have joined the strike calls and other struggles of the State Government Employees' Federations.

The Conference emphasised the importance of addressing the local problems of the anganwadi employees, particularly the helpers. Many State Committees were addressing the local issues. Of particular significance were the struggles in States against the handing over the management

of the anganwadi centres to the Panchayats and the so called 'Mothers' Committees'. In Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, the Unions conducted big struggles against this and achieved success in forcing the respective State Governments to retreat their steps. In several States like Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal, the anganwadi employees could achieve some benefits from the respective State Governments, through sustained agitations and struggles. In many States like Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh etc, anganwadi employees braved State repression, but continued undeterred with their struggles. It was observed that the success particularly of the struggle against handing over the anganwadi centres to the Panchayats/ Mothers' Committees was possible because of the efforts made by the Unions to gain the support of the general public, particularly the beneficiaries, the sustained campaign and determined struggle uniting all the anganwadi employees and the support extended by the trade unions particularly the CITU. At the same time, the General Secretary's report warned the Unions against being complacent as the Government was going ahead with the same policy of withdrawing from welfare benefits and privatisation.

Unless these policies are rejected lock, stock and barrel by uniting with all the other sections of the toiling masses like the unorganised sector workers, agricultural workers, poor peasants, women etc it would not be possible to save the ICDS and the interests of the anganwadi employees.

The importance of raising the consciousness of the anganwadi employees was also stressed in the Conference. Though a few Central Trade Union Classes were organised for the Hindi States, it was felt that this was not enough. Many States did not pay proper attention to this aspect and as a result in most of the States the scarcity of trained cadres was felt. The Conference decided that such efforts should be more consistent. Efforts were also made to strengthen the organisation and increase the membership.

ORGANISATIONAL EXPANSION

The Federation has organised two workshops on organisation to identify the weakness and initiate the necessary steps to overcome them. As a result of these efforts, the membership of the Federation has increased from 85,287 at the time of the last Conference to 1, 37,929 in 2001, i.e. an increase of more than 61%. During this period, Unions of anganwadi workers and helpers have been registered in Assam, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and Chattisgarh at the initiative of CITU and affiliated to AIFAWH. In Jharkhand, an independent Union and the union in Tripura

also got affiliated to the Federation. Efforts to organise anganwadi employees have also started in Delhi. But the Conference felt that though these efforts were commendable, these were not enough, and there was a large scope to expand the organisation, by improving the functioning of the Committees at different levels, particularly the ground level Project Committees. It has also emphasised the need to form and strengthen State Centres. It has called upon the new Working Committee to pay more sustained attention to the development of the movement in the Hindi States.

M K Pandhe, General Secretary, CITU greeted the Conference and spoke on the anti working class policies of the Government. He asked the anganwadi employees to play more active part in the general trade union activities and to help the other sections like agricultural workers and poor peasants to organise.

52 delegates spoke on the General Secretary's report after which it was adopted unanimously. The Conference adopted a new Charter of Demands and several resolutions- against the recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour, against Communalism, on Violence against women, sexual harassment at work place, comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers, against removal of quantitative restrictions, on unemployment, on 93rd Constitutional

amendment Act etc. The Conference decided some immediate tasks, which include collection of one notebook and pencil from each anganwadi centre for the riot affected anganwadi children in Gujarat in October and November and their distribution in December-January. Struggle programme for the immediate release of the GO on the declared enhancement of honorarium was also decided.

NEW ORIENTATION

The Conference felt that there were immense possibilities to strengthen the organisation and expand its influence in almost all the States. It called upon the activists of the Unions to work hard to prepare themselves to face the challenge posed by the BJP led NDA Government, which was encouraging communal divisions and threaten the unity of the people. The Conference ended with a call to all the activists of the Unions that 'our aspirations should not be confined to narrow boundaries. We must constantly and consciously strive to improve our abilities, enlarge the scope, overcome the limitations and attain our goals. We must give a new orientation to our work to take on the challenges ahead'. The Conference elected a 51 member Working Committee. Neelima Maitra, Bhabatosh Roy and Hemalata were re elected President, Working President and General Secretary. The Orissa State CITU and the Orissa Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Association made excellent arrangements for the Conference.

THE RELEVANCE OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION TODAY

M K PANDHE

Despite dismantling of socialism in the USSR, the revolutionary significance of the great October Revolution cannot be obliterated in world history. The saffronised educational textbooks, prepared by the NDA Government characterised this important event that shook the world as a mere coup, with a view to underestimate the success of the first destruction of the capitalist power on earth.

The epoch making victory of the socialist revolution in Russia and the formation of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had given confidence to the working class all over the world that the world can exist without the capitalist class. The monopoly capital and the tycoons who controlled it realised in Philadelphia Declaration in 1919 that "poverty anywhere is threat to prosperity everywhere". This led to the formation of ILO with the efforts made by the capitalist class to offer concession to the workers, so that they do not fight for a change in the unjust social system.

BIG JOLT

The October Revolution gave a big jolt to the world capitalist system. The heroic role played by the Red Army and the people of Soviet Union during the second world war, in defeating fascist forces led by Hitler, has proved the superiority of the socialist system at a time when the leading capitalist power failed to crush the brunt of German fascism. The overthrow of socialist state by the reactionary coup cannot wipe out the glorious achievements of socialism in the USSR. Today the pontiffs of capitalism are talking loudly about invincibility of capitalist system. But, history has belied their claim since the capitalist system itself is engulfed in deep economic crisis with all round stagnation looming large in all major capitalist countries. In contrast, the sustained high rate of economic growth recorded by China, Cuba, Vietnam and N.Korea has shown to the world the socialist can alone ensure sustained economic growth in the world.

BUSH, THE TERRORIST

The scandals of the corporate sector, coming to the forefront every day, have brought to light the criminal nature of capitalism today. President Bush's antics in trying to expand US imperialist hegemony in the world is meeting with stiff resistance all over the globe. While trotting against terrorism after 11th September attack on World Trade Centre, President Bush has emerged as the biggest terrorist in the world. His unjust threat to attack Iraq and overthrow Saddam Hussain has only isolated him in the international community. The U.S abetted criminal offensives of Israel against Palestine has angered the democratic people all over the globe.

The leftist forces are emerging today all over the world to fight against globalisation and liberalism. The working class in all continents is at the forefront of the struggles. A new strike wave against capitalist offensive is witnessed in major capitalist countries, which are rousing the spirit of October revolution.

CLASS STRUGGLE RELEVANT

The relevance of class struggles is felt more powerfully than ever before. Even the workers in Russia and Eastern Europe are experiencing the evil effects of capitalism and are brought in the arena of struggle to protect their living standards. The failure of capitalist system to solve the problems of poverty, unemployment and destitution are bringing more and more on the path of class struggles.

The working class of India along with their class brethren in all the continents will observe the anniversary of the great October socialist revolution on 7th November and express their determination to carry forward the revolutionary heritage of this historic day. They will take a pledge to intensify the class struggles in India to defeat the machinations of imperialism and ensure continuation of worldwide struggle for peace and socialism.

CHINA'S IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH: A FACT SHEET

W.R.VARADA RAJAN

It is a true and undeniable fact that the Chinese economy has recorded impressive growth during the last five decades and over, compared to India.

In 1949, when the People's Republic of China was founded, China, as the most populous nation in the world, had lagged far behind not only the developed countries but several of the developing countries as well. In 1952, the gross domestic product (GDP) of China was merely 67.9 billion Yuan. In the year 2001, China's GDP growth reached 9.85 trillion Yuan. The People's Daily (January 1, 2002), which carried this report compared this growth in terms of US dollars and noted that by September 2001, China recorded a GDP of 1.2 trillion U.S. dollars, surpassing that of Italy's GDP, which was 1.1 trillion US dollars. In terms of annual growth rate, China had averaged GDP growth at 8.3 per cent in the last five years as against Italy's below 3 per cent growth. As a result, China now shared the fifth place with France, after the United States, Japan, Germany and Britain.

This is not just the claim of The People's Daily of China. Accenture, a Mumbai based management consultants, in an in depth study done last year, noted: "China has come a long way in emerging as an economic power. For starters, the country

has multiplied her GDP nearly four times in the last two decades. It has reduced agriculture's share of workforce from 71 per cent to less than 50 per cent. It has also increased its proportion of urban population from 19 per cent to 35 per cent, increased share of world trade from 0.9 per cent to 3.5 per cent, lifted more than 250 million people above the poverty line". (The Financial Express, September 8, 2001)

WORLD BANK ASSESSMENT

Alok Roy, Professor of Economics, IIM - Kolkata, writing in 'Business Line' (November 29, 2001) noted that ever since China started its economic reform programme in 1978, "according to the World Bank, it took the US 50 years and Japan 60 years to achieve a structural transformation similar to China's. Over the last two decades, China's share in world trade jumped from 1 per cent to about 4 per cent (India's is only 0.6 per cent) and is projected (by the World Bank) to touch 10 per cent by 2020. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows into China rose from near zero in 1978 to more than \$ 40 billion in 2000. Whichever way one looks at it, Chinese economic performance is nothing short of a miracle."

At a seminar organised by the CII later in October, 2001, R.Gopalan, Joint Secretary

(East Asia) in the Commerce Ministry of the Government of India, (whose findings were echoed by Ernst and Young, international Consultants), observed: "China is set to become the world leader in light manufactures, electronics and appliances,

besides strengthening its position in chemicals, leather and computer hardware". Some figures of contrast between China and India (respectively) cited by him were: savings rate 45 percent of the GDP and 23 per cent; annual FDI inflow \$40 billion/ \$2.16 billion; power generating capacity 2.6 lakh MW/ 90000 MW; transmission and distribution loss in power 6.8 per cent/23.4 per cent; power cost per 100 kWh \$4.3/\$7.53; per capita consumption of power 1000 kWh/350kWh; China has recently overtaken the U.S. in the number of cell phones in use. Farm productivity in most leading crops was also much higher in China. Productivity (per hectare) in paddy cultivation in China and India respectively was: paddy 6331 kg and 2915 kg; maize 4481 kg and 1594 kg; groundnut 2574 kg and 988 kg; and cotton 943 kg and 321 kg. However the Chinese lead was lower in wheat (54 per cent) and sugarcane (10 per cent).

CONTRAST IN PRIORITIES

But, it would be a worthwhile

exercise to note certain other features of the Chinese economic development, if our 'reformers' were keen on drawing some lessons therefrom.

Alok Roy, cited above, noted: "But even more impressive has been its (China's) success in reducing poverty. The percentage of rural poor by the international poverty line norm of \$1 a day, using 1985 purchasing power parity, fell from 60 per cent in 1978 to 11.5 per cent in 1999. And based on the Chinese official poverty line (\$0.7 a day) the percentage of rural poor was lower 33.5 per cent in 1978 and 4.6 per cent in 1999"

S.L.Rao, in his Ecopinion column in "The Economic Times" (October 8, 2001) posed the question: "How is it that China has kept a consistent high growth since reforms started in 1979 (1978?), and India has not?" and drew the contrast between China and India. He noted:

"China has put its maximum emphasis on exports, and on manufactured products. In the twenty years of reform till 1999, Chinese manufactured goods exports went up from 4 per cent of GDP to 18 per cent. In India, they were 7.1 per cent in 1999-00.

"They concentrated on industrial growth. Industry's share of GDP rose to 50 per cent over the twenty years of reform from 1979. In India, at best, it has remained static. An appropriate and efficient infrastructure for industry exists in China. It does not in India, adding to time and

costs.

"Foreign investment in China is in land, plant and machinery. Of the comparatively small foreign investment in India, a high proportion is in portfolio investment, and in buying up already existing capacities. A smaller proportion has gone to build industrial capacity. Domestic investors followed suit."

Not merely that. Half of the foreign investment in the manufacturing sector in China went into labour-intensive manufacturing such as food, textiles, furniture, toys and plastics. This is the finding of the Ernst and Young study, corroborated by that of Accenture.

"The Infrastructure of China is very good as compared to India," Sunder Lal Tiwari, a member of the CII delegation that visited China last year commented. He added: "Their industrial policy and labour related policies are extremely good. They have 20 years plans, like in India we have 5-year plans. ... The 20 years plan is done systematically and with proper planning which turns into their industrial progress". (Newspeak August 1 - 15, 2001) Alok Roy noted yet another factor relating to the foreign investment: "Over 80 per cent of FDI into China came from overseas Chinese. By contrast, NRIs are mostly professional with much less involvement in trading and entrepreneurial activities. They have much less money to invest. Their preference is for safe investment in dollar-denominated fixed deposit

schemes offered by Indian banks at higher interest rates..." As it had come to light in the recent Gujarat carnage, our NRIs are more eager to fund the VHP and their ilk than to invest. China also faced dilemmas very similar to those faced by India; but the options China chose were very different from the IMF-World Bank prescriptions opted for by India. But then, China is a socialist country and it has chosen to open its economy not along the capitalist path of development that the rulers in India had chosen since the country's independence. (The NDA government now in power had aggressively turned the country's economy into a happy hunting ground for the international finance capital and the Multi national Corporations.) The TINA (There Is No Alternative) syndrome floated by the advocates of 'reforms' in India, flounders in the face of these basic Chinese truths. In fact, there are many alternatives. Will our business class and the ruling dispensation at the Centre be brave enough to draw appropriate lessons from the Chinese proactive policies in the realm of economic governance?

THE VOICE OF THE WORKING WOMAN

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ON PRIVATISATION SCANDAL...

SELL OFF POLICY TO ENRICH THE RICH, says FERNANDES

"Dear Atalji, I had written to you several weeks ago expressing my concerns on the Disinvestment Policy adopted by our government.

I believe that before any further disinvestments take place, we in the government should decide as to whether the route adopted by us is benefiting the citizens and the consumers in our country or not. ... The current system of strategic sales is tantamount to handing over the entities created with the wealth of the people of India to further enrich the already rich.

I understand that virtually the entire privatisation in the UK, likewise...the privatisation of the same sectors in France including the Banking and Oil sectors were disinvested to the French public and not through strategic sales. Malaysia, China, South Africa, Spain and Germany have also followed suit.

In the transfer of VSNL and IPCL we have created monopolies with Tata and Reliance. Cases of the richer becoming the richest with people's money.

If we pursue the strategic sale route in the aluminium and petroleum sectors it is very likely that we will create monopolies within these vital sectors of the economy. State monopolies will become private monopolies. Is this good for the Indian consumer?

Another issue of concern is that even if strategic sales are allowed, the PSUs will not be allowed to bid.

I may also point out that the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have taken a stand against the kind of disinvestments that is contemplated.

In the backdrop of all this, the message that is going to the people is that our government is selling away the nation's wealth created with the money of the common people. This will hurt us politically in more ways than one..."

(Excerpts from George Fernandes' letter dated 27-08-02 Addressed to the Prime Minister: Business Standard, New Delhi, Oct 15, 2002)

SCANDAL FOLLOWS....

Only few months back, in June 2002, the 'Mumbai Centaur Hotel Airport' under Hotel Corporation of India was sold, under active stewardship of the Minister in Charge for Sale of PSUs, to A L Batra of Batra Hospitality Pvt Ltd at only Rs 83 crore. At that time many people pointed out that the sale was thoroughly under priced in favour of the buyer. The Minister concerned usually did not pay heed.

Within five months of such under priced deal with the private buyer, the Mumbai Centaur Hotel now has been resold by the Batra Hospitality to Sahara India at a 39% higher price for Rs 115 crore without any value addition to the said property.

Who gains? The Batras, the Sahara India and may be the sale-steward and his persons, but not the country's exchequer in the least.

(Source: Business Line, 18-10-2002 and other dailies)

SELLING PSUs ON A PLATTER

.... There is considerable scepticism and apprehension about the modus operandi deployed by Arun Shourie and his supporters in the Union government to sell the best-run and most-profitable of the 236 central PSUs - ironically, described as 'navratnas' or 'mini-ratnas'....

The government has focused on privatising the

130 profit-making PSUs on the plea that private buyers will not be interested in picking up loss-making units. At the same time, little has been done to revive the chronically ailing PSUs with huge accumulated losses...

The manner in which the assets of PSUs have been valued, especially land, has raised

innumerable doubts in the minds of right-thinking citizens. In April 2002, the Standing Committee on Finance noted that "the asset valuation guidelines are inadequate and vague, especially on the issue of land valuation of the disinvested PSU". The panel of MPs observed: "Though the government has taken the position that land value... is computed as part of the assets, the actual land value is not considered in most of the cases when the PSU concerned is disinvested/sold to another party."

The methods used to value the businesses of PSUs before these have been privatised are

highly contentious... A report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has stated that the assets of Bharat Aluminium Company were undervalued to the extent of Rs 300 crore! ...

One could even have found incredibly funny the fact that Shourie is perhaps the only salesman in the world who criticises the product he is going to sell before he actually sells it. Witness the articles he wrote on the hotels of India Tourism Development Corporation - if only it were not so deadly serious.

(Pranjoy Guhathakurta, Hindustan Times, 13-10-2002)

SHOURI GROANS IN ANGER.... FOR WHOSE INTEREST?

Disinvestments Minister, Arun Shouri while lashing out his cabinet colleagues including Uma Bharati and allies such as Shiv Sena for their changing stance on privatisation, and also responding to the complaints of undervaluation of the PSUs under sale in the background of resale of Mumbai

Centaur Hotel by the Batras to Shara India at a margin of Rs 32 crore within four months of sell-off of the PSU-Hotel, said, "Valuation (of a PSU under sale) is the price which the buyer was willing to pay."

(Source: Economic Times, 20-10-2002)

COMMENT

Whose property Shouri is going to sell? Is that of the Country and her people or his personal one? The Country and her people owe a reply to the

Salesman in charge in the Govt who maligns the product before the sale, and operate at the behest of the buyers at country's cost.

HAPPENINGS ABROAD :THE US SCENARIO COMPANIES CUTTING COSTS: THE EMPLOYEES PAY

....Strategem Inc, provider of information technology consulting services, enacted a mandatory pay-cut of 6% for all its employees effective from October 1...At public relations agency Fieishman-Hillard Inc in St Louis, 10% of their staff saw their pay reduced by a range of 3% to 10% on October 1....Conductus Inc, maker of superconductor wireless systems is in its third round of lay-offs: for its remaining 66 employees it cut salaries by 15% effective October 1...National Airlines, Las Vegas is on its second round of pay cuts affecting all 1500 employees...Many companies are likely to reduce 2002 bonuses as well... These are few examples....

For many employers these pay cuts are the latest effort to rein in costs. Since early 2001, many companies have eliminated bonuses, conducted several rounds of lay-offs, and frozen and cut salaries. But the economy showing few signs of improving, employers in professional services, airlines, telecommunications and elsewhere are once again announcing substantial salary cuts.... Inevitably, paycuts lead to reduced spending by employees, and taken en masse, that contributes to slowing demands for consumer goods. That can result in still more pay and job cuts—and fewer openings for those laid off....

(The Wall Street Journal, Source The Financial Express, 19-10-2002)

GUPTA PANEL ON TARGETING EMPLOYMENT

After the report of the Task Force on Employment Opportunities headed by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, which stirred up all round criticism, the Planning Commission appointed a Special Group headed by S P Gupta, Member, Planning Commission, on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities per year over the Tenth Plan Period. The S.P.Gupta report is generally described as employment-friendly growth approach.

One of the significant observations made in the Gupta panel report is: "it is some times argued that if the legal conditions for hiring and firing of labour force are relaxed (referring to the present Industrial Disputes act, 1956) the organised sector could be made more employment-friendly and the employment generation in this sector can be improved. But given the fact that this sector (especially the public sector segment) is already carrying excess labour, the immediate effect will be more firing than hiring. With the already existing high unemployment rate, this can be made socially acceptable only if it is preceded by appropriate social security measures".

We append some extracts from the Gupta panel report:

*There has been a deceleration in the population growth between 1983 to 1993-94 and 1993-94 to 1999-2000 from two per cent annum to 1.9 per cent per annum.

*There has been a significant acceleration in the labour force growth from 2.43 per cent per annum to 1.3 per cent per annum, between the two periods.

*There has been a significant deceleration in GDP growth between 1983-94 to 1993-94 and 1993-94 to 1999-2000 from 5.2 per cent to 6.7 per cent per annum.

*There is a significant decline in the labour intensity in production in almost all the sectors barring a few and also in the aggregate, declining from 0.52 to 0.16 measured as employment elasticity to value added.

*Because of this, in spite of a higher growth in

GDP over the second period, employment growth declined from 2.7 per cent to 1.07 per cent per annum.

*As a result, the number of unemployed has increased from 20.13 million in 1993-94 to 26.58 million in 1999-2000. In 1983, it was also as high as 21.8 million. In fact, it would have been much higher but for the very heavy deceleration in the labour force has happened in spite of the fact that the working age population (15-59 years) increased more than 2.5 per cent per annum over this period.

*Consequently, the unemployment rate i.e. unemployed as percentage of labour force increased from 5.99 per cent in 1993-94 to 7.32 per cent in 1999-2000.

*Inter-state employment rates are also showing increasing regional disparity in the year 1999-2000 compared to 1993-94. In the later year, the highest unemployment is noticed in Kerala of 20.97 per cent of the labour force and lowest in Himachal Pradesh, 2.96 per cent of the labour force.

*The unemployment rate is much higher in the lower consumption classes than in the upper ones; the lowest consumption classes having nearly 100 per cent more unemployment rate than the higher ones. This has significant implication for households below the poverty line.

*Similarly, the percentage of casual labour to total labour has increased significantly since 1977-78 and mainly at the expense of self-employed. The regular salaried labour in proportion has almost remained the same over time. This increased casualisation of labour has been of some concern vis-à-vis the job quality and security of employment.

*In terms of employment elasticity of output, as has already been mentioned, it has gone down from 0.52 over the years 1983 to 1993-94 to 0.16 over 1993-94 to 1999-2000. This means that over this period, there has been a reduction in the labour intensity of output of the order of 31 per cent i.e. 5.5 per cent per annum.

*Employment in organised sector had been hardly 8.34 per cent of which public sector accounts for 5.77 per cent and private sector only 2.57 per cent in the total employment generated.

*The organised sector is dominated by public sector by contributing nearly 70 per cent of employment of the organized sector. This is mainly in (i) mining, (ii) electricity and water and (iii) community and social services. These three constitute nearly 60 per cent of the public sector employment and unfortunately all of them are showing negative employment elasticity. Thus, this sector has a comparatively high potential in the organized group for employment generation in the future provided it increases its employment elasticity.

*Another sector in the organised public group is the construction. This sector as a whole has a high employment elasticity and high output potential; but the weightage of the organised sector in general and public sector in particular is very low and its observed employment elasticity is around zero. Indeed for generating employment, the private sector, especially the unorganised private sector should be targeted.

*Of the organised manufacturing, the employment generation potential of the private sector is seen to be higher than the public sector manufacturing (the former contributing more than 75 per cent of total organised manufacturing output), but it

hardly constitutes 1.5 per cent against the total employment of the country and 16.5 per cent of total manufacturing employment. The remaining 83.5 per cent of employment is generated in the informal/unorganised manufacturing where the labour intensity of output seems to be nearly 10 times more.

*To summarise, although admittedly the quality of employment in organised sector is high, its contribution to employment is likely to be rather limited and moreover confined only to few sectors like financial services, manufacturing and potentially in the social services like education and health.

*The major source of employment generation is the unorganised sector of the economy including self-employment and small business where the present employment weightage is as high as 92 per cent of the total employed labour force.

*Its main employment generating activities are (a) agriculture and allied, (b) trade, restaurant and hotels including tourism (c) some of the social sectors like education and health, (d) the small and medium enterprises, mainly in the rural non-farm sector (e) transport & construction. For example, the small and medium manufacturing enterprises contribute to nearly 80 per cent of the manufacturing employment and its employment elasticity is 3.8 times more than the organised sector.

IEMO CONGRESS AT KOCHI

The 2nd World Congress of International Energy and Mines' Organisation (headquarters Paris) will be held at Kochi from 15th to 17th November, 2002. 130 delegates from 40 countries are expected to participate in the congress. Trade Union personalities like Aurthur Scargil, Alain Simon, the President and Secretary General of the IEMO respectively, John Maitland, President of International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM), Brussels have confirmed their participation. From India around a hundred delegates from the coal mines and electricity industries shall attend the Congress.

The main theme of the Congress is "Energy for All". The issues which shall be in focus in the documentation of the Congress shall be basic human and trade union rights - "right to work and end of unemployment; right to energy for every human being; right to affordable housing for all; right to trade unions - free from interference by governments or TNCs; end to inequality and injustice".

Alongside the Congress, one international and one national seminar will be organised.

DOWNRIGHT TREACHERY AND FRAUD

Swadesh Dev Roye

The whole privatisation process has become an instrument of transferring public property to private hands for a song much to the detriment of the national interest and the industrial economy of the country in particular. And with the whole process, corruption is woven intrinsically. The very concept of privatisation of public sector units and more so the blue chip ones, in itself is a bankrupt corrupt policy perception, treachery with the nation and fraud on the people of the country. Therefore, we oppose this policy and demand its reversal.

The bubble of the 'controversy' within the 'sangh parivar' and the NDA cabinet on the issue of privatisation of efficiently run profit making CPSUs did not, obviously, take much time to bust. The voice of 'opposition' has evaporated and it has appeared in the press that "... Vajpayee and ... Advani will act in concert to give disinvestments a determined nudge forward."

FUND-BANK DESIGN

It is amusing to note that the current model of outright privatisation through 'strategic disinvestments' aggressively pursued by the Government has been copied from the World Bank prescription. The 'Research Report' of the World Bank has prescribed that: "If potential buyers cannot otherwise raise the funds, the enterprise can be sold in trenches (passing management control immediately to private, allowing them time to raise the funds to buy out rest of the share gradually). ... with freedom to hire and fire, which is an important factor in successful management contracts."

FAVOURING BIG BUSINESS

The Ministry of Disinvestments document - 'Understanding the Strategic Sale Agreement' has provided to pay post-privatisation cash 'reward' in the name of 'Post Closing Adjustment'. An unique scope has been created by the Government by providing for the buyer to grab money from the seller (PSUs) - "During the due diligence visits and the due diligence exercise by the

Strategic Partner, the Strategic Partner gets the picture of the assets and liabilities of the company as on a certain date ... The deal may actually close at a much later date ... In the intervening period the company has been functioning and the asset/liability position has undergone a change ..." Now a concrete example is the sale of Paradip Phosphates Ltd. (PPL). PPL has been conclusively privatised and purchased by the sole bidder Zuari-Maroc combine at a cost of Rs.151.7 crore against the reserve price of Rs.176 crore. Taking advantage of the 'post closing adjustment' clause, Zuari-Haroe has claimed an amount of Rs.190 crore from the Government. Thus, the net outcome of the privatisation deal is the private business combine got a PSU plus a cash gift of Rs.39.00 crore. In the deal of Modern Foods, the Hindustan Lever also got some money under the same consideration. So also was the case of ITDC hotels deal where an amount of Rs.27.5 crore is being returned to the buyers. The latest revelation is the case of gross under valuation of the Centaur Hotel, Mumbai Airport. The Batra group bought the property with Rs.83 crore and sold for Rs.115 crore just within four months of the deal.

STATISTICAL DISTORTION

It is important to expose thoroughly the dirty game of maligning the CPSUs with alleged 'inefficiency' with the help of false formulations and twisted projection of facts and figures by the privatisation lobby.

The return on the total investment, return on the equity and the payments on account of interest on loans, taxes and duties paid by the CPSUs are not properly spelt out. Thus, a distorted picture is painted about profit earned and total contribution to Government exchequer made by the PSUs. "Net profit is taken after interest and taxes (that is as PAT), but the denominator is capital employed. This is a statistical jugglery. If one takes the numerator as PAT, the denominator has to be equity capital certainly, and not capital

employed (inclusive of loans). And if the capital employed is the denominator, the surplus (numerator) will be PAT plus interest." (CIER). In other words if investment is shown as the total capital employed then profit must be taken before payment of interest on loans, and if profit is calculated after payment of interest then capital base must be the equity capital only and not total investment (mainly equity plus long term loans). To conceal the truth and to hoodwink the people of the country, the break up of equity and loans in the total investment of the Government in the entire public sector is cleverly kept under cover by the advocates of privatisation while pleading their case. The total investment in CPSUs as on 31.3.2001 is Rs.2,74,114.00 crore which consist of a total paid up capital of Rs.86,152.00 crore and long-term loan of Rs.1,84,777.00 crore plus Rs.3,185.00 crore share application money. Further, the share of the central Government in the total equity amount is Rs.71,864.00 crore and in the total long-term loan is Rs.48,977 crore only. The CPSUs together currently generates a turn over of Rs.4,58,227 crore which account for almost a quarter of the national income, which in 2000-01 was Rs.17,65,238 crore. The combines turn over of the CPSUs is more than the total output of the agricultural sector, which amounts to Rs.4,22,703 crore.

TARGETS: CASH-RICH PSUs

The motivated, unfounded blame of inefficiency attributed to the so-called 'sick' and 'uneconomic' PSUs are also 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 being privatised by robbing them of their investible surplus. It has been aptly said that, "What is Shourie's argument? PSUs are loss making, therefore profit-making PSUs should be the first to be sold. (TOI, 13.8.02).

The Government has been repeatedly projecting the performance records of the comparatively weak PSUs to justify the privatisation policy. However, the interesting fact is that the recent past cases of privatisation and the ones lined up for the forthcoming period, are all consistently profit making cash-rich public sector companies. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd (IPCL) has been handed over to the Reliance Industries Ltd., (RIL)

own by the Ambanies. While RIL has acquired the controlling share of IPCL at price of Rs.1,491.00 crore, at the time of privatisation the IPCL had an amount of Rs.2,946.13 crore as reserve and surplus. The Sterlite Group has acquired the equity and management control of Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) at a price of Rs.445.00 crore and the PSU has a reserve fund of Rs.737.00 crore and estimated base of around Rs.10,000.00 crore. In fact the CPSUs which are under current prioritised initiative of the Government for privatisation are from among the top ten profit making public sector companies with huge investible surplus and belong to very important sectors of the economy namely: Oil, Power and Telecommunication.

The Vajpayee Government have targeted the privatisation of oil PSUs through strategic sale and public offering route. It should be noted that the six oil PSUs - ONGC, IOC, GAIL, HPCL, BPCL and IBP are among the top 10 PSUs in the country in terms of turnover and profit. The oil PSUs recorded profit after tax of Rs.12,749.53 crore as against the paid up capital of Rs.5.204 crore during the year 2001-2002. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) which are in the advanced stage of privatisation together have earned a net profit of Rs.1,623.72 crore in the year 2001-02.

DIRE CONSEQUENCES

The suicidal drive of privatisation of the public sector units is bound to seriously impact the country adversely.

The international experience of the consequence of privatisation is very much shocking.

There are many examples spread all over the world to show the utter failure of the policy of privatisation. The irony is that the imperialist countries of the world - the USA, the UK and others are prescribing the wholesale privatisation for India and other developing countries disregarding the failure in their own countries. The claim and counter claim, the support and opposition apart, either we learn from experience or pay the price for the neglect. The people are definitely opposed to the suicidal policies. The question is to lead the opposition into massive action.

REPORTS & EVENTS

FERTILIZER WORKERS RESIST CLOSURE MOVE

The BJP-led NDA Government has put its stamp of approval to close down the two public sector fertilizer companies viz., Fertilizer Corporation of India and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation having their plants and well established huge townships at Barauni (Bihar), Sindri (Jharkhand), Durgapur & Haldia (West Bengal), Talcher (Orissa), Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh), Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), the Marketing and Promotion network throughout the country, the Corporate and other offices. Such closure will render about the 11,000 employees jobless. Several agriculturally important states will have no fertilizer plant at all.

Immediately on hearing the closure decision, the workers have launched vigorous agitation against the Government decision under the banner of the Fertilizer Workers' Federation of India (FWFI). Huge mobilization of the workers and the people from different walks of lives in the adjoining localities of the respective plants has been organized. Remarkable

initiative has been taken at Barauni, Sindri, Durgapur, and Haldia and also at the corporate offices in New Delhi.

The Barauni agitation included 'Rasta Rokho' 'Rail Rokho' and 'Bandh' of the district of Begusarai and subsequently a 'Bihar Bandh'. The Sindri programmes included huge demonstration in front of the office of the District Magistrate in Dhanbad, joint convention of workers-peasants and solidarity rally of the coal workers from neighbouring collieries. So also at Durgapur and Haldia rallies were organised in front of the factory gates. It is important to note that in all the plants joint forums of Trade Unions of all affiliations, Associations of Officers and other mass organizations have been formed to jointly steer the agitation. Further, the workers of the Duncan Fertilizers, Kanpur, FACT, and Kochi are also in the thick of continuous phased agitation opposing the move to closure and privatization respectively. Workers of National Fertilisers with its plants at Nangal & Bathinda

(Punjab), Panipat, Haryana and Guna (M.P.) are also opposing the move of the Government to go for strategic disinvestments of the giant urea producing PSU.

In the meantime the National Executive Committee of the FWFI met at Sindri on 21st and 22nd September 2002, took stock of the on going agitation and has decided to channelise and intensify the agitation. The Federation has decided to lead deputations to the Chief Ministers of all the concerned states, organize state level mass campaign and agitation programmes including conventions, dharna etc. This phase is scheduled to continue up to 10th of November 2002. The FWFI has advised the workers not to opt for the VSS.

The FWFI has given a call to fertilizer workers all over the country to get ready to go for massive militant movement including 'March to Parliament' to compel the NDA Government to reverse the decision to close down the fertilizer plants and privatize the efficiently run profit making fertilizer PSUs.

MAHARASHTRA : TUS OPPOSE SNCL REPORT

A largely attended meeting in Mumbai on 4th October, under the banner of Trade Unions Joint Action Committee was, of

the unanimous view that the report of the 2nd National Commission on Labour under the Chairmanship of former Labour Minister Ravindra

Varma is thoroughly anti labour and fully supportive of the globalisation policies of the BJP led Vajpayee Government. The leaders who

REPORTS & EVENTS

addressed the gathering observed: "Since the recommendations are aiming at consolidation of the capitalist system by perpetuation of the exploitation of labour, the report has to be opposed tooth and nail"

In any report of this nature, there are bound to be some references and recommendations, which may look progressive in appearance. But in the ultimate analysis, the report turns out to be anti people and anti working class. We cannot pick and choose. The meeting was of the overwhelming view that "though there are some silver coated recommendations for the solace of the unorganised sections of the working class and a few recommendations regarding social

welfare measures, the major changes proposed, if implemented, would take away the existing rights and privileges of the working class, acquired through major struggles and sacrifices. Therefore the report has to be rejected lock, stock and barrel."

The venue of the meeting was the Central Railway Workshop Canteen hall at Matunga in central Mumbai. A presidium consisting of R.G. Karnik, (State Govt. Employees), K.L. Bajaj(CITU), G.V. Chitnis (AITUC) Dada Samant (Kamgar Aghadi), P.R. Menon (NRMU), Suryakant Bagal (HMS), Yeshwant Chavan (Sarva Shramik Sanghatans), Suresh Dhopeswarkar (AIBEA) and Jayant Chavan (SSS) conducted

the meeting. Five papers analysing the commission report were presented at the meeting by P.R. Krishnan (CITU) Dada Samant (Kamgar Aghadi), Y.G. Joshi (NRMU), A.D. Glandaz (MSES), M.A. Patil (Sarvasramikh Sanghatana) and N. Vasudevan (Trade Union Solidarity Committee). All these highlighted the pro-capitalist and anti working class nature of the report.

The action committee decided to take out a massive protest morcha and demonstration Azad Maidan on 28th October. The committee will, in this rally, give a call for state wide protest action against acceptance of the commission report.

(Report from P.R. Krishnan)

STRUGGLE IN RYAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

More than 200 teachers, administrative and maintenance staff, all working in the three Ryan International Schools in Delhi participated in a Convention held at the auditorium of BTR Bhawan, New Delhi, on 8th October 2002. The Convention was organised by the Ryan International School Employees' Welfare Association and Ryan International School Employees' Union. The Convention unanimously adopted a resolution against the repressive measures of the management and against the denial of the employees' rights. The Convention was presided over

by Archana Gupta of the Welfare Association, Nisha of the Employees' Union and Sudhir Kumar, Secretary, Delhi State Committee of CITU. Sanjeev Jijoria placed the resolution and R Bhati supported it. Several delegates from different schools spoke, supporting the resolution. The teachers and employees were demanding implementation of leave rules, regular payment of salary, provident fund, gratuity and other statutory benefits as per the Delhi School Education Act. The management was violating the legal provisions and was resorting to repressive measures and

humiliating the teachers and the staff. Appointment letters were not given to the teachers and other employees, threatening their job security.

The staff of all the three Ryan International Schools in Delhi were organised by the Employees' Union since 1996. Within two years the union forced the management to extend the benefits of the Fifth Pay Commission to the teachers and employees. Soon, the teachers at Kondli also got organised under the banner of the union. The management retaliated by terminating the services of Sanjeev, the President of the

REPORTS & EVENTS

Welfare Association, Bhati, the General Secretary of the Employees' Union, and three others without any charge sheet or enquiry. Three teachers from Kondli were transferred to distant schools.

The teachers and employees of the Ryan International Schools went on a month long strike and resorted to 'Rasta Roko'. The teachers and employees of the other Ryan Schools supported the struggle. Ultimately the management was forced to cancel the transfer, reinstate the three teachers, and pay the wages for the strike period. The management assured that it

would resolve the other issue of termination of services of the leaders but went back on this under cover of endless negotiations.

The Employees' Union recently got affiliated to CITU and took the initiative to organise the teachers working in Vasant Kunj and Rohini Schools. The Convention, in which teachers and employees from all the schools participated, demanded that the management recognise the "grievance committee" for the redressal of their grievances and reinstate the leaders and activists of the union whose services were terminated by the management, to

suppress union activities. The Convention warned that if the problems are not settled without delay the teachers and employees would be compelled to launch an agitation, including strike.

S.B. Bharadwaj, President, Delhi State Committee of CITU inaugurated the Convention. Mohan Lal, General Secretary, Delhi State Committee of CITU greeted the participants. Hemalata, Secretary, CITU addressed as the chief guest. She spoke of the deplorable conditions of teachers in private schools and asked them to strengthen their unity.

TU CONVENTION AT PORT BLAIR

A Trade Union Convention was held at the Saithankhari Plantation premises on 28th September 2002. In the well-attended gathering, the issues regarding privatisation,

liberalisation, globalisation and consequential adverse effects on the working class and on the economy of the country were discussed. Lalaji Babu, General Secretary, All India Plantation

Workers Federation and Member of Rubber Board addressed the convention as Chief Guest. B. Chandrachoodan, Working President, A. Rajan, Secretary, CITU and S.B. Chatterjee also spoke on the occasion.

A & N : ELECTRICITY WORKERS' DHARNA

Bijali Kamgar Union, a CITU affiliated union in A & N State served a demand notice on the Superintending Engineer, Electricity Department claiming night duty allowance, payment of arrears of overtime allowance, repairs to staff quarters,

transportation facilities between Diglipur HQ and the work site of Hydro Power Project etc. Many of the residential accommodation provided to the employees had sustained damage due to the recent earthquake which rocked Diglipur area. Hence, the Union has also demanded immediate repairs to

such residential accommodations. Since the department did not take any steps to settle the demands, the Union served notice of agitation and resorted to one-day dharna at Diglipur on 27.09.2002. A large number of the Electricity Employees stationed in the area participated in the Dharna.

(Report from B. Chandrachoodan)

REPORTS & EVENTS

COUNTRYWIDE PROTEST BY ANGANWADI EMPLOYEES

The then Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha announced in his Budget speech that the honorarium of the anganwadi workers and helpers would be enhanced. The then Minister for Women Welfare and Child Development declared that the honorarium was going to be doubled. But, more than six months after this there is no sight of the concerned GO. Even more than two months after the Secretary, Women Welfare promised that it would be ready within one month it has not been released.

The Fourth Conference of AIFAWH condemned this attitude of utter negligence of the Government of India and demanded that the concerned GO be released and the arrears paid immediately. A programme was taken up to observe protest days from October 5-10 against the inordinate delay in releasing the GO through Rasta Rokos, dharnas, processions, demonstrations, deputations etc and send telegrams to the HRD Minister. The Conference sent a telegram to the Minister.

As the Conference concluded on the evening of the 1st October, most of the delegates could reach their respective States only by the 3-4 October. Even then, reports received by the Centre indicate that the programme was very successfully held throughout the country.

In almost all the States, press meets were organised immediately after reaching the State and the decision of the Conference was given wide publicity. Telegrams were sent by the State Committees. The district leadership was telephonically informed. The programme was observed on the payday, during this period.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

The State Committee has called for a strike on the 10th October. The strike was total in 10 out of the 12 districts in the State. In all the districts, rallies and dharnas were held at the Tehsil level, in which thousands of anganwadi workers and helpers participated.

The Director, Women and Social Welfare called the State leadership for negotiations on the Charter of Demands and on the pretext of assurances requested the union to withdraw the strike. But the union was firm on its stand and refused to withdraw the strike, unless the assurances are implemented.

KERALA

In Kerala too the State Committee decided to go on strike on 10th October. The delegates contacted the leaders in Kerala, from Puri itself and asked them to convey the decision of the Conference. As a result, there was total strike on the day and around 15,000 anganwadi employees participated in the dharnas in front of the offices of the Central Government in all the

District headquarters.

HARYANA

In Hisar district, block level demonstrations and Rasta Roko were held 5 projects. On 8th October, the Hisar Rajgarh road was blocked for 40 minutes. The Hisar Chandigarh road was blocked for more than 30 minutes on the 10th. Rasta Rokos were also held in several projects in Rohtak, Panipat etc districts. Hundreds of anganwadi employees participated in each block. Memoranda were given to the Tehsildars.

In Assam, a massive State level rally was held on the 10th at Guwahati, in which thousands of anganwadi employees participated.

The Anganwadi Mulazam Union, Punjab, held Rasta Rokos throughout the State, for 2 hours in around 100 out of the 146 projects in the State. Hundreds of anganwadi employees participated in each block. Telegrams were sent from all the blocks to the HRD Minister. They raised slogans against the anti worker policies of the State and Central governments and also demanded that the anganwadi centres should not be handed over to the Panchayats. In Andhra Pradesh, Project level Rasta Roko and dharnas were held on the main roads in around 140 projects in all the districts and telegrams were sent to the HRD Minister. The programme was held

REPORTS & EVENTS

on the payday in the projects. Around 10,000 anganwadi employees participated in the

programme. Memoranda were given to the CDPOs. In Karnataka, around 150

anganwadi employees consisting project leadership, assembled in Bangalore and gave a representation to the Government.

SOUTH AFRICA:

GENERAL STRIKE TO HALT PRIVATISATION

Tens of thousands of South Africans took to the streets yesterday as part of a two-day anti-privatisation strike that is tearing a rift between the African National Congress and its traditional leftist allies. Workers marched through the country's main cities, blowing whistles, singing protest songs and carrying placards with messages such as 'Capitalism: A Sick System'. In

Pretoria, more than 5,000 people descended on the Reserve Bank, and in Durban and Cape Town thousands marched on state buildings or companies that face privatization, such as telephone provider Telkom and electricity utility Eskom. Johannesburg's downtown streets were packed with 20,000 protesters.

The government's privatisation plans are intended to streamline the

state-run economy inherited from the apartheid-era government and attract foreign investment, but COSATU says the plan will only cause more poverty. "We must defend the rights of the ordinary worker," union leader Materene Wu-Mapemi told a crowd of thousands in Johannesburg. "If there is privatization, your rights will be taken away."

GENERAL STRIKE HITS ITALY

Tens of thousands of Italian workers are taking part in rallies as part of a general strike to protest against labour reforms and budget cuts by the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The strike, called by Italy's largest and most left-wing trade union, is causing chaos in the transport sector with air, rail and local transport severely affected. Protests held in 120 towns and cities. More than 200 flights cancelled. About 35,000 travellers affected. More than 100 train services stopped. It is the second general strike this year and comes amid a growing dispute over labour rights following the recent announcement by car maker Fiat

of plans to lay off a fifth of its workforce.

Workers carrying red flags, blowing whistles and chanting anti-government slogans took to the streets in 120 towns and cities to protest against labour reforms which they say undermine workers' rights and stiff cuts in health and education in the budget. The worst hit sector is transport - Italy's airports and train stations were scenes of desolation. The national airline, Alitalia, has had to cancel more than 200 flights and tens of thousands of airline passengers risk being stranded. There is also disruption to the railways, with more than 100 train services - about 40% of routes -

cancelled. Most schools are closed, as are many banks and health services will be reduced to the essentials. Many Italians have opted to take a day off as getting to their workplace will be nearly impossible because of protest marches, the lack of urban transport and traffic jams.

The CGIL is angry over the government's plans to make it easier for firms to lay off workers. The union says the move threatens hundreds of thousands of jobs. In April, the CGIL, ISL and UIL staged the country's first general strike in two decades to protest against the reforms.

(BBC News Friday, 18 October, 2002)

REPORTS & EVENTS

STRIKE SHUTS FRENCH SCHOOLS

Schools across France closed on 17 Oct. '02 as state sector teachers took strike action over fears of job and funding cuts, three weeks after energy utility workers mounted a first challenge to the new government.

"It's clear that the state wants to ditch its commitment on education," said Denis Paget, a representative from the SNES trade union, the largest at secondary schooling level.

Beyond the one-day stoppage, unions scheduled demonstrations in Paris and cities throughout the country later in the day.

The strike was the second major organised labour challenge to the centre-right government that took power in June.

State energy workers stopped work earlier this month for a day of marches and protests over government plans to partially privatise Electricite de France and Gaz de France.

Some schools offered a few hours of classes where teachers ignored the strike call, but parents were in many cases obliged to take time off work or find alternative child care.

Paget and others accused the

government of cutting back on existing jobs and abandoning staff increases that the previous left-wing coalition had programmed, and slammed plans for decentralisation as a way of cutting costs in education.

An opinion poll published by the CSA survey institute on Thursday showed 73 percent of French people either openly supported or sympathised with the strikers.

The poll published in Communist newspaper *l'Humanite* was carried out on October 15.

(Reuters report from PARIS, France)

SCAM IN PSU SELL-OFF DENOUNCED

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions, in a statement issued to the Press on the 19TH October 2002, denounced the sale of Mumbai Centaur Hotel Airport, under Hotel Corporation of India. This deal has unveiled such deliberate scam-tainted deal, meticulously designed to benefit the prospective buyer and the persons involved in the exercise. In June 2002, the said hotel was sold at only Rs 83 crore to one A L Batra of Batra Hospitality Pvt Ltd who is known to be close associate of RSS circle. At that time itself, the trade unions pointed out that the said Hotel with its assets was sold at a throw away price.

The scam is exposed by the resale within four months of the same Centaur Hotel to Sahara India for a price of Rs 115 crore (39% higher) and Batras making a fortune of Rs 32 crore at the cost of country's exchequer. What percentage of that Rs 32 crore has gone to the facilitator(s) of the deal is a matter of anybody's guess.

The key point of such organised scam in PSU sell-off is the process of valuation and the mechanism to decide on the same by the Disinvestment Ministry. The valuer is appointed by the Ministry as per its choice to ensure gross under valuation of the PSU under sale through discounted cash flow method. BALCO, IPCL, and hotels under HCI were similarly sold off. But when the valuation made by the valuer appointed by the Ministry itself does not suit the interest of the pre-decided buyer, as has happened in the case of PPCL, the Ministry did not hesitate to ignore that, get it revalued at half the level of the earlier valuation to ensure handing over of the PSU at buyer's price. The latest case of Centaur Hotel at Mumbai has glaringly exposed such nauseating scam of PSU sale.

CITU demanded an immediate halt to such anti-national exercise by the scam ridden department engaged in distress sale of national wealth in the name of privatisation and also a thorough enquiry.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NUMBERS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS ON BASE 1982=100

State	Sr. Centre No.	Month		State	Sr. Centre No.	Month	
		July' 2002	Aug.' 2002			July' 2002	Aug.' 2002
Andhra Pradesh	1 Gudur	457	458	Maharashtra	38 Mumbai	560	562
	2 Guntur	480	480		39 Nagpur	493	496
	3 Hyderabad	468	470		40 Nasik	514	519
	4 Visakhapatnam	470	475		41 Pune	532	534
	5 Warangal	503	509		42 Solapur	486	490
Assam	6 D.D.Tinsukia	398	398	Orissa	43 Barbil	434	440
	7 Guwahati	481	481		44 Rourkela	418	418
	8 Labac-Silchar	375	377	Punjab	45 Amritsar	422	425
	9 Mariani-Jorhat	409	414		46 Ludhiana	435	439
	10 Rangapara-Tezpur	413	419	Rajasthan	47 Ajmer	478	479
Bihar	11 Monghyr	422	439		48 Jaipur	441	448
Chhattisgarh	12 Bhilai	416	420	Tamil Nadu	49 Chennai	515	520
Gujarat	13 Ahmedabad	482	484		50 Coimbatore	477	482
	14 Bhavnagar	508	501		51 Coonoor	477	473
	15 Rajkot	457	462		52 Madurai	457	464
	16 Surat	490	488		53 Salem	470	467
	17 Vadodra	476	473		54 Tiruchirapally	530	548
Haryana	18 Faridabad	487	491	Uttar Pradesh	55 Agra	442	447
	19 Yamunanagar	452	458		56 Ghaziabad	483	486
J & K	20 Srinagar	547	555		57 Kanpur	465	470
Jharkhand	21 Jamshedpur	439	442		58 Saharanpur	436	438
	22 Jharia	376	376		59 Varanasi	491	495
	23 Kodarma	388	394	West Bengal	60 Asansol	459	463
	24 Noamundi	406	411		61 Darjeeling	393	412
	25 Ranchi-Hatia	437	442		62 Durgapur	558	564
Karnataka	26 Bangalore	455	456		63 Haldia	584	589
	27 Belgaum	519	521		64 Howrah	545	548
	28 Hubli-Dharwar	477	477		65 Jalpaiguri	421	425
	29 Mercara	462	463		66 Kolkata	537	536
Kerala	30 Alwaye	489	492		67 Raniganj	419	423
	31 Mundakayam	476	476	Chandigarh	68 Chandigarh	514	521
	32 Quilon	504	502	Delhi	69 Delhi	561	563
	33 Thiruvananthapuram	557	552	Pondicherry	70 Pondicherry	516	512
Madhya Pradesh	34 Balaghat	428	431				
	35 Bhopal	512	515				
	36 Indore	496	493				
	37 Jabalpur	468	470				
					ALL-INDIA	481	484

Additional Series of Labour Bureau

State	Centre	July 2002	August 2002
Andhra Pradesh	1 Kethgudem	491	492
Himachal Pradesh	2 Himachal Pradesh	457	459
Rajasthan	3 Bhilwara	474	479
Madhya Pradesh	4 Chhindwara	448	444
Tripura	5 Tripura	431	443
Goa	6 Goa	578	579

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the Working Committee

NOTICE

10th September 2002

A meeting of the Working Committee of CITU will be held on 1st to 4th December 2002 at Hissar (Haryana) to consider the following agenda:

1. Condolence Resolution
2. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of the working committee held at Bangalore on 24-26 August 2001
3. Presidential Address
4. Report of the General Secretary
5. Finalisation of the special discussion paper on "United Struggles and Organisational Consolidation of the Trade Union Movement"
6. Disaffiliation of the Unions which have not paid the affiliation fee for the year 2000
7. B T R Memorial Fund
8. Resolutions
9. Any other subject with the permission of the Chair

All members of the Working Committee are requested to please attend the meeting positively.

M. K. Pandhe
General Secretary

PLEASE NOTE

The meeting will commence with a Mass Rally on 1st December 2002. The business session of the working committee will commence on 2nd and continue up to 4th December, 2002.

Every member will have to contribute Rs. 400 (Four hundred only) towards lodging and boarding expenses.

Frequent bus service is available from Delhi to Hissar, which takes approximately four hours. On reaching Delhi, comrades should go to Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT) at Kasmiri Gate for availing bus for Hissar. Also train no 4085 Haryana Express starts from New Delhi Station at 18-20 hours and reaches Hissar at 22-42 hours at night. For return to Delhi, besides frequent bus services, train no 4086 Haryana Express is available which starts at morning 5-20 AM from Hissar and reaches New Delhi at 9-32 AM.

Comrades should book their return journey tickets in advance to avoid difficulties of getting reservation from Delhi at the eleventh hour. This is necessary in view of the tourist season.

Arrangements for receiving the comrades at Hissar Bus Stand and Hissar Railway Station will be made by the Reception Committee. Comrades should inform the Reception Committee the date and time of their arrival and mode of travel from Delhi to Hissar at the following address:

The Secretary,
Reception Committee,
CITU Working Committee Meeting,
C/o Haryana State Committee of CITU,
Jawhar Nagar, Gali no 5
Hissar, Haryana. Pin- 125001
Phone: 01662-30720