



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Call of General Council

Fight the Communal and Divisive Forces

P.K. Ganguly

***Anti-Price Rise Day
on August 23**

The General Council meeting of the CITU held at Chandra Shekhar Azad Agricultural University Campus, Kanpur from July 21 to 23, 1990 gave a clarion call to fight and isolate the communal, secessionist and divisive forces of all sorts and consolidate the left, democratic, secular and patriotic forces to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country as the primary task of the working class movement.

The Agricultural University campus was named as Com. B. T. Ranadive Nagar to pay respect to Com. BTR. Big banners with this name were displayed at the main gates of the campus. The entire city was decorated with flags and festoons. Hundreds of volunteers worked day and night for the success of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 284 members including several invitees from some national industrial federations and leaders of working women.

Com. Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary hoisted the red flag. After placing of wreaths at the Martyrs' Memorial the meeting started with two revolutionary recitations by a local Comrade, Subhas Chakrabarty.

Com. Laxmi Saigal, the Chairman of the Reception Committee read out her welcome address. She deeply mourned the death of Com. BTR, who she recalled, had, inaugurated the election campaign for Com. Subhasini Ali, the CPI(M) candidate at Kanpur, on 3rd November, 1989 and paved the way for her victory in the industrial city at the Hindi belt of UP. It was since then that the working class struggles in Kanpur and in the rest of the state got a boost and greatly contributed in ousting the Cong(I) regime and installing the Janata Dal Government in the State, while the National Front Government came at the Centre. She however pointed out that

***Tripura Day
on September 10**

the new State Government was also pursuing the same anti-labour policies as the erstwhile Cong(I) Government and the working class of Kanpur was in the thick of struggles while the General Council meeting was being held. Warmly welcoming the members she assured them that the working class of Kanpur will remain an integral part of the struggle of the working class of the country holding high the banner of the CITU for the achievement of its final objective of establishment of a socialist state.

The presidium of the meeting as proposed by Com. Samar Mukherjee comprised of all the Vice Presidents of the CITU. The first session was presided over by Com. N. Prasad Rao. At the outset, condolence resolutions on Com. BTR, Com. Saroj Mukherjee, Com. Gurucharan Singh Randhawa, on martyrs and others were moved by the Chair. On behalf of the Chair, the resolutions were read out by Com. Pandhe.

The Resolution Committee and the Credential Committee were thereafter constituted as proposed by Com. P.K. Ganguly as follows :

Resolution Committee : Com. Jibon Roy (Convenor), Com. Kanai Banerjee, Com. A. K. Padmanabhan, Com. Chittabrata Majumdar and Com. V. B. Cherian.

Credential Committee : Com. Ranjit Basu (Convenor) Com. Kali Ghosh and Com. P. Satyanarayana.

General Secretary's Report : Com. Samar Mukherjee then placed the General Secretary's report which was read out by Com. P. K. Ganguly and Com. Kanai Banerjee.

Com. Samar Mukherjee recalled that during the period from the last Working Committee meeting

held at Kalyani, the CITU experienced the greatest shock since its formation in 1970. He said, "we lost our founder President, Com. B. T. Ranadive, who left us on 6th April, 1990. Today we are meeting without Com. BTR, without his Presidential Address, without his political guide lines. We cannot forget his brilliant methodical thinking, his speeches, and writings, which were class in itself." Paying glorious tributes to him, he said that the void created by the passing away of Com. BTR, cannot be filled in easily. But following his guidelines, we have to fill in the void by collective functioning to the best of our abilities. The entire organisational machinery has to be geared up accordingly. Likewise he paid tributes to Com. Saroj Mukherjee, Com. G. S. Randhawa and the martyrs and other comrades who passed away during the period.

Explaining the new situation, he said that the ouster of the authoritarian, anti-people and corrupt Cong(I) regime and installation of the National Front Government with the support of the left was an outstanding political event. This was made possible due to the upsurge of mass movements which had culminated in two great Bharat Bandhs on March 15, 1988 and August 30, 1989. All the State Committees and the unions made maximum contribution to the success. He however pointed out that the other objective of isolating the communal and divisive forces could not be achieved. The country was continuing to be plagued by these forces. Tee RSS, VHP, BJP, Bajrang Dal, Jamaite Islami, etc were whipping up the communal passions on the Ramjanam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. The secessionists backed by the imperialists and trained at Pakistan had created dangerous situation in Kashmir and Punjab. The BJP was further creating complications by demanding to abrogate Article 370. The ULFA had emerged as another separatist force in Assam. The Cong(I)-TUJS had intensified their terrorist activities at Tripura. Our comrades were martyred while defending the unity and integrity of the country. He called for countrywide trade union action to intervene in the situation and welcomed the joint decision of the trade unions including INTUC to hold an all India convention against these forces. He pointed out that the BMS remained out of this joint trade union move because of its RSS base.

The report dealt with the economic and industrial policy of the Government and said that it had belied all hopes and the Manifesto of the National Front itself. The Government was following the same policy of the Congress(I) and under pressure from the World Bank and the IMF had opened the doors to the multinationals to exploit the people. Denigration of the Public Sector continued with the path of privatisation, closures and sickness continued to cause havoc. Prices of all commodities were spiralling. While he emphasised the need to support the National Front Government, he called for countrywide action programmes to put pressure on the Government to reverse its policies.

He dealt at length on the question of unemploy-

ment and said that the economic policy being pursued by the National Front Government would make a mockery of its promise to give right to work as a fundamental right. He informed that the Steering Committee on Right to Work had decided for a national seminar to be held in September. But all State Committees should draw up action programmes against unemployment demanding right to work and unemployment allowance for the unemployed. He said that the struggle for right to work has to be carried forward with the demand for reorientation of the economic policy.

On the question of unorganised labour he expressed satisfaction that a number of State Committees had taken it up in their agenda. But it required concerted efforts to penetrate each and every sections of the unorganised labour and bring them into the trade union fold.

On the question of working women he exhorted the State Committees and the unions to form co-ordination committees of working women to bring them into the trade union movement and take up their specific demands. He congratulated the different sections of working women, middle class women employees and particularly the Anganwadi women for their growing struggles. He called upon the State Committee to make maximum mobilisation of the Anganwadi Women in their forthcoming rally at Delhi on 7th August.

The other points dealt with in the report related to workers' participation in management, the newly proposed industrial relations law, struggle of peasants and agricultural workers, support to left front Governments, textile industry, the minorities in trade unions and on the question of Tripura. On the grave situation in Tripura particularly he called for all India action in support of the left front and the workers who are demanding resignation of the Congress(I)-TUJS Government and end to all terrorism.

Finally Com. Samar Mukherjee dealt at length on gearing up the organisation to meet all the challenges. He urged for collective and democratic functioning, sharing of informations and maintaining communications with the Centre, the States, districts, down to the grass root level of workers, combining ideological and agitational campaign at all levels. He urged for membership drive as a regular part of work by the State Committees and the unions.

Treasurer's Report : Com. Balanandan placed the report on accounts. Com. Ranjit Basu placed a report on membership alongwith it. The report was adopted unanimously.

Other Reports : Alongwith the General Secretary's report, Com. Pandhe reported about the Bill on Workers' Participation and the amendments sought by the CITU. Com. Balanandan supplemented it. Com. Pandhe also reported about the meetings of the Bipartite Committee on the new Industrial Relations Law. He made a report on public sector also and called for struggle to save the public sector.

Com. P.K. Ganguly reported about unorganised labour and textile industry on which separate meetings were held. Vimal Ranadive placed a report on working women. Jibon Roy reported about the follow up action after the Right to Work Convention.

Discussion on the Reports : Among those who participated in the discussions were Kali Ghosh, Sunil Basu Roy, Santi Ghatak, Biren Roy and Chittabrata Majumdar (W. Bengal); V.B. Cherman, E. Padmanabhan, and C.B.C. Warriar (Kerala); A.K. Padmanabhan and T.K. Rangarajan (Tamilnadu); Chandi Prasad and Yamuna Sahay (Bihar); V.J.K. Nair (Karnataka); Chandrasekhar (Punjab); K.L. Bajaj (Maharashtra); Amal Ghosh Dastidar (Assam); P. Satyanarayana (Andhra Pradesh); Ravi Sinha (UP); S.B. Bharadwaj (Delhi); Shivdas Vaidya (Tripura); Krishna Kant Verma (Rajasthan); S.N. Solanki (Haryana); Subodh Mehta (Gujarat); Lambodar Nayak (Orissa); Sitaram Manzrekar (Goa); P.K. Mukherjee (Madhya Pradesh); D.N. Kapoor (Himachal Pradesh); K. Rajamma, Gargi Mukherjee, Kamalamma and Krishna Bai (Working Women) and K. Padmanabhan (Plantation).

The members reported about their struggles on the broad issues as mentioned in the General Secretary's report like on struggle against communalism, on unorganised labour, on the economic policy of the Government, on the question of saving the public sector against privatisation, on unemployment, against price rise, against closures and sickness of industries, in the textile industry, on working women and dealt at length on the question of building up the organisation.

They welcomed the joint trade union convention against communalism and divisive forces. Some delegates suggested to hold all India convention against closures and industrial sickness. They also suggested to observe one anti-price rise day and to observe one Tripura day. They supported the report of the General Secretary.

Resolutions : The meeting adopted the following resolutions:

1. **On Economic Policy of the Government**—moved by Com. Balanandan and seconded by Com. Jibon Roy.

2. **Against Communalism and Divisive Forces**—moved by Com. P.K. Ganguly and seconded by Com. Ravi Sinha.

3. **On Tripura**—moved by Com. Haribal Devb-nath and seconded by Com. Md. Amin.

4. **On Sri Lanka**—moved by Com. W.R. Vardarajan and seconded by Com. S.S. Poti.

5. **On World Capitalist Crisis**—moved by Com. K.N. Ravindranath and seconded by Com. Balanandan.

6. **On Working Women**—moved by Com. Uma Maheshwari and seconded by Com. Punnawati.

7. **On LML Scooter, Kanpur**—moved by Com. Laxmi Saigal and seconded by Com. Ravi Sinha.

8. **On Punjab**—moved by Com. Balwant Singh and seconded by Com. M.M. Lawrence.

9. **On Assam**—moved by Com. Bamapada Mukherjee and seconded by Com. Amal Ghosh Dastidar.

10. **Victimisation of Railwaymen**—moved by Com. Kanai Banerjee and seconded by Com. Ramdass.

11. **On Kashmir**—moved by Com. A.K. Padmanabhan and seconded by Com. Ranjit Basu.

Several other resolutions were referred to the Secretariat for adoption.

The meeting was presided over in turn by Com. Prasad Rao, Com. Susheela Gopalan, Com. C. Kannan, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. Chandi Prasad and Com. S. Suranarayan Rao.

Com. Dilip Majumdar gave a contribution of Rs. 22,555/- to the Andhra Pradesh State Committee as cyclone relief on behalf of the Hindustan Steel Employees Union, Durgapur under the W. Bengal State Committee. The draft was taken by Com. N. Prasad Rao.

Com. Ranjit Basu placed the report of the credential committee. As reported by Com. Pandhe, the meeting authorised the Secretariat to adopt a resolution on ESI.

Reply by Com. Samar Mukherjee : In his reply Com. Samar Mukherjee dealt at length again on the necessity to strengthen the organisation. He briefed the international and national situation, the deepening capitalist crises, the pressure of World Bank and the USA, referred to the threat of Super 301 and reiterated the line of the CITU for trade union unity and formation of a Confederation which was now welcomed by several other trade unions. He again called for continued action against the divisive forces. Dealing with the question of Price rise, he suggested to observe a day. He also suggested to observe a day demanding resignation of the Congress (I)-TUIJS Government of Tripura. On the question of closures and industrial sickness he proposed for holding an all India convention. He also informed the house about the invitation received from the WFTU to send a five-member delegation to attend their Congress at Moscow from November 13 to 20, 1990 and the selection of a high level delegation by the Secretariat and the Working Committee, which was then endorsed by the General Council there. He also informed about making Com. B.T.R. Memorial and called for raising a CITU Fund.

Main Decisions of the General Council :

1. Anti-Price Rise Day to be observed on August 23, 1990.

2. Tripura Day to be observed on September 10, 1990.

3. Convention against Closures and Sickness—the date to be decided in consultation with other trade unions.

4. Making the Com. BTR Memorial was approved.

5. Contribution of Re 1/- per member towards the Central CITU Fund by 30th May, 1991, the Foundation Day of the CITU was endorsed.

6. The General Council also endorsed the decision of the Secretariat and the Working Committee to send the following five-member delegation to attend the WFTU Congress at Moscow from November 13 to 20, 1990 :

Com. E. Balanandan (Leader), Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. P.K. Ganguly, Com. Vimal Ranadive and Com. A. K. Padmanabhan.

7. The meeting gave a call to all the state committees and unions to make maximum mobilisation for participation in the joint trade union convention against communalism and divisive forces to be held at Delhi on September 19, 1990.

The meeting concluded with the International, sung by a group of comrades from W. Bengal.

Open Rally : A mass open rally was held on 23rd July afternoon at the street junction at Navin Market. About ten thousand workers attended the rally. Since morning a number of processions started entering the city from different industrial centres and outskirts and converged at the Navin Market. The rally was addressed among others by Com. Jyoti Basu, Com. Samar Mukherjee, Com. Vimal Ranadive, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Subhasini Ali, Com. Ram Sumer Yadav, Com. Ravi Sinha and Com. Arvind Kumar.

CITU Condemns Strike by Drug Cartels

P. K. Ganguly, Secretary CITU issued the following statement on July 26 :

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions condemns the OPPI and other drug cartels for jointly resorting to two days pharmaceutical industry and trade bandh on 7th and 8th August, 1990 and for deciding to bring out a morcha on 8th August before the Prime Minister's place, demanding increasing profit margin, substantial price increase of all essential and life-saving medicines and writing off Rs. 200/- crores extra-profit earned through dubious means mostly by the multinationals, despite Supreme Court judgement for payment of this amount to Central Government's Drug Prices Equalisation Account.

Centre of Indian Trade Unions calls upon the Central Government not to yield to the pressure and blackmail of the drug industry, led by the multinationals. People are already reeling under galloping price rise of all essential commodities including medicines. Drug prices are already high and profit margin are fabulous as revealed by various reports on investment and return.

CITU calls upon all unions in pharmaceutical industry to oppose this bandh. CITU and all other Central Trade Unions appeal to workers of the pharmaceutical industry to observe 7th August, 1990 as All India Demands Day by holding demonstrations, gate meetings etc, demanding review of drug policy, for implementation of Hathi Committee re-

port, nationalisation of all multinationals, drug price reduction, weeding out hazardous and irrational drugs, to stop production and distribution of spurious and substandard drugs etc. It further calls upon the workers of Delhi and the adjoining industrial areas to bring out a morcha on 8th August before the Prime minister's place to counter the morcha of the drug Cartels.

The CITU calls upon all other workers and employees to extend support through solidarity action.

A similar statement was jointly issued by Gopeshwar (INTUC), M. K. Pandhe (CITU), Jatin Chakrabarty (UTUC), Homi Daji (AITUC), R. K. Bhakt (BMS), Pritish Chanda (UTUC-LS) and U. Purohit (HMS). Several Women's organisations including AIDWA, also issued a statement likewise.

Workers Enslaved by Authority Mafia-Caucus in Cochin Port

About 240 Headload labour, working in the handling of fertilizers, sulphurs etc at Cochin Port are virtually enslaved by the Authority Mafia Caucus at Cochin Port. The most unfortunate the mafia groups are operated by the union where those poor workers are compelled to enrol themselves under threat, a report of the Malayalam Weekly, "Kerala Sabdam" says. The so called union is known as Cochin Thuramugha Thozhilali Union (CTTU) who have been carrying on their reign of terror and violence on those poor workers since last two decades through their mafia groups and also by their connivance with the officials of different companies operating at Cochin port. CTTU has exclusive contracts such as bagging, stitching and handlings of fertilizers for FACT, handling of Bauxite for Carborandum Universal, cement for PWD (Lakhadweep) and other headload jobs in Cochin Port for Travancore Titanium, Trivandrum, Mavoor Rayons, Viscose etc. The contract of FACT is in the name of one Transport Contractor who is a close confidant of CTTU leader and other contractors are in the name of one ESSAR agencies owned by the son of the convener of CTTU. And by such monopolistic command over the contracts for handling job CTTU leaders could compel the concerned workers to remain in their fold and exploit them. A substantial part of the wages of the workers are being expropriated by the CTTU contractor combine. The workers are paid only Rs. 10.94 per tonne for bagging phosphate and stitching and stacking of the same where as contractor used to bill much more from the principal employer only on wage account, the large part of the balance amount being channelised to CTTU henchmen. For Bauxite handling workers are paid on tonnage basis whereas contractor receives payment from the awardee on the basis of number of bags handled, the workers are cheated a lot, since about 25 bags constitute a tonne and about 50 lorries of bauxite are usually handled per day.

For ship breaking for which also these workers were made to work the contractor paid the workers

(Cont'd on page 24)

CITU Calls for Campaign Against New Industrial Policy

The Secretariat of the CITU met on July 11 evening under the Presidentship of Com. Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary. The meeting was attended by Com. E. Balanandan, Treasurer, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Md. Amin, Com. Vimal Ranadive, Com. Kanai Banerjee, Com. Jibon Roy, Com. Ranjit Basu and Com. P.K. Ganguly, all Secretaries.

New Industrial Policy : The meeting further discussed new industrial policy of the Government and considered it as the same pro-big business with the drive for liberalisation and privatisation, opening the doors to multinationals and detrimental to self-reliance and strengthening of the public sector, surrendering to the demands of the World Bank and IMF, as was pursued by the former Congress (I) Govt.

The meeting also expressed serious concern at the growing infiltration of the NRIs and the encouragement given by the Government to them. The NRIs who are actually acting through multinationals have already caused serious damage to several well managed units in the country, posing serious threats to their viability and security of jobs of the workers. The case of India Meters and several other companies were cited in this respect.

The meeting also heard the report of the meeting called by the Planning Commission, when all the trade unions opposed the new industrial policy.

The Secretariat called upon the State Committees and the Unions and appealed to all other trade unions to launch intensive and united campaign to pressurise the Govt to reverse the policy. It decided to convene a meeting of the Public Sector Co-ordination Committee of the CITU Unions during the forthcoming General council meeting to discuss the question. It further appealed to the CPSTU to take up the issue to launch joint countrywide campaign against the policy.

Convention Against Communalism : The Secretariat noted that at the initiative of the CITU, several central trade unions like the AITUC, INTUC, HMS, UTUC, TUCC and UTUC (LS) had agreed to convene an all India Convention against Communalism and for National Integration at Delhi, tentatively in August mobilising several thousands of workers. The meeting also noted with satisfaction that all the trade unions have agreed to focus the growing danger from the divisive, communal and secessionist forces like the RSS, VHP, BJP, Bajrang Dal, Jamaite-Islami, Khalistanis, ULFA, etc. who are out to disrupt the unity and integrity of the country on their communal and separatist demands. The danger emanating from the issue of the Ram-

janambhoomi-Babri Masjid and the demand of BJP to scrap the Article 370 of the Constitution was especially discussed by these central trade unions. The Secretariat further noted that the BMS is opposed to the mention of RSS as a communal and divisive force. The Secretariat opined that there should be no compromise on this point and the BMS should be excluded from the proposed convention on the issue. It appealed to all other trade unions to finalise the proposed convention in their meeting scheduled to be held on 12th July.

WFTU Congress : The Secretariat decided to accept the invitation from the WFTU to send a 5 member delegation to attend its 12th Congress to be held at Moscow from November 13 to 20, 1990.

Convention Against Super 301 : The meeting heard report about the initiative taken by several organisations like the FMRAI, AIIEA, BEFI, the National Campaign Committee for Drug Policy, All India People's Science Network, etc to organise an all India Convention at Mavalankar Hall, New Delhi on August 23 against the threat of US Super 301, where the central trade unions and other mass organisations will be invited. The meeting extended full support to the convention.

ICPS Newspaper : The Secretariat welcomed the decision of the TUI of Chemical, Oil and Allied Industries (ICPS) to publish a newspaper for reporting about struggles of the workers in these industries all over the world. The meeting accepted the request of the ICPS to send reports of such struggles from India and nominated Com. S. Debroye, Secretary of the Fertilizer Workers Federation of India for the purpose.

AITUC Conference : The Secretariat accepted the invitation from the AITUC to send one representative to address the inaugural session of its 34th Conference on 7th August at Madras and nominated Com. K. N. Ravindranath, Secretary to attend it.

ILO Workshop on Occupational Safety and Health : The meeting nominated Com. P. K. Das of the Steel Workers Federation of India, Durgapur to attend the workshop on Occupational Safety and Health being organised by the ILO at Bombay from October 8 to 12, 1990.

IDPL Dharna : The meeting extended full support to the dharna being jointly organised by the IDPL Kamgar Federation and FMRAI before the Petro-Chemical Ministry at Delhi on 22nd August, 1990. It called upon the members of both the organisations to participate in the dharna in large number.

Complaint to ILO : The Secretariat noted the conclusions and recommendations of the ILO on the complaint lodged by the CITU against the management of Heavy Waters, Talcher, Orissa for violations of trade union rights. It decided to send a rejoinder.

Rally of Anganwadi Workers : The Secretariat extended full support to the all India rally of Anganwadi women to be held at Delhi on 7th August and called upon the State Committees and the Co-ordination Committee of Working Women to make maximum mobilisation for it.

Right to Work : The meeting noted that the Steering Committee constituted by the Right to Work Convention held at Durgapur had finalised the Approach Paper which was going to be released to the press on 17th July. A delegation would also meet the Prime Minister to submit the Approach Paper to him. The Secretariat also suggested that the Prime Minister should be requested to call a meeting to discuss the issue, when the Planning Commission members and the Industry Minister should also be invited. The Secretariat further extended support to the decision of the Steering Committee to organise a national seminar on the issue sometime in September.

Bill on Workers Participation : The meeting discussed several points regarding the amendment of the Bill on Workers Participation in Management which did not reflect the conclusions of the Seminar. The amendments will be further discussed and finalised in the forthcoming General Council meeting.

New I. R. Law : The Secretariat heard report of the meeting of the Bipartite Committee for the new Industrial Relations Law and noted that while there was unanimity among the trade unions on several issues, the management remained adamant with their views. The Secretariat decided not to make any compromise on the vital issues faced by the working class, like closures, lock outs, etc.

General Council Meeting : The meeting heard reports about preparations for the General Council meeting to be held at Kanpur from July 21 to 23 and decided to complete all preparations, reports, etc by July 17.

the representatives of the INTUC, HMS, CITU, AITUC, TUCC and UTUC under the chairmanship of Vireshwar Tiagi (HMS), it was decided to start the anti-communalism campaign by holding a national convention at Delhi on September 19.

The meeting voiced grave concern over the activities of bigoted fundamentalists like Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Babri Masjid Action Committee who are whipping up the communal emotions of the people at large, thus endangering the unity and integrity of the country. The decision of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad to go ahead with the Shilayanias at the Ram Janam Bhoomi and demolition of the Babri Masjid has ushered in an explosive situation in the country as a whole. Organisations and parties like the RSS, BJP, Bajarang Dal, Muslim League, Jamaite Islami, etc are deliberately spreading communalism to get their own narrow ends served. Added to those is the terrorist of secessionist forces in J & K, Punjab, Assam and other states. All these divisive forces are aided and abetted by foreign powers. Parochial organisations like the Shiv Sena in Bombay are raising chauvinistic and divisive slogans.

It is an issue of grave concern to the country's trade union movement, that has all along been free from religious, fundamentalist, communal, casteist and linguistic considerations, that such divisive elements are systematically trying to infiltrate into various industrial centres like Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Meerut, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Kota, Ahmedabad, Baroda, etc and disrupt the unity of the workers.

The country's working class movement can ill afford to be silent witness to those dangerous trends and should fully utilise the organised strength of the workers to effectively meet the challenge.

The Trade Union Centres therefore appeal to all unions of workers to join the national convention at Delhi on September 19, 1990, so that a countrywide joint movement can be launched to isolate the divisive and communal forces to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country.

S. N. Rao (INTUC)	Veereshwar Tiagi (HMS)
D. D. Shastri (TUCC)	Mahendra Sharma (HMS)
K. L. Mahendra (AITUC)	Abani Roy (UTUC)
M. K. Pandhe (CITU)	P. K. Ganguly (CITU)

Joint Fight Against Communalism by Central Trade Unions

All major central trade union organisations have decided to jointly launch a massive nationwide campaign against communalism and divisive forces.

At a meeting held at New Delhi on 12th July evening at the CITU office, which was attended by

Editorial Board

M.K. Pandhe (*Chairman*)

P.K. Ganguly (*Working Editor*)

Manoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh,

M.M. Lawrence, Vimal Ranadive, Ranjit Basu

TUs Flay New Industrial Policy of Government

P.K. Ganguly

As a part of formulation of the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission for the first time invited the Central Trade Unions in a meeting on July 5 to discuss Labour and Employment issues. The meeting was attended by about 50 representatives from the Central Trade Unions, organisations in the Construction industry, from unorganised labour, some voluntary organisations, the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), representatives from the employers' organisations and the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour. The CITU was represented by P.K. Ganguly, Secretary. The other Central Trade Union representatives were Gopeshwar, Ramlal Thakkar (INTUC); Umraomal Purohit (HMS); R.K. Bhakt (BMS); Prashanta Das Gupta, D.D. Shastri (TUCC).

The meeting was presided over by Ela Bhatt, Member Planning Commission and General Secretary of SEWA. The other Members of the Planning Commission who attended the meeting were L.C. Jain, Rajani Kothari, J.D. Shethy, T.N. Seshan, Arun Ghosh, Dr. Vaidhyanathan and Dr. H.N. Swaroop Singh.

The discussion was initiated by Ela Bhatt and supplemented by L.C. Jain. They said that the objective of the meeting was to get acquainted with the problems of labour and take specific suggestions on the question of employment generation in the light of the decision of the Government to incorporate the Right to Work as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution. They pointed out that Right to Work constituted the centre-piece of the reorientation of planning in the Approach Paper of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1990-95). This implied a full employment strategy. Giving reference from the Approach Paper, they said that the mandate of the people called for an alternative model of development within the framework of national planning. To achieve this aim, the Approach Paper sought to ensure that growth was widely distributed across regions and sections of the population so as to absorb both the increases in the labour force, as well as the backlog of the unemployed in different parts of the country. They put particular stress on land reforms, unorganised labour, especially agricultural labour on the question of minimum wage and on small scale industry with labour intensive technology. The Approach Paper, they pointed out, visualised re-orientation of the industrial and agricultural policy to achieve the objective and claimed that near full employment can be achieved by 2000 A.D.

Gopeshwar, General Secretary of INTUC was given the opportunity to speak first from the labour side. He made a strong criticism of the Approach

Paper and asserted that the 3 percent growth in employment as visualised in the Eighth Plan will never be achieved. He drew attention of the Planning Commission members particularly to the rising unemployment among the educated youth and called for special programmes to alleviate the situation, otherwise right to work will not carry any meaning. Umraomal Purohit, General Secretary of HMS spoke in identical manner and particularly urged for filling up of vacant posts in various Government departments. He supported the thrust towards the agricultural sector and the small scale sector for more employment generation.

Speaking next, P.K. Ganguly generally supported the approach of the Eighth Plan on the question of employment generation on the basis of a reorientation of industrial and agricultural policy. But he made a scathing criticism of the new industrial policy as stated by the Industry Minister and also approved by the Cabinet, which would upset the goals set by the Approach Paper. The industrial policy contradicted the Manifesto of the National Front. Instead of reversing the erstwhile Congress(I) Government's policies, it has on the contrary given further boost to the big business to enter the area of small scale sector and ancillary units by further raising the investment ceilings. A large number of small scale units will thus be closed throwing thousands of workers on the street. The most obnoxious part of the policy was to allow automatic foreign equity participation upto 40 percent, opening the doors wide open to the multinationals to ravage the Indian economy and self-reliance. The policy to withdraw licensing system by exempting investment upto Rs. 75 crores and to allow import of capital goods and raw materials upto 30 percent of plant and machinery pointed to the wreckless liberalisation drive by the Government, ridiculing its own Manifesto. P.K. Ganguly warned that the surrender to the threat of US Super 301 had already started. There has also been a move to amend the FERA to invite investment by multinationals and to further raise the ceiling of assets of MRTP companies to Rs. 500 crores. Surrendering to the demands of the World Bank, the Rajiv Government had raised it to Rs. 100 crores from Rs. 20 crores. Ganguly said that new industrial policy had not only reduced the Planning Commission to a mere formality, but also was a further step forward to undermine the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956, which called for a commanding role for the public sector. He said that unless there was an overall reversal of the economic, industrial and agricultural policies earlier pursued by the Congress(I) Government, the promise to give Right to Work or more employment generation would remain a mockery. The policy would

create further unemployment, expose the workers and the people to ruthless exploitation by the monopolists and multinationals and put the country into debt trap. He demanded withdrawal of the new industrial policy and reformulate it after a country-wide debate.

He further informed the Planning Commission that on the initiative of the CITU an all India Convention of various national industrial federations was held in April on the question of Right to Work. The Convention had finalised an Approach Paper suggesting a number of long term and immediate measures which would go a long way to generate employment and alleviate the situation. The Approach Paper would be submitted to the Prime Minister shortly. It was given to the Planning Commission members in the meeting.

He pointed out that with each Five Year Plan the unemployment grew, the number of closed and sick industries grew. At the same time the assets of the monopolists also grew. The planning process has to be changed in the other direction. He emphasised that the process of employment generation and the right to work has to be made alongwith the reorientation of the economic policy, free from the dictates of the World Bank and IMF. Genuine land reforms with distribution of surplus lands, plugging the loopholes in the ceiling laws, etc. were a precondition for this. Alongwith this, expansion of irrigation, development of rural based, agro-based and small scale and traditional industries would generate large number of employments. The policy of the Government has to be directed to eliminate feudal exploitation and rural vested interests from the Panchayats. On the question of minimum wage, need based wages as decided in the 15th Labour Conference should be the objective. A central legislation for the agricultural workers should be enacted without delay to give them protection from feudal exploitation. By putting a curb on closures and industrial sickness tens of thousands of jobs can be saved. The Govt. has to review the earlier policy of nationalisation. The path of privatisation and invitation to multinationals have to be given a go-bye and the public sector has to be strengthened for a self-reliant economy. There has to be a stop to unhindered modernisation, computerisation and inviting foreign technology. Capacity utilisation of the existing plants was an absolute necessity. For creation of new jobs indigenous labour-intensive technology and the process of indigenisation have to be started with the production of mass consumption goods instead of durable elite goods. The Govt. must stop import of any item which can be produced indigenously. He urged for withdrawal of the ban on recruitment in the Central Government establishments and public sector undertakings which would provide jobs to thousands. Alongwith this the practice of systematic manpower reduction has to be stopped. He further urged for take over of whole sale trade in food grains and expansion of the public distribution system. He also suggested a planned programme of eradication of illiteracy, which would

provide large number of jobs to the educated unemployed. The question of reduction of working hours and introduction of more shifts in factories should also be considered to provide more employment. He especially stressed on the women work force, the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other minorities and urged for special employment generation programmes for them. He also called for reorientation of the taxation policy. He brought to the notice of the Planning Commission that during independence the direct taxation was 40 percent and indirect taxation was 60 percent. But now the direct taxation was only about 15 percent and indirect taxation was to the tune of 85 percent. He also urged for tapping the black money, which had grown to about Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 thousand crores now, while according to Wanchoo Commission report some years back it was estimated to be around Rs. 7 thousand crores. He also suggested a moratorium on foreign debt payment and cited the example of Latin American and the African countries where the trade unions have launched struggles in pursuance of this demand. Pending guarantee of employment, he demanded unemployment allowance which would increase the credibility of the Government.

The speakers thereafter hammered on the new industrial policy statement. Among those who spoke were R. K Bhakt (BMS), D D Shastri (TUCC) Jaya Jetley (HMKP), S K Bakshi Gulam Mohd (Unorganised Workers), Madhusudan Mistry (Voluntary Tribal Organisations), Renana Jhagwala (SEWA), Geetha Ramakrishnan (Construction), Geetha Ramaswamy (Agricultural Labour Union, AP), Thomas Kochery (Fisheries, Kerala), D. Thangappan (Kamani Tubes) and others.

R. K Bhakt (BMS) opposed the entry of multinationals. He said that the trade unions had consistently opposed such policy of the Congress (I). He urged upon the Planning Commission members to prevail upon the Government to withdraw the new industrial policy statement. Gopeshwar (INTUC) again intervened to say that the trade union movement will have to launch struggle if the new industrial policy is not changed. D D Shastri (TUCC) said that the National Front Government was following the same path as the Congress (I). Even there is a move to allow multinationals in the agricultural sector. Employment generation in the agricultural sector will be a far cry in that case. He particularly drew attention to the growing closures and industrial sickness and severely criticised the Industry Minister's statement that sick units will not be taken over. He stressed for genuine land reforms and distribution of surplus lands to the landless, remunerative prices to the peasants and minimum wage and central legislation for the agricultural workers. Jaya Jetley (HMKP) pointed to the growing joblessness among the women workforce and demanded more job opportunities for women. She further demanded equal remuneration for the working women at par with their male counterparts in all jobs. Geetha Ramakrishnan, who represented the Tamilnadu Const-

(Cont'd on page 20)

Resolutions

Com. B.T. Ranadive

The General Council meeting of CITU held from 21st—23rd July 1990 at Kanpur expresses its profound grief at the passing away of Com. B.T. Ranadive, the founder President of CITU and senior-most Polit Bureau member of CPI(M) on 6th April, 1990 at Bombay.

Com. B.T. Ranadive was one of the pioneers and a great teacher of the working class movement in India, most dedicated fighter for proletarian internationalism and was one of the finest interpreters of Marxism-Leninism. He made unparalleled contributions in developing and consolidating the communist movement in India.

Born on December 19, 1904 at Bombay in a middle class family Com. B.T.R. joined the anti-imperialist freedom struggle during his early student life. By the time he had completed his post-graduate studies in economics with highest colour from Bombay University, he was influenced by the Great October Revolution and plunged into the Communist movement. He got the Party membership in the year 1928 when the party was in nascent stage. In the process of implementing the basic tenets of the proletarian philosophy Com. B.T.R. took up with his indefatigable determination and brilliant intellectual faculty the task of organising the working class into trade unions and led a number of strike struggles in the very early stage of political life which included the historic textile strike of 1928-29 and the railway workers strike of 1930. He became a member of the Central Committee of the all India Centre of Communist Party when it was formed in the year 1934. Within a narrow span of time Com. B.T.R. marked his presence as a powerful Marxist theoretician capable of generalising the developments and taking stands on events from class point of view.

Com. B.T.R. had initiated the process of the political line of support to the Soviet Union and the anti-fascist war against Nazi Germany when he was under detention in Deoli camp during 1940-42. Com B.T.R. became the member of Polit Bureau in the year 1943 at the first Congress of CPI.

Since his release from Deoli Jail in the year 1942 Com. B.T.R. was guiding the militant and key activities of the party on behalf of the Central Committee, which had shown the excellent acumen in combining the Naval upsurge in Bombay. At the second Congress of CPI in the year 1948 Com. B.T. Ranadive was elected the General Secretary of

the party and worked in that capacity till 1950. It was the period when the party led big anti-feudal struggles such as the Telengana peasants struggle and faced tremendous repression from the Congress Govt.

After 1956 when he was elected to the leadership of CPI once again, Com. B.T.R. played the key role in the struggle against revisionism and then against left-sectarianism since the late sixties. For intervening period of 1962-66 he was put behind the bars for his forthright stand on Sino-Indian conflict and for his demand of peaceful negotiated settlement. From the Seventh Congress of the Party in the year 1964 which saw the formation of the CPI(M), Com. B.T.R. was elected as the Polit Bureau member of the party and he occupied that position till the date of his death.

In this process of seven decades of his activities within the working class Com. B.T.R. had a profound love for working class and inculcated an excellent capacity to understand and generalise their problem in the context of class approach. He had the roaring pen and his oratory brilliance to champion the cause of the toiling people. His passing away is a great loss to the working class.

The General Council of CITU records with esteemed respect its indebtedness to the demised leader for his role in forming the organisation in the year 1970 and steering the same to the commanding height of militancy and as the rallying centre of trade union movement in the country. Com. B.T.R. as the great teacher of the working class made foremost contribution in raising the trade union movement from the narrow spectrum of economism to the spirit of proletarian internationalism and worked untiringly to raise the stature of Indian working class as the leading class for social transformation. In the struggle for protecting the working class philosophy from dilutions both from right and left deviations and also from reformism he remained an indomitable soldier of Marxism-Leninism till the day of his death.

The General Council of CITU cherishes the memory of the departed leader, his role as the great organiser to deal with every important aspect of the CITU to the minutest details and his towering personality which was interwoven with delightful softness, accessible to any comrade even at the peak of his work. The General Council recollects his wide virtue of keeping himself up to date with the most

current developments or the social polity or whatever branch it may be.

The General Council expresses concern at the void created in working class movement at the passing away of comrade B.T. Ranadive. The General Council feels that only the united collective effort of the CITU with its State Committees, District Committees and the unions can fill up the gap in a period of time.

The General Council in epitomising the teaching of the great leader records its determination to continue the struggle for trade union unity and reaffirms its resoluteness to raise the working class movement as the leading force for national unity and integrity. The General Council reassures vindicating the concerns of the demised leader for the women and the down trodden section of the Indian population. The General Council reaffirms its resoluteness to carry forward the message of its beloved teacher for running the CITU organisation with the fullest involvement of leading bodies, ranks and process of collective functioning. The General Council calls upon the vast ranks of the CITU which developed under the direct guidance of Com. B.T.R. to maintain unflinching loyalty to the working class and its philosophy, Marxism-Leninism. It is the great inheritance of Com. B.T.R. to teach the masses and to learn from the masses till the day of his death which all of the CITU ranks must practise, the General Council asserts.

The General Council of CITU expresses its heartfelt homage to the memory of Com. B.T.R. It conveys its condolence to his wife Com. Vimal Ranadive, his son and other family members.

Com. Saroj Mukherjee

The General Council of CITU dips its red flag and expresses its grief at the demise of Com. Saroj Mukherjee, the Polit Bureau Member and Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee of CPI(M).

Throughout his eventful political life spread over for more than half a century since his joining the freedom movement in his teens, Com. Saroj Mukherjee did successfully portray the image of a revolutionary devotee for the cause of the emancipation of the people from the bondage of imperialism and exploitation. He joined the Indian National Congress in 1924 and was imprisoned in 1930 at the height of the civil disobedience movement. While in Congress, he was also closely linked with Jugantar revolutionary group and took an active part in both forms of struggle against the British imperialism. He had been also in close contact of Com. Muzzaffar Ahmed, Com. Abdul Halim from his student days and became a member of the Communist Party in 1931. He made notable contribution to building the Communist Party and the united left movement from the pioneering phase facing long imprisonment both under British and Congress rules, long period

of underground life, through immense stress and strain. In the early thirties he was closely associated with the Railway workers union and since 1938 he began working as wholetimer in the Communist Party. He had been Secretary of Calcutta District Committee of the party from 1939 to 1943 and remained a Secretariat Member of the West Bengal Provincial Committee of the party from 1943 to 1964 with a two years gap in the intervening period. He had been a West Bengal Secretariat Member of CPI(M) from its inception and had been a member of CC from 1978 and of PB from 1988 till his death. During the Congress regime also he had been imprisoned for five years and remained underground a few years. He also played a key role in the struggle against revisionism and left sectarian deviation in defence of Marxism-Leninism at every critical turn of events.

He did also expose his excellence in the field of journalism and made valuable contribution in developing the party newspaper in West Bengal right from the time of Swadhinata to Ganashakti. He wrote a number of books and pamphlets on the history of left and Communist movement in India and on Marxism-Leninism.

In particular his memoirs on development of Communist movement in our country is a worthy creation and an invaluable addition to the treasure of Communist literature besides being a source of learning to all.

Com. Saroj Mukherjee, inspite of being in the fore level of the leadership of the party was known to be a charming personality for his affectionate behaviour in dealing with all ranks of the party and people from all walks of life. In spite of illness and deteriorating health, the stress and trouble taken by him in shouldering the stewardship of the party in a State like West Bengal after the death of Com. Promode Dasgupta till his death is really remarkable and exemplary of communist devotion to revolutionary cause.

CITU condoles with a heavy heart the passing away of Com. Saroj Mukherjee and pays homage to his memory and conveys its condolence to his wife Com. Kanak Mukherjee and his other family members.

Com. Gurcharan Singh Randhawa

This session of the General Council of CITU pays homage the Com. Gurcharan Singh Randhawa, member of the Central Committee and Secretary of the Punjab State Committee of CPI(M) who passed away on December 15, 1989 and respectfully remembers his heroic role in the struggle against British imperialism and his dedication in building up movement of the toiling people against exploitation and against the divisive and secessionist forces.

Throughout his active political life spread over more than five decades, Com. Randhawa acted with

undaunted spirit in upholding the cause of the people, undergoing different spell of imprisonment in both British and Congress rule and long years of underground life.

Despite deteriorating health owing to cancer, Com. Randhawa never rested in his untiring effort to organise and guide the fight against the Khalistani secessionists upholding the cause of national unity till the last day of his life. His death is a great loss to the left movement and the struggle for national unity of the country. This General Council conveys its heartfelt condolences to his family members.

On Homage to Martyrs

This General Council meeting of CITU held at Kanpur from 21-23 July, 1990 expresses profound grief at the ghastly killing of Com. Sohan Singh Dhesi, State Secretary of Punjab Unit of DYFI, by Khalistani extremists. Com. Dhesi had assiduously built up the DYFI as the most powerful youth organisation in Punjab championing the cause of the country's unity and integrity. The General Council also strongly condemns the cowardly act of Khalistani terrorists in gunning down comrade Malagar Singh and Com. Nazir Singh, two members of the CPI(M) in Punjab on 13 September last year.

This General Council meeting of CITU pays revolutionary homage to Com. Gurpratap Singh, a youth leader of CPI (M), whom the terrorists had gunned down on March 7 and Com. Kartar Chand an office bearer of Punjab Unit of Agricultural Workers Union who was killed in Ropar District.

The General Council meeting denounces the heinous killing of Com. Bachchan Singh by the Khalistani terrorists at his village Khaspur in Patiala district on June 14, 1990. Com. Bachchan Singh was playing a prominent role in leading the Kisan Sabha to combat Khalistani separatist gangs. The meeting pays homage to Dilbagh Singh Buttari, Iqubal Singh, Chhenchal Singh, Mangtir Singh, Mata Tej Kaur, Dr. Jagdish Chander and others who were martyred at Punjab. The meeting pays homage to Com. Sudama Prasad of LML Group Employees Union, Kanpur, who was shot dead by police on 28th March, 1990.

The General Council meeting pays tribute to Com. Umesh Marak, a CITU activist working among the rubber plantation workers in Ratacharra (Tripura) who was brutally murdered by the TUJS hoodlums on 26th December, 1989.

The General Council meeting pays its revolutionary homage to all those brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives and displayed exemplary courage in protecting the national unity and defence of working class, CITU and democratic movement.

Condolences

The General Council meeting of CITU held at

Kanpur from 21-23 July 1990, pays homage to Com. Dolores Ibaruri, (La Passionaria), a legendary heroine of Spain's Civil War and a source of inspiration to the Communist world in the fight against fascism, for democracy and socialism and Com. Rodney Arismendi, the communist leader of Uruguay and Dada Amir Haider Khan, a pioneer in the Communist movement in India. The General Council pays its respectful homage to Com. Mohan Singh Jandiala, President of Punjab State Kisan Sabha, Com. Shadiram a veteran trade union leader and President of Delhi State Committee of CITU, Com. P. K. Kannan Nair, member of Kerala State Committee and veteran Communist leader of Kerala, Com. T. P. Muthusamy, member of Tamilnadu State Committee of CPI (M) and State Kisan Sabha leader, Com. K. S. Parthasarathy, leader of handloom workers in Tamilnadu, Com. Samarendra Sanyal, a member of the W. Bengal State Committee of the Party and Dr. Harindra Nath Chattopadhyay, a great poet and a patriot, Pt. Kishorilal, Com. M. G. Ramachandran, the plantation labour leader of Kerala, Madhabendu Mohanto and Paritosh Chatterjee of W. Bengal, Amrit Bhattacharjee of Assam and A. Rangaiah of Andhra Pradesh.

On Economic Policy of N. F. Government

The General Council meeting of CITU held at Kanpur from 21st-23rd July, 1990 expresses grave concern at the National Front Govt's economic policy which has resulted in further rise in prices of all commodities and at the same time continuing the policy of the previous government of compromising the country's self reliance.

The General Council expresses serious concern at the uninterrupted price spiralling of all commodities. Whole sale prices are increasing at a rate, after the introduction of new railway fare and freight hike and the budget of 1990-91, which may touch an annual figure of 12% at the end of the year. While appreciating the very difficult economic situation that the National Front Govt. inherited from the earlier Cong. (I) Govt, with huge budgetary deficit, colossal indebtedness and acute balance of payment position, the General Council cannot but disapprove any proposal of imposing new burden on common people and the working class. The General Council feels distressed that the National Front Govt. disregarding the proposals of the left Parties and the trade unions to modify the Railway budget and the General Budget have remained determined to mop up an amount of Rs. 3000 crores through imposition of new duties, raising railway fare and freight and charges on postage and communication. This huge amount will mostly be realised from common people while virtually no relief is extended to them. The general budget moreover provides a deficit of Rs. 7206 crores which also will contribute to further price rise.

The General Council welcomes the step taken by the National Front Govt. in bringing all land reform legislations under Ninth Schedule through Constitu-

tional amendments. The General Council however, reiterates that the proposed Agricultural Policy Resolution should seriously deal with the question of effective land reform without which the above constitutional changes will bear no fruit.

The General Council recalling the experience of the states ruled by the Left Fronts specially of West Bengal reasserts that land reforms combined with the distribution of lands to the landless and the real devolution of power in the country side can bring greater degree of equity and social justice which the National Front pledged in its election manifesto and can also act as a motive force towards employment generation in the economy.

The General Council expresses great concern at the proposals contained in the Industrial Policy statement which was placed before the Parliament on last day of its budget session by the Industry Minister. The General Council warns the National Front Government that the proposed policy will be divorcing overwhelming part of the Industrial activities from the planning process, will hasten up the process of curbing the public sector, the process which was initiated by the previous Govt and further expose the economy to multinationals, will make the country further dependent on foreign loans worsening the balance of payment position. Thus the new policy will come out as a very big threat to the country's self reliance. The General Council notes with concern that all the propositions of the Industrial Policy Statement like withdrawal of licensing system upto the investment limit of Rs. 25 crores and Rs. 75 crores in respect of backward areas and non-backward areas, automatic extension of 40 percent equity of foreign investors in joint sector and also the automatic import sanction upto 30 per cent of the landed costs of the plant and machineries over and above the OGL import, actually satisfies the stipulations imposed by the World Bank recently in the name of making the investment climate in India congenial. It also satisfies the World Bank and IMF demand of withdrawing Govt. control in the field of industry and trade for which U. S. administration was exerting pressure on India under Super 301. The proposal of raising the investment limit in small sector to Rs. 60 lakhs and in case of ancillaries up to Rs. 75 lakhs will also seriously hit the small scale sectors and its employment potentiality.

It is also a matter of grave concern for the General Council that the Govt is opening the core areas like power generation to monopoly and multinationals. The entire policy of the Govt is for a massive move in the way of further liberalisation of economy in the name of resource scarcity, competitiveness, export orientation and finally of the most handy slogan of 'global reality'. The General Council warns the Govt. that in the context of current grim economic situation in all fronts of Indian economy the acute indebtedness and most critical balance of payment situations, the present spate of liberalisation will in no way open new source of loan from the international liquidity market on soft term, on the

contrary it will endanger the economy further. Liberalisation will make the Govt. compromise self-reliance and to abandon all the election pledges including increase in employment potential.

The General Council of CITU demands of the National Front Govt. to basically change its economic and industrial policies and to follow new policies in tune with its election pledges, ie policy based on equity, employment generation and self-reliance in consultation with the trade unions, political parties and other democratic organisations. The General Council firmly believes that industrial growth based on indigenous technologies, curbing of non-essential imports, promotion of large scale industries, revival of sick industries and massive support to small sector with effective land reform and distribution of lands to the landless peasantry are only capable of ridding the country of the current crisis.

The General Council expresses its satisfaction that the trade unions, the political parties, economists and a section of the press and columnists, and a section of employers have come out courageously with the spirit of patriotism against the industrial and economic policies of the Govt. The General Council calls upon the working class to carry forward the struggle against the extremely harmful economic and industrial policies of the Govt and forge broadest possible unity to put a massive and united pressure on the Govt to change the policies basically in favour of the working class and the country as a whole. The General Council calls upon the trade unions to build up public opinion through conventions, seminar and public meetings jointly with other trade unions and democratic mass organisations.

On Communal and Divisive Forces

The meeting of the General Council of CITU held at Kanpur from 21st to 23rd July, 1990 expresses its deep concern at the alarming situation created in the country by the intensified activities of communal, divisive and separatist forces in various parts of the country. These forces encouraged and assisted by the imperialists are threatening the unity and integrity of the country. The Ramjanam Bhoomi and Babri Masjid issue is threatening to cause a volcanic eruption with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrangdal, RSS, etc brewing the issue, fully supported by B. J. P. The decision of VHP to go ahead with the construction of the temple demolishing Babri Masjid will no doubt whip up Muslim fundamentalism. This alongwith their decision to liberate other temples in Mathura, Varanasi etc speak of their real intention of spreading communal violence throughout the country, The Communal riots have entered the industrial cities like Jamshedpur, Kanpur, Kota, Ahmdabad, Baroda, etc.

Added to this is the deteriorating situation in Kashmir, Punjab and Assam created by the separatist forces. The demands of the BJP for the abrogation of Article 370 of the constitution, dissolution of minorities commission and their opposition to giving due status to Urdu language etc are further weaken-

ing the national unity.

Alongwith these are the attempts of the castiest forces resorting to violence causing further disunity among the masses.

The recent official disclosures on the activities of Anand Margies plotting to kill the CPI (M) leader like Com. Jyoti Basu reveals the sinister motives of the imperialist agencies.

The activities of the communal, casteist, divisive and secessionist forces complement each other leading to total disruption of national life. It is in this context that all the Central Trade Unions believing in strengthening of national unity by upholding secularism have come together and decided to hold an all India Convention at Delhi on September 19 to launch a joint campaign against these forces of disruption like RSS, VHP, Bajrangdal, Shiv Sena, Jamaite Islami, BJP, Muslim League, the Khalistanies, the ULFA etc.

The CITU General Council meeting calls upon all the State Committees, affiliated unions and all secular forces in the country to mobilize their strength to make this convention a big success to defeat and isolate all the communal, divisive and secessionist forces.

On Developments in Sri Lanka

The General Council of CITU, meeting at Kanpur on 21-23 July, 1990, expresses its deep concern over the recent grave developments in Sri Lanka where the armed confrontation between the Sri Lankan forces and the LTTE have resulted in mounting civilian casualties in the North Eastern Tamil Province, with thousands uprooted from their homes, fleeing that country seeking refuge in India. The present conflict threatens to disturb peace in the region, providing a fertile soil for imperialism to perpetuate its presence and domination in the region.

The General Council reiterates that only a political solution can resolve the ethnic problem of Tamils in Sri Lanka protecting the interests of Tamils, their language and culture with autonomy for the North Eastern Tamil Province, within the framework of a united sovereign Sri Lanka, for which a basis was provided by the Indo-Sri Lanka accord.

The General Council is of the view that the present situation is the result of sabotage of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord by the Premadasa Government and the LTTE joining hands to demand withdrawal of IPKF without the full implementation of the accord, particularly, devolution of powers to the North Eastern Provincial Council. The LTTE, in its craze for establishing its monopolistic domination over the Sri Lankan Tamils, fell a pray to the tactics of Premadasa Govt which pitted different Tamil militant groups against each other. The LTTE's ulterior designs to eliminate all other Tamil groups by brutal

annihilation was laid bare by the recent massacre in Madras of Padmanabhan and other EPRLF leaders which had invited universal condemnation.

The General Council deploras that under the pretext of supporting the Sri Lankan Tamils, certain chauvinistic and disgruntled groups/individuals in Tamilnadu are indulging in eulogisation of LTTE and raising slogans like self determination rights of Tamil nationality leading to secessionist propaganda. The attitude of the DMK Government of Tamilnadu in patronising the LTTE and sheilding its disruptive activitie using Tamil Nadu as base, and denigrating the IPKF is causing grave concern and merits disapproval.

The General Council condemns the Killing of innocent Tamil civilian population by the Sri Lankan armed forces and urges the National Front Government to use its influence with the Government of Sri Lanka to avert further escalation of conflict and stopping civilian casualties. The DMK Government should be prevailed upon to strictly ensure that the LTTE does not use Indian soil for its nefarious and disruptive activities and also deal firmly with the elements trying to foster separatism and raise divisive slogans in Tamil Nadu.

The General Council urges that a just and democratic solution should be found to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, through negotiations in which the Sri Lankan Government and all Tamil parties and groups should participate.

The General Council calls upon the trade unions and the working class of the country to stand firmly for a democratic solution of the Sri Lankan ethnic problem in the interests of both Sri Lanka and India and to prevent the manoeuvre of the imperialist forces.

The General Council in particular calls upon the workers and trade unions of Tamil Nadu, to safeguard the unity of Tamil people and defeat the attempts by disruptive forces raising separatist and divisive slogans utilising the present situation.

On Punjab

This meeting of the General Council of the CITU held at Kanpur from 21-23 July 1990 expresses deep concern over the deteriorating situation in Punjab, the extremists continuing their violence and killing of innocent people and political opponents with a view to destabilise India. The U.S. imperialists are organising these extremists using Pakistan as the base. The N. F. Govt has hardly succeeded in putting its impression on the situation. The initiative was not continued. The Mann faction of the Akali Dal even raised the demand of plebiscite for the right of self determination and sought UN intervention and extremists support to Pakistan if war takes place.

The General Council, however, notes that a big section of the people are disgusted with the terrorist

activity. But out of fear of the consequences they do not come forward to put up open resistance to terrorist activity. Even some Akali factions are not in favour of a secessionist line.

The General Council is of confirmed view that solution to the problem lies in the united effort of all secular forces to mobilise Sikh and non-sikh masses, draw them into action against the secessionist elements, coupled with administrative action for curbing terrorist activities with utmost vigil so that innocent common people are not terrorised, and at the same time evolution of political solution on the basis of Rajiv-Longowal Accord.

The General Council congratulates the leaders and workers of CITU who alongwith other left trade unions and parties have consistently carried on heroic struggle against the divisive forces and for a solution of the problem in an adverse situation. In the course of this struggle many of the best leaders and cadres of CITU, other left trade unions and parties have been martyred. But nothing could deter them from carrying forward this important task.

The General Council appeals to the National Front Govt to take further initiative for uniting all secular forces and mobilising Sikhs and non-sikh masses in the Punjab against the separatist, extremist forces to create conditions for an early political solution of Punjab problem.

The General Council calls upon the unions throughout the country to expose the imperialist machinations behind the secessionist activities in Punjab and through persistent campaign to mobilise the widest sections of the working class and the people to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country and against all divisive and separatist forces, which will give our comrades in Punjab more courage and confidence in their struggle which is being carried on in extremely difficult condition.

On Assam Situation

This meeting of the General Council of CITU held at Kanpur on 21-23 July 1990 is deeply concerned at the intensification of extremist activities of ULFA in Assam. Campaign of violence, murder, and extortion are going on unabated. Several areas in the State seem to be under the virtual control of ULFA where reign of terror is prevailing. More than hundred murders have been committed by the ULFA. Two CITU activists who had been kidnapped are still untraced. Moreover some other armed gangs besides ULFA are also operating on chauvinistic and communal lines. The AGP Govt in Assam has been unable to control the situation. A section within AGP protects the extremists. Common people living in constant terror do not dare to oppose the extremist activities for fear of dire consequences.

The General Council is of the opinion that statement adopted in the all parties meeting of 21st May

1990, convened by the Chief Minister of Assam emphasising the need for dialogue with the organisation, effort for winning over the misguided youth, alongwith stringent administrative measure to curb terrorist activity for protection of life and property of the people provides a workable basis for meaningful endeavour to solve the problem. However, a vigorous campaign conducted unitedly by all anti-secessionist forces, and mobilisation of widest section of the people is essential for creating necessary condition for the solution of the problem.

The General Council meeting urges upon the Central Govt and the Govt of Assam to take immediate appropriate steps in the direction proposed in the all party meeting statement.

The General Council places on record its appreciation of the courage with which the CITU unions, the leaders and activists carry on ceaseless struggle against divisive forces in extremely difficult conditions. The General Council has no doubt that CITU units will make every endeavour to unite all the anti-separatist forces to carry forward the struggle to its successful completion.

On Kashmir Situation

This meeting of the General Council of CITU held at Kanpur on 21-23 July 1990 expresses its deep concern at the alarming situation which has developed in Kashmir. With the full help of the imperialists, Pakistan is backing the terrorist activities of the secessionist forces. Their campaign of violence and murder are going on unabated. The Hindus and Sikhs are leaving Kashmir out of panic. The BJP is trying to further complicate the situation by demanding abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution which will further alienate the people of Kashmir and help the secessionists.

Though the National Front Govt had initially held consultation with major political parties for a common understanding regarding an effective political solution of Kashmir problem, it failed to steadily pursue a proper line of action. Appointment of Jagmohan as Governor disregarding the opinion of the left forces proved to be counter productive, and he had to be called back. The Committee formed under the Chairmanship of George Fernandez could not function and was later dissolved. The Governor, instead of seeking political support of the National Conference, dissolved the Assembly and relied upon administrative methods. All this contributed to the aggravation of the situation.

The General Council is firmly of the opinion that only a vigorous and consistent effort for politically facing the secessionist offensive, coupled with strong and effective administrative measures to curb terrorist activities is capable of ending the present critical situation.

The General Council appeals to the Govt of India to take fresh initiative for a solution involving

all social, political forces in the state including the National Conference. This will also help in carrying on an incessant campaign to isolate the communal forces and mobilising the people. At the same time, the govt will also have to perfect the administrative measures. Alongwith this, efforts will have to be stepped up against Pakistani interference.

The General Council calls upon the unions of CITU to build up alongwith other secular forces massive campaign throughout the country against the secessionist forces, and also to counter the nefarious propaganda that is being carried on by the BJP for abrogation of Art. 370. The General Council fervently hopes that through the unity and understanding of the workers and the people of India and Pakistan the Benazir Govt will uphold the spirit of the Simla agreement leading to friendship between the two countries and frustrate the designs of the US imperialists to create hostilities between the two countries to serve its imperial interest of dominance over the sub-continent.

On Working Women

The General Council meeting of CITU held at Kanpur between 21st to 23rd July congratulates the working women who have been conducting various struggles in support of their demands. Many trade unions and various sections of working women have taken initiative to mobilise the working women.

Working women are one of the worst hits, in this period of industrial crisis. In addition to the existing disparities in remuneration in various sections, working women are the first to be adversely affected by the impacts of the crisis. Introduction of modern technology in most of the cases, goes against the working women in a big way.

Crisis in traditional industries like coir, cashew, handloom and in even organised industry like mining, quarry etc have already played havoc, spreading rapid unemployment. Already there is virtual stagnation in the share of women workers in the total workforce.

While in many of the developing countries, the proportion of women employment is between 30-40 per cent, in India it is stagnated at 11 to 12 per cent with symptoms of further decline already in existence. Discriminatory remuneration, lack of primary conveniences and facilities like creche etc, rabid unemployment and even sex harassments and other forms of atrocities etc are the main problems faced by the working women of the country.

It is under these circumstances that various sections of women workers are showing greater interest in coming to the path of agitation and getting organised. Even though the nature of problems and demands of working women vary from sector to sector, wherever minimum effort is made, working

women are responding to the movement. Working women who are in professional or clerical service in establishments like Airlines, LIC, GIC, Medical institutions, electricity boards, various industrial units are also turning out in large numbers in pursuit of redressal of their grievances. Anganwadi workers who are one of the lowest paid sections of working women in the country are now getting organised. A march to Delhi programme on 7th August is being organised by their All India Preparatory Committee. The General Council calls upon all the State Committees and State Co-ordination Committees of Working Women to mobilise the Anganwadi Women in maximum for the success of the Delhi rally. It further calls upon all the State Committees and the unions to form Co-ordination Committees of Working women to bring them under the banner of the trade union movement, giving them positions in the trade unions and also take up their specific problems for resolution.

On Reinstatement of Victimised Railwaymen

This meeting of the General Council of CITU held at Kanpur on 21-23 July, 1990 deeply resents the failure of the N.F. Govt and particularly the Ministry of Railways to put back to duty nearly five hundred railway workers who had been dismissed or removed from service by the railway authorities in pursuance of the anti-labour policies of the previous Cong (I) Govt. during the last ten years for participation in trade union movements and day-to-day trade union activities.

Most of the victimised were thrown out of job in connection with the loco running staff agitation as far back as in 1980-81, mostly under the notorious Rule 14 (ii) of Railway Servants Discipline and appeal rule based on the blatantly undemocratic provisions of Article 311 of the constitution and also Rule 149 without being given opportunity for self-defence. Besides there are hundreds of cases of victimisation in other forms.

It is deplorable that even after the N.F. govt having been in office for over 7 months, with its commitments to establish democratic norms in national life and remove injustice done by the previous Govt., these victimizations have not been ended in the Railways.

The General Council emphatically demands immediate reinstatement of all dismissed or removed employees and vacation of victimisation in every form. The General Council also demands immediate steps for abrogation of the undemocratic Art. 311 and other black Acts as promised in the N.F. Election Manifesto.

On Tripura

This meeting of the General Council of CITU held at Kanpur on 21-23 July 1990 strongly denounces the unprecedented violence perpetrated by the Cong (I)-TUJS alliance during the election to the

Tribal Autonomous District Council of Tripura held on 8th July, in the course of which 18 persons were killed and about one thousand people have been injured. The meeting severely condemns the total rigging of the polling in 147 booths, done with the active help of the State Police in order to forcibly oust the Left Front from the Council.

The General Council notes with indignation that right since the usurption of power in the state by the Cong (I)-TUJS alliance through endless violence and naked rigging of the State Assembly election held under military control imposed on the State most undemocratically by the then Cong (I) Govt at the Centre led by Rajiv Gandhi, lawlessness has become the law of the state with anti-social elements patronised by the Cong (I) carrying on a campaign of killing and injuring the leaders, activists and sympathisers of CITU, CPI (M) and other left parties and trade unions and all democratic forces, burning their houses and offices and destroying property with full protection of the police. Rape has become a regular affair.

In the period preceding the election a reign of terror was unleashed, murderous attack was launched on meetings and processions organised by the Left Front, even those organised by the former Chief and Dy. Chief Minister, Com. Nripen Chakrabarty and Com. Dasarath Deb respectively. Disregarding every democratic norms hundreds of jobs were created and appointment was given to Cong (I) hoodlums before the elections. All this culminated into the unheard of violence and open rigging on the poll day turning the election into a complete mockery.

The General Council warmly greets the activists of CITU, CPI (M) and all democratic forces in the state who have stood firm against the terror regime with unprecedented courage to uphold democratic values and the rights of the people. The meeting congratulates the left front, the workers and the people for their recent massive Jail Bharo agitation where over 1.5 lakh people courted arrest demanding resignation of the Cong (I)-TUJS Govt. The meeting expresses its deep sympathy for bereaved families of martyrs and for those who have been subjected to inhuman suffering in the hands of the Cong (I) hoodlums and state police.

The General Council demands that the Govt of India should immediately send a team to enquire about the very serious situation and a fresh election be ordered in all the 147 booths where there has been total rigging of the elections. It demands all necessary measures being immediately adopted for ending the lawlessness in the State and ensuring full security for every citizen.

This meeting calls upon the working class and all democratic forces in the country to raise their voice

CITU Condemns Gangsterism in Tripura

The CITU expresses its grave concern at the increasing attacks on workers in Tripura State during their legitimate and peaceful struggles. Despite drawing the attention of the State Govt., the attacks continue to increase and the State police openly connives at the attacks by the INTUC hooligans and anti-social elements. On 16th July, while the workers of ONGC, Tripura were demonstrating before the ONGC authorities demanding release of pay of the contingent workers, the INTUC hooligans brutally attacked the workers without any provocation whatsoever, injuring 15 workers. Conditions of 10 workers is reported to be serious. After the last Assembly elections, the terrorists and gangsters are nonchalantly taking law in their hands resulting in killing of over 200 people and injuring 1000. The cases of rape exceeded 500, the CITU unions and their offices have been made the special target of attacks. The Govt. of Tripura shamelessly supporting the gangsters throwing overboard all norms of law and order in the state.

After the recent election of ADC held on 8th July the attacks have further increased. While the gangsters are free to carry forward their depredations and escape police arrest, the legitimate struggles for democratic rights have to face arrests of several number of people. As a result of this, 13 people have lost their lives while more than 30 seriously injured so far.

The CITU strongly condemns the repression and gangsterism in Tripura and demands immediate end to these attacks.

CITU requests the Govt. of India to intervene in the situation of Tripura and protect the democratic rights of people. If the Govt. of Tripura continues to attack the rights of people in such a blatant manner, it has no right to rule the State by suppressing the people. The CITU appeals to the working class and democratic people in India to raise their powerful voice of protest against the state gangsterism so that the rights of the people are fully protected.

against attack on democratic rights on the people and establishment of rule of law in the state. It calls upon all the State Committees and unions and appeals to all trade unions to observe 10th September as the Tripura Day demanding resignation of the Cong (I)-TUJS Government.

DREU Demonstrations

Nearly three thousand railwaymen, from various parts of Southern Railway held a militant protest demonstration in front of the Southern Railway General Manager's office in Madras on 9th July. This protest demonstration and procession was organised by Dakshin Railway Employees Union (DREU), an affiliate of CITU.

DREU had given this call at its 26th Conference held at Palghat during the first week of May 1990. During the last one month, extensive campaign was conducted all over the zone and hundreds of meetings were held in workspots and railway stations.

The major demands put forward by the union included the scrapping of the policy of making the posts surplus and deliberately keeping posts vacant; ensuring eight hour working day, absorption of casual labour, departmentalisation of all contract works and absorption of contract workers, ensuring democratic and trade union rights, end to victimisations, etc.

Earlier a procession led by P.V. Ramdas, General Secretary, B. Ayyalu, Jt. General Secretary and other office bearers of DREU was inaugurated by W.R. Varadarajan, MLA, Secretary, State CITU near the Egmore Railway Station. Marching through the busy thorough fares of the City, the procession reached the GM's office by 1 Pm. and held powerful demonstrations at the office gates.

A deputation led by the Union General Secretary called on the General Manager and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Hon'ble Railway Minister.

Memorandum explaining the demands of the workers pointed out the Southern Railway administration has a proposal to reduce the staff to the extent of 12546 posts. The administration had decided to keep 10% of the vacancies unfilled so as to reduce live posts.

Regarding casual labours, the memorandum pointed out that there are 11500 casual labourers in Southern Railway having completed more than one year in construction and 3 years in maintenance.

The memorandum also explained all the other demands and wanted the Railway administration to take steps so that all the demands are settled.

A. Nallasivan, MP, A.K. Padmanabhan, Asst. General Secretary of State CITU, W.R. Varadharajan MLA, P.V. Ramdass, T.N. Venkateswaran, Secretary AIREC addressed the demonstrators after the demonstration. They called upon the workers to continue the struggle so as to achieve the demands. They also called upon the NF government to change

the anti-labour policies of the Railway administration and ensure that the workers get a fair deal and their grievances are settled. A. Nallasivan pointed out that the Railway administration had denied extra coaches so as to accommodate the Marchers to reach Madras, even after the demand was endorsed by Samar Mukherjee, MP, General Secretary, CITU. Nallasivan demanded that the new Govt change such attitude towards trade unions.

N.F. Railway Station Masters Meet

Conference of the N.F. Rly Unit of the All India Station Masters' Association was held on June 22-23, 1990, at Katihar. About a hundred delegates attended the conference which started after flag hoisting ceremony, garlanding of the martyrs' column and observance of silence to pay respect to the memory of Com. BTR and other departed leaders of working class movement. The conference was inaugurated by N.K. Jha, Secretary General of AISMA. S.K. Dhar, Secretary General AILRSA addressed the conference as chief guest. 15 delegates participated in discussion of the Zonal General Secretary's report. The conference ratified the Central programme of relay fast in Delhi. The new executive committee was elected with S. N. Lall as President, S.K. Ibrahim as General Secretary and C.R. Bhattacharjee as Finance Secretary.

N. Rly. LRSA Conference

The 11th Conference of Northern Railway Unit of All India Loco Running Staff Association held at Moradabad on July 4-5, 1990, was attended by about 200 delegates.

The Conference started under the Presidentship of Sugreev Singh, the President of the unit after flag hoisting and garlanding of martyrs' column. One minute silence was observed to pay respect to the memory of B.T. Ranadive and other departed leaders of working class movement. After the welcome address by the Chairman Reception Committee, the conference was greeted by the leaders of several organisations. The Conference was inaugurated by S.K. Dhar, Secretary General, AILRSA. 24 delegates took part in discussion on the General Secretary's report and accounts presented by Joginder Singh and Y. P. Kohli respectively. Both were adopted unanimously. A telegram was sent from the conference to the Rly. Minister urging him to immediately take back all victimised railway workers. A resolution was also adopted to that effect. The conference re-elected Sugreev Singh as President, Joginder Singh as General Secretary, Babar Abbas as Jt. General Secretary and Y. P. Kohli as treasurer.

AIREC

In terms of the decision of All India Railway

Employees Confederation to observe campaign week from 22nd June to 28th June, gate meetings, group meetings, mass meetings and processions were held all over Indian Railways during the period, in which thousands of workers participated. On 9th July mass petitions addressed to the Prime Minister was submitted to all Divisional authorities, while staging massive demonstration in front of Divisional offices. On Eastern Rly, in most of the divisions the programme was held under the auspices of the Unity Committee comprising the Zonal AIREC Unit, the AIRF union and the workers' union. The main demands of these programmes was the vacation of victimisation.

Tripartite Committee on DA Ends Without Conclusions

M. K. Pandhe, Secretary, CITU has issued the following statement to the press on July 17 :

The meeting of The Tripartite Committee on DA, held in New Delhi today resulted without drawing any conclusion because the representatives of the Govt. of India refused to give any categorical assurance to accept the slab system of DA,

While the Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises gave several alternative proposals for consideration which clearly indicated the willingness of the Govt. of India to give up single rate of system of DA for all public sector employees, he suggested a smaller committee to work out the details of the proposal. The representatives of workers suggested that they are prepared to accept a smaller working group provided the Govt. of India gives a commitment accepting the slab rate of system of D. A. The Minister of Labour while appreciating the merit of the workers' case, requested the representatives of various ministries and the BPE to take a clear cut stand on this question so that the committee can conclude its deliberations at an early date.

The representatives of trade unions drew the attention of the Govt of India to the growing discontent among the workers and officers as a result of the delay in coming to a solution to the problem. In case of failure of the Govt. of India the workers will have to resort to direct action to force the Govt. to accept the slab rate system of DA for all the public sector employees.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on 3rd August to finalise the proposals.

CITU hopes that the Govt. will realise the gravity of the situation and will not allow any further delay in settling this question so that an amicable solution to the entire question of DA is found as soon as possible.

The CITU appeals to all workers in Public Sector undertakings to carry forward their campaign for full neutralisation in the rise in cost of living at all level.

Joint Dharna against IDPL

The management of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Ltd. (IDPL), a Government of India Undertaking, resorted to unprecedented attack on Federation of Medical & Sales Representatives Associations of India (FMRAI) and its leading functionaries working for IDPL as Representatives. Similarly the management also resorted to attacks on IDPL Hyderabad Kamgar Union, a CITU union as also IDPL Kamgar Federation.

Management arbitrarily and in gross violation of all norms and conventions de-recognised FMRAI and IDPL Kamgar Federation as representative unions of the workers.

Management of IDPL suspended the General Secretary and two other office bearers of IDPL Hyderabad Kamgar Union and issued charge sheets on concocted charges to terrorise the workers from joining CITU union. The management dismissed 6 Medical Representatives from services, resorted to large scale transfers, issued charge sheets, resorted to illegal wage cuts, increased workload and resorted to many other arbitrary actions.

Workers protested through strike, demonstrations, dharna etc in protest. FMRAI observed one day countrywide general strike on 5th June, 1990 in protest.

But the Central Government remained unmoved. In spite of repeated representation the Central Government has not yet called for tripartite meeting to resolve these issues.

In this background FMRAI, IDPL Kamgar Federation and CITU will be staging a dharna jointly in front of Petro-Chemical Ministry of the Central Government on 22nd August, 1990 at 10 A.M.

We call upon all concerned workers to join this dharna in a massive way in defence of their rights accrued through years of struggle and sacrifices.

J. S. Majumdar
General Secretary, FMRAI
New Delhi,
4th July 1990

P. K. Ganguly
Secretary, CITU

B. T. Ranadive—My Friend for Sixty-Seven Years

G. N. Vaidya, M. A., L. L. B. F. T. A., Textile Consultant

Comrade Ranadive (popularly known as B. T.) joined the Wilson College (Bombay) in 1922, while studying for his Intermediate (Arts) Examination. I was a friend of his cousin, J. M. Adhikari, brother of Comrade Gangadhar Adhikari who was then in Germany. We had a good time in J. M. Adhikari's room where I was impressed with B.T.'s humorous temperament. B. T. had a special knack of making jokes about our professors and colleagues in a manner which the victims appreciated. B.T.'s special subject was Logic (while mine was Mathematics). Sometimes, I accompanied B. T. to hear the lucid and unforgettable lectures of Prof. P. A. Wadia.

After we passed the Intermediate examination in 1923 with some distinction, I took Languages (with Sanskrit as my special subject), while B. T. chose History and Economics.

Both of us had in 1922 joined the University Training Corps (U.T.C.) of the Indian Territorial Force where we had weekly parades. We specially enjoyed the camp at Pune in 1923, when six of us, Wilsonians were lodged in one tent. With B. T. as our leader, we had a pretty good time while I withdrew from the U. T. C., B. T. continued for another year and was promoted to the post of a Lance Corporal.

B. T. was a favourite student of both Prof. P. A. Wadia and G. N. Joshi who specially appreciated his grasp of the subject and his inquisitive nature.

In 1925, both of us came out successfully in the B. A. examination and were awarded Daxina-fellowships for the year 1925-26.

B. T. joined the University School of Economics and Sociology and had the good fortune in having two distinguished economists, Professors K. T. Shah and Prof. C.N. Vakil as his professors and guides. While studying for our M. A. examination, we also attended law classes which were then held in the Elphinstone College Building. Both of us led a simple life and walked back from the law-classes to our respective hostels in the Wilson College. During these pleasant walks, he often expressed his attraction towards Marxist Communism, which abolished all class distinctions. I was specially interested in his views on the unity of workers and peasants against capitalism and vested interests. The ever increasing population of India and the problems it was going to raise in future, were also his pet subjects. He had then decided to present a Thesis for his M.A. examination and chose "Problem of Popula-

tion in India" as its main theme.

While continuing to live in the new hostel of the Wilson College, he often came to the volley-ball court of the old hostel and enlivened the game by his crisp and witty remarks and by his hard-hit returns.

Both of us stood first in our respective subjects in the M.A. Examination. B.T. However, also secured the highest prize offered by the University.

Everybody then looked forward to B.T.'s brilliant future in the academic line.

B. T. was a cousin of Comrade Gangadhar Adhikari who had returned from Germany and was then one of the leaders of the Communist Party of India. His influence appeared to intensify B.T.'s attraction towards communism. The Communist party had then secured a hold over workers in textile mills. Under the leadership of Comrades Dange and Nimkar, an industry-wise textile strike was organised demanding higher wages and better working conditions for the workers.

B. T. had then started taking active interest in the Communist Party and the 1928-29 strike. The Government of India was determined to crush the onset of communism in India and all the prominent leaders of the party were arrested and implicated in the Meerut Conspiracy case, which dragged on for years. Young B. T. and another equally young enthusiast, however decided to temporarily fill the void created by the incarceration of the main leaders. The prolonged strike, however, failed as the strikers faced starvation. B. T. then turned to other industries and the railways and helped in organising the workers under the communist flag.

In the meanwhile, after I had passed my LLB examination and was in urgent need of a fairly lucrative job, such a job was offered by a friend of my uncle. He was putting up a textile mill in Rutlam and I decided to join the mill and give up hopes of a literary career, which I had originally planned. Our friendship, however, continued unabated.

On one of my visits to Bombay. I met B.T. at Megha Bhavan in the Dadar Parsee Colony. A staunch Communist, Mrs. Nambiar was also present. When we launched upon our reminiscences, she quietly took up her unfinished knitting. I, thereupon, made a jocular remark saying that this reminded me of madame DeFarge of the "Tale of Two Cities", and asked her whether she was knitting my name on

her black-list, as I was now associated with the management of a textile mill. B.T. and Mrs Nambiar appreciated the joke and had a hearty laugh over it.

Later on when I came over to Bombay, I used to meet B.T at Raj Bhavan, which was then the Bombay headquarters of the Communist Party. After his marriage with Comrade Vimaltai, he invited my wife and myself for dinner. We enjoyed the simple food. We also saw the austere life they were leading on the scant honorarium received. This showed the selfless sacrifices made by devoted members of the Communist Party. In our talks that day, we talked very freely about our respective activities. I was very much impressed by his fervent and deep-rooted devotion to the cause of his party. What I appreciated most was, however, the fact that he never forced his views on others.

During the 1939-45 war, he was arrested. By the time he came out, he was one of the prominent leaders of the party and gradually moved away from Bombay. Occasionally I read about him in the newspapers but there was no direct contact for several years.

About ten years back, when I heard that he was in Bombay. I went to see him at the residence of his sister Comrade Ahilya Rangnekar, who is an equally staunch communist. We had a long talk and B.T. suggested that I should meet him at Delhi if and when I visited the place.

When I visited Delhi in 1987, I responded to his invitation and fixed up an appointment. Unfortunately, he was forced to leave for Madras that same evening but my wife and myself were cordially welcomed by Comrade Vimaltai and we spent a couple of happy hours talking about B.T and his work.

And now I come to the last chapter of our association. In January this year, when I learnt that he was in Bombay under treatment, I went to see him first in Shushrusha and then in the Tata Cancer Hospital. He appeared to be improving in health and then shifted to his son's residence at Juhu, where I found him in good spirits. He then went to Delhi but there was a relapse and he had to come back to the Tata Cancer Hospital where he quietly breathed his last on the 6th of April. I only saw him on the next day when thousands of workers and gathered to pay him their last homage.

In his death, all of us have lost a friend, who never cared for personal comforts and devoted his life to the cause of workers and peasants of India.

B.T. stood by his convictions against all odds and at great personal sacrifice and has set up an ideal of Total dedication. His passing away is a loss not only to the industrial workers and the Communist Party of India but to the nation as a whole.

From page 8

Construction Workers' Union and the National Campaign Committee for Central Legislation for Construction Workers briefed the deplorable condition of this vast section of the unorganised workers both in the private sector as well as in the public sector units. She said that multinationals were entering the construction industry also. The new industrial policy would pave the way for their further entry. She said that the Five Year Plans were allocating about 50 percent of the funds in the construction industry, but the conditions of the workers and the industry were getting deplorable day by day with regard to safety, working and service conditions, security of jobs, wages, etc. She demanded special attention for the Construction industry and a central legislation with the constitution of a Construction Labour Board, the main functions of which should be among others to recruit and regulate employment.

The representatives of the Employers' Federation of India intervened during their deliberations to demand a change in the industrial relations law so as to allow "unhindered growth" of the industries free from "trade union interventions". They wanted to convince the Planning Commission that modernisation and hi-tech were the pre-condition for growth and development. Sickness of some decaying units was inevitable in the process of development. They were practically booted by the gathering. They even left the meeting midway,

The common points that emerged as the main demands of the organisations were withdrawal of the new industrial policy, land reforms, stoppage of closures and sickness, self-reliance and strengthening of public sector, special job oriented programme for women, development of unorganised labour, rural and small scale industries, halt to the entry of multinationals and development of indigenous technology and the national sector, etc.

Ela Bhatt and L.C Jain intervened on behalf of the Planning commission to give assurance that all the suggestions would be taken care of.

Observe Anti-Price Rise Day
on August 23, 1990

All India Convention against Commu-
nalism and Divisive Forces on
September 19, 1990 at
Mavalankar Hall Lawns,
New Delhi

ANC Remains Firm to Dismantle Apartheid

We are publishing hereunder a statement issued by the African National Congress on June 7, following the address of President De Klerk to the Joint Session of the South African Parliament, which went against the universally accepted Harare Declaration. We are also printing herunder the Harare Declaration adopted on August 21, 1989 on South Africa which was received by us recently.—Ed)

The African National Congress listened with keen interest to President De Klerk's address to the Joint Session of Parliament and noted with grave concern that key points of the universally accepted Harare Declaration have not yet been addressed.

The process essential to create the climate conducive to negotiations cannot be addressed piecemeal or partially. We reiterate that the total lifting of the State of Emergency is fundamental to this process. The fact that the State of Emergency remains in force in the whole of Natal including the Kwazulu bantustan, is a major obstacle in the path of negotiations. Only a token number of political prisoners have been released, only specific exiles allowed to return, and these not under a blanket immunity, and an arsenal of repressive security legislation designed to suppress opposition remains on the statute books.

President De Klerk's announcement that a further 10,000 policemen and women are to be recruited to strengthen the force will only exacerbate the violence. The issue is not the number of police, but the role the police are playing. That a further R 814-million has been allocated to security forces, and the decision to increase deployment of the SADF, further militarises our society, increasing tension and mistrust. Essential to creating a free political climate is the imperative for President De Klerk to control his police force and to stop the acts of wanton aggression against our people.

The ANC unequivocally rejects President De Klerk's accusations that the ANC is responsible for delaying progress on the road to negotiations. We are a democratic organisation, and as such ensure full consultation and accountability within our movement. This process is presently under way both within the prisons of South Africa and with our leadership in exile.

We welcome the impending release of 48 political prisoners, but point out that there are at least 3000 such prisoners remaining in apartheid jails, including almost 80 on Death Row.

We remain firm in our principled commitment to operating a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa, a society in which the needs of all the people are addressed. Until the process of change in irrever-

sible and a Constituent Assembly established, we call upon the international community to steadfastly maintain sanctions and the total isolation of apartheid South Africa.

Declaration of the OAU Ad-Hoc Committee on Southern Africa on the Question of South Africa

Harare, Zimbabwe—August 21, 1989

I. Preamble

1.0 The people of Africa, singly, collectively and acting through the OAU, are engaged in serious efforts to establish peace throughout the continent by ending all conflicts through negotiations based on the principle of justice and peace for all.

2.0 We reaffirm our conviction, which history confirms, that where colonial, racial and apartheid domination exist, there can neither be peace nor justice

3.0 Accordingly, we reiterate that while the apartheid system in South Africa persists, the people of our continent as a whole cannot achieve the fundamental objectives of justice, human dignity and peace which are both crucial in themselves and fundamental to the stability and development of Africa.

4.0 With regard to the region of Southern Africa, the entire continent is vitally interested that the processes, in which it is involved, leading to the complete and genuine independence of Namibia, as well as peace in Angola and Mozambique, should succeed in the shortest possible time. Equally, Africa is deeply concerned that the destabilisation by South Africa of all the countries in the region, whether through direct aggression, sponsorship of surrogates, economic subversion and other means, should end immediately.

5.0 We recognise the reality that permanent peace and stability in Southern Africa can only be achieved when the system of apartheid in South Africa has been liquidated and South Africa transformed into a united, democratic and non-racial country. We therefore reiterate that all the necessary measures should be adopted now, to bring a speedy end to the apartheid system, in the interest of all the people of Southern Africa, our continent and the world at large.

6.0 We believe that, as a result of the liberation struggle and international pressure against apartheid, as well as global efforts to liquidate regional conflicts, possibilities exist for further movement towards

the resolution of the problems facing the people of South Africa. For these possibilities to lead to fundamental change in South Africa, the Pretoria regime must abandon its abhorrent concepts and practices of racial domination and its record of failure to honour agreements, all of which have already resulted in the loss of so many lives and the destruction of much property in the countries of Southern Africa.

7.0 We reaffirm our recognition of the right of all peoples, including those of South Africa, to determine their own destiny, and to work out for themselves the institutions and the system of government under which they will, by general consent live and work together to build a harmonious society. The Organisation of African Unity remains committed to do everything possible and necessary, to assist the people of South Africa, in such ways as the representatives of the oppressed may determine, to achieve this objective. We are certain that, arising from its duty to help end the criminal apartheid system, the rest of the world community is ready to extend similar assistance to the people of South Africa.

8.0 We make these commitments because we believe that all people are equal and have equal rights to human dignity and respect, regardless, of colour, race, sex or creed. We believe that all men and women have the right and duty to participate in their own government, as equal members of society. No individual or group of individuals has any right to govern others without their consent. The apartheid system violates all these fundamental and universal principles. Correctly characterised as a crime against humanity, it is responsible for the death of countless numbers of people in South Africa. It has sought to dehumanise entire peoples. It has imposed a brutal war on the whole region of Southern Africa, resulting in untold loss of life, destruction of property and massive displacement of innocent men, women and children. This scourge and affront to humanity must be fought and eradicated in its totality.

9.0 We have therefore supported and continue to support all those in South Africa who pursue this noble objective through political, armed and other forms of struggle. We believe this to be our duty, carried out in the interests of all humanity

10.0 While extending this support to those who strive for a non-racial and democratic society in South Africa, a point on which no compromise is possible, we have repeatedly expressed our preference for a solution arrived at by peaceful means. We know that the majority of the people of South Africa and their liberation movement, who have been compelled to take up arms, have also upheld this position for many decades and continue to do so.

11.0 The positions contained in this Declaration are consistent with and are a continuation of those elaborated in the Lusaka Manifesto two decades ago. They take into account the changes that have taken

place in Southern Africa since that Manifesto was adopted by the OAU and the rest of the international community. They constitute a new challenge to the Pretoria regime to join in the noble effort to end the apartheid system, an objective to which the OAU has been committed from its very birth.

12.0 Consequently, we shall continue to do everything in our power to help intensify the liberation struggle and international pressure against the system of apartheid until this system is ended and South Africa is transformed into a united, democratic and non-racial country, with justice and security for all its citizens.

13.0 In keeping with this solemn resolve, and responding directly to the wishes of the representatives of the majority of the people of South Africa, we publicly pledge ourselves to the positions contained hereunder. We are convinced that their implementation will lead to a speedy end of the apartheid system and therefore the opening of a new dawn of peace for all the peoples of Africa, in which racism, colonial domination and white minority rule on our continent would be abolished forever.

II Statement of Principles

14.0 We believe that a conjuncture of circumstances exists which, if there is a demonstrable readiness on the part of the Pretoria regime to engage in negotiations genuinely and seriously, could create the possibility to end apartheid through negotiations. Such an eventuality would be an expression of the long-standing preference of the majority of the people of South Africa to arrive at a political settlement.

15.0 We would therefore encourage the people of South Africa, as part of their overall struggle, to get together to negotiate an end to the apartheid system and agree on all the measures that are necessary to transform their country into a non-racial democracy. We support the position held by the majority of the people of South Africa that these objectives, and not the amendment or reform of the apartheid system, should be the aims of the negotiations.

16.0 We are at one with them that the outcome of such a process should be a new constitutional order based on the following principles, among others :

16.1 South Africa shall become a united, democratic and non-racial state.

16.2 All its people shall enjoy common and equal citizenship and nationality, regardless of race, colour, sex or creed.

16.3 All its people shall have the right to participate in the Government and administration of the country on the basis of a universal suffrage, exercised through one person one vote, under a common

voters' roll.

16.4 All shall have the right to form and join any political party of their choice, provided that this is not in furtherance of racism.

16.5 All shall enjoy universally recognised human rights, freedoms and civil liberties, protected under an entrenched Bill of Rights.

16.6 South Africa shall have a new legal system which shall guarantee equality of all before the law.

16.7 South Africa shall have an independent and non-racial judiciary.

16.8 There shall be created an economic order which shall promote and advance the well-being of all South Africans.

16.9 A democratic South Africa shall respect the rights, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries and pursue a policy of peace friendship, and mutually beneficial co-operation with all peoples.

17.0 We believe that agreement on the above principles shall constitute the foundation for an internationally acceptable solution which shall enable South Africa to take its rightful place as an equal partner among the African and world community of nations.

III Climate for Negotiations

18.0 Together with the rest of the world, we believe that it is essential, before any negotiations can take place, that the necessary climate for negotiations be created. The apartheid regime has the urgent responsibility to respond positively to this universally acclaimed demand and thus create this climate.

19.0 Accordingly, the present regime should, at the very least :

19.1 Release all political prisoners and detainees unconditionally and refrain from imposing any restrictions on them ;

19.2 Lift all bans and restrictions on all prescribed and restricted organisations and persons ;

19.3 Remove all troops from the townships ;

19.4 End the state of emergency and repeal all legislations, such as, and including the Internal Security Act, designed to circumscribe political activity ; and,

19.5 Cease all political trials and political executions.

20.0 These measures are necessary to produce the conditions in which free political discussion can take place—an essential condition to ensure that the people themselves participate in the process of re-making their country. The measures listed above

should therefore precede negotiations.

IV Guidelines to the Process of Negotiation

21.0 We support the view of the South African liberation movement that upon the creation of this climate, the process of negotiations should commence along the following lines ;

21.1 Discussions should take place between the liberation movement and the South African regime to achieve the suspension of hostilities on both sides by agreeing to a mutually binding ceasefire.

21.2 Negotiations should then proceed to establish the basis for the adoption of a new Constitution by agreeing on, among others, the principles enunciated above.

21.3 Having agreed on these principles, the parties should then negotiate the necessary mechanism for drawing up the new Constitution.

21.4 The parties shall define and agree on the role to be played by the international community in ensuring a successful transition to a democratic order.

21.5 The parties shall agree on the formation of an interim government to supervise the process of the drawing up and adoption of a new constitution; govern and administer the country, as well as effect the transition to a democratic order including the holding of elections.

21.6 After the adoption of the new constitution, all armed hostilities will be deemed to have formally terminated.

21.7 For its part, the international community would lift the sanctions that have been imposed against apartheid South Africa.

22.0 The new South Africa shall qualify for membership of the Organisation of African Unity.

V. Programme of Action

23.0 In pursuance of the objectives stated in this document, the Organisation of African Unity hereby commits itself to :

23.1 Inform governments and inter-governmental organisations throughout the world, including the Non-Aligned Movement, the United Nations General Assembly, the Security Council, the Commonwealth and others of these perspectives, and solicit their support.

23.2 Mandate the OAU Ad-Hoc Committee on Southern Africa, acting as the representative of the OAU and assisted by the Frontline states, to remain seized of the issue of a political resolution of the South African question.

23.3 Step up all round support for the South African liberation movement and campaign in the

rest of the world in pursuance of this objective.

23.4 Intensify the campaign for mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against apartheid South Africa : in this regard, immediately mobilise against the rescheduling of Pretoria's foreign debt; work for the imposition of a mandatory oil embargo and the full observance by all countries of the arms embargo.

23.5 Ensure that the African continent does not relax existing measures for the total isolation of apartheid South Africa.

23.6 Continue to monitor the situation in Namibia and extend all necessary support to SWAPO in its struggle for a genuinely independent Namibia.

23.7 Extend such assistance as the Governments of Angola and Mozambique may request in order to secure peace for their peoples and

23.8 Render all possible assistance to the Front-line States to enable them to withstand Pretoria's campaign of aggression and destabilisation and enable them to continue to give their all-round support to the people of Namibia and South Africa.

24.0 We appeal to all people of goodwill throughout the world to support this Programme of Action as a necessary measure to secure the earliest liquidation of the apartheid system and the transformation of South Africa into a united, democratic and non-racial country.

SAIL's Attempt to Go-Back from Pension-Commitment Foiled

At the time of last wage agreement concluded at the level of National Joint Committee for Steel Industry during last July 1989, it had been categorically committed by the management of SAIL to finalise the pension scheme on the basis of contribution @ 2% of basic and DA from the employees and equal contribution from the employers side at the earliest and pension committee already constituted would make the necessary exercises. But almost for a year since the national wage agreement the meeting of the Pension Committee has not been called by the management.

Consequent upon constant persuasion and pressure from Steel Workers Federation of India and others, the management called the meeting of Pension Committee on 10th July 1990.

But in the meeting of Pension Committee held on 10th July 1990, the management of SAIL surprisingly came out with altogether a different approach and communicated that the management can contribute to the pension fund @ 2% only if they are allowed curtailment of some existing benefits of the employees. Such sudden and deceptive stand of the management immediately evoked protest from the workers' representatives in the committee who have communicated their non-acceptance of such stand of the management. The unions also unitedly decided not to attend any meeting of NJCS or its committees till earlier commitment of matching contribution of

2% to Pension Fund on the part of the management was honoured unconditionally.

The next meeting on production and productivity of SAIL was fixed earlier on 24th July 1990.

United stand of the entire workers' group to boycott further meetings of NJCS or similar committees created much repercussion all over the industry.

On 24th July 1990, in the early hours, the Chairman SAIL called on the members of the core group of NJCS and communicated that the management was prepared to make matching contribution of 2% in the pension fund without any condition.

M. K. Pandhe attended the meeting of Core group on behalf of CITU.

(Cont'd from page 4)

for handling including stacking @ Rs. 19/- per tonne, whereas the contractor received Rs. 108/- per tonne for the same work from the principal employer.

The CTTU contractor combine had expropriated Rs. 600/- from each worker as withheld unpaid wages in Steel handling and workers could not get the money till date.

Workers demanding rise in wages or benefits or even the unpaid wages are threatened with dire consequences. The workers are so much terrorised that they did not even want to tell any outsiders their miserable plight for fear of murder by the CTTU goondas.

Now slowly the situation is changing. Some workers even in the face of risk of their lives are trying to consolidate protest against the mafia rule perpetrated by CTTU on the workers in collusion with contractors. They submitted a memorandum to central and state ministers expecting quick action against those offenders.

National Seminar

On 2nd. September 1990 at 10 A.M.
At Speaker's Hall V.P. House, New Delhi

SUBJECT

**Role Of Mass Organisations
For Achieving**

Right to Work

Organised by All India Steering Committee
on Right to Work