

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the General Council

DOCUMENTS

- 1. Agenda & Programme**
- 2. Presidential Address**
- 3. General Secretary's Report**
- 4. Questionnaire on Organisation**
- 5. Condolence Resolutions**
- 6. Homage to Martyrs**
- 7. Membership Position**
- 8. P Ramamurti T U School Fund Position**

**August 18 - 21, 2009
Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh**

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Meeting of the General Council

Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)

August 18- 21, 2009

AGENDA

1. Condolence Resolution;
2. Presidential Address;
4. Report of the General Secretary;
5. Resolutions;
6. Future Tasks;
7. Any other subject with the permission of the Chair.

PROGRAMME

18.08.2009	02:00 p.m.	MASS RALLY
19.08.2009	10:00 a.m.	Flag hoisting
	10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Garlanding the Martyrs Column
	12:30 p.m. to 01:30 p.m.	Presidential address
	01:30 p.m. to 04:00 p.m.	Resolutions
	04:00 p.m. to 05:30 p.m.	Condolence resolution
	06:00 p.m. to 07:30 p.m.	Presentation of General Secretary's report
		Lunch break
		Debate on General Secretary's report
		Debate on General Secretary's report
20.08.2009	09:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Debate on General Secretary's report
	12:00 noon to 01:00 p.m.	- " -
	01:00 p.m. to 03:30 p.m.	Lunch break
	03:30 p.m. to 05:00 p.m.	Debate on General Secretary's report
	05:30 p.m. to 07:00 p.m.	Debate on General Secretary's report
	07:00 p.m.	CITU Secretariat meeting
21.08.2009	09:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Debate on General Secretary's report
	11:00 a.m. to 01:30 p.m.	Reply by the General Secretary
	01:30 a.m. to 04:00 p.m.	Lunch break
	04:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m.	Adoption of reports
		Concluding address by the President

N.B: Tea Breaks: 19.08.2009 - 12:00 noon to 12:30 p.m and 5:30 p.m to 06.00 p.m
20.08.2009 - 11:30 a.m to 12 noon and 5:00 p.m to 05.30 p.m
21.08.2009 - 10:30 a.m to 11:00 a.m
Dinner will be served at 08:00 p.m daily

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Comrades,

Much water has flown in India and international arena after the last meeting of the Working Committee held in Mumbai in January this year. The developments have wide repercussions on our way of working and our plan of action to lead our movement. They demand serious introspection on our part so that we can meet new challenges before us posed by the recent developments. This time we should not review the developments as a mere ritual but we must gear up ourselves so that we can take firm steps to change the situation in our favour while doing everything to overcome weaknesses percolating in our organization and functioning.

It is a matter of great rejoice to us that our veteran Vice-President since the foundation of CITU, Comrade Jyoti Basu has recently celebrated his 96th birthday in Kolkata. His contribution to the CITU and left political movement in the country is of immense importance for all of us. Let us wish him good health and long life in the service of working class and the toiling people of India.

GROWING INSTABILITY OF CAPITALISM

Sharp decline in gross domestic product in advanced capitalist countries has been a special feature of the global crisis. According to IMF the GDP growth at constant prices all over the world stood at 3.2% in 2008 which is likely to come down to - 1.3% during 2009. In advanced countries, however, the decline in GDP growth was much severe. In 2008 GDP growth in them was only 0.8 per cent but during 2009 the GDP was likely to decline by 3.8 per cent. The situation was different in developing countries during this period. During 2008 GDP in developing countries grew by 6.1 per cent in 2008 which is likely to come down to 1.6 per cent during 2009. Major reason for a different situation in developing countries was due to growth rates in China and India. In China, for example, the GDP increased by 9.1% in 2008 which came down to 6.5% in 2009. In India too GDP grew during 2008 by 7.3% which is likely to come down to 4.5% during 2009. The impact of developing countries was mainly due to reduction of exports from developing countries to the developed countries.

The economic melt down has adversely affected the global trade volume. During 2007 the global trade increased by 7.2% which came down to 3.3% during 2008. However, there is a likelihood of sharp decline of 12 per cent during 2009. Developing countries suffered very much due to this sharp by way of their falling exports.

The massive budget deficit in USA has posed several challenges to Barack Obama administration. On 26 February 2009 he sent to U.S. Congress the budget for 2009-10 which provided \$1.75 trillion deficit. (One U.S. dollar is equivalent to Rs.50, \$ one billion is equivalent to Rs.5000 crores while \$ one trillion is equivalent to Rs.5 lakh crores) Over and above this, the so called bail out package has resulted in net borrowing of \$2.6 trillion which works out to be 17.9% of GDP of US! In the name of injecting more money in the financial system the treasury would print \$3 trillion worth of currency which will only add up to the inflationary spiral in the USA!

After busting of bubble in the casino economy of USA, the share market has lost \$6 trillion due to economic meltdown. However, if the loss is worked out since 2006 it reaches a mind boggling figure of \$12 trillion. This only indicates severity of the crisis and the tall talk of crisis to be over in a short

time has completely proved to be a kite flying. Over 10% of the US population has now to depend on food subsidy provided by the Government.

With US public debt exceeding \$10 Trillion the dollar's influence as a world currency is declining. China alone is holding \$1.3 trillion dollar assets in US treasury as bonds and it is concerned about the security of these assets. Obama has assured China to maintain the validity of US assets. The value of other major world currencies like EURO, Pound Sterling and Yen is increasing in relation to dollar. China has therefore demanded evolving a new world currency and demanded review of special drawing right facilities under the IMF regime.

Many new members of the European Union have experienced that their currencies plummet against the Euro. Stephan Kornelius, the foreign editor of German newspaper Sueddentsche Zeitung commented, "We always said you cannot really have a currency union without a political union, and we do not have one. There is no joint fiscal policy, no joint tax policy, no joint policy which industries to subsidize or not. And none of the leaders is strong enough to pull the others out of the mud." This highlights growing instability in the entire capitalist world economy!

WORLD WIDE JOB LOSSES

Job losses as a result of global economic crisis has become a common phenomenon all over the world. According ILO study the job losses in the world by the end of 2009 are likely to reach a staggering figure of 5 crore! In U.S.A. alone the unemployment due to recession has reached 51 lakhs so far, while 26 lakhs have lost in the last 4 months. The total unemployment in U.S.A. has now reached a colossal figure of one crore and 32 lakhs, highest in the last 25 years!

Rate of unemployment in Europe according to ILO report varies in different countries (Germany 8.5%, Britain 6.5%, France 8.2%, Italy 6.9%, Spain 13.8% by the end of 2008). It is likely to jump up sizably during 2009. The Report notes that the rate of unemployment is likely to reach 9.5% in Britain and 10.5% in Germany by the middle of 2010.

Asian loss of job will reach 72 lakh by the end of 2009. The total unemployment estimated would be at 9 crore 70 lakhs. In Dubai, where 90 per cent of the workers are of foreign origin are facing acute problems due to job loss for lakhs of workers. Many workers have fled the country since they were unable to repay their debts who feared imprisonment as per national laws.

The data prepared by the ILO is based on official reports supplied by different Governments. However, the actual extent of unemployment is likely to be much higher than estimated by the ILO study. In most cases migrant workers are not registered in the employment list. A large section of them have lost their jobs but are not shown in the official figures.

The India the loss of jobs due to economic meltdown is likely to reach 30 lakhs by the end of 2009. Due to loss of export orders the loss of jobs since middle of 2008 was estimated by the Secretary, Department of Commerce to be 25 lakhs!

IS GLOBAL CRISIS OVER?

Attempts are being made by some bourgeois economists to underestimate the extent of capitalist crisis. It is ascribed only to the greed of some heads of the financial institutions. However, their contention is stoutly opposed by several economists. As reported by Financial Times on 11, April

2009. "The global economic crisis has bankrupted centuries old institutions, brought down once mighty institutional brands and shattered a generation's worth of assumptions about how capitalism ought to operate. Now is the time to declare another casualty of the crash, the imperial style of leadership"

The crisis will thus shatter the very concept of unipolar world itself and create a sound basis of multipolar world threatening the U.S. hegemony itself.

As Prof. Prabhat Patnaik, a noted Indian economist, has succinctly pointed out, ".....the crisis is not just a recessionary crisis, as is commonly supposed. In fact the current world capitalist crisis is such that it does not appear in one particular form then it will appear in a different form. Recession is just one of the forms in which it appears. If the recession abodes, then the crisis will appear in a different form, namely that of a sharp inflation affecting in particular energy and food prices, which incidentally in the form in which it had appeared before the recession".

When Govt. of India is taking further steps to privatize insurance industry it is totally ignoring the reality that the largest insurance company in world AIG is now 80 per cent nationalized by the US Government. This company is operating in 130 countries and having 7.4 crore customers. While its turnover is \$2 trillion. Its share value has come down from \$46 to only 42 cents, or less than 1% of the original value. The collapse of this giant company should have given some lessons to UPA Government. However, Dr. Manmohan Singh's commitment to IMF and the World Bank is making him blind to the global realities.

According to IMF estimates the bailout packages for the financial tycoons in U.S. would cost U.S. tax payer per head \$ 6/200. Nobel Laureate Prof. Joseph Stiglitz characterized Obama's bail out plan as "Robbery of American people"

According to UNESCO report 39 crore poorest people in Africa are likely to experience 20% decline in their present standard of living. People in sub-Saharan Africa, due to reduced flow of investments, will have to face a net loss of \$18 billion which works out to be \$46 per person which will result in increasing starvation of the mass of people in the entire region.

The conditions in Europe are likely to deteriorate in the near future. According to official estimate, the total budgetary deficit of European countries is likely to be 5.7 % of the GDP which will go up to 7.10% during 2010. Similarly the public debt of all European countries is likely to reach 75.7% of the GDP in 2009 and will further go up to 81.4% of the GDP.

The Asian Development Bank recently made an assessment of the decline in the value of assets of the global financial institutions. According to it, these institutions have lost more than \$50 trillion of the value of their assets which corresponds to the world's production output during one full year (Report dated 9th March 2009). This clearly indicates the severity of the decline in the bubble economy which has grown during the period of globalization all over the world.

POPULAR UPSURGE IN LATIN AMERICA

The entire Latin American continent is reverberating with anti-U.S. imperialist sentiments and popular movements in most of the countries are raising their powerful voice against U.S. imperialist intervention and machinations.

In Honduras, the democratically elected President in 2005, Jose Manueal Zelaya was overthrown by the U.S. backed army in June 2009 for his joining Bolivarian Alternative for America (ALBA) led by Cuba and Venezuela which fights for independent path for Latin America and the Caribbean. A powerful popular movement developed in Honduras which won support from the Organization of American States (OAS). It also received worldwide support and UN General Assembly unanimously demanded restoration of Zelaya as President of Honduras. However, Barack Obama administration continues to support coup leaders financially which is being resolutely opposed by the people in Latin America.

In Peru, another Latin American country with two and half crore population, majority being indigenous people, has a powerful mass upsurge for their rights which resulted in Parliament repealing on 19 June 2009 the draconian decreed by U.S. stooge govt. led by President Alan Gracia. Despite declaration of emergency and killing of several protestors the mass upsurge was successful and President and the Cabinet offered their resignation. It was a big blow to U.S. imperialists' game plan in Latin America.

In Bolivia, the U.S. sponsored opposition in Parliament refused to approve the new constitution and Eva Morales's programme of nationalization. Morales went on an indefinite hunger strike from 9 April 2009 which evoked strong countrywide mobilization and resulted Parliament adopting the Constitution on 14 April 2009. Eva Morales told the people not to forget that they need to fight for change and that the success of the revolutionary process was possible only through people's power.

In Ecuador for the first time leftist Rafael Correa was elected in first round itself in the last 30 years. His Govt. taxed foreign companies and increased public spending for the poor. The new Government condemned the policies of IMF, World Bank and U.S. imperialists. Correa refused to renew the lease of U.S. military base located on Ecuadorian soil and expelled two U.S. diplomats for instigating subversive activities in the country.

In El Salvador in a recently held elections the leftwing FMLN has won the Presidential elections and decided to develop close ties with Cuba. It has also decided to plan pro-people economic policies and decided to oppose the policies of globalization.

The total isolation of U.S. imperialism was clearly observed in the summit or organization of American States (OAS) held in Trinidad in the third week of April this year. Almost all the speakers demanded restoration of ties with Cuba and due to international pressure Barack Obama had to announce reduction of travel curbs to Cuba. However, he did not utter a single word against 5 decade old Cuban blockade.

Prior to Trinidad meeting leaders of Bolivarian Alternative for America (ALBA) consisting of Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Honduras and Dominica met and discussed economic co-operation without any conditionalities from outside.

RIISING CURVE OF WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE

The biggest action organized in this period in the advanced capitalist countries was the powerful strike of French workers led by CGT on 19th March 2009 to protest against President Sarkozy's treatment of the global financial crisis in France. Millions of French workers participated in the strike to express their opposition to the huge concessions given to the capitalists but no adequate relief to the working class to meet the difficult situation faced by them. More than 213 demonstrations participated by 30 lakh workers were held all over France which paralyzed normal life in the country.

The strike received a big popular support from the general public.

In January 2009 more than 20 lakh French workers held protest demonstrations to warn the French Government for their pro-capitalist measures.

Prior to this action there was a six week long strike of workers in Guadeloupe, of French colony in Caribbean island demanding wage increase, extension of social benefits and job preservation. Despite 1000 riot police sent by France to suppress the strike they failed to deter the workers. Ultimately, the Govt. had to settle the demands of the workers.

On 2nd February 2009 Universities throughout France downed their pens in protest against the decree issued by the Sarkozy Government relating to statutory conditions covering employment of university personnel, giving universities the right to change the conditions of service. National Council of Universities supported the just struggles of the teachers, research workers and employees.

This year's May Day rallies reflected the opposition to bailout packages to capitalist at the cost of tax payers money. Several rallies had to face police repression in different parts of the world. Turkish police fired water cannon and tear gas, firing shots and pepper spray to disperse protesters, 68 demonstrators were arrested and detained by police. There is growing discontent in Turkey since one in three young men are unemployed.

In Berlin and Hamburg in Germany workers chanting anti-capitalist slogans on the May Day clashed with police.

In France, one special feature of the May Day rallies was that in several places officers holding managerial positions participated in large numbers in the rallies.

In Athens, the police fired on a May Day rally. "We won't pay for their crisis" read the banners from the country's major trade union. In a procession of 6000 workers there were 4000 police in Athens. Several rallies were held all over Greece in protest against the policies of globalization.

In 1st February more than 5000 activists demonstrated in Geneva near the railway station to express their opposition to the world Economic Forum, symbol of capitalism and corporate globalization, which was being held at Davos in Switzerland.

The demonstration was held in defiance with the ban imposed by the local administration. The police arrested several workers for violating the prohibitory orders. The demonstrations gave slogans "Police Partout, Justice Nui Part (Police everywhere, justice nowhere) "One solution - Revolution" when crowned marched forward police began beating the demonstrators with batons. Later on they fired tear gas shells at the demonstrators.

In Iceland as a result of repeated demonstrations of workers against the conservative Govts policy in the last week of January the Govt. collapsed and the Prime Minister had to resign and pro-left Govt had been instilled as a caretaker Govt. Though the country has a population of less than three and a half lakhs all the banks have been nationalized by the Govt. within 3 months new election will take place to elect a new Government.

In Latvia and Estonia also the Governments have collapsed due to sustained demonstrations of workers. Massive demonstrations including strike actions have been reported in U.S.A., Italy, Spain,

Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and Argentina. As People's Weekly World has noted, "As the crisis spreads and deepens, the protest movement is likely to grow and add to the global momentum for meaningful to structural change in the world economy."

In Dublin (Ireland) the port workers went on strike against compulsory retrenchment and heroically fought against companies' recruitment of blacklegs from Scotland. On 28 July, 2009 the workers and their family members held a demonstration in support of the striking workers.

Among the notable struggles in this period, mention must be made of the struggle of Pennsylvania state workers against non-payment and delayed payment of wages, Fujitsu staff in U.K. against curtailment of Pensionary benefits, struggle of the Gerdau workers against non-payment of overtime and bonus, construction workers strike demanding pay rise.

There are several of such struggles increasing all over the world which indicates that the curve of struggles is increasing rapidly in all the continents. With deepening of the crisis the struggles are likely to intensify in the forthcoming period.

In India too, due to severe attacks on the standard of living of the workers strike struggles are increasing which are a part of the struggle against the impact of globalization.

PERFIDY IN PALESTINE

In Israel, though coalition Govt. led by Netanyahu was formed on 20 February the aggressive policies of the Government against the people of Palestine continued with more ferociousness use of phosphorous against unarmed civilians in Gaza strip despite ban imposed by world community. Though the talk of not increasing the Israeli settlements continues, the eviction of the people of Palestine from their own home land continued unabated. The empty talk of Obama to find a solution to the Palestine problem has no effect on the Israeli Zionists with the result that the acute sufferings of the people of Palestine are growing.

The U.N. Summit on Racism held on 20 April was boycotted by U.S. and some of its allies on the ground that the summit may criticize Israel. Iranian President Md. Ahamedinejad attacked Israel for its racist policy of mass killing of the people in Palestine in their own homeland in Gaza strip.

SITUATION IN INDIA'S NEIGHBOURING STATES

Situation in India's neighbouring states is becoming more complex due to certain political developments. U.S. Imperialists are taking advantage of the situation and seeking to interfere in domestic affairs of these countries.

The situation in Pakistan continues to be uncertain. Though, due to U.S. pressure, some steps are being taken against Al Qaeda and other terrorist forces, suicide attacks are increasing in Pakistan.

Though India and Pakistan agreed for a dialogue to resolve disputed issues, the mentioning of the name of Balochistan in the joint communiqué has raised certain controversies within India. BJP and other communal forces are against any dialogue with Pakistan on the ground that Pakistan is still supporting terrorists.

We are in favour of a meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan without any foreign interference

and both countries should take firm steps against all terrorist activities.

Despite electoral victory of Sheikh Hasina in the election in Bangladesh the reactionary forces are still active in that country.

On 25-26 February the Bangladesh's paramilitary border guards staged a mutiny against army bosses over demands of pay, parity in pay and other perquisites etc. They ambushed top commanding officers in the army in Dhaka killing several army officers. According to reports 77 bodies were recovered and 6 were reported to be missing. About one thousand persons have participated in the mutiny. Hasina Govt. asked for help from FBI of U.S.A. and Scotland Yard of UK. For investigation which is being criticized by the army.

The economic condition in Bangladesh is extremely bad and discontent is growing among the people. The Hasina Govt. has a challenging task to improve the economic situation in the country.

In Afghanistan, Barack Obama is implementing George Bush's policies of imperialist aggression. He has dispatched 17,000 more troops to Afghanistan which has now resulted in total NATO troops reaching nearly one lakh. The terrorist and suicide attacks of Taliban forces are continuing and they are getting regular supply of sophisticated arms from advanced capitalist countries. Illegal hashish trade is growing despite NATO forces. The increasing civilian casualties reaching 2118 during 2008 due to attacks by NATO forces also evoking strong reactions among the Afghan people. The U.S. imperialists have not taken any steps to improve the living conditions of the people while the corrupt Karzai Govt. is totally ineffective to deal with the situation. The attack by Taliban forces on the Justice Ministry or Kabul on 11 February 2009 has shown how the Govt. in Kabul is vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

The decision of Kyrgyzstan parliament on 19th February to shut the Mans Air base in their country for U.S. troops affect U.S. and NATO allies troop movements. The growing rift between NATO and CIS countries is responsible for this step.

In Nepal resignation of Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) as Prime Minister in protest against President R.P. Yadav refusing to dismiss Nepal army Chief Katawal has created a new crisis in that landlocked country. CPN (Maoist) being the largest single party in Parliament is out of the Govt. while the formation of a coalition Govt. under Prime Ministership of Madhav Kumar Nepal (CPN-UML) has posed the problem whether the peace process in Nepal would be smooth.

Maoists have given commitment that they would abide by the peace process. However, they have criticized role of a foreign power, indirectly hinting India and its interference in internal affairs of Nepal was responsible for the crisis.

The by-election held in Nepal on 12 April in which Maoists have won 3 of the 6 parliamentary seats.

The U.N. mission in Nepal continues and is awaiting a democratic solution.

Despite military defeat of LTTE forces the issue of Tamil population in Sri Lanka is far from a reasonable solution. The relief operation for the refugee Tamil population is inadequate and people do not have elementary needs of human existence. Several refugees have come to Tamilnadu which is creating tension in the state among Tamil population Sri Lankan Government has not yet come forward to grant autonomy to the area inhabited by Tamil population within the framework of Sri Lanka. This is

creating instability and only adding to the sufferings of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka

INDIA'S SERVILITY TOWARDS U.S. IMPERIALISM

The recent trends clearly show that India's foreign policy is becoming more and more servile towards U.S. imperialism which is affecting India's sovereign status.

During G8 Summit held in Italy in July 2009 U.S. succeeded to persuade the summit not to transfer full Enrichment and Reprocessing (ENR) technologies to non-NPT countries which demolished all claims of the UPA Government that the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal was unconditional. The supremacy of the Hyde Act was thus clearly established by this step of U.S. On the question of climate change India watered down its stand and showed its servile attitude.

The agreement arrived at during U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton's visits to India, the UPA Government agreed to permit U.S. experts to inspect end use of U.S. equipments supplied to India, which also indicated India's surrendering its sovereignty. India's putting in cold storage Iran gas pipeline deal also an example of this servile attitude.

Though U.S. army claims to have withdrawn American occupation troops from cities and towns, 1,20,000 U.S. troops are still in Iraq and effectively controlling the country. The so called 50,000 U.S. trainers will remain in Iraq for a longer period. The elections announced in Iraq in 2010 are likely to be a sheer show of force so long the U.S. troops occupy the Iraqi soil.

SETBACK IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Within a short time after the last Working Committee meeting our country was involved in the campaign for 15th Lok Sabha elections. All the CITU leaders and cadres were active for the success of left, democratic and secular candidates and strived to build a non-Congress non-BJP alternative in the country. However, the election outcome was totally unexpected. The Congress and its allies got majority of seats, while NDA got defeated in the electoral battle. Left front got the most severe set back in the polls reducing its strength from 61 to 26. The other electoral allies of the left front which constituted a part of the so called third front fared very poorly. The only silver lining was seen in Tripura where the left front won both the seats getting 64 per cent of the votes. In Panchayat elections too Tripura has further advanced its gains.

The outcome of the electoral debacle has resulted in serious self-introspection in left parties which have highlighted the following aspects to explain the electoral reverses:

- 1) The concept of non-congress not BJP alternative was correct but formation of a Government by the "third front" was not considered by the people as viable and credible alternative.
- 2) The electoral allies of the left front were once allies of the BJP and the credibility of forming a Govt. with them was not considered by the people as correct.
- 3) The steps taken by UPA Govt. due to pressure of the left viz. NREGA Forest Labour Act, Writing off loans of farmers etc. were utilized by the Congress as their achievement.
- 4) The virulent anti-minority propaganda by the BJP scared the minorities, who felt that only Congress could give them protection. Hence, a large sections of minority supported Congress in the elections.
- 5) Open differences among the left parties on the eve of elections in major states adversely affected popular reaction.
- 6) Sharing platform with Madani Group (PDP) in Kerala adversely affected the left and democratic

support.

7) The opposition campaign in West Bengal against the left front regarding compulsorily taking over land from farmers under the 1894 Act under British rule created a scare among the section of the peasants who voted against the left. The police firing in Nandigram also created anti-left feelings among a section of voters.

8) Misinformation campaign by the UDF and Media in Kerala against Lavlin deal affected a section of voters in Kerala.

9) Though the left was defeated in West Bengal it got more than 43 per cent votes, declining its voting strength by 7 per cent. In Kerala LDF got over 42% votes declining its support base by over 4 per cent.

10) There was no major swing in favour of Congress whose vote share has increased from 27% to 29% while Congress reduced its voting strength in 8 states.

The left parties have decided to overcome their weaknesses, adopt pro-people policies, improve Govt. administration in West Bengal and Kerala and develop more links with the people so that the loss of popular support can be regained.

The results of the Municipal elections in W.Bengal were also not favourable to the left.

The electoral success of the Congress and its allies enabled them to form a Govt. on their own strength. The UPA Government is now emboldened to take pro-World Bank, IMF package of neoliberalism. All the reactionary steps the UPA Government could not take due to opposition by the left and the trade unions are being pursued more vigorously by the Manmohan Singh Govt. It is accepting conditionality of the U.S. imperialists on national and international issues which is adversely affecting the sovereign status of the country. The 2009-10 Budget and Economic Survey clearly indicate the aggressive pro-liberalisation policies likely to be pursued by the UPA Government. Under these circumstances the reduction of the left strength in Parliament needs to be overcome by more mass struggles to pressurize the UPA Government. The CITU unions will have to play a crucial role in developing nationwide struggles against the anti-people policies of the UPA Government.

BUILD UNITY FROM BELOW

The remarkable all in unity achieved by the trade union movement in India on the 5 burning issues of the working class viz. 1) rise in prices of essential commodities, 2) unemployment, 3) violation of labour laws, modification of law relating to unorganized labour 4) disinvestment of public sector undertakings reflected the growing discontent among the workers all over the country. The forthcoming national convention on 14th September will chalk out programme of united movement all over the country. Despite limited role this unity has potential of development of powerful struggle of the working class. Though there are other pressing issues agitating the minds of the workers, yet to focus the attention on the major issues for a nationwide campaign should be given top priority. We can take up the other issues in our campaign all over India.

However, this unity is built from above which has to be developed into unity from below involving rank and file workers of all affiliations in a common struggle to defend the vital interests of the working class. There is tremendous urge for unity among all sections of the working class which should be utilized to strengthen the unity in action. Conventions at the state level, industry level and local level, joint meetings on the five point charter of demands will help to involve workers of all affiliations to come on a common platform – whatever programme of joint action chalked out by all the unions will pave the way for a lower level action which will bring pressure on the Govt. of India to take immediate

steps to meet the demands of the workers.

All CITU unions should seriously make efforts at regional and local levels to build such a wide ranging unity of the class and ensure that the unity will become longstanding. Such an all pervasive unity will create a worth noticing impact on the national situation. We must emerge as builder of unity of the working class, so that onslaughts of the capital will not be allowed to succeed in the present period. I am sure all members of the General Council will take up this pressing task in right earnest so that we can meet the challenges of the present situation effectively.

FORWARD TO BUILDING A REVOLUTIONARY TRADE UNION ORGANISATION

Dear Comrades, we are approaching forty years of the existence of CITU. We have faced several challenges in this period of existence and overcome them with all our efforts. The present international and national situation demands that we must reorientate our approach towards achieving our final objective. How far our day to day activities are enabling us to achieve our goal?

So many Comrades have sacrificed their life for the working class movement. We have a proud record of our martyrs who have heroically fought the assassins' attacks. We have to ensure that their heroism and sacrifice will not go in vain. Many of you have faced deadly physical attacks but fortunately survived, others have faced repressions in your life for working with CITU.

We have formed CITU to build a revolutionary trade union movement. It is our urgent duty to see that we rise to the occasion and fulfill the requirements of building an organization that would achieve the cherished goal!

The historical experience of four decades of our activities underlines series of class struggles we have carried incessantly. However, we have not been able to develop adequate socialist consciousness among our rank and file and without creating such a consciousness the trade union movement cannot complete its revolutionary role.

Ideological development of the working class in India is essential for revolutionary advancement of our movement. The Indian working class will not be able to play the role of gravediggers of capitalism unless it assimilates revolutionary spirit of working class ideology.

While strengthening united struggle of the working class against ferocious onslaught of capital we must pay special attention to the ideological development of working class. The capitalist class always tries to influence the working class movement by sowing illusions about the capitalist society in order to blunt the edge of our class struggle. The task of launching uncompromising struggles against alien class ideology within the working class is of paramount importance today.

Democratic functioning of trade unions assumes extreme importance if the workers involvement in deciding policies and activities of trade union movement is to be given top priority.

Our four decades of sustained activities have highlighted our strength as well as some weaknesses. We have to utilize this strength and overcome the weaknesses for further successes.

Bureaucratism, economism, individualism and such vices must be eliminated from our trade union activities, corruption and arrogances must be fought with all our might so that we become more accessible to the mass of workers.

Despite present unfavourable situation we can defend the interests of the working class through our mass activities. Let us march forward with confidence and rely on the strength of united working class whose close links with peasantry and other toiling masses with open the vista of further progress and achievements.

I am sure the General Council will seriously ponder over these issues and do everything to develop the CITU as a revolutionary trade union as visualized by the founders of scientific socialism.

Long live CITU!

M.K. Pandhe
President

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Comrades,

1.1. This General Council meeting of CITU is taking place at a time when both in the International arena and in the national context crucial changes have taken place - posing before all of us serious challenges as well as opportunities.

1.2. In the international scenario, in the background of global financial crisis and accompanying recession signifying almost a collapse-like situation even in the advanced capitalist countries, forthright criticisms against the manner capitalism operated under neoliberal doctrine are being loudly voiced even from unexpected quarters –putting all doctrines of neoliberalism in the defensive. This is no doubt a positive development for the working class movement and the basic class politics underlying the CITU movement.

1.3. On the other, in the national scenario, in the aftermath of the 15th Lok Sabha elections, the country is faced with a rightward tilt of the political balance and a severe setback for the Left forces, even in their traditional strongholds, bringing forth a serious challenge not only for the working class movement but the entire progressive movement as well, with the US imperialist intervention and their handiwork becoming more aggressive in pushing the correlation of political forces in a more rightward direction. The General council has to take a view on these crucial developments while drawing its future strategy.

1.4. The Presidential address has covered in detail the international developments after the Working Committee Meeting held in Mumbai in January 2009. The most notable event in the intervening period is the deepening of the global financial crisis which exploded during the last quarter of 2008 accompanying a widespread recession worldwide leading to mass scale job-losses, closure, wage cut etc. The world has also witnessed growing protest mobilisations and strikes etc by the toiling people opposing the bail-out of the speculators by public money and demanding concrete action against massive job losses, wage cuts etc and for employment and income generation. Several international forums including the ILO in particular and even several heads of states from the advanced capitalist world have been pointing fingers to the policy of deregulated finance aggressively pushed through at the behest of the imperialist powers and the multilateral agencies and the speculation fuelled by such policies thereby exposing the extreme fragility of the world capitalist order.

2. National Situation

2.1.1. During the intervening period since last working committee meeting, election of the 15th Lok Sabha has taken place and UPA combine led by Congress has again formed the Govt at the centre. From our last working committee meeting held in January 2009 at Mumbai, we undertook the task of rallying the working class in the forthcoming political struggle in the direction of “Defeating the BJP and Rejecting the Congress”. The General Secretary’s Report adopted by the Working Committee underlined, “Both Congress and BJP are having commonality on the economic policy issues. Our forthcoming initiative for exposing the neo-liberal imperialist globalisation or, for that matter, the real face of the capitalist order will best suit our political task of exposing both the Congress and the BJP. This warrants an all out preparation, both on organisational and ideological aspects on our part to

unleash the most intensive campaign among widest possible sections of the toiling people to ensure biggest ever mobilisation and heightened action against imperialism and neo-liberalism." The Working Committee also noted with emphasis that "In the forthcoming elections, the ruling class and the imperialist forces together will leave no stone unturned to attack the Left forces in their strongholds mounting malicious campaign against the Left Front governments. Defending the Left Front governments and projecting their pro-people policies as demarcated from the neo-liberal anti-people policy regime also should constitute an important component of our campaign."

2.1.2. After the announcement of the General Elections, CITU issued an appeal to the working class to work for defeating both Congress and BJP led combines and strengthening the Left and secular alternative and campaign for a third alternative based on alternative policies on economic, political and social fronts. The appeal in the form of a booklet was sent to all state committees for publication and wide circulation.

2.2. Post Election Scenario

2.2.1. The results of the 15th Lok Sabha Elections went in favour of Congress led combine. The Left parties suffered a serious setback with their seats declining from 61 in the 14th Lok Sabha to only 24 in the current one.

2.2.2. The State Committees of CITU and the members of General Council might have reviewed the role played by the CITU activists in particular and working class in general in the general election. But the election results and the severe setbacks suffered by the Left forces clearly demonstrate our failure to rally a sizable section of the toiling classes in support of our Left and secular alternative even in the stronghold states, not to speak of other states where Left votes remained very poor and indicate a trend of decline. This also reflects our failure to address effectively the issues relating to working, living and social conditions of the toiling masses. The results of the municipal elections in West Bengal held on 28th June 2009 reflected a similar picture. Even in most of the working class dominated constituencies in both West Bengal and Kerala, loss suffered by the Left is quite revealing and alarming too.

2.2.3. The only exception is Tripura where the Left has recorded a steady advance, retained their strength and increased their vote-share. And in the recently held three tier Panchayat elections and also in the bi-elections in the urban municipality and Tribal Autonomous District Council, the Left front led by CPI(M) retained their overwhelming dominance winning all the seats in municipal bi-election and more than 85 per cent seats in all the tiers of Panchayats and the tribal autonomous district council.

2.2.4. There are several factors behind such setbacks, both political and organisational in character and this report is not the place to articulate them thoroughly. But the election result in general and the involvement of CITU in the election campaign in particular demonstrated serious political organisational weakness of ours to carry the campaign to reach the widest section of the toiling people with the required focus, depth and commitment and also the failure to convert the mobilisation in the struggles organised by us into committed political support. In essence, our campaign failed to win the confidence of the major section of the toiling class in general and at least a sizable section of them even in our stronger states. The root of such failure has to be searched in the lapses in political-ideological and class-orientation of our work in every tier of our organisation— weakening and infecting our organisational initiative and capacity itself to effectively combat the political onslaught by the ruling class. And such quest is needed at all levels of the organisation.

2.2.5. One thing must be noted in particular that during the UPA regime since 2004, the dependence of the UPA Govt on the Left forces compelled it to undertake a number of pro-people measures which were contrary to their neoliberal paradigm. Owing to consistent pressure of the Left forces in the background of popular mobilisation by the working class movement and other section of the democratic masses, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act came into being. Disinvestment of public sector undertakings also got halted. Similarly the Left forces played important role in getting the Forest Tribal Act and the statute on Right to information legislated. Consistent campaign on agricultural crisis demanding effective remedial measures by the democratic and popular movements created a compelling situation for the UPA Govt to announce loan-waiver for the farmers. But we or for that matter our organisations working in the concerned segment of population, failed to take the required organisational initiative and make ourselves visible organisationally for the implementation of NREGA or in the process of delivery of loan-waiver benefit to farmers or benefits of the Forest Tribal Act to mass of the tribal population in greater part of the country.

2.2.6. Owing to consistent opposition by the Left forces in the background of united struggle by the working class, the financial sector of the country could not be privatised or deregulated and the country's economy could be saved, at least partially, from inevitable collapse and disaster in the midst of global economic meltdown. We failed to focus on this great achievement of the working class in our campaign. Thus, we fought many successful struggles, mobilised a big section of the toiling people in those struggles but failed to carry the ideology and politics of those struggle to grass root masses owing to our own ideological disorientation and resultant organisational incapability.

2.2.7. The root of our failure also lies in our undermining the role of imperialism which played a key role in organising the gang-up against the Left forces. US diplomats and embassy officials were in regular contacts with the anti-Left forces and other right-wing elements and had number of meetings with different interest groups prior to elections and played a proactive role in bringing together all anti-Left forces in a single platform and help them in all respects both materially and financially. The imperialist force's involvement in the 15th Lok Sabha elections was also seen in US diplomatic officials' initiative to contact TDP, PRP and other parties in Andhra Pradesh immediately after the voting was over in AP. Their main interest had been to ensure a smooth passage for such a government in the centre which need not depend on the Left forces.

2.2.8. We failed to gauge the seriousness and depth of these imperialist interventions and reflect this appropriately in our campaign. Even the most crucial task of exposing the bankruptcy of the capitalist order revealed through the global economic meltdown as outlined in the General Secretary's Report adopted by CITU Working Committee in January 2009 did not get much priority in our political campaign in the period preceding and during the elections.

2.2.9. In sum and substance, basic issues of the working class, viz., price-rise, labour law violations, joblosses, wage-cut and deteriorating working conditions because of global recession, disinvestments, deregulation of financial and petroleum sector, FDI in retail, insurance, telecom, banks, pension sector and defence etc affecting the workers as well as the nation at large could not be effectively put in the political agenda of the nation during election. This gave opportunity to bourgeois parties and the ruling class in particular to ensure this "labour not on the agenda" situation during the election.

2.3. New Offensives - Attacks on the Left and Trade Unions

2.3.1. While reviewing our failure and weaknesses and taking necessary corrective action, CITU must simultaneously close its ranks and prepare for the aforesaid offensives that has already started in the

new political dispensation. As we had earlier noted in the deliberations of our last working committee meeting, since last more than one year or so, concerted attack, both political and physical, on the Left forces had been mounting, targeting on our stronghold states and there had been a total gang up of the reactionary forces of all hue against the Left under close patronage of the imperialist agencies and the US imperialism in particular. Bourgeois media had also joined in a big way in this offensive and the game plan had been to strip the Left forces of its strength of deterrent intervention against neoliberalism. Unfortunately this basic understanding could not percolate down fully to our ranks in the face of fierce anti-Left tirade by the media and reactionary forces and substantially disarmed them in the crucial political battle.

2.3.2. After election-results the physical offensive against the Left forces has increased particularly in West Bengal and already hundreds of comrades laid down their lives braving the brutal attack of the Trinamool-Maoist combine. Number of comrades killed by these attacks have already crossed hundred since the election results have been declared and almost every day the number is increasing. Union offices are being burnt, looted and even captured in many places by the Trinamool-hoodlums and in many areas leading trade union comrades and comrades from other mass organisations are being murderously attacked. This anti-Left gang-up has been trying to drive away our supporters from many areas through armed onslaught with the design of creating many Left-free zones through unleashing terror, extortion, forcible fines etc on the common people. Our comrades have been trying to build up resistance to such annihilation campaign against the Left. But it is not a battle to be fought by them alone.

2.3.3. The attack on the Left forces is synonymous to the attack on the working class. And such attack is assuming a menacing proportion in one of our strongest bastion—West Bengal which has been the advanced outpost of the democratic movement and the fortress of the working class as Com BTR used to mention repetitively in many of his interventions. It is the foremost task of the working class movement of the country to stand firmly with their comrades in West Bengal in their struggle to defend the fortress of the working class and democratic movement and unleash a solidarity campaign throughout the country to combat the attack of the reactionary forces and the misinformation campaign by the media.

3. Towards Aggressive Neoliberalism

3.1.1. Besides pointed attack on the Left forces, the UPA-II Govt, no more dependent on Left support, has made an aggressive beginning in pushing through the anti-people neoliberal designs. The Economic Survey (2008-09) and both the Railway Budget and the General Budget laid bare in detail the roadmap of the UPA-II Govt for whole-hog liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation of the Indian Economy. The major thrust of their policy designs as highlighted by the Economic Survey 2008-09 are as follows:

- Disinvestment of shares of profit-making PSUs including Navaratnas to garner Rs 25000 crore every year
- Sale-out of loss making PSUs
- Reform in labour laws through introduction of “hire & fire” regime
- Change in the Contract Labour(R&A) Act to permit contract work in all jobs
- Introduction of 12 hour working day and 60 hour-week in selective sectors
- Promoting Public Private Partnership(PPP) route in all infrastructure projects including Railways
- Privatisation of Ports and Airports through PPP route
- FDI in Retail sector

- Raising FDI in Insurance sector and Defence Production to 49%
- Allowing 100% foreign equity in rural insurance firms
- Gradual liberalisation towards full capital account convertibility
- Deregulation of the banking sector through disinvestment and removing the cap on the voting right of private and foreign shareholders in banking sector
- Privatisation of the pension sector through enactment of PFRDA Bill
- Doing away with administered pricing of petroleum products including Kerosene and LPG
- Freeing Fertiliser pricing from Govt control
- Allowing private investment in nuclear power
- Lifting of all restrictions on futures trade in the commodity market including the essential commodities and food grains
- Lifting of price control in essential medicines
- Discontinuance of reserved list for small scale industries

The above list is not an exhaustive one. In totality, the UPA-II combine is visibly desperate to move fast towards whole-hog deregulation of the national economy in collusion with BJP under the diktat of corporate sector, both within and outside the country.

3.2. Union Budget 2009-10

3.2.1. The Union Budget 2009-10, also reflected the same neoliberal design, of course under the oft-repeated rhetoric for the "aam admi". Despite all tall pronouncement, real allocation for the rural economy, agriculture, infrastructural development, education, health etc marked insignificant increase. In totality, the increase in total expenditure in Budget 2009-10 compared to revised estimate of 2008-09 budget is merely 0.5% of GDP out of which the plan-expenditure is slated to increase only by 0.2% of GDP only. Central plan outlay for agriculture has increased by less than Rs 600 crore over the last year's budget allocation. The share of combined expenditure on rural economy in the total expenditure has actually declined to 16.09% (2.55% of GDP at market prices) in the current budget 2009-10 from 22.24%(3.69% of GDP) in 2008-09 revised estimate. The share of total expenditure for Agriculture & Allied Activities in the total expenditure has declined to 10.37%(1.64% of GDP) in the current budget from 15.60% (2.59% of GDP) last year. (1% GDP is roughly equal to Rs. 50,000 crores)

3.2.2. The budgetary allocation on subsidy account has actually declined by around 15% owing to drastic cut in the allocation for fertiliser subsidy. On the other hand, liberal tax concessions have been granted to the rich and corporates. As per the Finance Minister's own statement, the direct tax proposals in the budget, mainly falling on the rich and the affluent section, remained revenue-neutral, i.e., no increase in tax burden, whereas on the indirect tax account, mostly falling on the common people, the budget targeted a gain of Rs 2000 crore. A closer scrutiny of the budgetary figures reveals a total bias in favour of the rich and the corporate and big business lobby. As per the Finance Minister's budgetary statements, the tax-foregone by the central government through various concessions to the big-business lobby, account for 68.45% of the total revenue collection in 2008-09 which is 323.5% of the total subsidy bill of the Govt for the common people. The total revenue extracted from the common people through taxes and duties on petroleum product is three times more than the subsidy granted to the same people through petro-product pricing. In reality, common people has been subsidising the Govt at present system of petroleum pricing. On the head of this the concessions granted in Income Tax, Wealth Tax and on various other heads in the current budget will lead to a quantum jump in the tax foregone in favour of the rich and big-business, compared to which the allocation on common peoples' account will continue to remain negligible.

3.2.3. The proposition for widely encouraging public-private partnership in infrastructure, health, education and other public utilities signals a grand plan of the Govt for privatisation of a major part of the public services at the cost of public exchequer. The budget also minced no word in respect of its plan for aggressive disinvestment programmes in the profit making PSUs for meeting the ever increasing budget deficit.

3.2.4. The working people have also been subjected to inhuman neglect. Liberal tax concessions and rebates have been showered on the business lobby in the name of stimulus for tackling economic slowdown but nothing has been done for those who are worst victim of the slowdown - the millions of workers who lost and have been losing their livelihood everyday. For Unorganised Sector workers social security, allocation is increased by only Rs 100 crore over last year which is nothing but a crude joke to the 93% of the country's workforce. For ICDS, the additional allocation is just Rs 360 crore over last year's revised estimate. At this rate, it will take about a decade to universalise ICDS. Similarly, the ASHA workers in the health sector and also mid-day meal workers have been subjected to neglect in the budget. These are some of the examples of sheer neglect of the common people in the budgetary proposals.

3.2.5. The real face of the Govt in the camouflage of their aam-admi rhetoric needs to be thoroughly exposed by the working class movement.

3.3. Pro-Imperialist Designs - Fallout of Strategic Alliance with US

3.3.1. The pro-imperialist content of their economic-policy designs are quite visible from their fast-track effort to deregulate the financial sector and thrust towards full convertibility at a time when the entire world economy is reeling under recession and collapse of the financial giants in the advanced industrialised economies. The quicker revival of the recession-stricken economy in the advanced imperialist countries is possible only at the cost of further deregulation of the economy and the market of the developing countries including India. The strategic military alliance of the Indian ruling polity with the imperialist powers, the US imperialist in particular, stands further exposed by their economic policy designs which are more tuned in the interests of the imperialist economies than the interests of the national economy and the people at large.

3.3.2. The recent Indo-US joint statement after the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton does not leave any shade of doubt on the growing entanglement of India with USA as its junior strategic partner. The End Use Monitoring Agreement (EUMA) for the sale of American Military hardware, allowing American Inspection of Indian Military installations, is one of the meekest surrender of national sovereignty in the post independent India. Washington's growing pressure on India on the Doha round of trade talks relating to agriculture and the ongoing talks on climate change to force India to cut carbon-emission and India's vacillating stance on all those issues are the indications of such capitulating process. This has to be resisted by all patriotic people of the country.

3.3.3. In totality, the country is facing a situation where, in the face of mounting pressure of US imperialism, the Indian ruling polity is seen surrendering both in the matter of foreign policy the economic policy matters severely affecting the national interest thereby gradually pushing the country in the neo-colonial trap. CITU has to play the frontline role in mobilising the people against this nefarious design of the US imperialism and also the capitulating stance of the Indian ruling class.

4. New Situation - Changed Dimension of Struggle

4.1.1. So long, at least for last four and half year regime of UPA rule, the Left forces could exercise some brake on such disastrous moves of the neoliberals in governance in the background of organised opposition to those designs by the working class movement. Now, under UPA-II regime, the deterrent strength of the Left no longer exists inside Parliament and the movement and mobilisation outside the parliamentary framework have to be multiplied many times in the context of weakened intervening strength within Parliament.

4.1.2. We must recall, the anti globalisation platform of struggle could be developed in the country through pioneering initiative by CITU in 1991 onwards when the Left forces had not been in the position of deterrent intervention inside Parliament. Rather in the process of consistent intervention and broadening of the platform of struggle of the toiling class against policies of neoliberal imperialist globalisation, we could deter at least partially the liberalisation and privatisation process to a substantial extent and the Left forces earned the deterrent strength in the parliamentary forum. Now, in the face of dwindled strength of the Left force inside Parliament, the mobilisation and struggle in the fields have to shoulder the crucial as well as historic responsibility of building peoples' resistance against the neoliberal policy regime. The urgency of struggle against disinvestment or privatisation has to be understood in the context of neoliberal ploy to promote a take- over of the national economy by the monopoly capital, both domestic and foreign and the need for heightening the struggle against neoliberalism has to be conceived in the context of imperialist's design for aggressive neocolonisation.

4.1.3. And while doing so we must not fail to project and popularise the alternative policies at every stage of our struggle and mobilisations simultaneously exposing the inefficacy and bankruptcy of the neoliberal policy framework. In that sense, the post-elections scenario enjoins upon the working class movement the historic responsibility to mobilise the toiling people in the struggle against the neoliberal capitalist order and CITU will have to shoulder the historic task and prepare itself organisationally and ideologically.

4.2. Simultaneous fight against Communalism and Neoliberal Policies

4.2.1. In Parliament, it is futile to expect that the main opposition block led by NDA will play any role in opposing the fast track neoliberal designs. Rather they will fall in line with the Govt on the economic policy issues and basic component of their role as opposition will be the Hindutva agenda and allied issues in the camouflage of internal security issues, relations with Pakistan etc. They have nothing to oppose in the aggressive pursuit of neoliberal policies by the UPA Govt. Thus they will try to remain in political relevance by fanning the communal frenzy and playing on related issues. The Left forces also have to play frontline role in opposing such divisive designs of BJP and Sangh Parivar. At the same time, the Left forces with its present strength have to play the main role of opposition and in view of the dwindled numbers of the Left in Parliament, working class mobilisation and initiatives outside the parliament have to shoulder the responsibility of both upholding the unity of the class against the communal and divisive designs and also building resistance and roadblocks against the neoliberal policy measures and attack on labour rights.

4.3. Against the Impact of Recession

4.3.1. The Report of the General Secretary adopted in the last working committee meeting in January 2009 dealt in details the whole gamut of the global financial meltdown and accompanying recession. The Report had also noted the severe impact of the global recession on Indian working class, in the

form of joblosses, wage-cut, lay-off, retrenchment, closure, forced leave without pay etc imposed on the working community at large in different sectors of the economy. The situation got aggravated thereafter and the total incidence of loss of livelihood owing to recession both in the export-oriented and non-export sector has crossed 25 lakhs as per available estimates from different sources although we do not have much input from inside our organisation except a few states. The official estimate of 6 lakh job-losses as reflected in the Economic Survey 2008-09 is a deliberately made gross underestimation. Even, as noted by the Union Commerce Secretary in a public statement, the estimated joblosses in the export oriented sector alone has been around 15 lakh till March 2009.

4.3.2. But one thing we must note in particular. We do not have with us much reports of resistance or at least organised trade union interventions against such huge job-losses in different sectors. In many of those export oriented sectors particularly in Noida in UP, Gurgaon in Haryana, diamond polishing sector in Gujarat, IT & ITES sector in different places of the country, we do not have significant organisational presence. We also do not have detail report whether in all those areas and sectors in different states throughout the country, our CITU units have made any attempt to establish contact with the affected workers or any attempt was made to organise any solidarity or relief as emphasised in the last working committee meeting in January 2009 as an important task in our activities and campaign.

4.3.3. General Elections in the intervening period and our involvement in the election campaign may be cited as one of reasons for such failures but that does not explain the situation fully. Much remains to be said and done on the extreme inadequacy of our conscious initiative in all levels of organisation to harness the opportunity of reaching the unreached areas when the workers are in distress and resentful. Plans were needed to be drawn at the state level and the centre should have constantly pursued and monitored the task of organising working class intervention in the areas of distress owing to recession as emphasised by the CITU working committee in its last meeting. We failed to take up this task effectively and recognise this task to be an important component of our campaign and activities during the intervening period.

4.3.4. However in the post election scenario, we must take up this urgent task with all seriousness. Our campaign on the global crisis must be aimed at exposing the bankruptcy of the capitalist system in general and the brazen criminality of speculation consciously fuelled by a deregulated financial sector under neoliberal regime. At the same time, CITU has to take conscious initiative in championing the cause of workers thrown out of livelihood in the name of recession in various sectors, mobilising them in the struggle for protection of employment as well as direct relief for those who already lost their jobs. The demand for direct relief to the affected workers instead of so called stimulus package to the employers or the demand for stimulus package to be made conditional to a "no retrenchment and no wage cut" commitment should be popularised. The demands for campaign and struggle against the financial crisis have already been formulated in the General Secretary's Report adopted in the CITU Working Committee meeting of January 2009 and that should be made a basis of campaign and mobilisation among the mass of the workers particularly focussing on the affected areas and sectors.

4.3.5. Further, we must prepare ourselves to respond effectively against all onslaughts on the national economy and the working people. The economic situation is moving from bad to worse so far as the common people are concerned notwithstanding deliberate underestimation by the ruling class about the depth of the crisis and recession.

4.4. Price Rise

4.4.1. Despite all fanfare on declining inflation rate reaching a negative figure, the prices of all essential commodities are rising fast taking the food-price index already around 8% level as admitted by even the current Economic Survey. In this background the Govt has been actively considering to lift all restrictions on the futures trade on all commodities including rice, wheat and pulses to favour the speculators in the commodity market. Already, the decision to abolish Commodity Transaction Tax announced in the current budget is destined to fuel more desperate speculation the commodity market which has been already at quite a high level as per fortnightly reports of Forward Markets Commission of India. The price rise of diesel and petrol just before the budget is having a cascading effect on the price rise of essential commodities. Added to this is the phenomenon of a sharp decline in the acreage of paddy plantation (13.66 lakh hectares) this year revealing a 25% shortfall. In respect of cereals, shortfall in planting is to the tune of 53%. This signals a deepening agrarian crisis already fuelled by the decline in the growth of Agricultural GDP to 1.6 per cent in 2008-09. The delayed monsoon is going to make the situation more critical signalling even a faster price rise of essential commodities in the coming days and the danger of drought in many areas of the country.

4.5. For Food Security and scientific reformulation of Poverty Line

4.5.1. The Govt of the day may try to manage the situation playing on their announcement to legislate Food Security Act at the earliest to provide foodgrains at subsidised price to peoples below the poverty line. But the official poverty line is so ridiculously low that it excludes overwhelming majority of the poor out of its coverage. As per World Bank estimation, poverty line is defined as \$2 per day of income/consumption and those below \$1 per day are considered to be under extreme poverty. As per official definition in India, poverty line corresponds to Rs 11.3/- per capita per day consumption in the rural areas and Rs 18.5/- per capita per day consumption in the urban areas and around 26 per cent of population are below the official poverty line. On the other hand as per Report of the NCEUS appointed by the same UPA Govt, more than 77% of the population live below Rs 20/- per day thereby accounting for around 51% of the people living between Rs 18 to Rs 20/- per day consumption level which also cannot be considered anything else but a situation of extreme poverty. An expert panel appointed by the Rural Development Ministry under the Chairmanship of N C Saxena, the Commissioner appointed by Supreme Court, has given another estimation of more than 50% of the population remaining below the poverty line based on Rs 700/ per capita monthly income in rural areas and Rs 1000 monthly income in urban areas. In totality, the official poverty line estimate which has been made the ceiling for so called targeted public distribution system and other social security and welfare schemes is nothing but a nefarious design for excluding the majority of the extreme poor from the benefits of the schemes and measures touted in their name by the ruling polity to get a political mileage. On the same poverty line parameters, the Govt seeks to deprive ninety per cent of the unorganised sector workers from the benefits promised by the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008.

4.5.2. We have already demanded universalisation of public distribution system to insulate people from the vagaries of price rise which would also act in containing to a considerable extent the price rise and also speculation in commodity market. At the same time while demanding early enactment of the Food Security Act to cover entire population, we must also popularise the demand for reformulation of the Poverty line on a scientific basis to quantify appropriate income/consumption parameters and also social parameters for capturing and identifying the entire magnitude of the people in abject poverty. The purpose should be for including the entire mass of the poor in the programmes for upliftment of aam-admi and not for exclusion of a vast section of entitled beneficiaries from the coverage

of those programmes and schemes which are being show-cased by the ruling polity in the name of aam-admi. The official poverty line is an instrument in the hands of the Govt for such exclusion game while making noise on inclusive growth. We must mobilise people to expose this game of deception being played by the ruling polity. This exclusion game, in the days to come, will be extended to power, fertilisers, kerosene, housing and other basic needs of the mass of the poor.

4.5.3. At the initiative of various mass organisations, the National Convention on Food Security will be held at New Delhi on 26th August 2009 to chalk out all India movement on the demand of genuine food security to all. CITU should take initiative to make this campaign successful throughout the country.

4.5.4. The Economic Survey and the Union Budget has already laid bare the probable moves of the Govt in the economic and labour policy fronts. Accordingly, CITU has to prepare itself for an effective organized resistance both sectorally and in the national sphere.

5.1. PSU Workers' Movement and Disinvestment

5.1.1. Disinvestment of shares of public sector units are in the offing one after another. We have to organize protest action in the industries concerned immediately and try to involve other trade unions as well.

5.1.2. The Coordination Committee of CITU unions in public sector have already met at Kochi on 26th June 2009 and called upon the constituent units to be in readiness for immediate protest action as soon as disinvestment move is made in the concerned industry and also for joint action in the public sector as a whole. The Joint Platform of the Public Sector Trade Unions –the CPSTU also met in its extended session on 27th June 2009 to endorse such protest action and as a beginning, all the unions associated with CPSTU have staged protest demonstration against disinvestment on 22nd July 2009 in their respective units and sent telegrams to Prime Minister. In Coal Industry, all the five Federations including those affiliated to INTUC and BMS have jointly lodged protest against the Coal India Management's statement to sell 10 per cent shares of Coal India Ltd and called for joint movement against privatization, disinvestment and outsourcing.

5.1.3. The public sector workers' movement has already been in the midst of wage negotiations. On that issue, our public sector unions have already organized various types of agitational programmes at the unit/PSU level both independently and jointly with others. The Coal workers have already achieved substantial wage rise through an Agreement of five year tenure in the background of industry-wide preparatory campaign for three day strike action in early January this year. All the unions in nine plants/units of Bharat Electronics Ltd(BEL) staged strike action on 28th May 2009 on wage negotiations issue which was a complete success. BEML workers have also been agitating braving the threat of 8 days' wage cut on the false charge of concerted late attendance for staging demonstration against the management. BSNL unions also decided to go for countrywide strike action on 19th and 20th August 2009 to press for their demands for wage revision of the workers including the contract workers.

5.1.4. At the initiative of the CITU, the contract workers of public sector steel units had gone for strike action on 19th December 2008 and organized number of agitations thereafter to press for simultaneous wage rise for the contract workers in the steel industry. 20000 contract workers of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant have staged six days successful strike at CITU's initiative which compelled the management to concede to some of the major demands of the contract workers. The contract workers of the Bokaro Steel plants staged one day strike on 16th July 2009. Decision was also taken for holding industry wise and regional joint convention in the state capitals and PSU Centres by August 2009 to

prepare for further struggle including strike action both on issues of wage-negotiations and disinvestment.

5.1.5. Against the move of deregulation of the financial sector and merger of banks, the bank unions have already been in the midst of struggle. The insurance sector employees have also been preparing for spontaneous protest action including two-hour strike action to start with following any move to deregulate or raise the FDI cap in Insurance sector. The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) also decided to go in for countrywide strike on 6th and 7th August 2009 to press for their demands on wage revision and they have also announced their total opposition to the policy of disinvestment and outsourcing.

5.1.6. In this context, it may be noted in particular that In the Indian Labour Conference held in February 2009, all the Central Trade Unions voiced jointly the demands pertaining to unemployment relief, expansion of NREGA to urban areas, strict enforcement of all labour laws, containing contractorisation and casualisation, improvement of the Unorganised Workers Social Security Act etc.

5.2. Attack on Labour Rights & Continuing Struggles

5.2.1. Similarly, aggressive move will be there to change the labour laws in favour of the employers as indicated by the Economic Survey. Already a Bill is pending in Parliament which seeks to exempt the employers in the establishment employing up to 500 employees from reporting obligations under various labour laws. On this Bill, the Govt tried to negotiate with the Central Trade Unions in 2008 to make them agree to allow such exemption to employers employing up to 40 workers which the majority of Central Trade Unions did not agree. We should note that even establishments employing up to 40 workers would mean more than fifty per cent establishments in the manufacturing sector alone, not to speak of services and other sectors. They could not pass the Bill during earlier regime owing to our resistance in Parliament but this time definitely the Govt will try to get the Bill passed. And as indicated by the Economic Survey, attempt will again be made by the Govt to amend chapter VB of the Industrial Disputes Act to introduce "hire & fire" regime. We must start preparing for countrywide resistance without further delay.

5.2.2. In this context, we should note that till now the issue of implementation of existing labour laws continues to be central of most of trade union activities at the grass root level. Sizable section of workers have been always in some forms of agitations or other throughout the country in various sectors mainly on the issue of implementation of the existing labour laws pertaining to minimum wages, working hours, social security benefits and trade union rights. Many of those agitations are led by CITU and many more are being organized by other unions as well. But we do not get reports of those struggles and some times we come to know about some of them from the media reports.

5.2.3. Of the recently held struggles for trade union rights, struggle by Hyundai workers at Chennai was led by CITU. 25-30 days long strike struggle by MRF Tyre workers in two locations of Tamilnadu was led by an independent union. The Hyundai workers struggle has been continuing since last two years, braving all repressions which has attracted international solidarity support from the Hyundai workers' movement in South Korea. The workers of Suslan Energy Ltd at Pudducherry fought a prolonged battle against retrenchment and closure and finally forced the management for an amicable settlement. 19 days strike by around 20000 Salt Pan workers at Tuticorin braving police atrocities and mass scale arrests, finally forced the employers to concede to the demands of the workers. But attack on the trade union rights are mounting everyday and almost everywhere. In Tamilnadu, any effort to form unions in several industrial establishments is being sought to be crushed by retrenchment and

repression. During the span of last one year, nearly 1000 workers and union activists were victimized in around 30 major industrial units in the organized sector only for forming trade unions. And the struggle is going on.

5.2.4. In Karnataka, the contract workers are struggling for trade union rights and better working conditions for a long time facing threats and atrocities.

5.2.5. Also in Andhra Pradesh number of strike struggles were organized by CITU and notable among them were the 45 day-long strike by 42000 Village Servants under state govt revenue department, three-day state-wide strike by the Anganwadi workers, 41 days strike by the E-Seva employees and 3 day-strike by the municipal workers.

5.2.6. The Port & Dock workers of Kochi Port went on 15 days long strike in June 2009 against unilateral imposition of a Tribunal Award on anti-worker manning scale, braving the deployment of navy to break the strike. Finally the management agreed to discuss the issue with union for an amicable solution.

5.2.8. Similar struggles are going on in other states as well reflecting resolve of the working class not to accept the conditions of slavery. The month long strike by Mahindra & Mahindra factory in Nasik demanding trade union right and against victimization of the union leader is one such incident. But unfortunately we did not receive any written report from the State Committee despite repeated persuasion. There must be conscious effort from our state/district/regional set-ups to gather concrete reports of these ongoing struggles, establish contact with them and organize solidarity which would go a long way in expanding our support base.

5.3. Growing Contractorisation & Casualisation

5.3.1. The most alarming feature of the day is growing contractorisation and casualisation of workforce throughout the country. Even in organized sector industries, the contract workers surpassed the number of regular workforce. In public sector units the share of contract workers among the total workforce have already reached near 50% mark and in private sector industries, contract workers were the overwhelming majority. This phenomenon is posing a severe threat before the trade union movement by way of severely curtailing the striking power of the workers. It is thus the foremost task of the trade union movement to organize the contract workers in the unions and fight for their rights. The union of the regular workers in the concerned industrial units has to shoulder the main responsibility to organize the contract workers and integrate them with their own struggle. Any neglect in this urgent task will be perilous for the entire trade union movement.

5.3.2. At the same time, the trade union movement shall have to take up the issue of contract workers and the general phenomenon of increasing contractorisation of work in violation of the law of the land even in govt establishments both at the central and state level and build up countrywide struggle for urgent remedial action.

5.3.3. Another damaging impact of the increasing phenomenon of contractorisation and also decline in the organized sector employment even in manufacturing sector owing to outsourcing in various forms fuelled by neoliberal policy regime must be taken note of. In totality neoliberal policies led to decline in working conditions and organized sector employment is being gradually replaced by employment of temporary and informal nature where workers do not have any right or legal protection. Employers are promoting this condition in violation of the laws of the land and at the same time they

are trying to legitimize such illegality by corrupt means in league with the administration, Law & Order authority and govt machinery. We have some reports of such corrupt practices being indulged by even some of our unions as well particularly in the area of contract workers and unorganized sector workers. Such dangerous trends, if allowed to flourish, will finally act in alienating mass of the workers, rather the most exploited section of workers from the trade unions. CITU committees must remain vigilant against such pernicious trends and deal with such deviations with strong hand, while educating the ranks to fight against such menaces from within.

5.4. Growing Workplace Accidents

5.4.1. Another revealing trend in the recent times is the alarming increase in workplace accidents owing to sheer neglect of basic safety norms and preventive safety arrangements. In most of the cases of fatal accidents, victims are the contract workers or workers whose names do not find place in the employment register. To mention a few of the recent ones— massive fire broke out in the Lakhani Shoe Factory at Faridabad on 1st May 2009 killing 18 workers as per official report although actual death may be more than 30 ; massive explosion in two adjoining explosive factories near Singrauli Coal Mines in Madhya Pradesh on 5th July 2009 killing 17 workers; in this case also 35 workers are reportedly missing; accident at Fireworks Factory at Madurai, Tamilnadu on 7th July 2009 killing 18 workers of whom three are child workers. In all the three cases, names of many of the victims were not in the employment registers which is creating serious problems for their family members to get compensation. And most recent one is the consecutive three accidents at Delhi Metro Rail sites killing 7 workers altogether. The basic reasons behind above accidents are total neglect on preventive safety by the concerned employers/management in connivance with the inspection authority in the Labour Department. In the Delhi-Metro case complaints are being made on the corrupt practices in compromising the quality of construction and construction materials in connivance with the high officials supervising the construction. The concerned contractor, Gammon India has also been involved in several accidents in other areas as well but it has not yet been blacklisted by the Govt. Added to this has been the discontinuance of statutory inspection by the safety inspectors in the name of doing away with so called “Inspector-Raj”. This exposes the inhuman face of neoliberalism, minting profit at the cost of precious lives of the workers.

5.5. Attack on Social Security

5.5.1. Under neoliberal regime, the social security benefits are under constant attack. The interest rate on provident fund has already declined from 12% to 8.5% during the span of last one decade. During last five years or so at least the interest rate on PF is being maintained at 8.5% in the face of concerted pressure by the trade union representatives in the Central Board of Trustees for enhancement of the interest rate.

5.5.2. But despite total opposition by the trade unions, the Govt has decided to hand over the management of a part of the PF corpus to three private asset management companies whose main business is to play in the share market. Simultaneously the Govt has been continuously making effort to divert a part of the PF corpus for investment in shares in the successive meetings of CBT but could not succeed as yet.

5.5.3. Meantime, the Govt has unilaterally curtailed various benefits under the employees pension scheme like commutation, return of capital etc while drastically reducing the penalty for defaulting employers in depositing the contributions towards pension fund in time.

5.5.4. And last but not least, the Govt is preparing to revive the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill which could not be passed during the tenure of the UPA-I Govt owing to opposition by the Left. The PFRDA Bill is designed to switch over from the system of defined benefit pension scheme to defined contribution system in respect of the Govt employees where the pension corpus contributed by the employees will be invested in the share market and the pension amount will be uncertain and fluctuating depending on the income generated by such speculative investment. The trade union movement must continue to resist such nefarious design.

5.6. Unorganised Sector

5.6.1. Simultaneously certain sector-based initiatives need to be taken with priority to build up a counter-offensive. The Unorganised Workers Social Security Act 2008 was passed which provides for certain social security benefits for the unorganized sector workers below the poverty line. While we have to organize campaign among the unorganized sector workers demanding removal of the BPL restrictions, simultaneously, we have to take organizational initiative at the unit level to identify that section of unorganized sector workers below the poverty line, mobilize them demanding immediate implementation of the Act for them, i.e., registering them as beneficiary of the schemes listed in the Act, issuance of smart card to them and delivery of benefit under the schemes. Our unorganized sector unions have to organize mobilizations at district and regional level to mount pressure on the district administration and state labour department in that direction. Simultaneously pressure should be mounted on the respective state governments for constitution of State Level Boards provided under the Act with the representation of trade unions.

5.6.2. For the Construction sector workers, there is no restriction on ground of poverty line for the benefit under the Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana under the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act and the Central Govt has already issued notification in that regard. Our construction sector unions must take special initiative for implementation of the same among the construction workers. These grass-root level initiatives will help us to consolidate our organizational position in the unorganized sector to prepare them for bigger struggles.

6. Working Women

6.1. As per the decision of the last Working Committee meeting, a small sub committee consisting of the General Secretary of CITU, the convenor of the All India Coordination Committee of Working Women (CITU), a woman Working Committee member and a woman General Council member functioning from the CITU centre has been constituted to monitor the work among working women. However, the sub committee could not meet till now.

6.2. The women membership of CITU has reached around 24% in 2007. In 10 out of the major 21 states, women membership of CITU is more than 30%; in two out of these it is more than 50%; in 3 states, women membership is 25 – 30%; in 3 it is 15 – 25%; only in 4 states it is less than 10%. Because of our increasing activities in the unorganised sector, among the anganwadi employees, ASHA and Mid Day Meal workers etc, participation of women, not only in the struggles but also in the day to day activities of CITU, has increased considerably. This needs to be reflected in the ensuing conferences of CITU, from the district, state up to the national level. All the states should ensure that the proportion of women in their delegation to the 13th Conference of CITU, and in their state conferences, wherever they will be held, is in accordance to their proportion in the membership. Rising participation of women has also to be taken into consideration while electing the new committees.

6.3. As per the decision of the January 2009 Working Committee, a national convention was held on the issues of ASHAs and Mid Day Meal Workers, on 19th February 2009 in New Delhi, with very good participation in both the sessions. The President and General Secretary of CITU participated in the convention. The convention gave a call for observance of separate all India Demands' Days for ASHAs and Mid Day Meal workers. The all India Demands' Day for ASHAs was observed in several states including Jammu and Kashmir.

6.4. It was decided to form Coordination Committees for ASHAs and Mid Day Meal workers at the national level to coordinate the movement. The Centre issued circulars requesting the state committees to send the names of comrades to be included in the Coordination Committees. But, it is regrettable that till now very few state committees have sent the names. It is necessary to make both Coordination Committees functional. There is a very good prospect of developing nation wide movement of ASHAs and Mid Day Meal workers and the CITU state committees should pay proper attention to organise these sections of women workers. This would not only help in the expansion of CITU and increase the participation of women, but also take CITU to the remotest corners of the country.

6.5. The 6th all India conference of the All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers is going to be held in Chandigarh on 9 – 12 October 2009, on the basis of 2008 membership, which is around 3,79,000 from 23 states. Around 560 delegates are expected to participate in the conference. The Punjab state committee of CITU and the Anganwadi Mulajam Union, Punjab have started the preparations for the conference. All the state committees of CITU should ensure that the delegates participate in the conference as per the quota.

7. United Struggle

7.1. A big demonstration was organized before Parliament at CITU's independent initiative on 20th January 2009 against price rise and anti-people economic policy of the Govt. More than ten thousand workers could be mobilized from the adjoining states in this demonstration. Followed by this independent action was a huge 25000 strong demonstration before Parliament on 18th February 2009 at the call of Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions on identical issues.

7.2. In the changed situation, CITU has to take initiative to build up broader unity of the trade unions in the struggle against the economic policies and forthcoming attack on the rights of the workers and the people. Already we have started interaction with the other constituents of the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions and this time there is indeed a possibility of broadening the platform of struggle further and BMS may join the united struggle. And as the attack will gradually unfold, the unions affiliated to INTUC and other independent unions can also be involved in united countrywide struggle if conscious initiative is taken by our comrades at the sectoral and unit levels throughout the country.

7.3. Already a joint meeting of all the Central Trade Unions including INTUC was held on 19TH July 2009 which has decided to hold a National Convention on 14th September 2009 at New Delhi against: 1) rising prices of the essential commodities including food grains and vegetables creating severe hardships for the mass of the people, 2) continuing job losses resulting in loss of livelihood to millions of the workers across the sectors owing to recession and economic slowdown, 3) non-implementation of and rampant violation of basic labour laws pertaining to minimum wages, working hours, social security, safety in workplace and trade union rights etc throughout the country adding to the sufferings of the entire toiling people, 4) extreme inadequacy of the provisions and schemes under the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008 to provide any substantive relief to the vast multitude of unorganized sector workers including the contract workers owing to the restrictive provisions under

the schemes and absence of any National Fund for the Unorganised Sector (NAFUS) as recommended by the NCEUS and Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and 5) move of the Govt for disinvestment of shares in profit-making Central Public Sector Enterprises.

7.4. In the changed political scenario, and particularly in the background of aggressive initiative of the Govt at the centre for disinvestment and other neoliberal measures, the all in united stance on the above issues is no doubt an important development. But how far such all in unity can be sustained and taken forward is yet to be seen. CITU must take initiative at all levels to consolidate and widen the platform of anti-globalisation struggle- the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions to harness this new situation in developing broadest unity of workers at the grass root level.

8. Organisation

8.1. Success of united struggle crucially depends on the capacity of our mobilization. Without a stronger CITU, united struggle of the working class cannot be advanced on right track. We must thus concentrate with all seriousness in consolidating and expanding CITU among the mass of the working people.

8.2. This task in consolidating and strengthening CITU ideologically and organizationally has to be viewed and understood in the light of the new situation and challenges unfolded by it. The task is one of renewing and reiterating our ideological understanding and vision of advancing the cause of our struggle against the capitalist order while taking every step in our day to day struggle for immediate demands and for defence of the rights of the working people.

8.3. The task is one of building capacity in every tier of our organization, right from the centre to bottom to reach the widest section of the workers to mobilize them in united action and simultaneously carry the ideology and politics of our struggle to the widest section of the toiling people to elevate the trade union consciousness to class consciousness. This warrants our independent initiative of campaign among the workers on the issues of joint struggles. The task is one of building capacity in every tier of our leadership to bridge the trade union struggle with the struggle of the entire people and the struggle against the social as well as economic exploitation.

8.4. The aforesaid tasks cannot be effectively taken up unless all round initiative is unleashed among our leadership in different tiers and our activists in the industry/unit level. And this initiative for combining effectively both the movemental and political-organisational work at various levels of organization and the unit level in particular is seriously lacking owing to severe weakness in the democratic functioning of the unions/organizational committees at all levels. Weakness in democratic functioning severely impedes the initiative leading to defaults in driving the urgent political-organisational tasks at all tiers of leadership of the organization. It also severely impedes the initiative to reach the mass of the workers crossing the usual periphery of our campaign and overcoming routinism in the functioning of the committees and unions. In this process, the work of raising the level of consciousness at various levels goes by default and the common workers who constitute the trade union at the workplace level are denied of their democratic rights to be the active part of the decision making by their leadership weakening the living link and the sense of belongingness between the union and the common workers and finally erodes the support base and the striking capacity of the union itself.

8.5. This weakness is affecting expansion of CITU and its support base on the one hand and giving rise to pernicious trend of personalisation of leadership at different tiers of organisation instead of collective functioning. This in turn leads to various other corroding practices and deviations including corruption creating further alienation among the common workers.

8.6. The root of continuing shortcomings in the democratic functioning of the organization/unions and persistent lacunae in overcoming this weakness lies in the lack of realization of the political-ideological significance of democratic functioning as an instrument to build up CITU consistent with its constitutional commitment as leader of the entire working class. This weakness is reflected in the character of our membership drive, spread of the membership across the sectors and the states and also in our inability to rally the significant section of CITU membership in our mobilizations and struggles. This is also having its reflection in our inability to organize the workers in the new areas of industries and services that have come up during the last decade and also our absence in most of the areas where the recent global recession is taking its toll in the form of widespread job-losses.

8.7. In the changed situation, in the face of unfolding challenges of a serious nature, therefore, a serious review and introspection of our organizational position in the light of the Bhubaneswar document is warranted, if we are to carry our movement to effectively confront the challenges and unite the entire toiling class in the forthcoming battles. The General Council has to take a view on this urgent need of the hour and decide the course of this review.

8.8. It is therefore proposed that :

- A thorough review of our organizational status at district and state level in the light of the Bhubaneswar Document through organizational workshop to be completed within a period of next two months.
- The review should cover regular organizational work including the methods adopted in renewing and enrolling membership, annual growth (or decline) in membership since the last Conference of CITU, sectors which could not be covered by CITU in respective areas of work, initiative taken in educating the leadership and cadres on ideological, organizational and movemental issues at various level and its periodicity, initiative taken in united movement with other trade unions etc and its status.
- The industrywise all India Federations and state level unions/federations also should review their work separately in the above line.
- Similar review should also be undertaken by the CITU Centre in the context of its responsibility, in the light of Bhubaneswar Document.
- The review report should be sent to CITU Centre by 1st week of November 2009 so that the report can be compiled in a single document along with the Centres review report and made available to all state committees for further discussion.

8.9. Since, in the run up to the 13th Conference of CITU, which may be held in mid-February 2010, district and state conference have also to be held preceding the all India conference. District and state conferences may be planned accordingly so that the organizational review report and tasks adopted therefrom at respective levels can be deliberated in the conference to develop a unified understanding on the same. Or, if the conferences are planned within the next two months period in any district, then the conference itself can be organized in a workshop format to make the organizational review. The State Committees have to guide the district committees and the state level unions accordingly. A questionnaire on the organizational review has been circulated with the report.

8.10. It should also be noted that in the state and district level conferences, special emphasis should be given to involve actual workers as delegates and also and also giving the working women their due representation in the conference in proportion to their share in the total membership.

8.11. The task of organizational review have to be undertaken while discharging other movemental

responsibilities either by CITU's independent initiative or by the joint platforms of struggle, nevertheless, we have to make time to take up the task of review seriously.

9. Membership

9.1. The 13th Conference of CITU is going to be held around mid-February 2009 on the basis of 2008 membership. We have also to decide about the date and venue of Working Women's convention to be held before the CITU Conference. But, as on 22nd July 2009, the annual returns and affiliation fees received at the Centre from different states for the year 2008 is a very very small fraction—less than 20 per cent of our actual membership strength. We have already written to the state committees asking for submission of all membership dues for 2008 along with previous years' backlog before or during the General Council meeting.

10. Conclusion

10.1. The comfort of present victory of the Congress led combine cannot continue for long as in the present crisis ridden economic situation, the policy compulsions of the neoliberal governance is destined to make the crisis more severe having its negative impact on the mass of the people and resulting speedy disillusionment among them provided our campaign is effective.

10.2. We must be in readiness throughout the country to address such situation by mobilizing the toiling class in the fiercer struggle. For that we have to work for broadening united platform of struggle on the one hand. On the other, CITU must prepare itself ideologically and organizationally at all level drawing appropriate lessons from the experience of electoral struggle and the election results.

10.3. CITU should undertake intensive campaign programmes among the mass of the workers on the demands drawn in our last working committee meeting held on January 2009, which are still relevant as the economic slowdown is going to be deeper and wider. In this campaign we should particularly focus on the five issues identified jointly by all the Central Trade Unions and mentioned in this report, and also the policy drives by the UPA-II Govt as reflected in the Economic Survey and the Union Budget. Our campaign also must focus on the nefarious role of imperialism in shaping the economic policy-drives of the Govt and its ramifications on the political and foreign policy front. Our independent campaign has to reach the broadest possible section of the working people including the following of other trade unions as well to prepare ground for a bigger struggle and mobilization as the events unfold in the days to come.

10.4. We have also to join the united programmes with all seriousness but while doing so, we must stress on our independent campaign among the mass of the workers on those issues of united movement, preceding every joint programme. This campaign is crucial, if we are to develop the consciousness and real unity of the workers at the grass-root level in the struggle against the forthcoming onslaughts of neoliberalism and imperialism.

10.5. We are confident, we will be able to definitely overcome all hurdles to carry the working class struggle to a new height. We must remember what Lenin said in 1905, "Don't whine comrades, we are bound to win because we are right !"

With greetings,

Comradely yours,
Mohammed Amin
General Secretary

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR REVIEW OF ORGANIZATION Implementation of Bhubaneshwar Document

After the adoption of Bhubaneshwar document in 1994 which is the most comprehensive and exhaustive of documents ever prepared on organization of a trade union, a workshop was organized in the year 2000 to review the progress of implementation of the tasks laid down in it. There after exercises have been carried out from time to time with the same purpose. Fifteen years after its adoption, it seems imperative that we undertake another in-depth review. To do it in proper organized manner a report needs to be placed by the centre based on the reports of the states and federations as well. State and federations are therefore required to send exhaustive report, to facilitate which, we are circulating this questionnaire. But the reply need not be confined only to answer to the questions circulated. They are to give detailed report. The questionnaire is intended to be of some help in making the review and preparing the report. Another important point to keep in mind is that, in every case comparative position of last 3-5 years should be given to show the progress or otherwise, in implementation of the prescribed tasks in the organization.

General

1. Does the state committee review the state of CITU organizations in the state (1) regularly (2) Occasionally? If so, how frequently? Is the review carried out with reference to the tasks laid down in the Bhubaneshwar Document and other CITU Documents elaborating the Bhubaneshwar document provisions?
2. When was the last such review carried out? What were the conclusions?

Expansion

In the year 2000 seven year after its adoption an all India workshop was organized to review the progress of implementation of the Bhubaneshwar document, to identify problems in implementing and to work out solution. Tasks to be undertaken were grouped under several heads for discussion. The head "Expansion" meant increase of membership in plant and industry where we already have unions and also extending to new areas, new plants and new industries.

3. Did you draw up plan for increase of membership of the existing union what method and steps did you propose to take and have actually taken for increase? Since the last national conference? How much membership has dropped out during this period. Net increase?
4. Did you draw up plan and decide on priorities for expansion to new areas, plants/industry? How far you succeeded to how many plants have you been able to spread? How many new members have been enrolled from these new areas/ plants? Please give details.
5. Have you studied the conditions of the workers in the newly developing industries like IT, ITES and others? Have you prepared any strategies to enter these sectors and organise the workers? Could

any contacts be established with the workers in these areas?

6. What is the proportion of your membership in the organised/ unorganised workers?

7. Have you decided the priorities in the unorganised sector and identified the industries/ trades where unions can be formed?

8. How much increase has been achieved in women membership? Total women membership to be shown separately. Have you formed working women coordination committees at the state and district levels and women's sub committees at state committees, state federation and union level? Please give details. In how many federations and unions have you formed women's sub committees? Have you allotted the responsibility of ensuring the functioning of the working women's coordination committee to an office bearer of the state committee of CITU? Is its functioning reviewed periodically? What are the measures being taken for its effective functioning?

9. How many women are there in the working committee and office bearers of the CITU at the state level/ district level? Do they attend the meetings regularly? If no, what steps have been taken to ensure their regular attendance? Do they actively participate in the discussions? Are they given any other responsibilities in addition to the coordination committee of working women?

Democratic Functioning

Democratic functioning can not be fully measured statistically. However statistical information is not entirely useless.

10. How frequently is the secretariat meeting held? Attendance average; duration of the meeting?

11. How frequently the meeting of the state committee held? What is the attendance (average of three years)? Duration of the meetings (average)?

12. What is not reflected in statistics; does the secretariat function as a team i.e. if there is collective functioning, or individual functioning still dominates.

Do free and frank discussions take place in secretariat, particularly in state committee meetings; does every member get sufficient time to speak himself/herself out?

Are discussions taken on the basis of opinions expressed by members or imposed by dominant leader or leaders?

Have you made any attempt to involve general members in decision making?

Have you made it a point in your daily work and during campaign and movement to approach the members of other unions or the non-unionised workers.

Give your response.

Are you working free from all external interference? Do you experience any problems in this regard?

Education and Training: Cadre Development

13. Have you prepared your plan for cadre development covering all the phases of the process Identifying suitable comrades, arranging theoretical education and practical training, giving them responsibility, check up on their performance. Is special attention paid to identify and develop women cadres?
14. Number of whole-timers at the state/district and union levels. Whether special effort is being made to recruit whole-timers from among the workers and including the women workers.
15. Have you made any efforts to identify and develop cadres from among the unorganised sector workers?
16. Please give details of the classes held, number of class, number of people covered in these classes, subjects taken up in the classes, duration of class etc. What is the participation of women activists of CITU in these classes?
17. What arrangements have been made for practical training of cadres (Vide our document on cadre development)
18. What help do you need from the centre? Please give your views about the help so far received from the centre.
19. Do you periodically review the development of the cadres? What is your experience ?
20. In view of the increasing role of women in the activities of CITU, have you paid attention to recruit women full timers for CITU?
21. Have you issued any pamphlet on any ideological issues confronting us? What is the number of copies printed, in each case? Do you publish a journal in local language? Do you regularly deal with ideological matters in the journal? What is the circulation of the journal? Have you organized seminars etc on ideological and political issues ?

Please give detailed account of every aspect.

District Committees

District Committees obviously have more direct role to play in building up movement and organization. Much depends on district committees in the task of expansion of our organization, particularly in the case of unorganized sector

22. How many districts in the state have district committees? Does the state committee regularly monitor the work of the district committees. How frequently and in what manner. Does the state committee give help required by the district committee. Please give details.
23. Do the unions hold their conferences regularly? How many out of the total fulfill this obligation? What percentage of unions submit their return and affiliation fees etc regularly?

Federations

We all know that the federations have a especially important role to play to develop struggles and build organizations of initially workers of particular industry countrywide and then develop countrywide united struggles of industries. Although the unions in the federations are also part of district and state, as federation they have a specific role. So our organizational exercise includes the federations. There are also state level federations.

24. Do the federations office bearers and the working committee meet regularly; How many meetings were held during last three years ?

What according to federation constitution/rule/convention is the prescribed frequency of the conference? Has your federation held conferences accordingly? If not, what is your actual performance in this regard ?

Are all the norms of democratic functioning and collective leadership followed? Please give details. How does the Federation Centre monitor and guide the functioning of its constituent units ? A overview of the functioning and strength of the constituent units of the federation vis-à-vis the total workforce in the concerned sector should be given.

Do you publish journals? What is the circulation? Pamphlet issued, number ?

In the case of all India federations do you encounter any problem regarding relations with the respective state committees ?

CITU Centre's Publication

25. Circulation of the Working Class, CITU Mazdoor, Voice of the Working Woman and Patrika. Steps taken for increasing the circulations ? Last three years comparative position to be given. Do the leaders and activists in different tiers of committees regularly subscribe and read the CITU journals ?

Annual Returns/Affiliations

26. Steps taken by the State Committee to ensure regular submission of annual return by the unions in time and submission of the copies of the same along with the affiliation fees to CITU Centre through State centre.

NB: The State Committees are requested to issue appropriate guidelines based on the above questionnaire to the district committees and the state level/district level unions to undertake the organizational review.

Condolence Resolution

The General Council meeting of the CITU being held at Tirupati, from 18 to 21st August 2009, expresses its deep sorrow at the passing away of the veteran trade union leader Comrade Prabhakar Sanzgiri. He was all India Vice President of the CITU for several terms and the President of the Maharashtra state CITU. Comrade Sanzgiri was a former Secretary of the Maharashtra State Committee of the CPI(M) and a former member of its Central Committee. He joined the student movement against British imperialism in 1941. He then became a trade union leader and made a notable contribution to the working class movement. He left his mark as a popular mass leader and an author who wrote a number of books on socialism in simple language for the masses.

This General Council meeting of the CITU is deeply grieved by the death of Comrade Ahilya Rangnekar, the beloved leader of the working class, women, the poor and the oppressed. She was active in the anti British movement from an early age. She started her trade union work in the Girni Kamgar Union and played an active role in the RIN revolt. In 1943 she formed the Mahila Sangh to fight for the rights of women and women workers. Her activities covered a broad spectrum of public life. Comrade Ahilya was all India Vice President of the CITU for more than 10 years and was a founding member of the All India Coordination Committee of Working Women. As a Parliamentarian she took up the cause of women as well as of the working class. She was Secretary of the Maharashtra state CPI(M) for some years and also a former member of its Central Committee.

The CITU General Council mourns the demise of Comrade Subhas Chakraborty, Working Committee member of CITU and Transport Minister of the government of West Bengal. He had been a frontline leader of the student movement in 60s and 70s and was one of the founding leaders of the Student Federation Of India (SFI). He was closely associated with trade union movement since the seventies, and played an important role in advancing the CITU among the mass of the workers after its formation in 1970. He was one of the most popular mass leaders of West Bengal and a dynamic organizer in whichever front he worked. He was a member of the Working Committee of the CITU and a member of the Secretariat of West Bengal Committee of CITU. His premature death is a big loss to working class movement at this difficult juncture of time.

This General Council meeting of CITU expresses its grief at the passing away of Comrade K Venkateswarlu, veteran trade unionist and former state secretary of the Andhra Pradesh state committee of CITU. He had participated in the Telengana armed struggle and began working in the trade union movement from 1960 onwards. He played an important role in building the movement of contract labour in government departments. He was a former member of the Central Control Commission of the CPI(M).

The CITU General Council is grieved by the demise of comrade Biswanth Dasgupta who worked in the CITU centre at Kolkata and looked after the CITU accounts for many years, helping to build the CITU centre from the beginning.

This CITU General Council meeting mourns the passing away of Comrade Jyoti Devi, one of the oldest leaders of the AIDWA, who had led the women's movement and the literacy movement. During British colonial rule she rose to become a leader of the Atmarakshma Samity and joined the Communist Party in 1941, and remained a dedicated activist and AIDWA office bearer for many decades.

This General Council meeting of the CITU is deeply grieved by the demise of Comrade Kalindi Deshpande, senior leader and Vice President of the AIDWA. She made an invaluable contribution to the women's organization, women's movement and democratic movement.

The General Council meeting of CITU deeply mourns the passing away of Comrade Homi Daji, the veteran trade union leader and former General Secretary of the AITUC.

The General Council meeting pays its homage to all the departed leaders.

This General Council meeting of the CITU deeply mourns the death of noted theatre personality Habib Tanvir, who had six decades of association with progressive culture and theatre in the country. All through his life he steadfastly championed the interests of the working people and fought against communalism by upholding secular values. We express our condolences on his demise.

The General Council meeting of CITU expresses its deep grief at the suicides of workers in Surat and other parts of the country, who were driven to this extreme step due to loss of employment and ensuing destitution. We pay our deep condolences to them.

Since the CITU Working Committee held in January hundreds of people have died in the cyclone AILA in West Bengal, and many due to floods in Kerala, Assam and other states. We pay our heartfelt condolences to them.

On Homage to Martyrs

The General Council meeting of the CITU being held at Tirupati, from 18 to 21st August 2009, pays respectful homage to the leaders, cadres and activists of the democratic and progressive movement who have laid down their lives during this period to the cause of the toiling people of the country. They will continue to be a source of inspiration to the working class in our struggle against all forms of exploitation.

The General Council meeting strongly condemns the heinous murders of trade union leaders and the leaders of the progressive movement in West Bengal by the Maoists, Trinamool Congress and Congress goons. Over 200 supporters of the Left and democratic movement have been killed in the course of the election campaign, during the elections and in the post election period. While expressing our condolences to them we pledge to resist this very deliberate and continuous attack which seeks to sabotage the very democratic fabric of our country.

The General Council condoles the deaths of innocent people killed in the attacks by Maoists in Jharkhand, Chattisgarh and other parts of the country.

We condole the deaths of those who were killed in Assam in the bomb blast by separatist forces.

The General Council expresses deep concern and anger over the loss of lives of hundreds of workers in various accidents during work. Whether it is the death of construction workers in the Delhi Metro or the death of women in the coal mines in Bokaro or in the Lakhani Shoe factory or in the explosives factories in Singrauli, they are victims of the cruel negligence of the Indian ruling classes and the government, who ignore the safety of the workers. We demand adequate compensation to the accident victims and necessary safety measures in all workplaces. We condole the death of such workers who fell victim to the greed and negligence of the employers.

Annexure:1

STATEMENT SHOWING STATEWISE MEMBERSHIP AS PER ANNUAL RETURNS RECEIVED TILL-08/08/2009

Name of the State	Unions Submitting Returns			Position of membership according to Annual Returns					
	2006	2007	2008	2006	Female	2007	Female	2008	Female
Andaman & Nicobar	8			3078					
Andhra Pradesh	618	569	251	450643	99247	309104	99544	104130	8056
Assam	78	73	3	53120	22559	54508	21513	4093	1864
Bihar	3	6	3	3870	18	16726	10575	5040	66
Delhi	79	80	48	32208	1434	32989	1508	22731	989
Goa	7	7		618	17	788	47		
Gujrat	22	22		13135	1457	13129	1167		
Himachal Pradesh	25	42	21	13448	7274	30089	14422	3403	74
Haryana	21	28	24	13625	4277	51362	14105	63564	18064
Jammu & Kashmir	1	6	1	276	35	5589	98	372	32
Karnataka	107	113	48	108743	53426	138046	72968	96871	62174
Kerala	766	648	133	1022167	304802	858551	258047	246234	62908
Madhya Pradesh	44	35		15709	4090	11247	4279		
Maharashtra	83	72	14	85220	37256	85533	31948	35396	25584
Orissa	66	44		81016	25358	41191	3244		
Punjab	78	57	13	72150	14185	60661	13240	41693	11925
Rajasthan	50	29	4	19643	2320	7776	2	2208	4
Tamilnadu	490	521	408	360463	73770	455214	114227	424811	95249
Tripura	35	37	24	139511	45007	137819	47098	123356	39602
Uttar Pradesh	64	39	1	15629	490	14070	449	101	
West Bengal	974	1233	727	1393357	168317	1878251	288313	1210200	194079
Uttaranchal	31	31		11066	3071	12944	3688		
Chhatisgarh	17	16		19052	2495	18729	1843		
Jharkhand	30	2		73273	13401	722	180		
Total	3697	3710	1723	4001020	884306	4235038	1002505	2384203	520670

Year	No. of Unions	Membership
1983	1854	1890993
1984	2005	1575655
1985	1717	1716457(132536)
1986	2412	1844273(209348)
1987	2350	1680884(206482)
1988	2618	1919280(264507)
1989	3114	2425000(247388)
1990	2934	2095550(245060)
1991	2783	2088218(291228)
1992	3343	2381012(321620)
1993	3156	2371405(306344)
1994	3198	2470131(261980)
1995	3523	2784050(358188)
1996	3645	2805127(435285)
1997	3804	2917200(506097)
1998	3502	2881478(483373)
1999	3929	3296808(550583)
2000	3771	3126943(646678)
2001	3787	3150673(600407)
2002	4162	3463362(679694)
2003	3904	3331973(636651)
2004	3969	3541859(728820)
2005	4061	3986622 (898186)

Annexure:2

COM. P.RAMAMOORTI T.U. SCHOOL FUND as on 08.08.2009

CITU, Goa State Committee	Rs.1,206.00
CITU, U.P. State Committee	Rs.32,460.00
CITU, A.P. State Committee	Rs.245,399.00
CITU, Chhatishgarh State Committee	Rs.4,151.00
CITU, Tripura State Committee	Rs.10,000.00
CITU, M.P. State Committee	Rs.14,274.00
CITU, Karnataka State Committee	Rs.59,424.00
CITU, Kerala State Committee	Rs.1,022,143.00
CITU, Punjab State Committee	Rs.76,247.00
CITU, Tamilnadu State committee	Rs.721,150.00
CITU, J & K State Committee	Rs.1,240.00
CITU, Orissa State Committee	Rs.14,491.00
CITU, Haryana State Committee	Rs.35,040.00
CITU, Assam State Committee	Rs.15,000.00
CITU, West Bengal State Committee	Rs.500,000.00
CITU, Jharkhand State Committee	Rs.6,500.00
CITU; Gujrat State Committee	Rs.1,000.00
CITU, Maharashtra State Committee	Rs.20,000.00
CITU, Delhi State Committee	Rs.16,687.00
Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India, W.B.	Rs.100,000.00
Association of SAIL Employees, Kolkata, W.B.	Rs.20,000.00
2nd World Conference of Oil, Gas, Refinary Trade Union	Rs.700,000.00
Central Zone Insurance Employees Association, Chhatishgarh	Rs.10,000.00
Com. E.Balanandan	Rs.11,111.00
Com. R.Vaigai	Rs.50,000.00
TOTAL	Rs.3,687,523.00