CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING
NEW DELHI - APRIL 24-26,1972

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta - 700013.

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CIRCULAR NO . 5/72 25th March, 1972.

TO ALL WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Re : Meeting of the working Committee.

Dear Comrades,

A meeting of the Working Committee of the CITU will be held in New Delhi on 24th, 25th and 26th of April, 1972 to consider the following agenda :

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Working Committee held at Coimbatore on June 10, 1971.
2. Report by Com. B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU on present political and economic situation.
3. Report by General Secretary Com. P. Ramamurti on the activities of the CITU since the meeting of the General Council held at Coimbatore.
4. Report on the CITU journal The Working Class and the CITU publications.
5. Report on West Bengal situation and tasks of the working class.
6. Proposal to hold the First Biennial Conference of the CITU .
7. Consideration of new applications for affiliation to the CITU.
8. Functioning of the U.P. State Committee of the CITU.
9. Statement of Accounts for the year 1971.
10. Resolutions .
11. Any other subject with the permission of the Chair.

All comrades are requested to intimate the date and time of their arrival to :

Com. T. M. Nagarajan, General Secretary,
Delhi State Committee of CITU,
C/o 4, Ashok Road, New Delhi - 1.

Comrades should note that they will have to bear the expenses of food during the meeting. Comrades who want to reserve their tickets for the return journey are requested to remit the money in advance on the above address along with the details of the reservation.

Comrades who desire to sent draft of resolutions for consideration of the Working Committee are requested to send them to the Centre so as to reach Calcutta not later than 15th April 1972.

With Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Sd/- M.K. Pandhe
Secretary

N.B.

The meeting will begin at 9.00 A.M. on 24th March 1972. Comrades should reach New Delhi well in advance so as to enable them to attend the meeting in time .

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING - NEW DELHI - 24-26th April, 1972

24th April, 1972.

Opening speech of Com.B.T.Ranadive at the Working Committee meeting held on 24-26th April, 1972 at New Delhi.

Comrades,

Nearly a year has passed since we met in Coimbatore last June Since then quick political and economic developments have taken place in our country. The most challenging development is in relation to our trade unions in W.Bengal. Our organisations, our workers, and leaders there are under constant semi-fascist attacks, leading to assaults, arson and murder. Comrades, let us all remember the heroic comrades who have fallen victims to the assassin's dagger, among them is our beloved comrade of the General Council, Comrade Sunil Sen.

Their memory will remain ever green in our minds and inspire us to defend the trade union movement and serve the working class.

Before I turn to the internal developments, let us all remember that on the eve of the May Day the working class sees the forces of the Vietnamese people advancing rapidly despite the monstrous and barbarous bombing by the American imperialists. The entire peoples of the world await with bated breath the outcome of this mighty struggle which is being waged for the freedom of the Asian people, in fact for the freedom of all peoples. The working class of India hails this new advance of the Vietnamese struggle and is conscious that in fighting the American imperialists the Vietnamese forces of liberation are fighting the battle against the common enemy , American imperialism who only a few months back threatened India with its Seventh Fleet.

It is however, a metter of deep regret that even at this crucial hour the entire Socialist Camp and especially the two great Socialist countries andtheir Communist Parties are still unable to unite and put their joint might in support of this historic struggle. The working class deeply sympathetic with the struggle of the Vietnamese people, must ceaselessly endeavour to see that the Socialist camp stands united behind one of the greatest struggle in human history, and take positive steps to ensure its victory.

The working class of India must express its united will to support the people of Vietnam and denounce the American aggression. I think a call must be issued by your organisation to all other central organisations to observe a common Vietnam Day and express the solidarity of India's working class with the fighting people of Vietnam.

May their heroism and sacrifice be crowned with the ultimate triumph - cleansing their soil of the filthy American aggressors!

The Bangla Desh struggle

Last year witnessed a number of important changes not only in the world butalso in the Indian Sub-Continent.

It saw the arrogance of the aggressive American imperialists who are more than ever determined to dominate the Indian Ocean and create a threat for India. It witnessed the American Seventh Fleet coming very near intervening in the Bangla Desh struggle to enslave the people of Bangla Desh and to intimidate the people of India.

The Indian people were kept inignorance about the real role of the American imperialists by the ruling Congress and the Govt. The intervention of American imperialism in the Indian Sub-Continent with its open help to the martial law regime in Pakistan in the Indo-Pak War and its threat of intervention in Bangla Desh directly followed from its aim of domination of Asia. But the Indian people had never seen it in such a naked form.

Inspite of the military help given by the USA to the Pakistani regime and inspite of one of the most brutal massacres of recent times, the Bangla Desh people won their freedom, broke up the British created Pakistan and inflicted a defeat on American imperialism in the Sub-Continent. This was done with the help of the Indian people, with the intervention of the Indian Army and with the support of the Soviet Union. This really constitutes an outstanding development of the last year for the people of India and for the working class of India.

The CITU salutes the people and working class of Bangla Desh and fervently hopes they will unitedly march to further victories.

But the struggle in Bangla Desh is still in a critical condition. Only the first phase has ended with the rout of Pakistani forces but the American agents and counter-revolutionary army bands, former collaborators, are still undermining the freedom of the Bangla Desh people. The ruling elements there pursue policies which hamper the growth and the democratic initiatives of the masses, the workers, the peasants, the students, who alone can ensure final victory for the struggle. The Govt. of India pursues narrow ends. There is a danger that the sacrifice and martyrdom of the Bangla Desh people, notwithstanding, the struggle might be compromised and the people deprived of the final advance to freedom and democracy.

It will be a fatal blunder for the working class of India to be indifferent to the outcome of the struggle in Bangla Desh. Any set-back there will be a set-back for our movement here. The working class of India with its international outlook must consider the advance of the Bangla Desh workers as one more step in the advance of the forces of people's democracy and Socialism in the Sub-Continent.

Solidarity with workers of Pakistan

It is equally important for the working class of India to contribute its best to promote an understanding between the people of India and the people of Pakistan as well as to help in every possible way the advance of the democratic forces and the working class in Pakistan. The American imperialists have profited from the animosities created by the reactionary ruling classes of Pakistan to continue their game of making Asians fight Asians. The anti-Indian and anti-Pakistani feelings have helped neither people. On the other hand, they have helped the Pakistani rulers to smother the democratic aspirations of the working class and the people of Pakistan. Every step

forward of the democratic movement, there, every step forward in the mutual understanding between the working class of India and Pakistan helps the cause of democracy and socialism in the Sub-Continent, including the cause of the working class and people of Pakistan. After the Indo-Pak war, to promote this understanding, to fight the designs of reactionaries, to do everything to ensure the success of the Bangladesh people, have become the international responsibilities of the working class of India which it has to discharge if it seeks to remain as a part of the world working class movement.

Terror in West Bengal.

The most outstanding development in India since the last May Day has been the spread of the semi-fascist terror in West Bengal, the invasion of trade union offices by Congress-hired goonda gangs, the attacks of the goondas on the working class localities, the loot, arson and rape under the Congress regime. The Congress regime which everywhere boasts its loyalty to parliamentary democracy has bared its semi-fascist monstrous face in West Bengal confirming the Marxist truth that the capitalist landlord classes throw all democratic norms to the wind, the moment they go against their interests. This semi-fascist terror in West Bengal has been there now for the last two years. It has already claimed the lives of more than 650 of our comrades who have been butchered at the hands of the gangsters, or fallen victims to police bullets. It has also seen a number of rapes on women some of whom are active workers in the democratic movement and it is now witnessing, after the last election, invasion of factories by goondas who intimidate the workers to join the INTUC. In some of the biggest factories it has become difficult for the entire active cadres of unions and party to enter the factory to do their daily jobs. More than three hundred trade union offices of unions belonging to the CITU, the two UTUCs and other organisations have been occupied by police protected hirelings. The office of Sen-Raleigh Employees' Union is an among those occupied by them. In large areas, no meeting can be held, no trade union office can be opened and no known trade union worker can either go to his factory or live in his locality. In the period before and after the elections, nearly 40,000 people have had to leave their residences because of the regular and systematic attack of goondas in the entire locality. Those who had to go away from their residences include the most prominent leaders of the workers, and trade unions, central and State Government employees, leaders of Life Insurance employees, leaders of students' organisations and women workers, teachers and professors.

This spells a great danger for the democratic movement in India and a great danger for the working class. These developments show that the ruling classes of India afraid of the growing strength of the Left. forces have started in West Bengal subverting parliamentary elections and that they are establishing a trend towards one party dictatorship, a trend which threatens the existence of other democratic parties also. The logical outcome of this trend is the virtual illegalisation of the trade union movement and the terror that is unleashed. The working class and the people of India must defeat this trend and the line pursued in West Bengal before it becomes a danger to the other States.

The entire bourgeois press is concealing the barbarities and cruelties perpetrated in W.Bengal and obstructing the fight against them. It-for the working class of India /is to carry on campaign in defence of our W.Bengal comrades in defence of the W.Bengal trade union movement and in defence of the democratic movement in the whole of India.

Our task is difficult because the party which is launching these attacks in W.Bengal not only controls the big newspapers; it also has been returned in large majorities to the Assemblies in various States. Notwithstahding its influence and capacity to mis lead wide sections all our unions, every member of union must gird up his loins to enlighten the working Class and rouse its anger against the repression in W.Bengal.

A reactionary role.

Comrades, one cannot mention without anger and indignation the role played by some leaders of the INTUC and the AITUC in W.Bengal. When the workers, our unions are under thi s inhuman attack, there is no protest, no solidarity, no sympathy from them. On the other hand, they do everything to screen the Congress crimes and slander the attacked workers. Some of them are openly helping the goondas.

But the hirelings seek to make a thorough sweep and now complaints are coming from some AITUC unions that they are being attacked. Some of them have lodged public protests. This is the shape of things to come. None but a stooge union will be allowed to exist and it is our earbest appeal to the AITUC and all trade union leaders to retrace their steps before it is too late. This is the time to show a common front to the attackers for the very existence of the trade union movement is at stake.

Comrades, last year has again been a year of suffering, and privations for the working class. Last year it will be remembered that the Finance Minister made a claim that the economy was poised for a big advance, our General Secretary's report to the Coimbatore Session refuted this and stated the recession was not lifting.

Events have proved the correctness of our statement and Mr.Chavan had to admit that he was wrong. The decelatory trend in industrial production became pronounced in the latter half of 1970, i.e. before Mr.Chavan madd a claim for economy being poised for a big advance. That period showed a rise of nearly 3 per cent compared to the corresponding period of 1969. And in 1971, i.e. (January/August 1971) therise in industrial production index was only 2.0 per cent. The rise for the entire financial year 1971/72 is expected to be between 3.5 to 4 percent as compared with 4.8 per cent last year.

Is it not strange that this stagnation in industry should continue despite four successive food harvests? It is not strange if we remember that rural set-up in India which impoverishes the mass of lower sections while making the upper sections the beneficiaries of agricultural advance and good harvests. To quote the economic survey "With successive years of good harvest and an aggregate increase of national incomme by more than 10 per cent overthe preceding two years, it was reasonable to expect a buoyancy in demand of consumer products. Sych a denouement has not fully come about. Even though

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per capita income has increased significantly, during recent years, the income elasticites of expenditure for such items as pulses, oils, sugar, tea, etc. seem to be so high that a large part of theincrease in income is being siphoned off by these items and little left for pushing up the demand for manufactured products."

Shorn of verniage the above quotation means that the benefits from large harvests was so small so far as the mass of peasants etc. are concerned, that they had hardlyenough to satisfy their immediate food demands, leaving very little to be spent for manufactured goods.

Thus the rural set-up of land concentration and semi-feudal relations once again is the cause of industrial stagnation and the working class and the people have to pay a heavy price for the Congress luxury of carrying on the landlords and rural rich on its shoulders. The neglect and indifference to this central question of Indian economy by the trade unions now directly affects the jobs and livelihood of the workers. Both workers and peasants must pay heavily for neglect in building their alliance.

Thanks to this last year saw innumerable closures, lock-outs and throwing out of employment of tens of thousands of workers. In W.Bengal alone those thrown out numbered 140,000. The untold suffering that all this caused, the ruination of many families, the hardships and starvation can only be realised bythose who have to go through them.

At the beginning of the last year itself the total number of factories closed were as high as 2,436. Since then some may have opened but the situation continues to be grave for the workers. Factories employing thousands have remained closed for more than a year. The workers unprovided with any employment benefit are forced to shift for themselves. So far as the Cotton Textile Mills are concerned the situation continues to deteriorate throughout the year, In 1970, the number of mills closed was 48. By March 1971, it rose to 52; by June to 67 and in August it was as high as 64.

Shady methods

The unscrupulous methods adopted by the Congress Govt. with its talk of Socialism and garibi hatao must be noted. The employers were allowed to indulge in prolonged lock-outs and closures with complete impunity. Not only no action was taken against them but they were helped by slanderous propaganda that labour troubles were at the root of these closures. It is only of late that the Govt. is talking of restricting the employers' right of closure though all this is just to fool the workers.

When the workers agitated for the re-opening of the factories, the Govt. did not hesitate to exploit their plight to thrust wage cuts, cut in dearness allowance and deprivation of all rights under labour legislation. The Maharashtra - and the DMK Govts. put these unscrupulous conditions on the statute book, enabling the Govt. when it took over closed factories to deny the workers the right of provident fund, D.A. etc. Recently the Central Act followed these provisions closely and the W.Bengal Govt. halped the same employers of textile mills to push down wage cuts and workload on the workers.

Every effort is made to pass on the burdens of the crisis to the workers. Every means which is paraded as intended for giving relief to the workers in reality is one which deprives them of some rights.

There are many other methods adopted by the Govt. to cheat the workers. It must be stated thatthe trade union movement does not show the required vigilance to react to these and scotch the mischief at the start. The heavy taxation of the Govt., the deficit financing, the spiralling prices all make living costlier day byday. But the cost of living index prepared officially was frozen for months to deprive the workers of additional dearness allowance. Between December 1970 and June 1971 the working class consumer price index number base 1960 was virtually frozen. It was 186 in January, by Oct. it was only 196. This is nothing but a fraudulent manipulation of the index numberto suit the needs of the employing class and effect a cut in real wages. It is on the basis of this manipulation that cuts in D.A. have been effected, notably a cut of over Rs.9 for the 2½ lakhs of jute workers of W.Bengal. Butit was perhaps left to the Madras State officials to break all records and rig the index number openly and in the most blatant manner. It seems ... that according to the official calculation the cost of living is going down rapidly notwithstanding the rise in prices. It is but proper that all trade unions have protested against the robbery of the workers.

The pilfering ofthe provident Fund, the enactment of the ESI benefits, the use of contract labour to avoid D.A., provident fund, etc. are some of the other methods used openly with the connivance of the government to defraud the workers. The misuse of the workers' contributions fortheir own needs has now become a regular habit with the employers and the Government refuses to prescribe drastic punishment for the offenders.

Recession continues

The year 1972 does not promise to offer any relief to the workers. All the factors operating in the earlier period are operating together with some new factors. It almost seems certain that the small peasant will be once more made the scapegoat of falling prices which might lead to the narrowing of the rural market. The rising foreign debt payments and the present cut-off in American aid creates the necessity for the capitalist and their Govt. to increase exports at competitive prices, at lower prices, i.e. at the expense of the workers, the small producer or people's needs. This foretells of a new attack on the industrial workers who will be asked to accept extra workload without increase in wages.

Moratorium on strikes

Itis not surprising, therefore, that such slogans as moratorium on strikes for three years have been raised in the most authoritarian quarters. Though under pressure of trade union opinion they have been repudiated, still back-stage intrigues and exchanges aregoing on to put into effect . The consortium of the three trade union organisations which is being knocked together by the Labour Minister is intended to serve this very purpose.

It is not only the need of exports that presages a further attack onthe workers in the coming months. In the name of giving a lift to theproduction, the Govt. is making further concessions to the monopolists. There is the proposal to have a joint sector of Govt. and monopolists; there is a proposal to allow the monopolists to expand their production. The fact that the monopolists do not expand production without high profits means that the workers will have to foot the bill.

Besides, in the name of developing backward regions the monopolists are being given concessions to exploit the workers of these regions at the cheapest rate and lower the wage levels in the country. Similarly foreign monopolists are being invited to open their concerns in India promising them cheap labour. The moratorium proposal is to guarantee them uninterrupted supply of labour and big profits. Ministers openly advertise that cheap labour in India is available for exploitation. The excuse is the need to earn foreign exchange. Itis to be stipulated that the entire production of these factories will be exported.

Self-Reliance

Comrades, the Govt. and the employers are adept in manufacturing slogans with a patriotic coverto attack the workers and to alienate the [illegible] sympathy of other democratic sections from them.

During the Indo-Pak War over Bangla Desh they demanded a ban on all strikes in thename of defence, with the name of national defence they smashed a number of strikes. The AITUC, the INTUC and HMS leaders readily join in this game and supported the Govt.

The CITU gave its full support to the war, called upon the workers to contribute their bestand at the same time, refused to accept the burdens or abjure the right to strike. Now and again in the name of self-reliance the workers' interests are being jeopardised. The words "self-reliance" in the mouth of official spokesmen only mean meeting the shortage [illegible] in foreign aid by producing surpluses which would place more profits in the hands of the capitalists. There is thus no control of privateprofits, no limitation, but just producing more surpluses - i.e. only the workers must work more. Thisis yet another method of making the workers the scapegoat of the situation created by fall in foreign aid and especially due to the cutting off of aid by the arrogant American imperialists. As the Economic Survey puts it "The case of self-reliance should consist of efforts at raising the domestic rate of savings on the one hand and greater imports substitutes and export promotion on the other.."

The working class,the trade union movement and the entire people stand for economic independence from foreign monopolists, from the U.S. imperialists. Itis the working class and the common man that have to meet the burden of repayment of foreign debts which today amounts to not less than the annual wage of twomillion workers. Apart from direct exploitation this dependence creates a danger to our national freedom and sovereignty, placing strategic lever in the hands of USA and foreign monopolists.

How the USA used this stranglehold during the vital days of war over Bangla Desh, is fresh in thememory of everybody. It threatened to paralyse our economy by withholding its so-called 'aid' and even used military pressure.

The slogan of self-sufficiency is mainly by the stopping of American 'aid' and not a new policy of dispensing with loans from all imperialist countries.

The stoppage of American loans creates a difficult situation for Indian economy. The Government wants to belittle it because it wants to conceal from the people the

depth of our dependence on the U.S. A. Twenty percent or more of India's imports have been hitherto financed by U.S. 'aid ', which roughly amounted to not less than 40 per cent of all aid secured bythe country. It seems that the gap in external assistance would now widen to Rs.850 crores and make it difficult to realise themodified targets of the Fourth Plan.

It is obvious that unless drastic measures are taken the situation cannot be brought under control. Failure to do sowill lead to slow down, closures, further unemployment and attacks on the workers and the people.

To feed theindustries,foreign exchange must be saved. The biggest source of drain is foreign debt repayments, especially to the USA. These payments now amount to Rs.435 crores, a substantial part going to the USA. Any one who is serious about self-sufficiency, etc. must agree to declare at least a moratorium on all debt payments of the State, at least those of the USA, The moratorium will ease the situation substantially and be a weapon of countering the American threat. Itis equally necessary to nationalise all American concerns beginning with the oil companies. The American capital has been earning the highest rate of profit in India, higher than anywhere else and its nationalisation will place substantial funds in the hands of the State.

This is the way in which patriotic initiative for ending dependence on the USA should be taken. But the Govt. has no such intentions. It wants to repay all the obligations and create more surpluses at the expense of the workers.

Needless to say complete independence of our economy cannot be secured without nationalisation of all foreign monopoly concerns, the concerns of Indian monopolists and a radical land reforms, and that it cannot be achieved within the framework of building a capitalist economy.

A question may be asked, Are the American creditors entitled to the repayment of their debts? Do their debts represent the value thatthey force on us? The Economic Survey is now forced to admit that "loan-financed imports have to be procured in the countries offering loans regardless of price and other conditions," i.e. India was cheated bothin regard to prices and the quality of material supplied. And now the workers are asked to reimburse the cheats.

While the working classhad warned that loans were an instrument of foreign pressure, the Govt. denied it all these years. Now the Survey has to say "recent developments have made it clear that it is yet another instrument of diplomacy which is liable to be deployed against us at a time of critical need."

Fightfor unity

During the last year, thestruggle of the working class for united action has secured considerable success in some States. Faced with the growing attacks on their standard of living under the stress of the recession, the mass of workers readily joined in common action and the trade union leaders in many industries and States had to accept the fact. Perhaps in recent times there were not to be

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found so many prolonged and big strikes led jointly by unions belonging to different central organisations between whom there was always a political barrier. Last year is remarkable for the number of common ctions in which the CITU, the INTUC and the AITUC unions came together to defend the workers though every one knows that in manyquestions of policies they can be sharply divided. Equally significant was the united front of the CITU, the AITUC, the HMS and the INTUC and several other fefferations last May which took a common stand against the Govt.'s anti-labour policy and demanded with one voice recognition of trade unions based on secret ballot of the working class. Following this there were also united observance of days against employers' attacks, against rising prices and the erosion of real wages of the working class. There were also simultaneous actions though not joint in the proper sense of the term onthe bonus issue. These have been notable achievements.

But in recent months there is a counter-attack against this growing unity in the ranks of the workers and there is a systematic attempt to isolate the CITU and other left Central Trade Union organisations. The Labour Dept. of the Govt. of India is taking a lead inthis and the top leaders of the INTUC, HMS and the AITUC have joined hands to come together and in one way or another undermine theunity that was built in the earlier part of the year.The formation of a joint council by these three organisations, their climb-down on the question of ballot as the basis of trade union recognition, their acceptance of verification as the main basis of recognition, all these point out that a new front of these organisations is being built to fight the militant trend for unity in the trade union movement.

To meet this new move it is more than ever necessary to redouble our efforts to build unity and united actions and fight the disruptive leadership. The working class needs unity more than before as a big offensive is looming ahead and new anti-working class legislation is on the anvil. There is no doubt that the policy of disrupting the ranks of the working class and allying with the ruling party willbe disowned by growingly large numbers. The experience of the last year will not be forgotten by theworkers.

In W.Bengal, the situation is radically different with goonda attacks on our unions. Even then the fight for united resistance has to be continued in the context of the concrete situation. A remarkable example of our determination to fight for unity is to be seen in the role we are playing in relation to the looming struggle ofjute workers of W.Bengal.

Last year has seen a remarkable resistance in the working class in defending its standard of living and advancing new claims. But at the same time, ithas also brought to the forefront a problem which confronts the trade union movement as a serious menace to its very existence. The neglect of this problem or a mere superficial recognition of it will spell great danger to the future of trade unions. During the course of last year alone, the registered unemployment in the cities rose by 25%, i.e. 4 to 5 million. Considering that according to official

statistics only 43 to 45% ofthe city unemployed are registered, the total urban unemployment may easily raise thefigure to 10 million. Along with this is of courde the mass unemployment in rural areas. It is estimated by well-known econnmists that in another few years that is less than a decade the figure ofunemployed in India will rise to 60 million. It seems inthe coming few years almost every child born in the working class family will be stamped with the birth-mark of either a destitute or unemployef.

Face to face with this colossal problem the Govt. has no solution to offer except misleading the people with a few schemes and announcing expenditure of a few crores of rupees. Almost all these schemes relate to the rural areas and will hardly have an impact on the situation there. So far as the cities and industrial areas are concerned, the Govt. cannot boast of any measures except some assurances for re-opening some of the closed factories and that too, on the basis of depriving the workers of all the benefits under the existing law, cutting their dearness allowance and even the basic wage.

The people and the working class are paying heavily for allowing the Congress to impose the capitalist path on India. Unemployment is an inevitable accompaniment of all capitalist societies. America has nearly 6 million unemployed. In England unemployment has reached the highest figure since the war, it exceeded the million mark; several other countries including W.Germany are daily adding to their number of unemployed. Obviously, to end unemployment finally it is necessary to abandon the capitalist path and go over to Socialism which alone as in USSR and China, can put an end to the unemployment problem. This truth has to be mastered by the working class.

The trade union movement has to take up this problem and demand some immediate measures of relief to the unemployed. All the trade unions must come together to demand that a law must be passed ensuring minimum benefits for all those who are ready to work and for whom there is no work. This should include not onlythe industrial workers, and the rural workers but also the educated unemployed, the clerks, professors, the engineers, allof whom must be provided with unemployment benefit, Secondly, all trade unions and all democratic organisations including the organisation of employees must come together and demand a change inthe Constitution providing as one of the fundamental rights the right to work. Also a movement should be launched in various cities, corporations and municipalities to see that they provide immediate relief to the needy unemployed and their families. The success of this movement depends upon the joint efforts of all the trade unions, their central organisations and the mass of workers. All the trade unions have to take up the question because its neglect has already created a dangerous situation. With so many lakhs unemployed and unconnected with the trade union movement, is it possible to defend the standard of living of the workers orto conduct strikes? If the unemployed do not see the trade unions fighting for them arethey likely to fight and support the workers when they are on strike? It is very strange that thereis hardly one instance in which theorganised trade union movement has taken cudgels on behalf of the unemployed. Perhaps, the solitary exception is thatof the Coimbatore Textile mill

workers who during their strike championed the demand of the unemployed and forced the Govt. to open some mills. The existence of this mass unemployment has already become a danger to organised trade union activity. Besides, their very frustration is used by the capitalist class, the Govt. and the Congress party to attack the organised trade union movement. This is being strikingly seen in W.Bengal where a section of the unemployed youth acts as goonda gangs of Congress and occupy trade union offices, kill trade union leaders and terrorise workers. This danger in this form was not there before. It is now making its appearance on the Indian scene. One must remember that Hitler used the frustrationof the unemployed youth to inflict fascism on Germany. The ruling party is already exploiting the unemployed youth for their own purpose, in W.Bengal. The trade union movement can neglect this question only at its own peril.

There is no doubt that in the coming year the CITU following its policy of forging new alliances with the mass of workers and other organisations, overcoming the resistance of the reformist leaders of various organisations, will succeed in discharging the new responsibilities created by the developments of last year and raise the movement qualitatively to a higher level. Againstthe terror that is being unleashed against the tradeunions in W.Bengal, and the trend towaards one party dictatorship, against the rise of semi-fascist tendencies and combatting the problem of unemployment and defending the jobs and livelihood of the workers, the united trade union movement should forge ahead making its contribution tothe advance of the democratic movement in India and opening the way to the development of the struggle for Socialism in this country.

Socialism - ours and theirs

Comrades, our movement must take note of the ruling party's cry of Socialism. The ruling party talks of Socialism. But what is working class Socialism? Socialism means the abolition of exploitation of man by man, it means abolition ofunemployment and poverty. It can be achieved only under the rule of the working class and the toiling masses, i.e. after the abolition of the capitalist State and capture of political power by the working class. That power is necessary because Socialism cannot be established without abolishing private property in the means of production and distribution, without socialising all the factories and concerns owned by the capitalists and all the means of distribution. Then alone society can be organised onthe basis of freedom from exploitation. Socialism is inconsistent with the maintanance of Tatas and Birlas and with the public sector helping them to gather more profits. A Govt. which cannot even nationalise the foreign concerns and the monopolists is cheating the people when it talks of Socialism. It is only maintaining the capitalist structure under the cry of Socialism. It is for our T.U. movement to make the masses realise what exactly Socialism is and how the ruling party's Socialism is just a stunt to defend the present capitalist order..

The destiny of the T.U. movement is to take the working class and the country towards the proletarian

Socialism which really means freedom from unemployment, povertyand exploitation. If the T.U. movement forgets this objective, directs itself only in the channel of daily economic comflicts, it will become a narrow petty sectarian movement unable even to defend its daily interests.

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C E N T R E O F I N D I A N T R A D E U N I O N S

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

NEW DELHI 24 -26 APRIL, 1972

Report by Com. P. Ramamurti, General Secretary CITU

Comrades,

After the Coimbatore General Council meeting Com. Sunil Sen, member of the General Council of CITU and a prominent trade union leader of Dum Dum area was shot dead in front ofhis house and his body was taken away by the gangsters of the Congress (R). The body was found only next day. I pay my homage to the memory of this valient fighter whose indomitable courage had inspired thousands of workers in West Bengal and elsewhere.

I also express my deep felt grief over the untimely death of Com. Rajen Sinha a member of our General Council and prominent trade union leader of plantation workers in North Bengal. Com. Sinha was a tireless worker and extremely popular among the workers.

I further pay my homage to hundreds of heroic workers of the CITU in West Bengal who have courageously faced death at the hands of anti-social elements and police. Their supreme sacrifices have kept the CITU flag flying high despite brutal repression under the Congress (R). Let us also not forget at this time that several of our comrades in West Bengal are either in jails or warrants have been issued against them. I have no doubt that the CITU cadres in West Bengal will face this ordeal bravely and with the solidarity support from the working class and the democratic movements outside Bengal they will come out successfully by overcoming all difficulties facing them.

This raises the question of campaign throughout the country of solidarity with the working class of West Bengal. There is a near-complete blackout in the country about the terror that is unleashed on the fighting workers of West Bengal. In these conditions dissemination of, the full facts of this terror among the workers and other democratic sections all over the country and mobilising them against this terror assumes tremendous importance.

We are meeting ten months after the General Council meeting held at Coimbatore . from 12th to 14th June 1971. The period is full of important developments in the national and international fields which have far reaching consequences for the working class and democratic movements in our country. Com. B.T. Ranadive has already dealt with these issues in greater detail in his report and hence I do not consider it necessary to refer to them once again during my report. This Report will be in the nature of a work report.

The issues facing the working class were of such importance that a meeting of the Working Committee is extremely necessary. However due to circumstances beyond our control like the Indo-Pakistan War over the question of Bangladesh and Assembly elections we had no other alternative but to postpone the meeting. The office-bearers felt it necessary to obtain the opinion of the members of the Working Committee before taking a final decision in the matter. On 2nd January 1972 a circular letter was issued and out of 44 members 32 responded. Except one, all the members agreed with the proposal to postpone the meeting. (A list of members who responded to the circular is given in Annexure 1.)

As in the past the working class of West Bengal was at the fore-front of the struggles against the onslaught of the capital. The strike wave continued unabated in the later part of 1971 when protracted struggles were launched by workers in most of the industries.

The historic 2 bandhs towered all the industrial actions when millions downed their tools in protest not only against capitalist inroads in their living conditions and job security but for trade union and democratic rights as well as for political aspirations of the people. The General Strike and Hartal of August 23 focussed the attention of the entire country against police repression along with the vital economic demands of the workers. It also pressed the demand for recognition of the Government of Bangladesh which the Congress Government was avoiding to suit the interests of the ruling party.

The Second General Strike and Hartal of October 13 was a mighty protest of the working people of West Bengal against most arbitrary dismissal of 13 top leaders of the State Government employees and dismissal of 32 leaders and workers of Ordnance factories in Calcutta industrial area.

In both the strikes the West Bengal State Committee of CITU played an important role in bringing round other trade union centres which were earlier showing hesitation or opposition to join the action. The Government deployed huge police and CRP forces to intimidate the strikers. Even army was asked to remain on 'alert'. Congress (R) gangsters armed with bombs, pipe-guns and other lethal weapons were openly parading the streets to maintain "law and order" along with the CRP and the police and carried on ruthless attacks on working class localities with a view to terrorise them and compel them to report for duties. All the machinations however failed due to the remarkable unity achieved among the workers on both the occasions.

The deepening crisis in engineering industry in West Bengal and failure of the Central Government to take any effective measures forced several strike struggles of engineering workers. All the workers downed their tools on July 20 in protest against the proposed D.A. cut of Rs. 12 in view of the ficticious fall in the price index. The call of the strike was jointly given by 5 federations of engineering workers.

The workers of Hindusthan Cables Rupnarayanpur went on strike on June 29 under the CITU leadership demanding withdrawal of colsure and stopping retrenchment measures. Twelve thousand workers and employees of Jessop resorted to sit in and boycotted bonus on June. 28 demanding higher bonus. The Jay Engineering Workers went on strike on August 18 in protest against the breach of the agreement by the management. The strikers held a big demonstration before Raj Bhavan.

The workers of MAMC Durgapur despite repeated threats of closure by the management observed tool- down strike on September 5 demanding 8.33 per cent bonus. The strike was jointly organised by the CITU, INTUC and the AITUC unions. The workers again went on two day strike on September 11 and 12 on the same demand.

The 3,500 workers of Sen Raleigh Co. against closure of the factory was a long drawn struggle. The management planned retrenchment of hundreds of workers by cutting down the production level and increasing the workload on workers. The workers fought the closure heroically and faced all types of privations. Despite all efforts by the management and the AITUC and INTUC led company unions, workers stood firm and refused to be cowed down by the blackmailing tactics. They received moral and material support from the trade unions in West Bengal and outside. The Sen Raleigh Employees Union (CITU) courageously led the workers whose morale was high in spite of arrest of several leaders under false murder cases, when they were released by the court under MISA.

The Congress Government, seeing the unity and determination of workers resorted to gangster tactics. A reign of terror was let loose in the housing colony. Goondas with arms paraded the locality and indiscriminately beat the workers and their families. The office of the union built from the

collections made among the mass of workers was ransacked and forcibly occupied by the INTUC goondas. None of the INTUC goondas were arrested. While most of the Executive Committee members of the union were either arrested or warrants of arrest issued against them.

The workers continued to resist the goonda menace and ultimately the factory was opened after signing an agreement with the Sen Raleigh Employees Union. The forcible occupation of the union office is still not given up while the terrorisation tactics continue as before.

The Hind Motor workers struggle for higher bonus led to repression on the workers. They had to organise a day's strike on January 1 in protest against the arrest of union leaders. The workers however ultimately won 20 per cent bonus from the Birla management. Engineering workers of Raniganj and Jay Kay Nagar went on strike on January 18 in protest against the arrest of their leader under MISA.

The workers of Braithwaite Works fought a prolonged struggle against a lock out declared by the management since October and subsequent arrest of union leaders. Ultimately the management was forced to sign an agreement with the CITU union on December 3 and reopen the factory.

Other notable strike struggles of engineering works are those of J.K. Steel Rishra for higher bonus three day strike in October by workers of Damodar Iron and Steel Works Ranigangj for bonus, time rate wages etc. The management declared lock out from October 27.

Most of the struggles were led by the CITU unions who have been organised under 1.30 lakh strong Federation of Metal and Engineering workers unions. A Conference of the Federation held in August 28 and 29 in Calcutta led to consolidation of the movement of engineering workers in the State.

In Darjeeling tea gardens one day strike was organised on July 6 for reinstement of 2 victimised workers and protest against police repression. The workers of Mongudi tea eastate (Jalpaiguri) secured 8 % bonus on September 20 after a prolonged struggle.

The workers of tea plantation industry won an important victory in their struggle for wage rise when the Wage Fixation Committee for the industry reached a settlement on February 9. According to the settlement all daily rated workers and other categories of staff in the tea plantations in Dooars, Terai and Darjeeling area got a wage rise with effect from April 1, 1971. In the past the wage level of Dibrugarh plantation workers was always higher than Dooars and even the last Tea Plantation Wage Board awarded 13 paise per day higher than Dooars. The present agreement in West Bengal has now altered the position with regard to wages.

The textile workers fought several struggles against closures and retrenchment. The management of Kesoram Rayon Tribeni declared a lock out since August 21 in the wake on an industrial dispute. The AITUC and INTUC leaders openly sided with the management to sabotage the struggle. The one day strike of workers of Hindusthan Cotton Mills Belgharia against retrenchment and for higher bonus was a complete success. The Hosiery workers of Calcutta organised one day strike on July 22 demanding reopening to 12 closed factories for over 2 months. After 70 days of struggle on July 26 the factories were opened following the tripartite settlement. The workers of Hanuman Cotton Mills after fight for more than 6 months against closure organised one thousand strong demonstration in front of Raj Bhavan demanding immediate reopening of the Mills. After closure of 812 days Mohini Mills, Belghoria reopened on December 17 following a tripartite settlement as a result of which the management was forced to concede a wage-rise of Rs. 20, bonus and gratuity etc.

The workers of Annapurna Cotton Mills had to fight against closure for over 15 months. During this period management did its best to use the starvation of the workers to force them to accept retrenchment and increase in the workload. The CITU union however refused to sign a treacherous agreement. The factory was reopened during December in the wake of rising demand of cloth in Bangladesh.

The workers of State Electricity Board went on one day strike on September 25 demanding revision of pay scales, bonus, gratuity etc. They also observed a "Protest Week" from Nov. 22-25 demanding withdrawal of mass suspension orders, stoppage of arrests of workers and attacks on trade union rights. After prolonged struggle, including 4 day strike in November, 14,000 workers and employees of DVC won a minimum wage of Rs. 227 and group benefit of Rs. 30 by an agreement on March 27. The strike was jointly led by DVC staff association and the INTUC union.

Among the other notable struggles in West Bengal are - one day token strike on July 4 by Cinema employees in Calcutta and Behala demanding implementation of minimum wage decisions and reopening of closed cinema houses; strike of Municipal employees of Panihati from September 2 in protest against suppression of the Municipality; half day strike on September 6 and strikes on September 11 and 16 by the employees of Dock Labour Board demanding 20% bonus; one day strike of Private Bus employees of North Bengal transport companies demanding Puja bonus, D.A., etc; strikes of two thousand bakery workers of 100 bakeries in Calcutta on September for higher wages; strike of workers in Carrier Transport on September 15 demanding lifting of lock out in Dooars and Premier transport companies; strike and demonstration on September 24 by Brooke Bond employees against lay off of 800 workers; strike of civic employees of Howrah Municipality from February 22 demanding revision of pay scales, D.A. at Government rates, strike of workers of Hindusthan Construction, Haldia on September 23 in protest against death of 5 workers and injuring 40; strike of workers in 21 factories in Belghoria region including Texmaco, Bharat Woolen Mills etc. for higher bonus and strike of workers in 23 concerns in Baranagore area for higher bonus.

The State Government employees and other salaried employees continued their struggles to defend their interests. All the mercantile employees in Calcutta observed two hour pen-down strike on July 5 demanding stoppage of closures and attacks by goondas against employees . The West Bengal State Government employees went on strike between 2 and 5 p.m. on July 16 demanding stoppage of goonda attacks against employees, cease work on September 14, 15 and 16 by the State Government employees against dismissal of 12 leaders of their movement by the Governor's order.

The All India State Government Employees Federation gave a call for observation of an all India Day on November 5 as "West Bengal Solidarity Day". Thousands of demonstrations and rallies were held throughout India. One week strike of ESI employees in West Bengal which began on November 1 continued for over one week in support of demand for house rent allowance and other demands. The strike was withdrawn after obtaining an assurance of settling the demands expeditiously.

The First Conference of the West Bengal State Committee of CITU held on September 17-19 at Asansol registered a significant advance in united struggles of the workers in the State. The Conference contributed considerably to the consolidation of CITU's strength in West Bengal. It demonstrated clearly that the policy of unity and struggle had proved to be correct. Thousands of workers belonging to INTUC, AITUC had joined the ranks of the CITU in several industries throughout the State.

The Congress Government and the capitalist class in West Bengal alarmed by the spectacular rise of CITU and having failed to disrupt struggles embarked upon the path of resorting to semi-fascist repression against the CITU and the working class. As a result of these attacks the trade union

prevalent among the mass of workers in West Bengal. The strike call earlier given by Bengal Chatkal Mazdur Union which was consistently opposed by INTUC, AITUC and HMS leadership in the past is being supported by them now. This shows that the game of disruptive forces can be defeated only it the working class stands united and is determined to fight for their demands.

The struggle of the working class in West Bengal for improvement in their working and living conditions and for trade union and democratic rights will need solidarity support from working class of other States. The battle for saving democracy in West Bengal must be converted into an all India battle in order to preserve the gains of the movement.

The workers in Kerala have also fought several struggles during the last 10 months drawing various sections into strike actions.

About 80,000 plantation workers in Malabar region observed one day strike on March 21 to press for the demand of minimum wage of Rs. 5 per day, 20 per cent bonus, higher D.A. The strike was sponsored by the joint Action Council comprising of CITU, INTUC, AITUC, HMS and UTUC unions. A statewide indefinite strike is also planned unitedly if the demands are not conceded. The strike of Nelliampati which began in December 1971 over the demand for rise in wages, permanent service for temporary workers etc. continued for over a month. This strike also was led unitedly by all the unions. However the strike of Kalapatta which began in early January this year was led only by the CITU union.

The perpetual crisis in coir industry forced the coir workers to launch series of strike actions. About 1,25,000 coir workers of Anjuthengu Mooppiri Coir zone struck work on January 24 demanding payment of minimum wages. The struggle was led by joint struggle committee of CITU, AITUC and INTUC unions. There was an indefinite strike from February 8 which was followed by satyagraha of workers at Trivandrum. During this struggle Achutha Menon Government's police lathi charged the workers at Mallappuram. All 5 lakh workers downed their tools on March 13 and picketted Government offices demanding wage rise etc. Though the strike was sponsored by CITU, INTUC, AITUC and HMS unions, AITUC and INTUC withdrew at the last moment. Police arrested hundreds of workers all over Kerala. When the workers of Darragh Smail Coir factory demonstrated demanding take over of the concern by the coir corporation, the AITUC representative on the Board of Directors of the Coir Corporation opposed the demand. A Convention organised by the CITU on March 12 decided to form a Federation to coordinate the struggles in the industry in Kerala.

The question of reopening of the Cashew factories and revision in policy regarding distribution of raw nut by STC was a matter of prolonged agitation in the State. Mass picketing was organised in Quilon and other centres. Over one lakh cashew workers employeed in factories went on one day strike on August 12 last year. The strike call was jointly given by CITU AITUC and UTUC to press the charter of Demands which included demands like central assistance to the industry and take over of 50 closed factories.

The workers of Idikki Project went on strike from January 8, demanding recruitment of old retrenched workers under contractors. 200 picketing workers were arrested. On January 11 however the strike spread to Kulamau Dam area and Idikki High Dam area. The refusal of the Government to concede this just demand brought all the power workers together and a joint call was given to organise indefinite strike from January 16. However the Government came to an agreement approving taking back the retrenched employees on duties.

On January 23 the union Government banned all strikes for 6 months at Idikki under the DIR. Twelve unions including those belonging to CITU and AITUC organised demonstrations on February 13 in protest against the ban.

movement is facing an unprecedented situation in the State.

Thousands of active cadres and leaders have been detained under the Prevention of Violent Activities Act and Maintenance of Internal Security Act while warrants have been pending against tens of thousands. Thousands more are involved in ficticious offenses like murder etc. with ulterior motive of preventing them from participating in the normal activities of the unions. The vindictiveness of the Government was further seen in transfer of detenus to other States and thus preventing them from meeting their family members andother relatives.

Promulgation of section 144, curfew, combing operations, posting of CRP and military at vantage positions, encircling the entire locality has become a matter of routine in West Bengal. The Government's assurance to police that there would be no judicial enquiry into police firing has emboldened police to resort to most brutal suppression on the toiling people.

The unprecedented use of anti-social elements against the activists in trade union and democratic movement has let loose a reign of terror in industrial belts all over West Bengal. These gangsters of the ruling Congress, who parade as volunteers of Chhatra Parishad and Yuba Congress, are getting open support from the police and the CRP. They attack the working class localities with murderous weapons under supervision of police and kill, maim the workers and their family members. Women are raped, workers houses raised to the ground or their belongings stolen. Instead of arresting these gangsters the police arrest workers and people launching complaints against these goondas. Police stations blatantly refuse to register complaints against the Congress hoodlums.

More than 650 leaders and activists have lost their lives to these murderous assaults and police torture during the last 2 years.

These anti-social elements have so far physically occupied or burnt over 200 offices belonging to CITU unions. I have already mentioned in this report about the case of Sen Raleigh Employees Union. The office of Hindusthan Steel Employees Union Durgapur has been recently ransacked by anti-social elements. But there are many other examples. No CITU union is allowed to function normally in the entire Barrackpore belt.

Seeing the mounting discontent among the people the Congress (R) was not feeling confident of winning majority in the recent assembly elections. It therefore conspired with the leadership of the Right Communist Party and hatched a conspiracy to rig the elections in West Bengal with the help of police, authorities and goonda gangs. Millions of voters were not allowed to cast their votes by capturing the booths with the armed might. Even counting was reduced to a farce and results were manipulated to boost the strength of the Congress and its tail Right Communist Party.

The attacks on trade union and democratic movement were intensified after the so-called elections. The new police minister openly stated that the workers opposing increase in the workload would be detained under MISA. About 40,000 workers and the activists have been forced to leave their residential quarters and threats of murder have been given to several others. Even the West Bengal State Committee has been threatened with action if it failed to vacate the premises.

The working class of West Bengal however is resisting courageously these semi-fascist gangsterism. A convention jointly organised on 16th April by CITU, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) in Calcutta expresses its firm determination to fight back this menace and defeat it with all might. The new unity of the trade union organisations in West Bengal will immensely strengthen the resistance of the workers to the rising fascistic tendencies.

The strike call in Jute industry on May 8 shows the urge for unity

Seven thousand Ministerial employees of the State Electricity Board observed one day strike on September 15 demanding higher pay scales. The Kerala Chief Minister threatened to ban the strike and ultimately the union government banned strikes in all power stations in Kerala.

The unscrupulous toddy shop contractors provoked several struggles of toddy tappers. Under the leadership of All Kerala Toddy Tappers Federation 3,000 toddy tappers resorted to mass picketing in 8 districts on September 20. 5,000 toddy tappers in Palghat district went on strike on January 24 demanding implementation of earlier decisions and deposit of PF money by toddy shop contractors. The toddy tappers of Quilon district also struck work for similar demands.

The strike of 8,500 workers of Gwalior Rayons, Mavoor for bonus lasted for two months. The strike was sponsored by Joint Council of Action comprising of CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS and other unions. At the call of the joint council of action. Calicut Bandh was observed on October 26 in which nearly 1.5 lakh workers participated.

The textile workers also were on the path of strike struggles. Over one thousand handloom workers of Calicut went on indefinite strike in October demanding rise in wages and D.A. linked with consumer price index. Four thousand Khadi weaving and spinning workers of Cannanore district went on strike since September 23 demanding higher wages. The strike of spinning workers continued over 3 months.

The workers of Prabhat Engineering Works Badagara organised satyagraha under CITU leadership for 52 days since November 1971 in support of their demand for reopening of the closed factory and reinstatement of retrenched employees. The police arrested President of the union while the management closed 7 other units vindictively. Twenty four day strike of Firewood Boat workers of Ambalapuzha workers demanding wage rise and security of services etc. was led by CITU union and won success.

All workers of Kanjirapuzha dam struck work for one day in December in protest against attacks by INTUC/bus workers, bus porters, workers of vegetable markets, oil and saw mill Trichur went on strike on December 31 in protest against the arrest of CITU leaders in Trichur. Workers throughout Kerala organised demonstrations on January 20 in protest against police and goonda attacks on workers.

/and youth Congress hoodlums. Private

Two thousand workers of the HMT factory Kalamassery went on indefinite strike since March 16 demanding interim relief and revision of promotion rules. The strike was withdrawn after settlement with the management. The strike of workers in Kerala Malleables Kottayam on a charter of demands continued for 33 days in February March.

Ten day strike by riggers at Cochin Port in July August/against irregularities committed by Dock Labour Board was ultimately settled through mediation of the chairman. The strike of tally clerks of Cochin Port ended on February 23 when the Dock Labour Board accepted demand for 8.33 % bonus for 1970-71.

The State and Central Government employees also fought several struggles in Kerala. The P & T employees all over Kerala on October 5 demanding withdrawal of victimisation measures following 1968 strike and under the P.D. Act. The NGO's at Calicut carried their satyagraha demanding permanancy of temporary workers and increase in age of retirement etc. for 210 days. Achutha Menon Government imposed break in service of NGO when they went on one day strike protest. The Kerala Chief Minister also openly advocated wage freeze when the State Government employees demanded interim relief at par with Central Government employees.

The agricultural workers of Kerala organised several strikes during the period. 50,000 agricultural workers of Palghat district observed one day

strike in September for higher wages. 15,000 workers of Changanasery Taluk went on strike on October 14 protesting against police and goonda attacks. Agricultural workers all over Kerala went on strike on October 19 demanding withdrawal of false cases against trade union leaders. In Alleppey district alone one lakh workers participated in the strike while in Palghat district 56,000 participated. 50,000 agricultural workers of Kottayam observed one day strike and held demonstrations on December 28 in protest against murder of 3 union workers and stabbing of 7 women workers by goondas. The agricultural workers of Kuttanad and coir workers of Alleppey joined the strike to express their solidarity.

The Kerala State Council of the CITU which met in Eloor on April 7-9 reviewed the struggles in Kerala and observed the growing urge of unity among the workers for struggles. The State Council took appropriate measures to strengthen industrywise organisations so that the struggles are more concerted and widespread. The CITU has emerged in Kerala as a builder of trade union unity which was seen from all the major struggles in the State during the recent past.

There was a big upswing of strike struggles in Tamilnadu after the last General Council meeting at Coimbatore. The Cotton textile workers in Coimbatore took a leading part in these united struggles. Twice they went on indefinite General strikes during this period. A joint action committee consisting of CITU, AITUC, Congress (R) and SSP unions was formed to conduct the struggle for higher bonus than available under the Bonus Act. The strike which began on October 5 continued upto October 20, and was participated by about 40,000 workers. The second strike was more militant in character. It was in support of 19 point charter of demands which included demands like need-based minimum wages, reopening of closed units. The strike commenced on February 12 covering 76 mills in Coimbatore district. Hundreds of picketing workers were arrested and a student died in jail.

Coimbatore district bundh was organised unitedly on March 1 in support of textile workers. Textile workers of Tamilnadu went on indefinite strike from March 3 in support of these demands. Despite gangster tactics used by the managements and the DMK the strike was successful. Solidarity actions were organised by LIC and bank employees. Picketting spread in taluk centres. 90 hosierry workers of Tirupur also joined the picketting. The struggle lasted till March 12 when the Government and the employees were forced to concede some of the demands. Though the DMK led unions opposed the struggles their following was drawn in the struggle.

The workers of Buckingham & Carnatic Mills Madras struck work in September demanding arrears of wages and again in January against cut in wages. The DMK members of the executive who opposed the strike were forced to resign by the workers. 8,000 hosiery workers of Tirupur went on strike from February 7 demanding implementation of the Factories Act provisions and recommendations of the Wage Board.

The long drawn struggle of the Simpson group employees against arbitrary imposition of a DMK leader on the workers by the Government was unique in many ways. After forcing the elected leader of the union to resign by gangster methods the DMK foisted leader signed a treacherous 3 year agreement with the management accepting increase in the workload, Sunday working without overtime payment etc.

The workers fought against the betrayal and a Joint Action Committee was formed comprising of CITU, AITUC, INTUC and HMS. On September 9 the Government arrested Com. V.P. Chintan, Com. Kuchelar and others under the MISA and lock out was declared in one unit on October 15. DMK gangsters attacked workers with the help of police to terrorise the workers. On December 26 indefinite strike was started by 18,000 workers which soon spread to other factories belonging to Simpson Group. The striking workers had to face severe police repression. Hundreds of workers were assaulted and arrested, 110 workers

retrenched and termination notices served on 325 others. When the Joint Action Committee gave call for strike throughout the State on January 11, the Government climbed down and agreed to remove the stooge leaders and appointed a six member committee to look after the union activity pending the new elections.

The agreement however did not last long since the non-CITU representatives on the committee unilaterally announced the dissolution of the committee on March 3. On March 13 the Simpson workers held a big demonstration and the attempt of other leaders to bypass the CITU was foiled. The settlement was arrived at along with Com. Kuchelar and the CITU. The Committee was again reconstituted and issue was thus settled for the time being.

The 1,500 employees of Hindusthan Teleprinters led by the CITU union began work to rule in October demanding revision of earlier agreement on job evaluation. The refusal of the management to come to settlement led to a strike from November 8. Laying off of hundreds of workers was immediate provocation by the management. The Union Government instead of bringing pressure on the management banned the strike under DIR. The strike was called off on December 9 in the wake of national emergency.

The workers of public sector Hindusthan Photo Films Factory in Ooty demanding better service conditions started stay in strike on July 20 and the management declared lock out. 133 workers were suspended and 105 arrested during the strike. The strike was withdrawn without any settlement. The workers again went on strike from April 6 to 15 over non-fulfilment of their demands. Two hundred workers were arrested while taking out a demonstration on April 13. When the management agreed to withdraw some victimisation measures and the strike was withdrawn.

The workers of Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi who began their strike from January 23 for higher bonus a reinstatement of suspended workers. The DMK police resorted to brutal repression. A peaceful rally of workers was lathi charged on January 27 and arrested workers were beaten up in police lock up. The Government ultimately had to climb down and the strike was settled on February 7. During the strike of Metal Box workers in Madras which began on December 1 under CITU leadership the DMK hired goondas attacked the workers. The police instead of imprisoning the culprits arrested 4 workers. The Junior engineers and technical staff of Neveli Lignite Corporation resorted to work to rule from September 27 for 38 point charter of demands including promotion facilities, removal of anamolies etc. The struggle continued for 7 days. The management charge-sheeted 419 workers but ultimately had to concede the demands of the workers.

600 listed workers and 2,000 ore handling workers at Madras Harbour went on stay in strike from August 9 demanding higher bonus. The strike was called off on September 3 after the settlement. 600 Laskar and Tally clerks of Marine department of Madras Port struck work from August 27 demanding permanancy, withdrawl of charge sheets and revision in classification of nomenclature of some categories. This strike also was withdrawn on September 3 after assurances by the port authorities. Two thousand boatmen and 3,000 dock workers of Tuticorin struck work on January 21 protesting against failure of the authorities to find a missing cargo boat.

The last 10 months in Tamilnadu several strikes of handloom workers and weavers took place demanding better wages, adequate supply of yarn at cheap rates etc. The deteriorating conditions of this strata of the working class is driving them towards destitution which is reflected in militancy of their struggles.

The first State Conference of the Tamilnadu State Committee held on July 16-18 was an important step towards consolidating the CITU activities in the State. The State Committee called upon all the CITU unions to observe CITU week from September 12-19 and popularised the line of unity and struggle pursued by the CITU. The day was well observed throughout the State. The

Tamilnadu State Committee in its meeting held at Nellikuppam on September 25-26 decided to intensify the united struggles of the workers. It also observed that despite opposition of DMK leadership a large number of DMK workers are joining the path of struggle throughout the State and at some places even the DMK unions have been forced to join the struggles.

The most important struggle of the workers in Maharashtra during the last 10 months was the strike of two lakh workers of textile mills in Bombay from October 11 for 8.33 per cent minimum bonus. The unity of the textile workers was so remarkable that the INTUC workers also joined the strike in a big way. Despite Dange's opposition to join hands with the CITU during strike struggle the ranks of the AITUC were working with CITU activists to make the strike a success. Though the strike had to be withdrawn without achieving the demands in full, the workers could get higher bonus that was available under the Bonus Act or majority recommendations of the Bonus Commission. Strikes also have been leading textile centres in Maharashtra like Nagpur, Sholapur, Akola, Kohlapur on the same issue.

1,600 workers in the Government controlled Mohata Mills and Swatram Mills in Akola struck work on September 22 demanding restoration of wage cut, rise in D.A. and payment of PF. The workers of Government owned India United Mills gheraoed the General Manager on September 25 for higher bonus. The workers of Sawatram Mills once again went on strike in March to press acceptance of the demands raised earlier.

The employees of BEST in Bombay observed strike on October 2 demanding withdrawal of new work schedule.

Six thousand Municipal workers of Bhiwandi struck work from January 19 demanding withdrawal of dismissal orders on 22 workers 4,000 Class IV and technical employees of Poona Municipal Corporation went on indefinite strike from February 11 demanding implementation of revised pay scales. This was withdrawn after 4 days when the demands were conceded by the authorities. 40,000 Kotwals throughout Maharashtra on indefinite strike from February 10 demanding parity of pay with Calss IV employees.

Other notable struggles in Maharashtra were indefinite strike of water works employees of Nasik Municipality demanding arrears of pay, strike of 6,000 employees of Hindusthan Aeronautics Nasik in November in protest against the ill-treatment of employees.

Maharashtra State Committee of CITU observed a week from January 18-25 during which CITU unions held meetings and demonstrations at factory gates condemning role of U.S. imperialism. On January 25 an impressive demonstration was organised in Bombay. More than 50,000 signatures were collected on the Memorandum demanding nationalisation of U.S. concerns and India and moratorium on U.S. debt repayment. 5,900 booklets explaining the U.S. imperialist role in India were sold among the workers during the week.

In Andhra, 1500 rice mill-workers went on strike from December 13 to 17 demanding 8 per cent bonus, wagerise and P.F. benefits. The strike was a complete success. About 400 workers engaged in construction of Godavari bridge went on strike on December 24 demanding overtime wages and leave facilities. The Contractors accepted their demands and the strike was withdrawn on January 1. However the employers went back from their commitment and another strike took place from February 27 which continued for about a month. Ultimately, after bitter struggle the Contractors had to accept the demands in full. 300 Workers of Barium Chemicals went on strike from April 3 demanding wages and D.A. as per Wage Board recommendations, bonus, night shift allowance and reinstatement of dismissed workers. During conciliation proceeding 7 workers were victimised which provoked the strike. It was jointly led by CITU and INTUC Unions. Motor Transport workers in East Godavari District went on strike from February 2 demanding implementation of the Wage Board recommendations. Three days later the employers accepted the demand and the strike was settled.

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In Bihar the workers of Burkunda and Karanpur Collieries went on strike on October 12 in protest against failure of the NCDC management to provide timely medical aid to a worker who was electrocuted while on duty. The workers formed a Joint Committee of Action of all unions including the INTUC. Employees of Headquarters of NCDC went on strike on October 17 in support of 8 point charter of demands. The coal mine workers of Korba also went on strike on October 19 on similar demands.

The movement of bonus boycott by TISCO workers in Jamshedpur on September 13-15 was of great significance to T.U. movement in Bihar. This boycott came in the wake of anti-working class agreement signed by the INTUC union. On September 7 an impressive demonstration was organised by TISCO Karmachari Union, a new organisation formed by the militant workers. The workers demanded 20 per cent bonus for which the Tata management issued chargesheets against several union activists.

Workers of J.D.Stone & Co., Adityapur went on strike on November 8 demanding recognition of union and stoppage of repressive measures. The strike was led by the CITU Union. The Manager immediately replied by declaring a lock-out and suspended 4 leaders. The strike was withdrawn in the wake of declaration of national emergency. Taking advantage of this the management discharged 16 workers. In Adityapur the workers had to strike in April once again due to the non-settlement of their demands.

The workers of India Machinery, Patna struck work from September 21 demanding withdrawal of victimisation measures. The Government deployed CRP and the army while leading workers were arrested to suppress the strike. The strike was conducted under the leadership of CITU Union.

In Kanpur (U.P.) workers of J.K.Rayon went on 76 days strike during July-August in support of charter of demands. There was large scale repression and victimisation. The strike was withdrawn on the assurance given by the Chief Minister to settle their demands. The workers of Maheshwari Devi Jute Mill organised a strike for higher wages etc. which was successful. On October 16, over 25000 Cotton Textile workers went on strike in support of demand of 8.33 per cent minimum bonus.

The workers of Indian Explosive Ltd., Fertilizer Division, Kanpur downed their tools on August 20 in support of charter of demand submitted two months ago. After a week long struggle the management had to sign a settlement with the CITU affiliated IEL Employees Union.

In New Delhi over one thousand workers in posh hotels and restaurants in the second week of June demanding implementation of the Wage Board recommendations. The strike continued for two and a half months due to pro-employer attitude of Jan Sangh administration. A co-ordination Committee of CITU and AITUC Union was formed to conduct the struggle. A settlement was arrived at after a long and bitter struggle. The CITU Unions in Delhi collected funds and held demonstrations in support of the struggle.

The employees of National Council of Applied Economic Research New Delhi went on strike on February 2 demanding reinstatement of 70 victimised employees and acceptance of charter of demands. 500 workers of Durga Enterprise Ltd.(Dalmia) struck work for over 2 months in October-November demanding compensation to a dead workers widow and withdrawal of suspension order on 16 union activists. The management of National Herald daily declared lock-out in December to force the workers to accept 4 per cent bonus. The workers demanded 10 per cent bonus and stoppage of retrenchment measures.

Delhi State Committee of CITU held demonstrations in December denouncing U.S. role on the question of Bangladesh.

See Page 11-A

PROBLEMS OF TRADE UNION UNITY

In my report to the General Council at Coimbatore the background of the Conference of representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations and National Federations held in New Delhi on 18th and 19th May 1971 and the declaration of the conference with eight point programme were explained in somewhat detail. A resolution adopted by the General Council welcomed the declaration as "a firm base around which the working class can be mobilised" and called upon the CITU unions to take initiative in the matter and bring out actions at local, regional, state and all-India level.

The CITU State Committees in West Bengal, Andhra, Tamilnadu, Bihar, Punjab and Assam have made efforts to contact other central trade union organisations. There was no response from the other organisations in Bihar, Tamilnadu and Punjab. In Andhra a Convention was organised on 31st July 1971 at Hyderabad and a Coordination Committee was formed to plan united action on issues facing the working class in the State. However, the Coordination Committee could not function.

In West Bengal, the AITUC and HMS leadership while refusing to join hands with CITU brought forward irrelevant issues like Code of Conduct etc. to be discussed as a precondition for united actions. Therefore, the Rashtriya Sangram Samiti in its Convention held in July 18 at Calcutta decided to independently mobilise the workers and organise a General Strike and Hartal in August. The propaganda made by the constituents of Samiti created a new atmosphere in the State and other trade union organisations including the INTUC had to agree for a joint meeting on August 2 to discuss the common issues and to chart out united action. In this meeting a 16 point charter of demands was adopted. It was unanimously decided to go in for Bengal Bundh on August 25 which was later on posponed to August 27.

The magnificient unity achieved by all the trade unions in West Bengal electrified the atmosphere throughout the State but alarmed the Congress leaders in New Delhi. Union Labour Minister Shri R.K. Khadilkar hurriedly convened a meeting of representatives of all the Central Trade Unions in New Delhi on August 22 and gave some vague assurances without any concrete commitment. In the meeting the representatives of organisations other than that of CITU failed to take a categorical stand. The CITU representatives however remained firm and stuck to the decision of strike. The newspapers even reported that CITU was completely isolated.

However, the urge for unity in West Bengal was so powerful that after returning from New Delhi leaders of other organisations found it difficult to implement their commitments in New Delhi. Except INTUC and HMS all other trade union centres supported the strike call which was a grand success despite repressive measures of the Government. Even the INTUC and HMS dared not openly came over against the strike, though they dissociated from it.

The response of the AITUC and HMS leadership to CITU's efforts for united actions was getting cooler as the days passed by due to involvement of the leaderships of these organisations with INTUC in negotiations on the question of recognition of trade unions and allied matter, at the instance of the Government of India, who were and are anxious to get these organisations to unite and toe the Government's line so thety could parade this as isolation of CITU. In fact the Government of India was paying for the air fare for about a dozen representatives of these organisations meeting from time to time at different places in the country.

On behalf of CITU I therefore took up this question with HMS and AITUC leaders. In identical letters addressed both these organisations on September 19, I wrote:

"Though the HMS and AITUC have found no time to meet us and chalk out a programme, I find from the newspapers that you have found sufficient time to meet the INTUC, which did not subscribe to the declaration...."

I further wrote:

"I would like to know even now if you are agreeable to any thing in furtherance of the Declaration. Otherwise, we may as well announce publicly that the Committee cannot function and thus put an end to the deception of the working class, whose expectations had been roused by the Declaration and and formation of the convening committee."

This was on the eve of the tripartite meeting convened by Union Labour Minister at Bombay on 20th September on the question of bonus. The CITU was also invited to the meeting and I attended this meeting on its behalf. Though all the trade unions demanded 8.33 per cent minimum bonus in the meeting our efforts to bring about an all-India movement to realise the demand did not succeed. Even a meeting to discuss this question could not be held after the tripartite meeting.

The representatives of the other trade union centres viz AITUC, HMS and INTUC could not say 'no' to my suggestion that we should meet immediately after the tripartite meeting. But in practice they avoided and scuttled the meeting. Their avoidance of such a meeting is quite understandable in view of the understanding which, according to the unrebutted statement of the Labour Minister Shri Khadilkar, that the INTUC and AITUC leaders had reached with the Labour Minister and the employers clandestinely

I had again discussed with the leaders of other Central trade unions prior to the Twenty Seventh Session of the Indian Labour Conference in New Delhi held on October 22 and 23. Though a common approach could be evolved on the question of bonus and gratuity, the INTUC, AITUC and HMS leaders made question of recognition of trade unions their internal affair. Before the tripartite meeting I wrote to Shri Khadilkar stating that if CITU was not invited to the meeting its decisions would not be binding on our organisation. The Government therefore agreed to invite us as an observer and I attended the Session on behalf of CITU. The tripratite meeting could not achieve any tangible results. The trade union representatives unitedly emphasised immediate acceptance of principles of 8.33 per cent bonus but the employers wanted to use dilatory tactics by referring the matter to another Bonus Committee. The Government refused to take a firm position and issue was left to the decision of the Government.

CITU however continued efforts for a united call for action on common issues. A meeting of the representatives of AITUC, CITU and HMS was held in New Delhi on November 11. It was decided to observe a day during December throughout India and raise a powerful voice against rising prices of essential commodities, for minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent and one month's gratuity to all workers without any preconditions. Accordingly a call was given to observe the day unitedly during December 5-12.

The decisions were no doubt an advance in the direction of united action. However the statement published in the name of AITUC, HMS and CITU on November 19 suffered from a basic weakness which might have ended in diverting people's attention from the main source of evil. Therefore Com. B.T. Ranadive in his note which was circulated to the Working Committee members pointed out that instead of attacking the Government for its responsibility in rising prices an attempt was made to blame only hoarders and speculators while ignoring deficit financing, inflation and high taxation.

The statement while correctly attacking the Central Bill on gratuity did not criticise the Kerala and West Bengal measures on gratuity which also contained the same retrograde provisions.

However due to the outbreak of India-Pakistan War on the question of Bangladesh the week could not be observed. The AITUC and HMS leadership did not show their readiness to join united action on these pressing questions.

During the Indo-Pak hostilities in December last the AITUC, INTUC and HMS leadership gave up their right to strike. CITU was the only organisation which asserted the workers right to strike if they are attacked by the employers even during national emergency.

In a tripartite meeting convened by the Union Labour Minister on 5th December 1971 the CITU representative Com. Md. Ismail categorically stated that CITU would not be aparty to a declaration imposing a blanket ban on strike of workers. Again on 16th December when a bigger gathering of tripartite character was held in New Delhi I once again opposed any restriction on workers right to strike and demanded release of detenus, withdrawal of DIR and other legislation that curb the trade union and democratic right of the workers.

Even after end of war the Labour Minister appointed a Working Party to concretise measures to give effect to the declaration of December 5. The representation of INTUC, AITUC and HMS joined it and advocated boosting of production in the name of self-reliance totally ignoring that it would involve increase in the workload on the workers and retrenchment of workers.

The Working Party also discussed the new industrial relations machinery which they hope would bring down the strikes and lock outs. It is reported that some tentative agreement has already been reached between the INTUC, AITUC and HMS about the new proposal of class collaboration. These leaders have accepted arbitration as the solution though they call it voluntary. During the arbitration proceedings the trade union leaders would agree not to resort to strike action. The arbitrators' award is of course binding.

Thus they have given up path of class struggle and accepted the path of class collaboration. In these circumstances, their agreement to form a National Council of Trade Unions from among themselves to evolve a common approach on all issues facing the working class is in reality an agreement to jointly strive to blunt the edge of workers struggles. It is an attempt to gang up against CITU instead of uniting with it in struggles to win the pressing demands of the workers.

They are giving up secret ballot as the only criterion for trade union recognition and accept verification under the so called independent machinery headed by a judicial person. The leaders of AITUC and HMS who have correctly stressed for over 20 years the principle of secret ballot for recognition is a basic principle of democracy in the trade union movement, and who had subscribed to the demand for secret ballot in the Joint Declaration of May 1971, surrendered before INTUC and gave up the principles. The claim that the new machinery will also resort to secret ballot if the difference between the verified membership of two unions is marginal is a fig leaf. In practice the verification machinery always favours the pro-employers' union and verification can and will be so manoeuvred that no occasion will arise to resort to secret ballot. It is therefore a sell out by these two organisations of the workers interests.

The political alignments of parties that are controlling the INTUC, AITUC and HMS are bringing these organisations together against the interests of the workers. They are also afraid of growing influence of the CITU. Their increasing isolation from the workers due to their class collaborationist policies is also bringing them together with the fond hope of gaining new prestige under official patronage.

However, there is no doubt that the working class of India will overcome these attempts to divert it from the path of class struggle and fight when it is attacked by the capitalist class. The ranks of INTUC, AITUC and HMS will come together in the united struggles as before to protect their interests. The CITU therefore will have to redouble its efforts to build united actions at local levels in order to defend the standard of living of the working class.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLIER DECISIONS

I will now review the steps taken by the CITU Centre to implement the decisions of the last General Council meeting.

In my report at Coimbatore I stated that the monthly journal of the CITU "The Working Class" would commence publication soon. The office bearers took immediate steps in the matter and constituted an Editorial Board consisting of Comrades B.T. Ranadive, P. Ramamurti, Monoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh, Sudhin Kumar and M.K. Pandhe (Editor). The journal has commenced publication since September and so far 8 issues have been published. The circulation is about 4,000 and CITU has not to give any financial assistance to the journal, so far. I am not going into details since already a separate report is being presented to this meeting.

The General Council took certain decisions regarding industrywise functioning.

Plantation: It was decided to call an all India Plantation Workers Conference in Kerala in the first week of January 1972. Accordingly a preparatory Committee was formed with Com. Monoranjan Roy as the Convenor and the Conference was fixed at Vandiperiyar (Kerala) on January 4-5, 1972. The CITU Centre took all steps to prepare report, resolutions and other documents of the Conference. However due to request from Kerala State Committee of CITU to postpone the Conference in view of rains in the high ranges the Conference had to be postponed. No new dates have been fixed so far.

Engineering: The General Council appointed a Sub-Committee with Robin Mukherjee as the Convenor to prepare a report on the industry and the position of workers. He prepared a questionnaire which was circulated to all unions in the industry. The response was extremely disappointing. The Committee did not meet to consider the steps to be taken to coordinate the CITU activities in the industry.

Tyre and Rubber: A meeting of the activists in this industry was planned in New Delhi, but due to the non-participation of many comrades the meeting could not succeed. No later date could be fixed for the meeting.

Road Transport: It was decided that a meeting of comrades should be convened to collect detailed reports and suggest measures to coordinate activities of the CITU in the industry. However, due to the lack of preparations and inability of any comrade in the industry to help the centre in the matter the meeting could not be convened so far.

Paper: It was decided that Com. Robin Sen should act as Coordinator of our activities in this industry. He was entrusted with the responsibility to convene a meeting of comrades working in the industry. However no progress has been made in this regard. Comrade Robin Sen's attention was drawn by the centre to this state of affairs.

Mining: The General Council decided that the centre should take steps to convene a meeting of representatives of unions working in mining industry. The centre has not been able to convene such a meeting so far.

Jute: The office-bearers decided that Com. Kamal Sarkar should coordinate the activities in the jute industry. Accordingly a circular letter was sent to all the State Committees where jute unions are existing. Com. Sarkar has since been keeping contact with various jute unions. It is proposed to call a meeting of all jute unions soon to plan all-India strike to achieve the long standing demands of jute workers.

Bidi: A demand was raised for formation of a Federation of unions in this industry. However since the General Council no union has come forward to take responsibility in this regard.

It has been the experience of the centre that unless some comrades spare some time for all India coordination it will not be possible for the centre to take responsibilities. Generally there is a tendency that the centre should take up the responsibility of running these organisations. However, unless comrades show their readiness to take specific responsibilities under the direction of the centre industrywise activities and coordination will not be successful.

It is not necessary to emphasise here the need for industrywise functioning. However, comrades should realise their responsibilities in this regard. Otherwise the All India Organisation formed in industries may remain on paper as is the case of the AITUC.

Taking into account the mounting discontent among the workers on the working of the ESI Corporation the General Council discussed the question and decided to form a sub-committee to study the operation of the Scheme. The members of the Committee: Comrades Dinen Bhattacharyya (Convenor), S.Y. Kolhatkar, Bisweshwar Ganguly, Nallasivam and P. Balachandran. A draft of the questionnaire was prepared and circulated among the members of the Committee. The 3 members of the Committee met on 7th November but the centre has so far not received any report of the work done. It is however learnt that the original questionnaire was not found suitable and some modifications were suggested in the meeting. The centre has not received the modified questionnaire so far. From the reports available with the centre it appears that the Sub-Committee did not make much progress in collecting the data etc. The Convenor has failed to discharge his responsibility while the members on their own have not shown enthusiasm about the work of the Committee.

The campaign launched by CITU unions after the General Council meeting on the Employees Family Pension Scheme created a good atmosphere throughout the country. By and large the workers have not opted for the scheme. The CITU campaign even put the AITUC and HMS leadership on the defensive and they had to change their earlier stand on the issue. Even the INTUC had to demand that the scheme should be voluntary to all the workers including those who join in service after introduction of the scheme.

The publication brought out and sold in different languages by the CITU State Committees is as follows:

Malayalam	13,000	Tamil	7,000
Telugu	2,000	Marathi	5,000
English	5,000	Hindi	2,000
Gujarati	1,000		
Total	37,000		

The booklet was reproduced in some journals brought out by other trade unions also. The initiative was correctly taken by the CITU on this question in time and clear-cut line was given to the working class. The impact of the campaign was so effective that within 6 months after launching the scheme the Government had to talk of modifying the scheme.

It is however likely that the Government may give some nominal concessions in the form of higher pensionary benefits and lump-sum payment without touching its anti-worker provisions. The CITU will have to be vigilant on this question and once again educate the workers on the basis of demands raised in the resolution adopted by the last General Council meeting.

The CITU was asked by the Government in September to submit a list for verification of membership for the year 1970. Accordingly a list was prepared and submitted to the Government on 30th October 1971. The list contained 1851 unions with a total membership of 8,92,049. However we could not supply registration number of 243 unions with 39,746 membership. Many of these

unions had registration numbers but they failed to supply it to the centre in time. Some unions had made no efforts to get registration number as a result of which their membership was not verified. One unionfailed to fulfil necessary technical reqwirement of affiliation in time and hence its membership of 32,000 was also excluded from verification. Thus a membership of 71,746 was not verified. Out of the unions verified the Labour Ministry officials wrote to 637 unions with a membership of 197,233 that they did not either submit their annual return or did not mention their affiliation to the CITU in the annual return. Many unions though submitted returns received notices and launched complaints to the Labour Department. In West Bengal the cases were so large that the matters had to be taken up with the Regional Labour Commissioner and the Records of Registrar of Trade Union was again checked up. Eviction of large number of unions from their offices also created some difficulty in submitting papers of these unions with the authorities.

The verification results are not yet ready. If the CITU's verified membership is shown to be above 4 lakhs we will be invited to participate in the Indian Labour Conference and other tripartite bodies. From all indications it appears that CITU will get the required membership for its entry in the tripartite apparatus in the country.

The CITU, however will not join the tripartite machinery with any illusions. It will continue to champion the cause of the working class in the forum and fight against every vacilation and weakness shown by other central trade union organisations.

The CITU will have to make prior arrangement to give guidance to the participation of our nominees in various tripartite committees so that they will be able to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

I had not been able to submit a report on our publication programme during the last two years. In this period we have brought out 14 titles, 8 in English, 4 in Hindi and 2 in Bengali. The centre has so far realised about Rs. 5,000 from the sale proceeds of the literature. This comes to approximately half the amount we spent on the publications. The present stock position of each of the book is given in Annexure 5. It is found that some State Committees have not paid adequate attention to the task of sale of CITU literature seriously.

Kerala State Committee has published in Malayalam most of the CITU publications and a campaign to sell the publications had been organised in the State. Tamilnadu and Andhra have published some booklets. In West Bengal however most of the CITU publications have not been published in Bengali though there is a good demand for CITU literature.

The organisation of sale of literature of CITU is a weapon in our hands to educate the working class so that it can effectively discharge its responsibility in the present period. If the State Committees take this question more seriously it will be possible to bring out more publications by the centre. We should also take steps to clear the stock of the old publications so that our investment is not locked up for a long time.

During the last two years we have been able to establish a functioning centre which is playing the role of cordinating the activities of the CITU in different States. We have a staff of 4 comrades in the office and with the help of West Bengal State Committee we have been able to get part time help of 6 comrades. Com. Pandhe is looking after the work of the centre under the guidance of Com. B.T. Ranadive. Com. Kamal Sarkar is visiting the office almost daily and available for consultations.

Though the general work is carried out regularly the question of representation to the authorities on various issues needs more attention. The cases have to be pursued in Delhi since all the Central Government offices are

situated here. Unfortunately this side is not properly looked into and we have to make suitable arrangements to do these jobs effectively and in time. Since we are getting of late more and more grievances from unions, we should streamline our machinery in this regard without any delay.

The office-bearers have been meeting from time to time to discuss matters of immediate importance. Comrades available in Calcutta are normally called to these meetings. I personally could not attend many meetings because of my frequent tours in different States. However, attempts have been made to convene extended meetings of office-bearers for wider consultations. Since the last General Council meeting there were 2 such meetings in which members of the Working Committee available in West Bengal were invited. These meetings have helped in having a check-up of the work of the centre and giving direction of pressing issues affecting the working class. A list of office-bearers meetings and participation of members in them is given in Annexure 4.

It is however true that office-bearers are expected to take more responsibilities in discharging the duties of the centre. Since some of them are pre-occupied with other activities they are unable to spare enough time for doing the centralised work. If they take some specific responsibilities then the centre would be able to take additional responsibilities and the centre's activities will be more efficiently carried out.

In this connection I cannot but note that the task of developing the base of the CITU in States where we are weak should be given more emphasis by the centre. Unfortunately we have not been able to pay much attention to this aspect so far. This is possible only if all the office-bearers discharge their responsibilities provided in the CITU Constitution. Particularly, I feel that comrades from West Bengal who are office-bearers of the CITU can play more positive role in building and developing our centralised activities.

A word must be said about the activities of the State Committees which are expected to act as the direct link between the centre and the unions. Except West Bengal and to some extent Kerala and Tamilnadu our State Committees do not have day to day activities. They do not send to the centre regular reports of activities in their States and take appropriate steps to ensure full implementations of the decisions of the CITU at various levels.

Our Constitution provides that the State Committees should meet at least once in 3 months. However, not all the State Committees are following the provison of the Constitution in this regard. Detailed reports of the meetings of the State Committees are not sent to the centre. Since the meetings of the State Committees are a forum to have a check-up on our activities in the State, it is advisable that a representative from the centre should attend these meetings from time to time, if not regularly.

The State Committees have to make more efforts to ensure collective leadership at all levels. They should also pay special attention to see that individual unions function in a democratic manner. The trend of individual functioning which corroded the activities of the AITUC may creep in midst our functioning, unless we guard against these tendencies.

The workers of Mangalore in Karnatak organised Bundh on November 12 in protest against rising prices and unemployment as per call of the local CITU.

The two lakh State Government employees in Rajasthan went on indefinite strike in February demanding interim relief at par with the Central Government employees. Despite brutal police repression and victimisation the Rajasthan Government was forced to concede the demand of the employees.

In Assam the closure of Peco Printing under Karam Chand Thapar from July 31 led to a long drawn struggle of employees.

The struggle of 8000 construction workers under Bhilai Steel Plant management took mass casual leave and demonstrated before the Prime Minister demanding job security. A Joint Committee of all the unions was formed which forced the management to assure that all the workers would be absorbed in the Steel Plant.

The struggles of the railway workers are also on the rise despite the opposition of NFIR and AIRF leadership. The strike of 10,000 N.E.Railway employees at Gorakhpur which began on September 27 continued for 62 days. The main demand of the workers was the stoppage of retrenchment, corruption and victimisation. The police and the RPF resorted to repression on the strikers ut failed to break their morale. Finally, the Railway Minister agreed to consider the demands and assured to implement the agreement.

The management of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and the police combined to suppress the CLW Labour Union. The attempts were made to transfer all the Office-bearers of the Union but the strong opposition voiced by the workers forced the management to retrace its steps. The attacks against the Union however continued in different forms. The jeep of the Union has been seized by the police, the General Secretary of the Union and other active workers have been detained under MISA. Goondas are given free hand to terrorise the workers.

Goonda attacks against the railwaymen in West Bengal continue to increase. In Asansol and Sealdah Division as well as in Golmuhar and Bamangachi Colonies (Howrah) they are more frequent. There was a mass deputation of railwaymen to the Governor on March 4.

The railwaymen in Eastern Railway held a Convention in Ranaghat in September and organised a six thousand strong demonstration before the General Manager on September 14. In Katihar a leader of the Joint Council of Action has been detained under the MISA.

The Bank employees in India have also been marching ahead. 7000 employees of Union Bank of India started their work-to-rule movement since October 25 for realisation of their 23 point Charter of Demands. The Board of Directors of the bank refused to negotiate with the Union leaders and the Bombay employees had to gherao the Directors and force them to talk to the Union. The negotiations resulted in a settlement.

The Reserve Bank employees in Calcutta struck work for 2 hours on September 11 demanding release of some arrested workers detained under Preventive Acts. The offices of UCO Bank resorted to work-to-rule in July demanding fair promotion policy and restoration of cut in their salary.

The Central Government employees continued to struggle for need-based minimum wage and against delatory tactics with regard to publication of Third Pay Commission Report. Several local struggles and actions have taken place throughout the country. To sabotage the all-India struggle the Government tried to disrupt the National Federation of P & T Employees, premier organisation of the Central Government employees. The Government openly patronised the

contd -

minority in the Union and raised a bogey that the dispute existed in the Federation. This gross interference of the internal affairs of the trade unions was strongly resisted by the P & T employees whose local organisations sent hundreds of telegrams to the Minister demanding recognition to the constitutionally elected leadership which includes Comrades K.G.Bose and Rajan.

The 40 lakh State Government employees are struggling for salaries at par with Central Government employees which the State Government bosses are stoutly opposing. In Jammu & Kashmir on April 15 there was pen-down strike by one lakh State Government employees on this question.

The Anti-Repression Day observed throughout the country during January 31 and February 6 by the CITU Unions and the response of the workers to the call of the CITU clearly indicates that the working class of India can be roused in protest against the brutal terror of the police and gangsters of the Congress(R). The working class of India can also be drawn in solidarity actions if it is mobilised for support of the workers in West Bengal. The CITU should redouble its activities in this regard so that the task of defending democracy in West Bengal is given priority in CITU's activities.

We have seen that despite growing repression the workers and employees in all sectors of economy all fighting a grim struggle to preserve and improve their living conditions. Though the leadership of AITUC, INTUC and HMS has been trying to keep themselves aloof from united struggles the review shows that several united actions have taken place all over the country. The growing feeling of class solidarity among the mass of workers is crossing the barriers of organisational affiliations and bringing millions of workers together on common issues.

In this report, I have only made an attempt to cover some of the major struggles which have taken place since the last General Council meeting. However they sufficiently highlight the reality that it is only through unity and united struggles that the working class of India can march forward and defeat the offensive of the capitalist class.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24 - 26 April, 1972.

Annexure - 1

Response from the Working Committee Members to the proposal of the Office-bearers for postponement of the Working Committee Meeting.

1) Names of comrades who replied in the affirmative :-

1. Com. Suhrid Mallick Chowdhury
2. " Kamal Sarkar
3. " Md. Ismail
4. " B. T. Ranadive
5. " Mohan Punamia
6. " Biren Roy
7. " P. Ramamurti
8. " K. Ramani
9. " Samar Mukherjee
10. " Bimal Chatterjee
11. " Dinen Bhattacharya
12. " M. K. Pandhe
13. " Parimal
14. " T. Ayyappan
15. " R. Umanath
16. " Ram Asrey
17. Com. C. A. Peter
18. " C. Kannan
19. " Harisadhan Mitra
20. " Chandi Prasad
21. " P. Satyanarayana
22. " S. Y. Kolhatkar
23. " K. P. Ghosh
24. " N. Prasad Rao
25. " Jyoti Basu
26. " Monoranjan Roy
27. " S. Suryanarayana Rao
28. " E. Balanandan
29. " A. Nallasivan
30. " R. Mukherjee
31. " A. Balasubramaniam

Total = 31

2) Names of comrades who replied in the negative :-

1. Com. Robin Chatterjee

Total = 1

3) Names of comrades who did not reply to the Circular :-

1. Com. Sudhin Kumar
2. " Niren Ghosh
3. " Ravi Sinha
4. " Krishna Khopkar
5. " Gerald Pereira
6. " O. Bharathan
7. " K. N. Ravindranath
8. " Ajit Mukherjee
9. " O. P. Joseph
10. " K. Anandan Nambiar
11. " Santi Ghatak
12. " Benoy Chowdhury

Total = 12

C E N T R E O F I N D I A N T R A D E U N I O N S

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24 - 26 April, 1972.

ANNEXURE - 2

List of Press Statements issued by the CITU since the Coimbatore General Countil meeting.

Date of issue	Issued by whom	Subject
9.10.71	B.T.Ranadive, President, CITU.	On murderous attacks on T.U. leaders in Durgapur
12.10.71	- do -	On strikes of textile workers in Bombay, Coimbatore and Ahmedabad.
12.10.71	- do -	On General strike and Bengal Bandh.
20.10.71	- do -	On taking over of coking coal mines.
8.11.71		Office-bearers criticise the Ordinance to take over Industrial Units.
23.11.71	B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU.	On stoppage of publication of Daily Newspapers in Calcutta.
27.11.71	Monoranjan Roy & M.K.Pandhe Secretaries, CITU.	On murderous attack on prisoners in Alipore Jail.
4.12.71	Monoranjan Roy, Niren Ghosh & M.K.Pandhe, Secretaries, CITU.	On Pakistan's attack on India.
14.12.71	B.T.Ranadive, President, CITU.	On U.S. Conspiracy against India and Bangladesh
30.12.71	- do -	On U.S. Bombing of North Vietnam.
27.1.72	- do -	On attacks by anti-social elements in Durgapur.

C E N T R E O F I N D I A N T R A D E U N I O N S

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24-26 April, 1972.

ANNEXURE - 3

C I R C U L A R S I S S U E D:

No.	Issued to whom	Date of issue	Subject.
15/71	All State Committees	9.7.71	Efforts for united action at State levels on common issues facing the working class.
16/71	All Unions in Eng. Industry.	23.7.71	Information on Engineering Industry.
17/71	All State Committees	24.7.71	Monthly Journal of the CITU 'THE WORKING CLASS'.
18/71	- do -	15.9.71	Verification of CITU membership for the year 1970
19/71	All State Committees & General Council Members	18.10.71	Observatiof November 5 as "West Bengal Day"
20/71	All Unions in Plantation Industry	15.11.71	On all India Plantation Workers Conference.
21/71	All State Committees & General Council Members.	17.11.71	On observation a day against closures and for higher bonus and gratuity.
22/71	All State Committees & Working Committee Members	24.11.71	On observation of a day during week December 5 - 12.
23/71	All Plantation Unions	14.12.71	All India Plantation Workers' Conference.
24/71	All Plantation Unions	28.12.71	Postponement of all India Plantation Workers' Conference.
1/72	Working Committee Members	2.1.72	Proposal to defer the convening of the Working Committee Meeting.
2/72	All Affiliated Unions	18.1.72	On observation of 'Anti-Repression Day' between Jan. 31 - Feb. 6.
3/72	All State Committees	13.2.72	Campaign against repression on T.U. and Democratic movement in West Bengal.
4/72	- do -	7.3.72	Repression on T.U. and democratic movement in West Bengal.
5/72	All Working Committee Members	25.3.72	Meeting of the Working Committee.
6/72	All Affiliated Unions.	30.3.72	Payment of affiliation fee and submission of annual return for the year 1971.

C E N T R E O F I N D I A N T R A D E U N I O N S

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24-26 April, 1972.

ANNEXURE - 4

Office-bearers Meeting held after the Coimbatore General Council Meeting.

1.	14.7.1971	Present - Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. M.K.Pandhe, Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Kamal Sarkar.
2.	28.8.1971	Present - Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Monoranjan Roy.
3.	9.9.1971	Present - Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. M. K. Pandhe.
4.	22.9.1971	Present - Com. B. T. Ranadive, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Monoranjan Roy.
5.	18.10.1971	Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. M. K. Pandhe.
6.	7.11.1971	Present - (Extended) Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. P. Ramamurti, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. S. Y. Kolhatkar, Com. A. Balasubramanaiam, Com. N. Prasada Rao, Com. Mohan Punamia, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Bimal Chatterjee, Com. Jyoti Basu, Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Md. Ismail, Com. Biren Roy, Com. Samar Mukherjee, Com. E. Balanandan, Com. Shanti Bose.
7.	22.11.1971	Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. M. K. Pandhe.
8.	13.12.1971	Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Md. Ismail.
9.	3.1.1972	Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. Md. Ismail Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury.
10.	13.1.1972	(Extended) Present - Com. B.T.Ranadive, Com. N. Prasada Rao, Com. Jyoti Basu, Com. P. Ramamurti Com. Suhrid Mullick Chowdhury, Com. Kamal Sarkar, Com. Robin Mukherjee, Com. M. K. Pandhe, Com. Samar Mukherjee, Com. Bimal Chatterjee, Com. Krishna Pada Ghosh, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Biren Roy, Com. Shanti Bose (Observer), Com. Balasubramaniam, Com. S.Y.Kolhatkar, Com. Sudhin Kumar, Com. Mohan Punamia.
11.	24.3.1972	Present - Com. B. T. Ranadive, Com. P. Ramamurti, Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. M.K. Pandhe, Com. Kamal Sarkar.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24-26 April, 1972

ANNEXURE - 5

Statement showing copies printed and present stocks of CITU publications.

	Name of the Publication	Copies printed	Present stocks
1.	Forward to Unity and Struggle	2000	610
2.	Constitution of the CITU (English)	2000	269
3.	- do - (Hindi)	2000	1066
4.	Fight Against Repression and Disruption (Jaipur Working Committee Report)	1000	301
5.	Unmask and Defeat Anti-Labour Policies of the Congress Government	2000	1274
6.	Surging Tide of Working Class Struggles (Coimbatore General Council Meeting Report)	2000	1112
7.	Samyukta Trade Union Andolanki Nayi Disha (Hindi)	2000	1233
8.	Indian Railwaymen Forge Ahead (English)	3000	70
9.	- do - (Hindi)	2000	200
10.	- do - (Bengali)*	5000	400
11.	Employees Family Pension Scheme - A Hoax**	2000	861
12.	- do - (Hindi)***	1000	241
13.	Railwaymen and the Third Pay Commission (English)	2000	552
14.	- do - (Bengali)	8000	564
15.	- do - (Hindi)	3000	In Press

* The booklet was published on behalf of West Bengal State Committee of CITU. But the circulation was organised through the Centre.

** The publication was brought out in co-operation with Maharashtra State Committee of the CITU.

*** The publication was brought out in co-operation with Bihar State Committee of the CITU.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24 - 26 April, 1972.

A NOTE ON THE U.P. STATE COMMITTEE OF C.I.T.U.

In U.P. a State Committee was in existance as a constituent of the AITUC before the formation of the CITU. In July 1968 Dange personally went to Kanpur to engineer a split and by resorting to dishonest methods formed another State Committee rival to the Committee elected in the Conference. Since then two parallel Committees were in existance in U.P.

After the formation of the CITU, the first General Council meeting decided that the former U.P. State Committee of AITUC should be transformed into U.P. State Committee of the CITU. However, the CITU Centre had received no report of holding of any State wide meeting of representative of U.P. unions or the members of the U.P. State Committee to implement such a decision.

The first U.P. State Conference of CITU was held at Saharanpur on 26th and 27th December 1970. Com. B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU attended the Conference on behalf of the CITU Centre. However, he was surprised to find that no written report of the General Secretary was submitted nor any draft resolutions were prepared and circulated among the delegates. Care was also not taken to ensure that all the unions participating in the Conference have paid affiliation fee in full to the Centre. In the Meeting of Office-bearers of the CITU held in January 1971 Com. Ranadive noted that it was the most disorganised State Conference of the CITU.

Com. Ranadive had to strongly criticise in the Conference that no meeting of the State Committee was held prior to the Conference. On the question of functioning of the CITU in the State he gave certain directives but despite his enquiries about implementation of the decision of Sharanpur Conference he could not get any reply to his letter. Despite his suggestion that a State Committee meeting should be convened, no such meeting was organised. This manner of functioning was criticised during the Working Committee meeting at Coimbatore held in the middle of June and the General Secretary of the CITU agreed to hold the meeting.

As per decision of the Office-bearers meeting of the CITU held on 13th July, 1971 Com. Pandhe wrote to Com. Ravi Sinha, General Secretary /Committee of CITU U.P. State/ on 14th July 1971 that a meeting of the U.P. State Committee should be called on 7th or 8th August 1971 when Com. Kamal Sarkar would visit Kanpur. Com. Ravi Sinha however replied on 23rd July 1971 that the U.P. State Committee meeting was called on 1st and 2nd August much before receiving the letter from the Centre. When the dates of the State Committee meeting was fixed the Centre was not informed earlier. Com. Kamal Sarkar was prepared to adjust his programme to suit the convenience of the U.P. State Committee. However, when Com. Kamal Sarkar after his reaching Kanpur on 7th August 1971 gave a note in writing to Com. Ravi Sinha, regarding the jobs to be done by the U.P. State Committee. However no action was taken by the State Committee on the note.

The U.P. State Committee did not send a report of the State Committee meeting held on 1st and 2nd August 1971 to the Centre.

The Office-bearers meeting held on 22nd November 1971 considered holding of the CITU Working Committee meeting at Kanpur preferably in January 1972. It was decided to write to U.P. State Committee of CITU and find out whether it would be possible to make arrangements there. Accordingly, a letter was sent on 25th November 1971 to the General-

Secretary U.P. State Committee. The letter however was not replied by the State Committee.

The Working Committee meeting had to be postponed due to various reasons known to Working Committee members.

Again on 18th February Com. Pandhe wrote to U.P. State Committee of CITU whether they could still hold the Working Committee meeting at Kanpur. He criticised the failure of the State Committee to reply to Centre's letter. However the State Committee did not send any reply to this letter also.

Several letters sent by the Centre have not been replied by the State Committee in a similar manner. The State Committee has sent no report on the action taken by the State Committee on the circulars issued by the CITU Centre or the campaigns launched by the CITU.

There is every reason to conclude that the Office of the U.P. State Committee does not function. It has no lively contact with local unions. The leading Office-bearers of the State Committee do not see eye to eye each other and the strained relationship has gone deeper into the ranks who are getting demoralised due to the behaviour of the leadership.

In view of this Com. B. T. Ranadive wrote to the U.P. State Committee stating that a meeting of the State Committee should be convened on 28th and 29th April, 1972 and he would personally attend it.

In connection with the functioning of the U.P. State Committee of CITU, the major responsibility is that of Com. Ravi Sinha who failed to reply to letters of the Centre and implement decisions taken by Committees. His non-serious attitude about the functioning on the State Committee and persistant refusal to carry out the directive of the higher authorities has resulted in deteriorating the state of affairs in U.P.

The matters are being referred to the Working Committee because despite Centre's efforts the leadership of CITU in U.P. has failed to behave in a responsible way.

In Kanpur and other industrial Centres several struggles have been conducted under the leadership of the CITU. However it has not been possible to consolidate the CITU movement in the State due to the non-functioning of the State Committee. Several new comrades who have come closer to the CITU are also feeling demoralised about this state of affairs.

The Working Committee members are requested to give their suggestions for improvement of the state of affairs in U.P. so that CITU activities in the State can be brought on a sound footing.

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

Working Committee Meeting
New Delhi, 24 - 26 April, 1972.

A REPORT ON CITU JOURNAL THE WORKING CLASS

The Working Committee meeting of the CITU held at Jaipur on 4th - 6th October 1970 had directed the Office-bearers to take suitable steps to bring a bulletin or a journal of the CITU at an early date.

However, the Office-bearers found it difficult to bring out such a journal within first six months due to non-availability of proper cadre to bring out such a journal and other technical difficulties.

The demand for the journal was being raised by comrades from below quite frequently and Office-bearers made efforts to overcome the difficulties.

In the meeting of the Office-bearers it was decided that the title of the journal should be The Working Class and Com. Monoranjan Roy Secretary CITU was authorised to file in an application to bring out the journal. He filed an application in May itself.

In another meeting of Office-bearers it was decided that the following comrades should function as the Editorial Board

Com. B. T. Ranadive (Chairman), Com. P. Ramamurti, Com. Niren Ghosh, Com. Monoranjan Roy, Com. Sudhin Kumar and Com. M. K. Pandhe (Editor).

The first issue was brought out in September 1971 and since then 4000 copies are being printed. From the month of January we got postal concession while a newsprint licence was also obtained from the month of April.

The response to the journal in different States can be seen from the following statement:

STATEMENT NO.1

On Circulation and Arrears of The Working Class/April issue upto 15th April.

State	Total No. of Agencies	Copies Supplied Agency	Subscribers.	Total arrears Agency's due upto April 15	No. of C.I.T.U affiliated unions who are subscribers.
W.Bengal	11	1218	128	Rs. 86.60	30
Bihar	12	176	30	" 167.80	
Mysore	5	126	23	" 132.50	14
Tamilnadu	5	175	66	" 198.00	10
Punjab	4	70	30	" 103.50	2
Assam	4	41	8	" 47.10	1
New Delhi	3	110	9	" 162.50	
Kerala	3	150	68	" 112.50	21

Contd -

Bombay	2	57	34	Rs.	20.20	2
M. P.	2	20	18	"	12.00	
Maharashtra	1	35	7	"	20.50	1
Rajasthan	1	12	6	"	3.60	
U. P.	1	15	27	"	11.50	4
Tripura	1	10	5	"	9.00	
Andhra Pradesh	1	70	44	"	41.00	1
Goa			4			1
Gujarat			9			
Orissa			16			
Haryana			5			
H. P.			3			
J & K			1			
Cash Sale		223				
Foreign Agency	1	5				
Foreign Subscriber			2			
Complementary:						
In India		56				
Outside India		24				
Sale on Credit		185				
		2778	538		Rs.1128.30	87

= 3316 copies distributed

4000 copies printed

Due to repression and gangsterism in West Bengal the circulation has fallen during March and April by about 500.

It is also seen that in some States the circulation of the journal does not keep in with the strength of the CITU. Not all the State Committees have taken keen interest in boosting the circulation. In some of the leading industrial centres efforts have not yet been made to start agency of the journal.

It is also found that payment of arrears are not made promptly by some centres. The State Committees should see that all the agents show promptness in this regard. The total arrears of payment and deposit amount to Rs.1128.30. Though these are against the deposits from the agents still the amount of arrears is quite high. Major arrears are in Bihar, Mysore, Delhi and Tamilnadu. The management will have no other alternative but to stop the agencies if the dues are not cleared.

The financial position of the journal is seen from the Statement No.2

Contd - 3

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STATEMENT NO.2

Statement of Account of The Working Class
(Sept. 1971 - 15th April 1972)

INCOME	Rs. P.	EXPENDITURE	Rs. P.
Security Deposit	918.00	Printing Charges (Including Paper Sept-March)	5048.75
Subscription	2523.30	Salary from Jan.'72 to March '72	600.00
Cash Sale	4625.48	News Print(for April)	382.50
		Postage Stamps	324.81
		Stationary	57.13
		Miscellaneous	84.12
Total	8066.78	Total	6497.31

In the early stages since we did not have the newsprint licence and the postal concession we had to spend about Rs.150 more per month on that account. Now the position has been eased to some extent.

In the beginning we did not have the manager to look after the circulation of the journal. However, since January we have appointed Com. Nikhil Gupta as full time manager on payment of Rs.200 as monthly allowances. His wages are paid from the Working Class funds.

In order to have a separate estimate of the performance of the journal the Office-bearers decided to keep The Working Class funds in a separate account. The account is jointly operated by Comrades Sudhin Kumar, Monoranjan Roy and M. K. Pandhe.

The statement makes it clear that CITU has not spent anything so far on account of The Working Class. However, there is no scope for complacency in the matter. The Statement indicates that the journal is just managing somehow financially.

The experience of the last 8 months of running the journal tells us that if the circulation stabilises at 4000 we are in a position to make both ends meet somehow. To make it run properly it is necessary to increase the circulation upto 5000. If the State Committees co-operate in this task it may not be difficult to increase the circulation.

Since the journal is in English there are difficulties in pushing up sales among the mass of workers. Yet the CITU State Committees and unions can enrol subscribers among salaried employees and educated workers.

It appears that many CITU unions have not enrolled themselves as subscribers of the journal. The State Committees should see that every CITU union takes a copy of the journal so that the message of the CITU reaches every union regularly.

It is also necessary that State Committees take initiative in bringing out journals in regional languages. Andhra State Committees has already brought out a monthly journal Karmika Lokam since November 1971 while Maharashtra Committee is bringing out a weekly journal Warg Yudhha from 1st of May next.

Contd - 4

Kerala State Committee has applied for declaration in Malayalam language. West Bengal State Conference of the CITU held at Asansol in September 1971 decided to bring out a journal in Bengali language.

The need for a Hindi journal of the CITU is strongly felt by the cadres. However due to non-availability of proper staff the Centre is finding it difficult to bring it out.

The Editorial Board has been meeting every month. Apart from the members of the Editorial Boards we have been inviting Comrades Biren Roy, Prasanta Ghosh, Amiya Bose, Subir Poddar who are doing work in the journal. Com. Sudarshan Roy Chowdhury was working in the journal till the end of December 1971. He joined as a member of the staff of the West Bengal State Committee and now not working in the journal.

Com. B. T. Ranadive has been regularly writing in the journal and giving overall guidance in bringing out the journal. However, the Editorial Board on the whole has not functioned properly. Some of the members could not attend the meeting regularly and contribute to the journal. There is much scope for improvement in the standard of the journal which is possible only if the Editorial Board dischargges its responsibility efficiently.

The State Committees can also help by giving suggestions for the improvement of the journal and by contributing reports and articles on the working class movements in the respective States. At present we are not getting regular reports from the State which is a serious handicap in popularising the struggles conducted by our unions.

The Working Committee members are expected to give their suggestions for improvement of the journal that it can discharge its responsibility more effectively in days to come.

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DURGAPUR WORKERS URGE

DEFEND TRADE UNION AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

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DURGAPUR TRADE UNION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

April 17, 1972.

Press conference addressed by Sri Dilip Mazumder, Sri Sukhen Sarkar and Sri Probhat Chatterjee of DTUCC held in the office of CITU West Bengal Committee at 249, Bepin Behari Ganguly Street, Calcutta-12 :

The terror and repression let loose in Durgapur industrial belt after the fall of the United Front Government in West Bengal, has been greatly intensified by the ruling Congress following the rigged election held on 11th March, 1972, to eliminate all CITU affiliated unions and to suppress the class conscious workers of Durgapur.

The safety and security of the workers are at stake and the right 'to form unions and associations' and to function them with freedom is under attack.

The gangsters and local rowdies of Congress (R) with direct help from police, CRP and local administration are openly attacking the workers and unions with bombs, pistols and rifles. The method adopted by them is as follows :

1. Forcibly occupying offices of CITU unions.
2. Forcing the workers to join unions of Congress (R). Those who refuse to join are assaulted and threatened with murder and prevented from reporting to their duties.
3. The Office Bearers, Executive Committee members and leading workers of CITU affiliated unions are threatened with murder and evicted from their quarters and prevented from reporting to their duties in respective factories.

4. Forcibly collecting money from workers and their families and assault and humiliate them whem they refuse to oblige the rowdies.
5. The workers are told to sign bonds distributed by Congress (R) rowdies purported to be a declaration from the worker that he has erred in following the wrong policies of CITU union and as such he voluntarily resigns from CITU union and joins the union of Congress (R). The workers are told that those who would refuse to sign this bond, would not be allowed to stay in Durgapur or to work in the factories.
6. House of the workers looted and also burnt.
7. The leaders and active workers of CITU unions are implicated in false cases and arrested by police. When this method proves insufficient, Trade unions leaders are detained without trial.

Immediately following the election, two workers Sri Sujit Debsarman of Sagarbhanga Colony and Ajit Das of D. P. L. Colony were murdered and five workers were stabbed in Durgapur.

The union office of A. V. B. Employees' Union at AVB Colony and Sagarbhanga Colony were forcibly occupied. The union office of Hindustan Steel Employees' Union was looted.

The union leaders of Durgapur Project Employees' Union and Durgapur Chemical Employees' Union are forcibly prevented from opening the union office and to function from there.

The workers were victims of a series of attacks in the post election period. Some of the incidents are listed below :

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT :

1. On 15th March Congress rowdies—Jahar Saha and Banu Bose used most abusive language to humiliate the family

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members of Shri Phani Bhattacherjee and Shri Anil Ghosh. When Sri Bhattacherjee and Shri Ghosh strongly protested against the behaviour of the rowdies, the rawdies threatened them with revolvers.

2. On 16th March, 1972 about 25 Congress rowdies attacked the house of Shri Dipak Mullick at 14/3, Einestine Avenue in presense of police. The family members of Sri Dipak Mullick were insulted and humiliated by the rowdies.

3. On 16th March Congress (R) rowdies attacked the house of Shri Subodh Biswas at 5/8, Marconi Avenne and threatened to murder the inmates. Even the children of the house were beaten.

4. On the same day i. e. 16th March, the rowdies also attacked the house of Sri Hiralal Chanda at 10/46 Einestine Avenue. Police put off the street lights of Einestine Avenue when the rowdies carried on the attack.

5. On 16th March Congress rowdies—Jahor Saha and two others—threatened with murder Sri Tarapada Acharjee of 20/3, Bidyapati Road and Sri Sukumar Malakar of 20/12, Bidyapati Road. The rowdies asked Sri Badal Sharma to vacate his house at 9/13 Bidyapati Road and threatened of dire consequences if he did not obey them.

6. On 16th March when the houses of the workers of Newton Avenue and Einestine Avenue were attacked the rowdies assaulted Sri Gauri Sankar Mazumder, D. D. Chatterjee and Lakshman Banik.

7. On 29th March Congress rowdies attacked the house of Sri Amar Ganguly of 6th Street of Ranaprotap Road. The rowdies also attacked the house of Sri P. Roy, Vice President of Hindustan Steel Employees' Union at 11th Street of Ranaprotap Road. The house of Shri Ajit Chatterjee and Shri Soumen Chakrabarty were attacked by the rowdies on the same day.

8. The house of Sri Madhab Roy at 21/9, Ashoke Avenue was looted by the rowdies and younger brother of Sri Roy was severely beaten.

9. Dilip Dey of 22/2, Ashoke Avenue was so severely beaten that he had to be hospitalised.

10. The house of Shri Satyabrata Sanyal at 21/2, Ashoke Avenue was attacked and the belongings were damaged.

11. Congress rowdies dragged out Shri Debabrata Ghosh from his quarter at 22/4, Ashoke Avenue and severely assaulted him. Shri Ghosh had to be hospitalised.

12. On 18th April, 1972 Shri Dilip Mukherjee, a worker of the Co-operative Society was beaten by the rowdies in Mahiskapur Road of Steel Township.

13. Shri Madhav Ojha an employee of Slag Bank and Shri Rebati Das of Foundry Department were severely beaten by the rowdies of 2nd April, 1972.

14. On 8th April Congress rowdies attacked the house of workers in Einestine Avenue and demolished one school of small children. The attack was led by Shri Hiren Sengupta.

15. On 9th April Congress rowdies attacked the workers of Edison Road with bombs and firearms and assaulted Shri Manash Mukherjee, Rathin Majumder, Milan Bhattacharjee, A. K. Panda, H. L. Dey and others in presence of police. Police, however, arrested eleven workers who were attacked by the rowdies.

16. On 9th April Congress rowdies attacked the office of CITU affiliated Hindustan Steel Employees' Union at 20/7, Edison Road and looted the typewriter and destroyed all union records.

17. The rowdies also assaulted Shri Anil Ghosh, M. N. Bose, Phani Bhattacherjee and N. C. Paul of Bidyapati Road.

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The rowdies handed over Shri Phani Bhattacherjee to police after severely assaulting him.

18. The Service of Sri Dayamay Ruidas, employee of Durgapur Steel Plant and activist of the H. S. E. Union was terminated without assigning any reasen.

ALLOY STEEL PLANT :

1. On 12th April Shri N. K. Chatterjee was attacked by Congress rowdies while he was going to factory duty. Sri Chatterjee was stabbed.
2. On 18th March Congress rowdies kidnapped Shri Nabin Chatterjee and assaulted him. Shri Joydev Das was also assaulted on the same day.

A. V. B. FACTORY :

1. On 13th March Congress rowdies attacked the quarters of Shri Biswanath Chowdhury and Shri T. N. Gupta, General Secretary and Asstt. Secretary of A. V. B. Employees' Union.
2. On 14th March 30 leading workers of the union were evicted from their quarters and forced to leave the township at the point of guns.
3. On 15th March Congress rowdies attacked the house of Shri C. P. Sinha. Shri Sinha was not at his quarter at that time. The rowdies assaulted the younger brother of Shri Sinha. Shri Sinha's brother had a small shop in Swapna Market which was looted by the rowdies.
4. On 16th March Congress rowdies asked the employees of Co-operative Society to tender resignation from their job and to leave the township.
5. On 23rd March Congress rowdies forcibly occupied the office of A. V. B. Employees' Union in presence of police.

6. On 25th March night Congress rowdies attacked the house of Shri Bibhu Chakrabarty. Shri Bibhu Chakrabarty was not at home at that time. The rowdies asked his father to vacate the house. Next morning the rowdies came with firearms and forcibly dragged out Shri Chakrabartys' old father and took possession of the house.

7. On 31st March Congress rowdies dragged out Shri Kalicharan Maity from his house and severely assaulted him.

8. On 1st April Congress rowdies looted the quarters of Shri B. K. Mukherjee and Shri S. K. Mukherjee—quarters No. RR-278 and RR-272.

9. On 8th April Congress rowdies assaulted Shri Niranjan Karar.

10. The workers are forced by Congress rowdies to join the union of Congress (R). When the workers come to punch their cards inside the factory to record their attendance, the rowdies force them to sign the membership form of Congress (R) union. The workers are not allowed to punch their cards as long as they do not sign the membership form. Shri Atin Mukherjee, Assistant Sub Inspector of Police, specially posted in A. V. B. Township threaten to arrest the workers and evict them from their quarter if they do not join the union of Congress (R).

11. Congress rowdies and Shri Atin Mukherjee, the police officer do not allow the workers even to purchase their daily necessities from the market, who refuse to join the union of Congress (R). When wives of those workers go for marketing, the rowdies and Shri Atin Mukherjee insult and humiliated them and prevent them from going to market.

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12. Shri B. K. Ghosh, the Industrial Relation Officer of ACC-Vickers-Babcock Ltd., Durgapur is the main conspirator and the Congress rowdies and police are acting under his instruction to wreck CITU affiliated A V. B. Employees' Union.

DURGAPUR CHEMICAL :

1. On 19th March Congress rowdies attacked Shri Mahadev Bairagi with iron rods and seriously injured him. Shri Bairagi is still in hospital.
2. The leading workers of CITU affiliated Durgapur Chemical Employees' Union Shri Asoke Bose, Manoj Bag, Dipak Dey, Sukumar Bardhan, Debidas Roy, Balaram Paul were attacked by Congress rowdies and severely beaten.
3. The following office bearers and Leading workers of CITU Union are forcibly prevented by Congress rowdies from reporting to their duties in the factory :

   Shri P. K. Roy, Asstt. Secretary
   ,, R. C. Datta, Asstt. Secretary
   ,, Susanta Bose, Executive Member
   ,, Swapan Mukherjee, Executive Member
   ,, Panchanan Banerjee, Executive Member
   ,, Shamal Chatterjee
   ,, Sowmen Dutta

4. Most of the office bearers and Executive Committee members have been evicted from their quarters and forced to leave the township under threats of murder.
5. The Workers are forced to join the union of Congress (R). Those who refuse are assaulted. A number of letters were written to Factory Management but uptil now no action has been taken to ensure safety and security of the workers.

MINING & ALLIED MACHINERY CORPORATION :

1. On 12th March Congress rowdies attacked Shri Arjun Dhar, Achut Chakrabarty and Ratan Ghatak—the active workers of CITU affiliated Heavy Engineering Employees' Union.
2. On 16th March Congress rowdies came in a Ambassador Car (WGJ 3517) searched for Shri Dilip Nandy in the Township (Viswakarma Nagar) and threatened to murder him when they (rowdies) get him.
3. Shri Jaladhar Manna, Executive Committee Member of HEE Union was arrested by police on 7th February, '72 in a false case. His bail was granted by the court. On 16th March when Union leaders went to release him from prison Shri Manna was detained without trial under MISA.
4. On 16th March Shri Rakhal Bhattacherjee, General Secretary of H.E.E. Union was detained without trial under MISA.
5. Shri Haradhan Das was attacked by Congress rowdies and stabbed on 30th March. Shri Asoke Banerjee and Shri Dipak Aich were the leaders of the gang which attacked Sri Das.
6. Sri Dilip Roy Chowdhury and Sri Amal Basu, active workers of H. E. E. Union were evicted from their quarters in Sagarbhanga Colony by Congress rowdies with threats of murder.
7. In violation of the practice to recruit new hands through Employment Exchange, Congress rowdies are given direct employment to terrorise the workers inside the factory.

SANKEY WHEEL (Guest Keen Williams) :

1. Shri Jogesh Das, Haripada Chakrabarty and Bimal Banerjee were assaulted by Congress rowdies before the factory gate.

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2. Known anti-social elements—Jagannath Dutta, Sarat Talapatra and Sukumar Chowdhury are giving threatening to murder the active workers.

3. Sri Harilal Ghosh is prevented from reporting to his duties by Congress rowdies.

DURGAPUR STATE TRANSPORT SERVICE :

1. Congress rowdies attacked the office of D.S.T.S. Employees' Union and burnt all union records.

2. The following workers are prevented from reporting to their duties :

Sri Mihir Sen
„ Mihir Rudra
„ Ajit Biswas
„ Prabir Chakraborty
„ Santosh Layak
„ Kartik Purakayat
„ Kasi Chakraborty
„ D. P. Bose
„ V. K. Rajan
„ Swapan Banerjee
„ Jyan Das
„ Shanti Mazumdar

3. Sri Swapan Banerjee was severely assaulted and forced to resign from CITU affiliated D S.T.S. Employees' Union. Sri G. Das was also severely assaulted and told by Congress rowdies not to attend his duties.

4. Sri Kartick Chandra Purakayat was attacked by Congress rowdies on 21. 3. 72, 31. 3. 72 and 7. 4. 72 and Sri Prabir Chakraborty was attacked on 7. 4. 72. Both of them were severely beaten. Sri Purakait and Sri Chakraborty in written representation informed all these incidents to the Chief Executive Officer, Durgapur State Transport

Board and demanded measure for their safety and security. But no action has so far been taken. The rowdies assemble everyday at the gate of the Depot and prevent the workers from coming to their duties.

DURGAPUR NOTIFIED AREA AUTHORITY :

Sri Ashoke Mozumdar, Office Assistant and Joint Secretary of D. N. A. A. Employees' Union is forcibly prevented by Congress rowdies from joining his duty. Other workers and employees of D. N. A. A. are regularly threatened that they would not be allowed to stay in Durgapur if they do not join the Union of Congress (R).

DURGAPUR PROJECT LIMITED :

1. **On 14th March 1972** Sarbasri **Taraprasad Ghose** of Electrical Division, **Sital Chatterjee** of the Office of Deputy Chief Engineer and **Karuna Pal**, Driver of Water Works were severely assaulted and taken to Hospital.

2. **On 15th March, 1972** Sarbasri **Rabin Sen,** Chargeman of the Tar & By-Products Plant, Vice-President of the D.P.L. Employees' Union, **N. G. Sen**—Coke-Oven Operator, Gr.-1 and **Sudhir Chakraborty,** Hospital (Ambulance) Driver were severely assaulted and taken to the Hospital.

3. **On 21st March, 1972** Sarbasri **Satyan Senyal,** Gr-I Operator of Tar & By-Product Plant and **Sibangshu Chowdhury** of Tar & By-Products Plant, Gr-1 Operator were physically assaulted and were removed to hospital.

4. **On 22nd March, 1972** Sarbasri **Satya Bose**, Power Plant (Mech.) **Setai Saha**, Fitter, Central Workshop, **Subhash Sarkar**, Foreman, Coal Washery were assaulted and taken to hospital.

5. **On 25th March, 1972** Sri Sisir Kundu, Tech. Gr. III of Mech./Division was assaulted severely when he was

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coming from his duty. He was beaten by broken bottle in his head and chin.

6. **On 12th April, 1972** Sri Nikhil Chatterjee of Tr. Section was stabbed by Congress rowdies while he was going to the Factory to report to duty in "C" Shift.

7. The following Union leaders and active workers of CITU Union were evicted from Coke-Oven Township (Durgapur Project) and forcibly prevented from reporting to their duties :

I Sukhen Sarkar, Vice-President.
II) Asit Mitra, Secretary.
III) Joy Narayan Chakraborty, Secretary.
IV) Priya Lal Das, Assistant Secretary.
V) Utpal Roy Burman, Sr. Boy, Canteen.
VI) Mrinal Sarkar, -Do-
VII) Bishu Mazumdar, Driver.
VIII) Jatin Chakraborty, Clerk.
IX) Pabitro Pal, Vice-President.
X) Arabinda Sarkar, Clerk.
XI) Ranjit Dhar, Clerk.
XII) Tamal Das Gupta, Operator.
XIII) Tarun Bose, Assistant Secretary.
XIV) Biplab Bose, -Do-
XV) Kalyan Biswas, Committee Member.

8. **WORKERS EVICTED FROM THEIR QUARTERS AND FORCED TO LEAVE DURGAPUR.**

Dilip Chatterjee	Dy. Chief Engineer's Office.
Uday Hazra	Town Administration Office.
Bishtu Mozumdar	Dy. Chief Office.
Santosh Chakraborty	Hospital.
Utpal Banerjee	Canteen,
Sukdev Mukherjee	Canteen.

Benoy Neogi	Central Workshop Office.
Nanda Dulal Mukherjee	-Do-
Paritosh Datta	Coal Washery.
Manik Ghosh	Coal Washery.
Sisir Kundu	Mech/Divn.
Mridul Das Gupta	Central Testing Cell.
Bhagilal Balmiki	Town Sweeper.
Manna Balmiki	-Do-
Tapan Sarkar	Traffic.
Satya Mukherjee	Traffic.
Shamal Ghosh	Power Plant Mech.
Arun Raha	-Do-
Pradyat Chatterjee	COKE-OVEN.
Dwipen Munshi	-Do-
A. Chatterjee	Gas Plant.
Sukumar Kaibiatya	Security.
Fatik Banerjee	Security.
Kalyan Biswas	Power Plant.
Mukul Mukherjee	Traffic.
Paritosh Datta	Coal Washery (Operation)

9. Gangsters and rowdies of Congress (R) are forcibly entering into the quarters of the active members and supporters of the Durgapur Project Employees' Union and threatening to murder them if they donot resign from their jobs and vacate their quarters. The representatives of the Union met Sri Zaenul Abedin, Minister-in-charge of State Undertakings, Government of West Bengal on 7th April '72 and requested him to take measure for safety and security of the workers and to ensure that the workers could report to their duties with full security. The Minister categorically said that no such assurance would be given by the Government and the workers should themselves find their own security which indirectly meant that the workers and Union leaders should join the Union of Congress (R) as otherwise no safety or security could be guaranteed.

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CONTRACTORS LABOUR OF DURGAPUR STEEL PROJECT :

About 120 workers of C I T U affiliated Union have been retrenched and in their place Congress rowdies have been given employment.

The Office of CITU affiliated United Contractors Workers Union at Benachitty was twice attacked by Congress rowdies.

SHOP EMPLOYEES :

Congress rowdies are forcing the shop owners to terminate the services of workers who are members of CITU affiliated union. 8 leading union workers have already been dismissed to provide employment to Congress rowdies.

The Ruling Congress has employed the gangsters and local rowdies to physically anahilate the leaders and active workers of CITU affiliated unions. Out of 60,000 workers, 45,000 workers in Durgapur are associated with CITU Unions. The main purpose of the attacks is to crush this consolidated force of workers and to physically eliminate the existance of the organised unions affiliated to CITU.

This is happening all over West Bengal today.

The workers of Durgapur face this ordeal with courage. They are determined to defend their trade union and democratic rights earned through years of struggle.

Series of letters and representations were given to Government of West Bengal and Government of India urging upon them to take immediate measure for safety and security of workers and to retain Trade Union and democratic rights. But the Government instead of taking action against the gangsters and rowdies, are giving them direct encouragement. The Government is thus following a deliberate policy to crush trade union and democratic rights of the workers. If this attack

continues, it will not be confined to trade union sphere only. The ruling Congress in a determined manner is trying to distroy the very basis of democracy in our country. If this dangerous trend is not resisted by united movement of all sections of the democratic people, the attack will engulf the whole of India.

We, therefore, appeal to all workers and trade unions, to all democratic people of the country, irrespective of their political views, to take proper note of the gravity of the situation and extend their active co-operation in the struggle to defend democratic and trade union rights, not only in Durgapur but all over West Bengal.

We also appeal to the members of the Press to make their own investigation and hold aloft the freedom of Press in ventilating the incidents in order to safeguard trade union and democratic rights of the people.

Published by Dilip Mazumder, President, Hindustan Steel Employees' Union, 20/7, Edison Road, Durgapur
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REPORT ON WEST BENGAL
- POST ELECTION SITUATION

* Placed in the meeting of the Working Committee, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, held in New Delhi, April 24-26, 1 9 7 2.

- By Monoranjan Roy, General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE.

After we met in the meeting of the General Council of CITU at Coimbatore in June 1971, new developments of far reaching consequence has taken place in West Bengal. Immediately after our Coimbatore General Council meeting, the Congress(R)-Muslim Leaque Coalition Government supported by the Right Communists and AITUC leadership, collapsed, the Legislative Assembly was dissolved and President's Rule was again imposed in West Bengal. In the following period terror and repression was let loose on a scale, not seen before in the post-independence era in India. The belts of organised working class and Kissans [illegible] were the main target off attack and it reached a culminating stage on 11th March,1972 when the election was made a farce of democracy.

In the earlier period, after the fall of United Front Government, the attack was organised under the cover of Naxalite terror. The police, CRP and administration carried on repression on the plea of suppressing the Naxalites. But the Naxalites were thoroughly exposed and the working class and the people of West Bengal courageously withstood t he attacks. The working class and the people faught effectively to defend and maintain their economic gains achieved during the United Front Government and rallied in millions in State-wide strikes and hundreds of local Bunds to defend their political and democratic rights and on the demand for a fresh electio-n. It was due to the unity of the working class and struggles of the working class, peasants and the masses, Congress(R) failed to secure absolute majority in 1971 election and equally failed to regain its hold in West Bengal. The Congress(R)-Muslim Leaque Government had to exit before completion of 100 days. The working class and the fighting people of West Bengal could not be suppressed or subdued. It was in this background the terror and repression was let loose on an unprecedented scale and the gangsters of Congress(R) organised by Chhatra Parishad and Youth Congress along with Polic e and CRP started joint operation from July 1971.

TERROR AND REPRESSION BEFORE 1972 ELECTION :

In the new wave of attack, terror and repression was unleashed in those areas where working class and Kissans are most organised and the areas from where the candidates of Left Democratic parties are traditionally returned in election. The entire industrial belt of Barrackpore Sub-Divison, Sonarpur, Kissan belt of South 24-Parganas district, in Calcutta - Beliaghata North and South, Jadavpur - Tollyganj area, Cossipore and North Calcutta, entire Burdwan district, organised Kissan belts of Birbhum district, industrial belts of Howrah and Hooghly district, Farraka and organised Kissan belts of various other districts were affected.

contd/2.

From this time direct move was initiated to disrupt the organised unions of CITU and to scare away the workers from CITU unions by creating large scale terror. The leaders of Chhatra Parishad and Youth Congress registered a number of new unions and started addressing the workers. In many places they established themselves in INTUC Unions.

The gangsters and local rowdies of Congress(R) first occupied the areas around big factories, terrorised the inhabitants and workers and then graduallyimmobilised the functioning of CITU unions. After this was accomplished, the hold was extended to factories, meetings and processions of workers were attacked and stopped. The union offices were either captured or forcibly prevented from functioning. This was the tactics of attack. The rowdies used to remain on guard duty at the gates of the factories forcibly collecting moneyfrom the workers and preventing key organisers of CITU unions from reporting to their duties. This was the pattern of attack seen in Dum Dum (Jessop factory), Tollygunj (Jay Engineering Works), Titagarh, Khardah, Dakhindary, Mahestolla and in various factories and Coal Mines in Durgapur-Asansol-Raniganj area. But the gangsters and rowdies of Congress(R) could not stand before workers resistance without the help of police and CRP.

From July to October 1971, the gangsters and local rowdies used to initiate the attacks with police and CRP support on both the flanks. When the workers and local people came forward to resist the attacks, police and CRP covered the retreat of the gangsters and rowdies. After the gangsters fled away from the place, police and CRP came upon the workers and the people/and resorted to indiscriminate firings, assaults and arrests. When the workers and the local people showed their undiminished courage and ability to resist the attacks of the gangsters and rowdies, the method of operation was changed. From November 1971 the gangsters, local rowdies, police and CRP started joint operation. The gangsters used the rifles of police and CRP. In various places they carried on operations doning the uniforms of police and CRP, moved in the vans of police and CRP in broad day light. A sizable section of known Naxalities joined the Congress(R) and openly participated in these operation. The local rowdies were appointed on a monthly pay of Rs.105/- as informers. When all these attacks failed to scare the people, patrolling by the army was used as a method to terrorise them.

A detailed report on the attacks on Trade Unions in West Bengal in the pre-election period has already been published in a booklet titled - "Stop this Reign of Terror in West Bengal" covering a forward by the President of CITU. This booklet has already been circulated and as such we are not going into the details of various incidents.

In the Kissan belts there was large scale eviction from lands. The poor and landless peasants unitedly resisted the attacks. Police and CRP were deployed to help the 'Jotedars' to harvest crop on lands cultivated by the poor and landless peasants, the 'benami' and vested land they got possession of during the United Front Government. The fighting kissans were most brutally tortured and killed in village Ghosh Pukur of Hooghly district, Bijur in Burdwan district and in various other places. Peasant women were molested, tortured and also killed. The peasants resistance was so effective that in village Alhadipur(Burdwan District) the administration deployed army to suppress the fighting peasants.

Even though it was an unequal fight before the combined the attacks of police, CRP and armed gangsters of Congress(R), the mood and urge for resistance of the working class and the people of West Bengal were expressed in two statewide general strike and 'bundh' in quick succession - one on 27th August and the other on 13th Oct'71. A general strike was observed earlier in April 1971 in support of the liberation struggle of Bangladesh.

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INTUC and HMS opposed the general strikes of August and October 1971. AITUC supported their stand though outwardly demanded deferment of the general strike. But ultimately AITUC did not dare to openly oppose the strikes and had to fall in extending their support though in many factories their followers tried to disrupt it. Both the strikes were successfully held all over West Bengal despite opposition from INTUC and HMS.

In September 1971, Government of West Bengal dismissed 13 top leaders of State Government employees without assigning any reason. Central Government also dismissed 32 leaders and workers of Ordinance Factories in Calcutta under Presidential prerogative. One of the main demand of the state-wide general strike on 14th October 1971 was for their reinstatement.-

On 8th January 1972 CITU WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE submitting a memorandum to the Governor of West Bengal in a mass deputation in protest against attacks on Trade Unions. On 9th January the representatives of CITU(WB) also met the Governor and demanded a thorough enquiry and to take effective measures to stop attacks on trade unions.

A convention was jointly organised by CITU, UTUC and UTUC(Lenin Sarani) on 29th January 1972 in protest against attacks on Trade Unions and a mass meeting was jointly held on 12th February 1972 at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta.

But the situation deteriorated more and more. After declaration of the election, terror and repression was further intensified. The administration, police, CRP and Congress(R) gangsters - all worked in unison. All attempts proved abortive to restore peaceful condition for a free and fair election.

ELECTION - A BIG FARCE

The terror created before the election reached its highest stage on the election day (i.e. 11th March 1972). In 51 constituencies, majority of which were working class areas, armed gangsters of Cong(R) with the help of police and CRP forcibly prevented election campaign for any candidate other than Congress(R) and its allies. The candidates of Left Front and their workers could neither contact the voters nor could hold any meeting.

On the election day, armed gangs with the help of Police and CRP occupied the booths. The voters were forced to cast votes in favour of Congress(R) and its allies. When the voters protested, they were scared away at the point of guns and votes were cast in absense of voters. In many constituencies voting was completed by 1 P.M. whereas in constituencies like Dum Dum and Khardah, voting was done the day before. In these constituencies, the candidates of Left Front were declared defeated by huge margin of votes - whereas in earlier elections they were elected by comfortable majority.

The conspirators did not stop there. All other methods were adopted to rig the election all over West Bengal. Ballot papers were tampered, ballot boxes were changed, counting was manipulated and defeated Congress(R) candidates were declared elected.

The people were thus denied the right of vote. Election was made a farce of democracy.

CITU West Bengal Committee issued a statement on 18th Mar'72 on the election in West Bengal and a copy is enclosed (Enclosure No.1).

From the election day itself, the armed gangs of Congress(R) further intensified the terror. The workers and supporters of left parties were attacked, their houses were looted and they were evicted from their houses. It was found impossible to function trade unions in hundreds of factories and establishments.

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After the election there was no rejoicing among the people. On 20th March 1972 when the ministery of Congress(R) was formed, hardly two thousand people assembled before the Raj Bhavan, Calcutta (where oath was taken by the ministers) and about 1200 men assembled before the Writers Building. But in 1967 and 1969 when the United Front formed Government in West Bengal, hundreds of thousands of people thronged on the road and the entire area facing Raj Bhavan and Writers Building was a vast crowd of cheerful and rejoicing people.

The results of 1972 election in working class areas are given in the enclosure (enclosure No.2) along with result of election in 1967, 1969 and 1971 in West Bengal.

POST ELECTION SITUATION - ATTACK ON TRADE UNIONS INTENSIFIED.

Before the election Congress(R) gave the slogan - 'One Nation, One Party, One Leader'. In wall writings during election campaign another slogan appeared - 'Indira Gandhi - the new sun of Asia'. From the very day of election the people had the taste of these slogans when armed gangs took control of the election machinery in collusion with police. From the evening of election day the armed commanders intensified their actions and declared that Congress(R) would get a thumping majority and everyone should bow to its dictates. The gangsters and rowdies openly declared that anti-Congress(R) forces would be physically eleminated and started forcible eviction of the workers and supporters of the Left Front parties. This process is still continuing. About 20,000 families have so far been evicted from areas like Dum Dum, Khardah, Titagarh, Noapara, Baranagar, Tollyganj, Beliaghata, Belgachia Sonarpur, Maheshtolla, Durgapur, Kalna, Memari, Burdwan, Kanyapur and other places.

Armed with modern small arms - from pistols to steingun, the gangsters carried in planned attacks on workers and employees in various areas and on trade unions. The pattern of attack was as follows :

1. Forcibly occupying union offices of CITU, UTUC, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and Trade Union Co-ordination. The union offices are also looted and burnt.

2. Forcing the workers and members of anti-Congress Left Trade Unions to join the union of Congress(R) and INTUC. Workers and employers are assaulted and threatened with murder if they refuse to oblige the rowdies and gangsters. This is followed by forcibly preventing the workers from reporting to their duties.

3. The office bearers, executive committee members and leading workers of unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC are threatened with murder and evicted from their houses and localities and prevented from reporting to their duties in factories and offices.

4. Forcibly collecting money from workers and their families and assault and humiliated the when they refuse to pay. The rowdies demand upto Rs.500/- and ask the workers to pay it for 'Atma Sudhhi' for remaining members of anti-Congress unions. The Secretaries and the Treasurers are being haunted by the hoodlums to get the existing funds of CITU unions.

5. The workers are forced to sign bonds or on blank papers which is subsequently used or voluntory resignations from these unions they belong to and becoming members of the unions formed by Congress(R).

6. The house of workers and union leaders looted and burnt.

7. The union leaders are prevented from contacting the workers and union functioning in any form - meetings, gate meetings, opening and

functioning of union offices are forcibly prevented.

Some of the incidents of attacks virtually illegalising trade union functing - after the election are listed in Enclosure No.3.

Correspondence on forcible occupation of the office and own building of SenRaleigh Employees Union are clubbed together under enclosure No.4. On 23rd March 1972 the Labour Minister of West Bengal was officially informed about the forcible occupation of the union office. On 27th March the Labour Minister promised that the union office would be vacated and handed over to the leaders of SREU. On 31st March the Chief Minister and Labour Minister of West Bengal visited Sen-Raleigh Factory at Asansol. But the Union Office of SREU is still under occupation of Congress(R) rowdies.

The rowdies are very much after the funds of our unions. They ask the union leaders to hand over the funds to them. In Bengal Chemical Factory, Manicktolla, on 22nd March, 16 leading workers were prevented from reporting to their duties. The rowdies told as so long as they did not handover the funds of CITU affiliated nion to them(rowdies), they would not be allowed to resume their duties. Some police officer came and asked the workers to hand over the funds to the rowdies to avoid trouble. The management also tried to pressurise the workers to hand over union funds to the rowdies. The attempt to grab union funds is a general feature in all disturbed areas.

Another feature of significance is the attempt to play one section of workers against the other on narrow provincial basis hitting at the root of working class unity which has developed through years of struggle.

The rowdies and unemployed youths are openly incited against the employees employed workers and employees. The rowdies are told, if they could prevent the workers and employees from coming to offices and factories, they(rowdies) would be given employment in their places.

The employers taking full advantage of the situation are giving employment to the rowdies and with their help have already curtailed wage and existing benefits. The rowdies are given open encouragement by the managements to terrorise the workers inside factories. In closed factories which were reopened after the election, the active workers of CITU unions were kept out of employment and rowdies were taken in their place.

The workers and union leaders who are prevented from reporting to duties, are dismissed by the employers on the plea of unauthorised absence.

These are the main features of the development in the post election period in so far as the workers and made unions are concerned. About 300 unions are already affected - CITU about 260 unions, UTUC - 14, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) - 22 and TUCC - 4. Trade union functioning in any form has become almost impossiblein these unions and the area of operation of the rowdies is gradually being extended.

ATTITUDE OF INTUC AND AITUC LEADERSHIP.

AITUC and INTUC State leadership are jointly functioning at the top and till date they have not said anything against the attacks. Rather AITUC leadership openly encouraged the attacks on CITU and other unions.

On 27th March, 1972 when CITU representatives reported to the Labour Minister in the tripartite meeting about forcible occupation of the office of Sen-Raleigh Employees Union at Asansol and forcibly evicting the workers from their quarters, Sri Kalyan Roy, M.P. and Sri Nihar Mukherjee of AITUC openly supported the rowdies of Congress(R). Sri Nihar Mukherjee said - "If some body gets scared of his own and leave the house ~~of doubt come~~ or don't come, what

we can do ? But after some days, Sri Kalyan Roy, M.P. and Shri Nihar Mukherjee issued a joint statement protesting against attack on AITUC followers at Sen-Raleigh, Asansol though they did not mention Congress(R) rowdies who attacked AITUC men.

In factories and establishments where CITU unions are having dominating position, AITUC and Congress (R) rowdies are jointly operating to liquidate CITU unions. But the moment AITUC men try to show their independent initiative, Congress(R) rowdies do not spare them. In places where AITUC are having recognised unions, Congress (R) has registered new unions, and conflicts between AITUC men and Congress (R) are coming in the open. The workers and followers of AITUC are also prevented from functioning and it is alleged by local AITUC leadership that Congress (R) agreed earlier that unions under AITUC leadership would not be disturbed and now they were riolating it. The conflict between AITUC men and Congress (R) rowdies at the base is yet to take shape, but the conflict is quite visible and it is more than certain that AITUC men would not be spared.

But on major trade union issues AITUC leadership is moving hand in hand with INTUC. AITUC leadership are showing more eagerness to maintain this unity. AITUC to-day is trying to extend its influence with the help of INTUC men. So, there is hardly any possibility for AITUC leadership to take any stand opposed to intuc or Congress (R) despite the conflicts between AITUC men with Congress (R) rowdies at the base.

Recently on Jute workers demands, INTUC, AITUC and HMS jointly took a different stand, reducing the demands of jute workers unitedly agreed upon earlier by all the unions. The unions of CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC unitedly stood by the joint decision and demanded a minimum wage of Rs. 300/-. CITU union - Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union carried on continuous campaign for a united strike struggle in Jute industry on the common demands agreed upon earlier. But there was no response. Letters written by CITU union to INTUC, AITUC and HMS on jute workers strike were not replied to. INTUC, HMS and AITUC working together gave strike call in jute industry and refused to join CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC. CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC were thus forced to declare their strike decision in jute industry. But in both cases, the commencing date of strike is 8th May, 1972. While the common strike date has provided a basis for united action at the base, this possibility has put INTUC, AITUC and HMS combine into difficulties. For they know, once the strike takes place, the unity of workers at the base will completely jettison their ability to create disruption and as such, they are now trying to avoid the strikes in connievance with West Bengal Ministry.

MORALE OF THE WORKING CLASS :

It is true, that workers are terrorised and they are still not able to come out demonstratively against armed gangsterism. It is equally true that a section of workers has been forced to join the unions of Congress (R). But the workers have not changed their loyality.

The workers fully realise the implication of the attacks on their trade unions and see the effect in reduction in wages, increase in workload and forcibly preventing their leaders from reporting to duties. Extracting money by the rowdies is directly affecting the workers daily lives. The -

workers who achieved considerable wage rise and improved their service condition since 1967 through united struggle are suddenly told to discord the path of struggle and they are not even allowed to protest against reduction of existing benefits. It is in this perspective the workers see the attacks on their unions and leaders who have guided them all these years through series of struggles.

The workers who were won over from the fold of INTUC & AITUC on the basis of concrete slogans of struggle and the workers having long experience of the anti-struggle role of INTUC and AITUC achieved considerable economic gains through struggle, would, for no conceivable reason, would go over to INTUC and AITUC and more particularly at a time when prices and taxes are increasing and real wage is declining.

But, at any rate, we can not leave the workers in the situation they are in, completely out of our touch. If we fail to keep contact with these workers and activise them despite all odds, it will create greater danger for the T.U. movement in the coming days, for if armed gangsterism once succeed in either suppressing the workers or to neutralise their fighting spirit, it will drastically affect the entire working class.

The workers in disturbed areas are already coming up, contacting their leaders and the workers and leaders are jointly trying to cope up with their task in the new situation. This is an encouraging trend though the progress will be slow.

The families of the workers are also alive to the danger. The wives of the workers and employees came in hundreds at Belghoria when the gangsters tried to kidnap Comrade Tewari and Com. Salim, General Secretary and Vice-President of Texmaco Workers Union, encircled the gangsters and saved their lives.

IN - FIGHTING IN CONGRESS :

The armed conflict between different rival group within Congress (R) immediately after the election, has brought to light more glaringly how these elements were used to rig the election and still being used to destroy trade union and democratic rights. In Krishnanagore, following the armed fight between two groups when one person was killed and several others were injured, curfew was clamped, carbine and steinguns were used by both the groups.

In Dhanbad, the armed men of Chhatra Parisad and Youth Congress of West Bengal, tried to capture forcibly the Eastern Railwaymen's Congress where so of them were arrested by Bihar police. The next day, Chhatra Parisad and Youth Congress declared strike in Eastern Railway, Sealdah Division and Rail movement was brought to stand-still. Congress (R) could not transfer the blame upon anybody on any plea and they were further exposed.

In National Rubber Factory, Kalyani on 19th April, 1972 the rift between two groups of Congress (R) resulted in a conflict between the rowdies and security staff of the factory when one rowdy was killed in firing and twelve others were injured.

Similar conflicts are taking place in various localities. And now the Secretary of Chhatra Parisad has given a call for surrendering the arms distributed to the rowdies before election. All these developements have it more clear before the people - how the election was rigged and how attacks are being continued by the armed gangs of Congress (R).

..... 8.

POSSIBILITY OF UNITED ACTION :

The united stand of CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (TUCC) against attack against Trade Unions has already created an impact giving considerable encouragement to workers and employees and opening up great scope for united struggle. Some of the statements jointly issued by the four organisations are enclosed (Enclosure No.5).

In a convention jointly organised by the four organisations the following decisions were taken :-

(a) On 11th May, 1972, ANTI-REPRESSION DAY will be observed all over West Bengal.

(b) During the Second week of May, 1972, a mass deputation will be organised at Esplanade, Calcutta when a memorandum will be submitted to the Chief Minister of West Bengal demanding safety and security to the employees prevented from reporting to duties and to allow them to resume their duties. Demand will be made for rehabilitation of evicted persons.

(c) A sustained campaign will be made in defence of Trade Union and democratic rights, against price and taxation, against unemployment and for wage rise.

May Day rally this year is being jointly observed by CITU, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani) and TUCC at Saheed Minar Maidan, Calcutta and leaflet has been jointly issued in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu urging upon the working class not to surrender before threats and attacks, but to defend their rights and unions and for this purpose build up united struggle at plant level, factory level and industry level and to unite with students, youths, women, kissans and one section of democratic people.

CITU, West Bengal Committee is determined to preserve this unity and to further develop and extend it.

NEW SITUATION AND OUR TAXK :

The working class of West Bengal are confronted with a new situation. The working class and the people of West Bengal are going through a new experience. The problems are neumerous and for the present the State Committee is incapable of giving required help and assistance to the struggling workers and their unions. Our functioning suffering from certain inherent defects stand out prominently in the face of this crying situation.

Hundreds of unions have been evicted from their offices. The unions leaders are unable to report to duties and are out of earning. Regular contact with the workers is impossible. How to feed to workers and their families, the workers who are out of earning is a most staggering problem.

It is equally a problem for the unions to find suitable place for office functioning. Where the unions offices will function, who will draft letters, how to meet the expenses for court cases and financial burden due to constant police harassment - arrest, moving bail petition and court cases.

The most important thing - how to meet and contact with the workers and how to continue union and how to continue union functioning.

Even for big unions, which are more resourceful, it is difficult to carry on their functions. And for small unions, it is impossible to survive without direct assistance.

In a grave situation like this we seek guidence from CITU Working Committee.

In the Working Committee Meeting of West Bengal State Committee held on 9th April, 1972, the situation was reviewed and the following decisions were taken unanimously :

1) THE WORKERS AND UNIONS SHOULD NOT SURRENDER BEFORE THREATS AND ATTACKS.

2) CONSISTANT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MODE TO BUILD UP BROAD BASED UNITED STRUGGLE AT PLANT LEVEL, FACTORY LEVEL AND INDUSTRY LEVEL ALONG WITH UTUC, UTUC(LENIN SARANI) AND TUCC.

3) PROLONGED AGITATION SHOULD BE ORGANISED ON ISSUES LIKE UNEMPLOYMENT, PRICE RISE AND TAXATION, ON REOPENING OF CLOSED FACTORIES AND FOR WAGE RISE.

We are already in the process of implementing these decisions.

While we seek guidance from CITU, Working Committee, we request the members' present to consider in what way it will be possible for other state Committee to render solidarity help to assist our struggle in West Bengal.

We also request the Working Committee to consider as to whether it will be possible to organise any solidarity action on all-India basis.

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ENCLOSURE NO.1

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE
CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

249, Bepin Behari Ganguly Street,
Calcutta-12.

18th March,1972

JOINT STATEMENT issued by Shri Md.Ismail, M.P., President and Shri Monoranjan Roy, M.P., General Secretary, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, West Bengal Committee.

The Congress(R) in partnership with the Right Communists and the AITUC leadership are parading their fraudulent electoral victory with the help of the Press.

They make it appear as if the working class and the people of West Bengal have given them the electoral mandate rejecting the Candidates of the Left Front in West Bengal.

A more fraudulent claim cannot be made. The reality is that afraid of a massive verdict against the Congress - the Party of Capitalists and Landlords, the Ruling Party resorted to wholesale falsification of the election results as will be clear from the following.

It is armed gangsters who entered the Polling Booths, took the ballot papers enblock, stamp them and put them into the ballot boxes while genuine voters were not allowed to enter into the Booths and driven away at the point of guns. In many Booths where voters had already entered into the Booths, ballot papers were forcibly taken away from their hands. It is significant to note that Congress(R) could not even trust their own voters and employed the gunners to grab votes. The Army was mere spectator.

It is a high level conspiracy and all sorts of nefarious methods were adopted to rig the election.

At least one minute is necessary to cast a vote. Under the new system introduced during this election it requires more time. But in Baranagore Constituency, from where Comrade Jyoti Basu faught the election, in more than 100 Booths out of 135 Booths, voting was completed by 11.30 a.m. and the hourly rate of voting was 200 to 300. So is the case in Beliaghata North, Beliaghata South, Maniktolla, Cossipore, Dum Dum, Tollygunge, Belgachia, Panihati, Titagarh, Memari, Barbani, Kalna, Burdwan, Nabadwip, Nadanghat and in series of other Constituencies.

In Khardah, the Ballot Boxes were filled with ballot papers on 10th March night whereas the election was held on 11th March,1972.

Police and CRP directly helped the armed Gangster of Cong.(R) and openly participated in this conspiracy.

During the counting the same pattern followd. Gangsters moved in batches with open arms in presence of Police, defaced and mutilated the genuine ballot papers of Left Parties.

The Election Agents and Counting Agents were beaten and forced to sign blank papers at the point of guns. In hundreds of Booths Polling Agents were refused entry even under police escort.

Series of representation given to the Election Commissioner, Government of India and Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, before the election, during duration of the election and after election proved useless.

The President of India was fully apprised of the situation by sending innumerable Telegrams, but failed to evoke justice.

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The conspirators lost all balance in manipulating votes. In a number of Booths, number of ballot papers found in ballot boxes is more than the number of voters appearing in the Electoral List.Ballot paper of one Constituency was found in the box of another constituency.

During counting, defeated Congress(R) candidates were declared as Winner. All protests in this rega rd were ignored and written protest was not accepted.

Hundreds of houses of workers have been burnt and destroyed in various places in presence of Police and CRP.

Immediately following the election the armed gangsters of Congress(R) have started one after another attacks on the workers of the political parties of Left Front. During last six days 20,000 families have been uprooted by Congress(R) gangsters in Baranagore, Tollygunge, Beliaghata North, Haltu, Beliaghata South, Khardah, Panihati, Dum Dum, Jadavpore and various other places.

About 25,000 young boys have become worst than evacuees, constantly haunted by the armed gangsters of Congress(R).

Police and Administration refuse to hear even any complaint. Full scale offensive has started to physically eliminate the Left Political Forces.

Organised Unions and Union Offices of CITU are being forcibly occupied. Police, Administration and Congress(R) gangsters are proceeding in a planned way to destroy all organised Trade Unions.

In various localities people are forced to pay money under the threat of torture and murder.

The working class and p eople of West Bengal are confronted with the Facist offensive which must be met unitedly by the entire working class of India. The rigging of election, the terror preceding it and following it are all unmistakeably sign of it.

The leading Newspapers of Calcutta are giving direct encouragement to Police, Administration and Congress(R) gangsters and are completely indifferent to the suffering of the people.

We appeal to the Indian Working Class and all Trade Union Organisations in India and Abroad to raise their voice of protest against the barbaric repression and extend their solidarity help to the working class and the people of West Bengal.

We also appeal to the people of all the States in India to stand in support of the people of West Bengal and to defend Democracy in their common interest.

The Ruling Party will resort to Facist method to remain in power at all costs. This menece must be nipped in the bud.

ENCLOSURE NO.2

ELECTION RESULT OF WEST BENGAL - WORKING CLASS CONSTITUENCIES

(*indicates winning candidates)

	1967		1969		1971		1972	
Kalchini(10)	Ind.	2354	RSP	9671	*Cong.(R)	10681	RSP	11353
	Ind.	10749	*Cong.	17148	FB	2239	*Cong.	15227
	*Cong.	14025	INDF	322	RSP	8743	Ind.	3203
	Ind.	324			Ind.	5156		
					Cong(O)	376		
					Ind.	366		
Alipurduar(11)	Ind.	1874	*RSP	24784	*Cong(R)	20455	RSP	20928
	*Ind	26186	Cong.	22883	B.C.	805	*Cong.	27386
	Cong.	20931	Proutist	663	RSP	10990	Ind.	935
					CPI(M)	11219		
					Ind.	3801		
Dhupguri(14)	*SSP	17437	*SSP	18686	*Cong(R)	11471	S.P.	13810
	Cong.	11893	Cong.	17292	SSP	11279	*Cong.	22670
	Ind.	2938	INDF	1690	CPM	7054	Ind.	2326
	Ind.	2454	Ind.	349	Ind.	5321	Ind.	695
	Ind.	1526			Cong(O)	885		
	Ind.	780			B.C.	1400		
					RSP	665		
Nagrakata(15)	CPM	10920	CPM	12439	*CPM	22811	CPM	14463
	*Cong.	16 002	*Cong.	15001	Cong(R)	9542	*CPI	21429
	Ind.	6199	PSP	1990	PSP	4962	Ind.	1600
			Ind.	1213	Ind.	1525		
			INDF	250	Cong(O)	616		
Mainaguri(16)	PSP	12507	PSP	12173	*Ind.	12781	Ind.	6862
	Cong.	12059	*Cong.	16816	Ind.	6075	*Cong.	19716
	*Ind.	14098	BC	7294	CPM	3851	RSP	8318
	JS	508	Ind.	506	RSP	5161		
	Ind.	121	INDF	290	CPI	2328		
					BC	3356		
Mal(17)	CPI	10600	*Cong.	22706	*Cong(R)	13383	*Cong.	25939
	*Cong.	22095	CPI	12105	CPM	9640	CPM	16030
	PSP	7965	PSP	4330	CPI	9009		
					RSP	3068		
					PSP	3349		
					Ind.	4687		

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	1967		1969		1971		1972	
Darjeeling(21)	*Ind.	14281	*G.L.	15698	*G.L.	14998	*G.L.	14933
	Cong.	9085	Cong.	11519	Cong(R)	9133	LF(Supported)	9476
	Ind.	4621			CPM	8042	Cong.	7331
Kalimpong(20)	*Cong.	15023	*G.L.	15418	*Ind.	10810	*Cong.	10190
	JS	1174	Cong.	11120	G.L.	7388	G.L.	8806
	CPI	1470	JS	803	Cong(R)	4841	Ind.	4782
	Ind.	11985	Ind.	628	CPM	4718	CPM	3325
					Ind.	620		
Jore Banglow(22)	Cong.	10501	*G.L.	15693	*CPM	12858	CPM	11031
	*Ind.	12428	Cong.	11085	Cong(R)	6341	Cong.	11517
	CPM	6001			G.L.	12572	*G.L.	12063
					Cong(O)	1562	Ind.	740
Farakka(46)	*Ind.	18812	PML	12272	*CPM	16662	*CPM	20787
	Cong.	7194	*BC	12951	ML	15849	Cong.	19112
	Ind.	2875	Cong.	7283	Cong(R)	7002	M.L.	7234
	Ind.	2703	JS	6926	BC	1071		
Chackdah(76)	Cong.	12874	Cong.	15236	*CPM	29301	CPM	24576
	Ind.	14888	*BC	29738	BC	16561	*Cong.	33144
	*Ind.	20761	RCPI(Tagore)	7013	Ind.	5348		
	Ind.	779			CPI	4479		
					Ind.	1876		
Jadavpore(101)	*CPM	33698	*CPM	43793	*CPM	38114	*CPM	40939
	Cong.	28820	Cong.	24003	CPI	19170	Cong.	31297
	PSP	1195	Proutist	1434	RSP	4793	Ind.	692
					Cong(O)	3639	Ind.	563
Behala(East)(102)	*CPM	20757	*CPM	29600	*CPM	21817	CPM	18733
	Cong.	15716	Cong.	16349	Cong(R)	18049	*Cong.	28939
	CPI	8614	JS	1063	Cong(O)	1790		
Behala(West)(103)	*CPM	35634	*CPM	38223	*CPM	30053	CPM	30024
	Cong.	28075	Cong.	22170	CPI	25394	*CPI	31939
			PML	5150	Cong(O)	3517		
Garden Reach(104)	*Cong.	18443	*CPI	29871	*Cong(R)	15582	*CPM	25625
	Ind.	13154	Cong.	9203	CPM	15493	Cong.	24245
	Ind.	6194	PML	2377	CPI	12646	Ind.	945
	Ind.	7150	Lok Dal	9954	Ind	5010		

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	1967		1969		1971		1972	
Maheshtala(105)	*CPM	30805	*CPM	28367	*CPM	24112	*Cong.	33412
	Cong.	21227	PML	13542	Cong(R)	22785	CPM	25581
	CPI	5591	Cong.	18214	ML	7006		
Budge Budge(106)	*CPM	31024	*CPM	37137	*CPM	32399	CPI	21783
	Cong.	20609	Cong.	23643	CPI	15602	*CPM	34873
	FB	3942			IND.	2645		
	Ind.	2156			BC	1487		
Bijpore(118)	*CPM	17662	*CPM	27956	CPM	28571	*Cong.	40017
	Cong.	16348	Cong.	26120	*Cong(R)	29821	CPM	25336
	CPI	8468						
Naihati(119)	*Cong.	26619	*CPM	37891	*CPM	37153	CPM	33466
	CPM	22515	Cong.	29073	Ind.	26093	*Cong.	37511
	CPI	7443			SSP	858	Ind.	401
					Cong(O)	2542		
Bhatpara(120)	*Cong.	32027	*CPM	33554	*Cong(R)	40173	JS	440
	CPM	28251	Cong.	31318	CPM	37603	*Cong.	49187
	CPI	1286	Lok Dal	1447	FB	1704	CPM	35680
	Ind.	1358			Cong(O)	1053		
Noapara(121)	CPM	21219	*CPM	32718	*CPM	36567	JS	300
	*Cong.	21248	Cong.	25375	Cong(R)	17371	CPM	22599
			JS	990	FB	13493	Ind.	480
			Proutist	381	Cong(O)	1013	*Cong.	48112
Titagarh(122)	*Cong.	17435	*CPM	30723	*CPM	33119	*Cong.	50656
	CPM	16690	Cong.	22700	Cong(R)	27770	CPM	23158
	CPI	11702	INDF	215	Cong(O)	956		
	JS	1486						
Khardah(123)	*CPM	18507	*CPM	35325	*CPM	35440	*CPI	62460
	Cong.	16907	Cong.	25718	CPI	31364	CPM	21813
	CPI	16780	INDF	552	Cong(O)	1168		
Panihati(124)	*CPM	34671	*CPM	53346	*CPM	58545	CPM	27540
	CPI	10919	Cong.	22029	CPI	24279	*Cong.	74765
	Cong.	23851	INDF	1148	Cong(O)	4923	Ind.	477
	PSP	2739						

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	1967		1969		1971		1972	
Kamarhati(125)	*CPM	30095	*CPM	43111	*CPM	47359	CPM	22524
	Cong.	21559	Cong.	22607	CPI	18272	*Cong.	28690
	Ind.	5528	INDF	557	Cong(O)	4280	Ind.	601
Baranagore(126)	*CPM	31354	*CPM	45261	*CPM	43340	*CPI	69145
	Cong.	27895	Cong.	27669	BC	32287	CPM	30258
	Ind.	472	Ind.	317				
Dum Dum(127)	*CPM	37066	*CPM	45159			CPM	15023
	Cong.	30682	Cong	30867			*Cong.	91428
	Ind.	1358					Ind.	216
Cossipoew(128)	*Cong.	18003	*CPM	25304	*Cong(R)	26000	CPM	15075
	CPM	15239	Cong.	25109	CPM	15855	*Cong.	38290
	FB	7279	Ind.	402	Cong(O)	505		
	Ind.	6729			JS	1162		
	JS	2571						
Kabitirtha(135)	*Cong.	23229	*FB	31819	*Cong(R)	19372	FB	27685
	FB	17746	Cong.	21029	FB	12955	*Cong.	28565
	CPM	8306	Republican	1086	CPM	12036	Ind.	344
	Ind.	1017			Cong(O)	737	Ind.	157
Tollygunge(139)	Cong.	23599	*CPM	36202	*CPM	32788	*Cong.	49096
	*CPM	28581	Cong.	20319	CPI	18728	CPM	28372
	JS	1298	Ind.	157	BC	4013		
Beliaghata South(142)	*Cong.	23273	Cong(R)	19999	*Cong.	16990	*Cong.	37222
	CPM	18212	*CPM	21511	CPM	15301	CPM	10968
			JS	599	CPI	2300		
			INDF	130				
			Lok Dal	205				
Beliaghata North(147)	*CPM	21387	*CPM	31294	*CPM	23318	CPM	10968
	FB	11346	Cong.	15579	FB	20345	Cong.	53875
	Cong.	17435	Ind.	467				
Maniktalla(148)	*CPI	30380	*CPI	31841	*CPM	16773	CPM	21622
	Cong.	23476	Cong.	21646	Cong(R)	15682	*CPI	43238
			Ind.	773	CPI	9214	Cong(O)	948
					Cong(O)	691	JS	501

Contd.....5.

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	1967		1969		1971		1972	
Belgatchia (150)	*CPM	27646	*CPM	34500	*CPM	25012	*Cong (R)	36734
	Cong.	25489	Cong.	21479	Cong. (R)	22235	CPM	24660
	IND	990						
Balli (151)	CPM	23469	*CPM	33912	*CPM	24233	CPM	22522
	*Cong.	25632	Cong.	28633	Cong (R)	19060	*Cong (R)	28857
	IND.	7649	Prout	836	Cong (O)	2711		
	IND.	1815			BC	784		
Howrah North (152)	*Cong.	27896	*Cong.	26262	*Cong (R)	23350	CPM	18479
	IND.	20651	CPM	26023	CPM	18774	*Cong (R)	26753
	IND.	3574			FB	856		
	IND.	1128						
Howrah Central (153)	*Cong.	19770	*RCPI	28522	*RCPI	12616	*Cong (R)	25326
	IND.	15663	Cong.	19419	Cong (O)	10407	RCPI	15870
	JS	9464			BC	5964	Cong (O)	817
	FB	3323						
Howrah South (154)	CPM	18432	*CPM	30307	*Cong (R)	18919	CPM	20655
	*Cong.	29106	Cong.	23270	CPM	16618	Cong (O)	979
	CPI	5470	Prout	383	CPI	5626	Cong (R)	28651
	IND	784			Cong (O)	1412		
Shibpo re (155)	CPM	14446	*FB	39810	*CPM	17240	FB	24941
	*Cong	19617	Cong.	19601	FB	13491	*Cong (R)	31109
	FB	18312			Cong (R)	9704	Cong (O)	808
					Cong (O)	3052		
Sankrail (159)	CPM	16198	*CPM	30997	*CPM	25386	Cong (R)	23585
	*Co ng.	25019	Cong.	18933	Cong (R)	13527	*CPM	26712
	CPI	8110	Prout	897	CPI	6570		
					Cong (O)	3083		
Uttarpara (169)	*CPM	24618	Cong.	19974	*CPM	29473	CPI	27045
	Cong.	20105	JS	987	CPI	17022	*CPM	27053
	CPI	6066	*CPM	33070	Cong (O)	6048		
	JS	1067						

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	1967		1969		1971		1972	
Serampore (170)	IND.	1243	*CPI	32590	*Cong (R)	26344	CPM	22984
	*Cong.	33203	Cong.	26224	CPM	21467	*Cong (R)	37152
	CPI	25234	IND.	1767	CPI	8983	Cong (O)	1146
					Cong (O)	1312		
Champdani (171)	CPI	8701	Cong.	22252	*CPM	23210	*CPI	26026
	*Cong.	181517	*CPM	31599	CPI	10244	Cong (O)	973
	CPM	15368			Cong (R)	12916	CPM	23509
	IND.	849			Cong (O)	2093	JS	753
Kara gpo re (211)	*CPI	20118	*Cong.	23230	*Cong (R)	24869	*Cong (R)	26732
	Cong.	18186	CPI	18475	CPI	9557	CPM	7093
	CPM	2749	[illegible]		CPM	5885		
					Cong (O)	570		
Hirapore (244)	CPM	14614	*CPM	25356	*CPM	18603	*Cong (R)	19068
	*Cong.	15336	Cong.	18516	CPI	11143	SP	2081
	CPI	6972			Cong (R)	9945	CPM	18068
					Cong (O)	1144		
Kulti (245)	*Cong.	12327	Cong.	12445	*Cong (R)	12828	CPM	8541
	SSP	11480	*SSP	20770	CPM	10509	*Cong (R)	16687
	IND	11290	INDF	958	BC	4272	SP	2832
					SSP	3678		
Barabani (246	*Cong.	17080	*CPM	22546	*CPM	20211	SP	867
	CPM	13541	Cong.	14268	Cong (R)	13877	*Cong (R)	29214
	CPI	4065			CPI	5608	CPM	11150
Asansole (247)	*Cong.	17065	*CPM	24638	*CPM	19063	*CPI	24021
	CPM	12871	Cong.	18100	CPI	18305	CPM	15940
	CPI	3463	JS	1378	Cong (O)	5263	JS	488
	IND	3722					SP	471
Ranigung (248)	*CPM	17013	*CPM	23547	*CPM	32061	Cong (O)	498
	Cong.	16030	Cong.	18083	Cong (R)	7753	Cong (R)	13598
	JS	2293	JS	1728	CPI	6773	*CPM	21840.

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	1967		1969		1971		1972	
Jamuria (249)	Cong.	10306	*Cong	13773	*CPM	15398	*CBMg (R)	14508
	*SSP	12861	SSP	12880	Cong(R)	10458	CPM	10391
	IND.	714	IND.	499	SSP	1262		
Ukhra (250)	CPM	13955	*CPM	18144			*Cong (R)	21329
	*Cong.	16247	Cong.	15849			CPM	13490
	IND.	4422						
Durgapore (251)	*CPM	28752	*CPM	40268	*CPM	40999	*Cong (R)	47390
	Cong.	27043	Cong.	37803	Cong(O)	36223	CPM	37348
	CPI	2219			CPI	6212		
Faridpore (252)	Cong.	15034	RCPI(Tagore)	568	*CPM	17356	*Cong (R)	21274
	*IND.	15865	*BC	19767	Cong (R)	9160	CPM	18840
	IND	1168	Cong.	17911	CPI	7036	IND	1103
					Cong (O)	5504	Cong.	321
					IND.	1378		

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ANNEXTURE III

ATTACK ON JAY ENGINEERING WORKERS, CALCUTTA

The attack launched by Congress(R) gangsters and rowdies with the help of police and CRP against the workers of Jay Engineering Works Ltd. (Tollyganj and Basdroni Workshops, Calcutta) and their families since July 1971 has been greatly intensified after the rigged election in West Bengal.

The motive behind the intensified attack is to capture CITU affiliated 5287 strong Jay Engineering Workers Union and to bring by force its members within the fold of the union formed by Congress(R).

Jay Engineering Workers' Union was registered in 1942 and during the last thirty years it has successfully guided the movement of the workers for higher wage and better living condition. The rate of performance and the quality of output of Jay Engineering Workers either in the Fan Factory or in the Sewing Machine Unit is one of the highest in India and in Management's own admission, it can be compared favourably with most highly industrialised countries of the West despite much inferior wage and poor living condition of Jay Workers. The company with Issued Capital of Rs.2.47 crores has garnered a total net profit of Rs.2.82 crores between 1958-59 to 1969-70. Even in 1970-71 dividend was paid to the shareholders at the rate of 10 percent.

In this background the attacks of Congress(R) gangsters on the workers of Jay Engineering is purported to subvert the CITU affiliated union which represent 94% of the workers and to disrupt and crush the trade union struggle of the workers for living wage and better living condition.

Till the rigged election was held in West Bengal on 11th March, 1972, about 150 workers of Jay Engineering were attacked and assaulted by Congress(R) rowdies along with police and CRP. Three workers of Jay Engineering were murdered and killed. 57 persons were murdered in the locality around the factories. The Office of Jay Engineering Workers Union was attacked a number of times. The General Secretary of the Union Sri Haridas Malakar was kidnapped by the Congress(R) gangsters on 25.1.1972 and taken to the Golf Club ground for murdering him. When 2000 workers rushed to the spot, the gangsters hurriedly left. Sri Haridas Malakar was found unconscious with bleeding wounds and his life was saved. All these incidents were brought to the notice of the Governmentfrom Prime Minister to the Officer-in-Charge of Jadavpur Police Station and innumerable complaints were lodged formally but with no result. On the day of election when hundreds of Jay Engineering workers and their family-members along with other voters were going to cast their vote in Tollyganj Constituency, armed gangsters of Congress(R) stood in the way and prevented them from voting as in many other constituencies.

After the election, from 12th March 1972, the armed gangsters of Congress(R) are moving more daringly with pistols, bombs, pipeguns and rifles. They threaten to murder the office-bearers and executive committee members of Jay Engineering Workers Union. They do not allow to open the union offices at 392 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Calcutta-45 and at Roynagar Bansdroni and to function from there. The gangsters are permanently deployed at the gate of the factory.

The important union functioneries and office-bearers are forcibly prevented from reporting to their jobs in the factories. They are - Pelab Mukherjee, Sushil Roy, Robin Chowdhury, Rakhal Chowdhury, Ramen Bhattacharjee, Ramen Sarkar, Bimal Nag, Badal Biswas, Pranab Sarkar, Paramesh Sen, Nirmal Roy, Santosh Paul, Ranjit Roy - Chowdhury, Parimal Lahiri and many others. As a result they are out of earning.

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The following workers and office-bearers/committee members of Jay Engineering Workers Union have been evicted from their houses under threats of murder :-

1. President:
Bimal Chatterjee

2. Working President:
Ramayan Panday

Vice-Presidents

3. Ramen Sen Gupta
4. Ranajit Bose

General Secretary

5. Haridas Malakar

Organising Secretary

6. Bireswar Chatterjee

Asst.Secretary & Jt. Secretary of the Works Committee.

7. Pelab Mukherjee

Asstt. Secretary

8. Rathin Paul
9. Badal Mukherjee
10. Panchanan Dutta

Treasurer

11. Nirmal Roy

Executive Committee Member

12. Bimal Nag
13. Amar Nag
14. C.L.Sharma
15. Susil Roy
16. Prafulla Das
17. Parimal Lahiri
18. Ranajit Roy Chowdhury
19. Ramen Das Gupta
20. Bimal Bose / Office Secy.
21. Kartick Mondal

Executive Committee Member

22. Biswanath Mukherjee
23. Sunil Dey
24. Badal Chatterjee

Leading Workers:

25. Anil Gupta
26. Jadav Gupta
27. Paramananda Bhattacharjee
28. M. Hossain
29. Lalji Giri
30. Pranab Sircar
31. Samir Gangulee
32. Santosh Paul
33. Sunil Roy
34. Samir Sircar
35. Badal Biswas
36. Biren Mazumdar
37. Manoj Roy
38. Rakhal Chowdhury
39. Dayal Singha Roy
40. Ramen Sircar
41. Subimal Sircar
42. Bhaskar Dey
43. Saradindu Sircar
44. Rajen Ghose
45. Rakhal Chakraborty
46. Dilip Dey
47. Haralal Dey
48. Janardan Bhowmic
and 100 others.

The houses of four Jay Engineering Workers at Kachari Bagan Colony near Natunhat under Sonarpur Police Station were dismantled and destroyed by the Congress(R) rowdies. Houses of 7 Union leaders were looted.

On 22nd March, Bimal Nag was attacked by the Congress(R) rowdies. A diary was lodged with Tollyganj Police Station. On 29th March the house of Bimal Chatterjee, President of Jay Engineering Workers Union was attacked by 100 rowdies with bombs, pistols and rifles. The old mother, wife and sister-in-law of Bimal Chatterjee were filthily abused. The rowdies attempted to kill the nephew of Bimal Chatterjee but was saved at the intervention of neighbourers.

On 31st March at about 5-30 P.M. Paramananda Bhattacharjee, Samir Ganguly and Sekhar Ganguly were attacked by the Congress(R) rowdies while returning home from the factory. The rowdies broke one of the legs of Paramananda and roasted the face of Shekhar Neogy with a burning cigerette. The incident took place near Jadavpur Police Station - about 50 yards from it. The General Secretary of Jay Engineering Workers Union informed Jadavpur Police Station about the incident over phone. Even after the phone call, the rowdies continued to beat and torture them for half an hour.

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On 2nd April Prafulla Das was severely beaten by the rowdies. He was threatened of dire consequence including murder if he did not leave Jay Engineering Workers Union and join the union formed recently by Congress(R). This was duly intimated to police authorities. From that day Prafulla Das is unable to stay in his house.

The gangsters with pistols in their hands tell the workers that those do not join their union and pledge their obedience to Congress(R) , they would neither be allowed to live in their houses, nor to do their jobs in Jay Engineering Works. The workers are terrorised and subdued with arms. The local police is at the beek and call of the gangsters.

The Management of Jay Engineering Works Ltd. are giving encouragement to Congress(R) gangsters to crush the organised union of the workers. They are conspiring to retrench the workers who are prevented from reporting to duties. It is learnt that the Management is contemplating to employ the gangsters to terrorise the workers inside the factories and to dislodge their ~~x~~ unity by all sorts of nefarious means. If the Management succeed in its evil motive, wages and earning of the workers will be reduced and the workload will increase.

ATTACK ON CALCUTTA STATE TRANSPORT EMPLOYEES

Congress(R) rowdies have been carrying on series of attacks against the employees of Calcutta State Transport Corporation(C.S.T.C) the members of Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union. The attacks, started before the election, have been greatly intensified after the election.

35 employees have been assaulted, one employee was murdered and 183 employees were forcibly prevented from reporting to their duties in Depots, Workshops and Offices by the Congress(R) rowdies. The members of Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union (affiliated to C.I.T.U.) are being forced to join the Union recently formed by Congress(R) under threats of assaults and murder. The members of C.I.T.U. Union are told by the rowdies that they would not be allowed to work in C.S.T.C. if they do not join the Union of Congress(R). In the Depots, Workshops and Offices, the employees are forced to sign letters purported to be voluntary resignations from C.I.T.U.Union.

Congress(R) rowdies are moving inside the Depots and Workshops of C,S.T.C. openly displaying fire arms in their hands to terrorise the employees.

This planned attack on the employees of an important Public Utility Service like C.S.T.C. in a city like Calcutta not only threatens their basic democratic right to form Associations and Unions and to function them with freedom. It has also affected smooth functioning of C.S.T.C. which carry about 1.4 million passengers everyday in its bus fleet.

Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union and C.S.T.C. employees have althrough faught against enhancement of Bus fare and demanded improvement in transport service with increase in the number of plyable bus on roads. This was done in the interest of the passengers and citizens of Calcutta, the Management of C.S.T.C. accepted the demand and the General Manager of C.S.T.C. in his letter No.2768-DOP dated 25th August, 1970, to Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union confirmed that :-

> "The planned programme of acquisition of new buses and renovation of old buses has already been discussed with the representatives of the Employees' Union. Briefly, the programme is of purchase of 70 new single deckers and 130 new double deckers and renovation of 60 idle double deckers and 90 idle single deckers with imported spares. The entire programme is expected to be executed within two years. Yearwise break-up is as follows :-

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(4) On 18th March,1972, the rowdies threatened to murder Sri Samir Chatterjee, Secretary of the Unit Committee of Central Workshop.

(5) On 21st March,1972, Sri Chittaranjan Ghosh, an employee of Belghoria Central Workshop was assaulted by the rowdies inside the workshop while on duty.

(6) On 24th March,1972, the rowdies attacked the employees inside Belghoria Depot. The rowdies assaulted Sri Brojen Das and Sri Uma Chakraborty and insulted the women workers. The rowdies came with pistols in their hands.

(7) On 27th March,1972, the rowdies threatened Sri Nirmal Dasgupta, Sri Sunil Roy and Sri Nitai Chanda of Howrah Depot - all important office bearers of C.S.T.Employees' Union.

(8) On 29th March,1972, the rowdies forcibly prevented 30 employees from reporting to their duties in Taratalla Depot. Sri Shyama Sarkar and Sri Sudarsan Dey, Depot Committee Member and Joint Secretary of the Union were severely assaulted.

(9) On 30th March,1972, Police and Congress rowdies jointly attacked the employees inside Taratalla Depot and arrested two employees who were severely tortured in police lock-up on 31st March again 2 employees were arrested.

(10) On 31st March,1972, Police and Congress(R) rowdies jointly attacked the employees of Belghoria Depot and arrested Sri Ajit Boral, a mechanic.

(11) On 1st April,1972, Sri Jitesh Das, Sri Bhupnarayan Dubey and 60 other employees of Paikpara Depot were prevented from reporting to their duties. The employees immediately gave a deputation to General Manager and a representation was also given by the Union. But no action was taken by C.S.T.C. authorities to allow the employees entry to their workplace.

(12) On 4th April,1972, the rowdies attacked the employees of C.S.T.C. Head Office at 45, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, dragged out Sri Manick Das from Cash Department and assaulted him. The rowdies forced out seven employees from the office. They also burnt the office of Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union - in C.S.T.C. building (in the space allotted by C.S.T.C.). All these attacks were carried out during office hours when the General Manager and Chairman of C.S.T.C. were present in the office.

(13) From 5th April, 10 employees of Lake Depot are prevented from reporting to their duties.

(14) On 6th April Congress(R) rowdies kidnapped Sri Santosh Dey from the gate of Paikpara Depot and took him away in a taxi. The matter was immediately reported to C.S.T.C. authorities and the Deputy Commissioner of Police / North Division, and the taxi number was also given. This was brought to the notice of the Chief Minister of West Bengal also. Uptil now, the whereabouts of Sri Dey is not known. It is apprehended that Sri Santosh Dey was murdered.

MANY MORE SUCH INSTANCES may be quoted. Most of the employees who are prevented from reporting to their duties, are also evicted from their house. They are out of earning and separated from their families.

These planned attacks are perpetrated at a time when the long standing demands of C.S.T.C. employees for (a) Wage rise, (b)D.A. (c) Permanency of workmen and (d) Medical Benefit. During United Front Government the Home(Transport) Minister issued order in 1970 to declare all employees permanent who have completed 3 years service.

But this order has still not been given effect to. All the 12,500 employees of C.S.T.C. with service upto 24 years service are still treated as temporary staff.

Congress(R) rowdies are forcibly collecting money from employees and anybody refusing to oblige them are assaulted and threatened with murder.

ATTACK ON DURGAPUR INDUSTRIAL BELT

61 active workers and union leaders of various unions in Durgapur Industrial Belt were arrested under Misa and PVA Acts before election. About 12 workers were murdered. Hundreds of arrest warrants were issued against the important functioneries of the unions. In August,1970 25,000 Police, CRP and Border Security Force were deployed to crush 11 days strike struggle of 60,000 workers of Durgapur. Since this movements and upto the election about 2200 Police cases were instituted against the workers of Durgapur.

Immediately following the election in 1972 two workers Sri Sujit Debsarman of Sagarbhanga Colony and Ajit Das of D.P.L. Colony were murdered and five workers were stabbed in Durgapur.

The union office of A.V.B. Employees' Union at AVB Colony and Sagarbhanga Colony were forcibly occupied. The union office of Hindusthan Steel Employees' Union was looted.

The union leaders of Durgapur Project Employees' Union and Durgapur Chemical Employees' Union are forcibly prevented from opening the union office and to function from there.

The workers were victims of a series of attacks in the post election period. Some of the incidents are listed below :

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT:

1. On 15th March Congress rowdies - Jahar Saha and Banu Bose used most abusive language to humiliate the family members of Shri Phani Bhattacharjee and Shri Anil Ghosh. When Sri Bhattacharjee and Shri Ghosh strongly protested against the behaviour of the rowdies, the rowdies threatened them with revolvers.

2. On 16th March, 1972 about 25 Congress rowdies attacked the house of Shri Dipak Mullick at 14/3, Einestine Avenue in presense of police. The family members of Sri Dipak Mullick were insulted and humiliated by the rowdies.

3. On 16th March Congress(R) rowdies attacked the house of Shri Subodh Biswas at 5/8, Marconi Avenue and threatened to murder the inmates. Even the children of the house were beaten.

4. On the same day i.e. 16th March, the rowdies also attacked the house of Sri Hiralal Chanda at 10/46 Einestine Avenue. Police put off the street lights of Einestine Avenue when the rowdies carried on the attack.

5. On 16th March Congress rowdies - Jahor Saha and two others - threatened with murder Sri Tarapada Acharjee of 20/3, Bidyapati Road and Sri Sukumar Malakar of 20/12, Bidyapati Road. The rowdies asked Sri Badal Sharma to vacate his house at 9/13 Bidyapati Road and threatened of dire consequences if he did not obey them.

6. On 16th March when the houses of the workers of Newton Avenue and Einestine Avenue were attacked the rowdies assaulted Sri Gauri Sankar Mazumder, D.D. Chatterjee and Lakshman Banik.

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7. On 29th March Congress rowdies attacked the house of Sri Amar Ganguly of 6th Street of Ranaprotap Road. The rowdies also attacked the house of Sri P.Roy, Vice President of Hindustan Steel Employees' Union at 11th Street of Ranaprotap Road. The house of Shri Ajit Chatterjee and Shri Soumen Chakrabarty were attacked by the rowdies on the same day.

8. The house of Sri Madhab Roy at 21/9, Ashoke Avenue was looted by the rowdies and younger brother of Sri Roy was severely beaten.

9. Dilip Dey of 22/2, Ashoke Avenue was so severely beaten that he had to be hospitalised.

10. The house of Shri Satyabrata Sanyal at 21/2 Ashoke Avenue was attacked and the belongings were damaged.

11. Congress rowdies dragged out Shri Debabrata Ghosh from his quarter at 22/4 Ashoke Avenue and severely assaulted him. Shri Ghosh had to be hospitalised.

12. On 18the April, 1972 Shri Dilip Mukherjee, a worker of the Co-operative Society was beaten by the rowdies in Mahiskapur Road of Steel Township.

13. Shri Madhav Ojha an employee of Slag Bank and Shri Rebati Das of Foundry Department were severely beaten by the rowdies of 2nd April, 1972.

14. On 8th April Congress rowdies attacked the house of workers in Einestine Avenue and demolished one school of small children. The attack was led by Shri Hiren Sengupta.

15. On 9th April Congress rowdies attacked the workers of Edison Road with bombs and firearms and assaulted Shri Manash Mukherjee, Rathin Majumdar, Milan Bhattacharjee, A.K.Panda, H.L.Dey and others in presence of police. Police, however, arrested eleven workers who were attacked by the rowdies.

16. On 9th April Congress rowdies attacked the office of CITU affiliated Hindustan Steel Employees' Union at 20/7 Edison Road and looted the typewriter and destroyed all union records.

17. The rowdies also assaulted Shri Anil Ghosh, M.N.Bose, Phani Bhattacharjee and N.C.Paul of Bidyapati Road. The rowdies handed over Shri Phani Bhattacharjee to police after severely assaulting him.

18. The Service of Sri Dayamay Ruidas, employee of Durgapur Steel Plant and activist of the H.S.E.Union was terminated without assigning any reason.

ALLOY STEEL PLANT:

1. On 12th April Shri N.K.Chatterjee was attacked by Congress rowdies while he was going to factory duty. Sri Chatterjee was stabbed.

2. On 18th March Congress rowdies kidnapped Shri Nabin Chatterjee and assaulted him. Shri Joydev Das was also assaulted on the same day.

A.V.B. FACTORY:

1. On 13th March Congress rowdies attacked the quarters of Shri Biswanath Chowdhury and Shri T.N.Gupta, General Secretary and Asstt. Secretary of A.V.B. Employees' Union.

2. On 14th March 30 leading workers of the union were evicted from their quarters and forced to leave the township at the point of guns.

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3. On 15th March Congress rowdies attacked the house of Sri C.P. Sinha. Sri Sinha was not at his quarter at that time. The rowdies assaulted the younger brother of Sri Sinha. Sri Sinha's brother had a small shop in Swapna Market which was looted by the rowdies.

4. On 16th March Congress rowdies asked the employees of Co-operative Society to tender resignation from their job and to leave the township.

5. On 23rd March Congress rowdies forcibly occupied the office of A. V. B. Employees' Union in presence of police.

6. On 25th March night Congress rowdies attacked the bouse of Shri Bibhu Chakrabarty. Shri Bibhu Chakrabarty was not at home at that time. The rowdies asked his father to vacate the house. Next morning the rowdies came with firearms and forcibly dragged out Shri Chakrabarty's old father and took possession of the house.

7. On 31st March Congress rowdies dragged out Shri Kalicharan Maity from his house and severely assaulted him.

8. On 1st April Congress rowdies looted the quarters of Shri B. K. Mukherjee and Shri S.K. Mukherjee - quarters No. RR-278 and RR-272.

9. On 8th April Congress rowdies assaulted Shri Niranjan Karar.

10. The workers are forced by Congress rowdies to join the union of Congress(R). When the workers come to punch their cards inside the factory to record their attendance, the rowdies force them to sign the membership form of Congress(R)Union. The workers are not allowed to punch their cards as long as they do not sign the membership form. Shri Atin Mukherjee, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police, specially posted in A.V.B. Township threaten to arrest the workers and evict them from their quarters if they do not join the union of Congress(R).

11. Congress rowdies and Shri Atin Mukherjee, the police officer do not allow the workers even to purchase their daily necessities from the market, who refuse to join the union of Congress(R). When the wives of those workers go for marketing, the rowdies and Shri Atin Mukherjee insult and humiliate them and prevent them from going to market.

12. Shri B.K. Ghosh, the Industrial Relation Officer of ACC-Vickers-Babcock Ltd., Durgapur is the main conspirator and the Congress rowdies and police are acting under his instruction to wreck CITU affiliated A.V.B. Employees' Union.

DURGAPUR CHEMICAL :

1. On 19th March Congress rowdies attacked Shri Mahadev Bairagi with iron rods and seriously injured him. Shri Bairagi is still in hospital.

2. The leading workers of CITU affiliated Durgapur Chemical Employees' Union Shri Asoke Bose, Manoj Bag, Dipak Dey, Sukumar Bardhan, Debidas Roy, Balaram Paul were attacked by Congress rowdies and severely beaten.

3. The following office-bearers and Leading workers of C I T U Union are forcibly prevented by Congress rowdies from reporting to their duties in the factory:

Shri P. K. Roy, Asstt. Secretary
" R. C. Datta, Asstt. Secretary

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