

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस

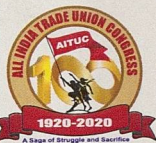
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

RANI JHANSI ROADI NEW DELHI-1.

File No 104.

SUBJECT PROCEEDINGS

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING



AITUC DIGITAL ARCHIVE - 2021

Folder Code: 3 File No. 104-C S. No. _____

Digital File Code: _____

File Title: General Council Meetings -
Proceedings

Year: 1965-66 / 1

Metadata:

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1966

February 20, 1966

Resolution on Mines

AITUC'S CALL TO THE MINE WORKERS OF INDIA

The AITUC expresses its deepest concern over the conditions of nearly seven lakh miners in coal and iron ore, manganese, dolomite, limestone, mica and other mines. Neglected by the Government and oppressed by the mine owners, the miners of our country are the worst exploited section of the working class. The miners are not prepared to tolerate this condition any longer and their patience has been totally exhausted.

After a long struggle lasting several years, the working class at last secured the legal right to bonus. Though the law passed on this subject is defective and cuts down our due share of bonus, we note that the public sector coal mines in the NCDC and the Singareni and two steel companies in the private sector, TISCO & ISCO have paid bonus. While all other coal mine owners embracing the overwhelming majority of workers have refused to pay the bonus. The Government of India has refused to intervene in the situation.

The AITUC also notes that the calculation which has been followed by the management of the NCDC, Singareni and others is grossly defective and wrong and workers have been cheated of lakhs of rupees. The exclusion of various allowances and fixation of arbitrary basis of attendance in computation of bonus greatly reduced the amount of bonus paid to workers of these places.

The condition is even worst in the iron ore, dolomite, limestone, mica and manganese mines. Here even the workers of iron ore and dolomite mines in the state sector have not been paid any bonus. Only recently after a determined struggle the iron ore and manganese workers of the Barbil area (excepting the manganese workers in the Bird & Co.) in Orissa have been able to compel the managements and contractors to pay bonus. But for the rest of non-coal miners, where dearness allowance is not even linked with cost of living index, the position is extremely serious. Without bonus, without any adjustments in dearness allowance the non-coal miners both in the state and private sectors have been reduced to below-starvation level.

The AITUC also wants to record its strong protest against the failure of the Government to correct the cost of living index which would enable the coalminers to get a rise in the dearness allowance. As the cost of living index has not been corrected in the light of the report of the Delhi Expert Committee, nearly four lakh coal miners are being most illegally deprived of a rise in dearness allowance amounting to several crores of rupees. The AITUC demands immediate correction of the cost of living index and payment of additional dearness allowance to coal miners with retrospective effect.

The AITUC also notes with deep regret that neither the Coal Wage Board nor the Wage Board for the Lime stone, Dolomite and lime stone mines, set up in early 1962, have given their decision which has caused widespread unrest among miners. The demand for revision of wage of manganese workers has been kept pending for last eleven years. Taking advantage of this inordinate delay, the mine owners have resorted to mass scale lay off, retrenchment and victimisation. Constant attempts are being made to increase the workload, rationalise the jobs and change the categories unilaterally and the gains of the past tribunals are subjected to serious attacks in coal mines. The alarming rise in fatal accident in coal mines last year and the death of nearly 400 miners in big and small accidents reveal the horrible condition which the coalminers are exposed to.

104

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi 1

22 February 1966

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The General Council of the AITUC which met in New Delhi from February 18 to 20, 1966, adopted the following resolutions unanimously:

I. ON TASHKENT AGREEMENT

The General Council of the AITUC wholeheartedly welcomes the Tashkent agreement of 10.1.66 between India and Pakistan, which has opened up a new perspective of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations between the two States in place of mutual tension and armed hostility which have prevailed for the last 18 years. The joint declaration for renunciation of the use of force in solving disputes, strict observance of the cease-fire on the cease-fire line, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, is a positive step towards restoration of a peaceful climate and avoidance of war.

In view of the statesmanlike summit accord arrived at between the Indian Prime Minister and the Pakistani President, with the help of the good offices of the Soviet Premier, the withdrawal of the Indian armed forces from Haji Pir, Uri-Poonch, Tithwal and Kargil was an inevitable and logical corollary. The AITUC sharply condemns the reactionary stand of those communal and other forces in the country which are characterising this withdrawal as "betrayal" and trying to confuse public opinion in a desperate attempt to poison the atmosphere to maintain tension and war psychosis between India and Pakistan. The AITUC hopes that similar reactionaries in Pakistan who are out to sabotage the Tashkent agreement will be firmly opposed and defeated by the democratic-minded and healthy forces in that country.

The General Council reminds the working people of the adverse impact on the economic conditions of the country, of the hostile relations including armed hostilities prevailing since 1962 between India and her neighbours, Pakistan and China. As a result, tremendous burdens are having to be borne by the people to meet the requirements of defence against aggression, in the shape of increasing taxes and prices, the industrial economy of the country has been seriously dislocated and democratic rights have been severely curtailed. Such a situation is only taken advantage of by the imperialists. The Tashkent agreement, by creating a new climate of peace, will help to relieve and remove these abnormal conditions and is, therefore, particularly to be welcomed by the suffering people who have had to bear the brunt of a war situation. The AITUC hopes that similar restoration of normal peaceful and friendly India-China relations may also be possible in the near future and urges upon the Government of India to explore all possible avenues of settlement of disputes with China despite all difficulties. It also hopes that the Government and the people of China will make a settlement of the disputes possible in the common interests of peaceful coexistence between these two great countries of Asia. The General Council calls upon the working class to actively campaign in favour of an India-China settlement.

. . . . 2. On DIR, Emergency

2. ON D.I.R., EMERGENCY AND RELEASE OF T.U. AND
POLITICAL PRISONERS.

The General Council of the AITUC once again condemns the continuance of the state of Emergency by the Government. Especially after the signing of the Tashkent Declaration, there is no reason whatsoever to continue the so-called state of emergency. The experience of the unions and all sections of the toiling people has been that this declaration of emergency has been used by the Government to curb and suppress the movement of various sections of our people for their rights and demands.

The Government has continued to use the DIR in an arbitrary and totally unjustified manner in order to arrest and detain without trial trade union and political leaders, to unleash repression on the trade unions and other sections of the masses and to restrict normal trade union activities.

Not only trade union and political leaders continue to be kept in detention without trial for long periods and not only do more and more arrests take place, in complete negation of all canons of justice, even those released by Courts are immediately rearrested in most cases.

The General Council of the AITUC, therefore, reiterates its demand for lifting the state of emergency, scrapping of the Defence of India Rules and release of all those arrested and detained under the DIR as well as the cancellation of all pending warrants.

The General Council notes that demands along these lines have been raised by various eminent jurists, individuals and organisations throughout the country. It endorses the recent proposal by Shri M.C. Setalwad to present a petition to the President to end the state of emergency. An end to the state of emergency must lead to the consequential steps of repeal of DIR and release of all prisoners.

The General Council directs all its affiliated unions to sign the petition and send the same to the AITUC centre.

The Council further resolves to observe a week from March 24 to 30, 1966, during which this demand will be popularised all over the country on the basis of the widest united mobilisation of all sections of democratic opinion.

3. ON FOOD SITUATION

The General Council of the AITUC expresses its alarm at the food situation in the country when vast areas like Kerala are in the grip of acute scarcity. The food crisis is primarily the creation of Government policies of reliance on imports, neglect of agriculture and full freedom to the hoarder and the speculator.

The AITUC rejects the Government propaganda of largescale scarcity when the Government's facts themselves reveal that per capita availability of food within the country was more than that in 1954 in spite of increase in the population.

This propaganda is only inspired by the speculators, the political vested interests and the imperialists to justify P.L.480 imports and increased reliance on United States.

P.L.480 imports are not only degrading and dangerous but are being used by the Government as a substitute for land reforms, procurement and proper distribution. P.L.480 imports are a formidable obstacle in working for self-reliance in food.

... The recent sell-out

The recent sell-out in the fertilizer plants deal with USA points to the dangerous implications of P.L.480 reliance on America and the pressures to which our country was subjected. The democratic forces must see that we are out of this shameful position.

The continuing grip of speculators in food distribution is at the root of scarcity and high prices. The debate around food zones is meant only to divert the attention from the main problem of Government taking over wholesale food trade and resorting to monopoly procurement.

The Government is more concerned about the landlords, the hoarders and the speculators who are backed by powerful banking interests, even when they hold both the poor producer and the consumer in urban and rural areas at ransom.

Even where monopoly procurement is introduced as in West Bengal or Food Corporation of India is operating, the procurement is sabotaged, an inequitable system of levy is introduced, the producer is cheated by paying less price and the landlords and merchants continue to thrive.

The only solution to the food problem is to make the country self-reliant in food through land reforms, credit facilities, nationalisation of banks, monopoly procurement by the State and nationalisation of wholesale food trade.

The bulk dent in the pay packet of workers is on food account. The trade union movement shall not tolerate scarcity and high prices on account of anti-people food and agricultural policies of the Government.

The AITUC demands immediate steps to:

- Introduce land reforms and make land, credit and other assistance available to the producers;
- Nationalise banking;
- Abolish food zones, introduce monopoly procurement of foodgrains by the Government and State taking over of wholesale food trade; and
- Introduce rationing in all cities, towns, working class centres and scarcity areas guaranteeing 16 ounces of food for manual labourers.

The General Council of the AITUC calls upon all the trade unions to unitedly fight for these demands jointly with other democratic forces.

4.

ON VIETNAM

The General Council of the AITUC voices its profound indignation at the barbarous and total war of destruction which the U.S. imperialists have deliberately intensified in Vietnam over the past few months. A massive invasion of Vietnam by hundreds of thousands of American combat troops, aided by the most modern and devastating weapons, has been going on in a planned manner. While the countryside in South Vietnam, four-fifths of which is controlled by the heroic and revolutionary Viet Cong forces, is being scorched and laid waste by the blood-thirsty imperialists, the territory of North Vietnam is being bombed round the clock in a most brutal and vindictive offensive by the U.S. air force.

The conscience of Asia and of entire peace-loving and democratic-minded humanity is today calling out for an end to this bloody war of aggression, withdrawal of the U.S. armies from Vietnam soil and the unfettered right of the Vietnamese people to their national independence and sovereignty.

. Anti-war and anti-

The anti-war and anti-colonialist demonstrations are mounting in intensity even within the USA itself. Still, the imperialists of Washington are furiously carrying on their bloody aggression, which isolates them more and more from world public opinion.

The AITUC is of opinion that in this grave and terrible situation, India, which holds a special responsibility as Chairman of the International Control Commission, is failing to discharge her duties and obligations towards the cause of anti-colonialism and Asian solidarity and independence. The Government of India's attitude continues to be weak and vacillating. Instead of coming out openly against the U.S. aggressors, the Government of India has been trying to avoid making any commitment, has failed even to condemn the renewed bombing of North Vietnam after the recent hypocritical 37-day "pause" by the Americans and speaks vaguely of the need for a "peaceful settlement" without specifying that the U.S. army of occupation must be withdrawn from Vietnam and the South Vietnam People's National Liberation Front must be recognised as its country's representative in place of the American puppets at Saigon.

The General Council of the AITUC, voicing the sentiments of the working class of India, therefore, urges upon the Government of India to shake off the inhibitions caused by its dependence on U.S. aid and to come out boldly against the U.S. aggression in Vietnam and in favour of the Vietnamese people's struggle for liberation. President Ho Chi Minh's letter to President Radhakrishnan is an expression of the expectations that India will take the initiative for bringing about an end to the war through a Geneva-type conference despite the USA's obstructive attitude to the same. The AITUC hopes that the Government of India will respond to President Ho Chi Minh's letter by prompt and effective action and will also categorically reject the U.S. attempt to get an Indian medical mission sent to South Vietnam or any other form of associating India on the U.S. side in Vietnam.

The AITUC once again sends its greetings to the heroic people of Vietnam who are engaged in a life and death struggle against the U.S. aggressors and especially to the fighters of the Viet Cong, whose wonderful military exploits and victories are writing a new chapter in the history of revolutionary wars of liberation. The AITUC calls upon the Indian workers to step up their actions in solidarity with the freedom-fighters of Vietnam and for the total expulsion of U.S. armed aggressors from Asian soil. The AITUC further calls upon all unions to observe a "Week of Solidarity with the People of Vietnam" from March 12 to 19, in response to the appeal of the WFTU.

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE
(New Delhi, 13-14 Feb 1966)

The 24th session of the Standing Labour Committee met in New Delhi on February 13 and 14, 1966. Shri Jagjivan Ram, the Union Labour Minister, presided.

The agenda had 19 items, but the most important and pressing problem of closures, retrenchments and lay-off; prices and D.A. and bonus were put down for discussion. However, on the initiative of the AITUC delegation, the item of closures, retrenchments and lay-off was discussed in great detail.

The main conclusions of the SLC, as drafted by the drafting committee, are given below. On one or two points, the drafting is faulty. For example, on "action taken on the previous decisions, one of the items was re.changes in legislation to enable courts to go into the merits of the case of individual dismissals, etc. This had been agreed to earlier, but the Government has not taken any action. This point was pressed and the Labour Minister stated that there was difference of opinion in the Cabinet on it. However, he agreed to expedite the matter.

The main discussion in the whole session was on closures. The decision is in item 1 of the draft conclusions.

An important gain is regarding reference of cases of individuals against whom criminal cases are pending, to adjudication. This item was included at the instance of the AITUC. The conclusion is at item 4.

Another important point is regarding suspension allowance during enquiry. This item was again proposed by the AITUC. The conclusion is given also on item 4.

Re. recognition of central TU organisations, the INTUC has been pressing for sole recognition on the ground of being the majority organisation. They proposed raising the present limit of one lakh verified membership (for recognition as central TU organisation) to five lakhs. The HMS agreed to raise it to three lakhs. The AITUC delegates vigorously opposed it and ultimately it was agreed to retain the present position. The reason for our opposition is plain. Any upward revision would have led to elimination of all organisations except INTUC, through the manoeuvring of verification.

The Government had circulated a draft scheme on unemployment insurance. This had been severely criticised by the AITUC, - the only central organisation of workers which sent any comments. Subsequently, the scheme was modified by the Government. But even as it stands now, it is entirely unsatisfactory. Discussion on this was deferred.

A draft of a Bill to regulate conditions of work in the film industry was circulated. A Committee has been set up to go into this. The AITUC will have one representative on it.

. . . The Government had

The Government had circulated a proposal that powers should be given to registrars of trade unions to deregister unions in case of violation of union rules. This patently autocratic attempt at Government interference in TUs was strongly opposed and the proposal was withdrawn. Instead, power is to be given to Labour Courts to hold elections in case more than one set of office-bearers claim to represent the same union - a state of affairs which is fairly prevalent in INTUC unions.

Another attempt to ban strikes in hospitals and dispensaries and exempting the employees from the purview of the I.D. Act was also defeated by opposition of workers' representatives.

On behalf of the AITUC, Com. S. A. Dange attended as delegate and Satish Loomba as Adviser.

Official Draft
circulated by Labour Ministry

STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE
(24th Session, New Delhi, February 13-14, 1966)

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

GENERAL

I. Closures:

(i) The Committee viewed with grave concern the situation arising from closures and mass retrenchments which had taken place in recent months for various reasons. The Committee reiterated the decision of the 16th Indian Labour Conference on that subject and agreed that in cases of closure and mass retrenchment, there should be three months' notice to the workers as well as to Government. In cases of lay-off, it was agreed that one month's notice would be given except in cases where the giving of such notice was not possible owing to exigencies beyond the control of the employer. It was considered that situations arising from closures due to mismanagement were covered by the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

to/ (ii) A point was raised whether it was necessary to hand over the same management the unit which had been taken over due to mismanagement and rehabilitated. It was agreed that the point would be examined by Government.

(iii) As for closures arising from factors such as foreign exchange shortage, shortage of raw material, etc., the Chairman explained that the Ministry of Labour had already constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee and a Central Standing Tripartite Committee to look into such matters and that no fresh machinery was considered necessary to deal with matters arising from such closures. However, State Governments which had not yet set up such bodies should do so without further delay. The working of these bodies at the Central and State levels should also be improved upon.

(iv) The Chairman referred to the need for intensified efforts towards import substitution.

(v) The question of equitable distribution of raw materials was raised and the employers stated that there was already some kind of arrangement in a few cases for making such distribution. The Committee urged that suitable arrangements should be made for the equitable distribution of all types of scarce raw materials, spares and components.

. . . . (vi) Wherever possible

(vi) Wherever possible 'fabrication' should be done within the country, and only critical parts of components should be imported.

II. Family Planning Programme.

The Minister of Health appealed to the Central organisations of workers that they should associate themselves more actively with the Family Planning Programmes. After some discussion it was agreed that an Advisory Committee consisting of the representatives of the Central organisations of workers would be set up to advise the Ministry of Health in this regard.

Item 1: Action taken on the main conclusions/recommendations of the 23rd Session of the Standing Labour Committee held at New Delhi on 27th March 1965.

The workers' representatives drew attention to the proposed legislation concerning fair price shops and contract labour and urged that action in this regard should be expedited. Subject to this, the statement of action taken placed before the Committee was noted.

Item 2: Amendment of section 10(b) of the Indian Trade Unions, Act, 1926, so as to empower the Registrars to cancel the registration of a Trade Union, the executive of which has been found to have violated its registered rules.

The proposal contained in the memorandum was not accepted. However, after discussion, it was agreed that where more than one set of persons claimed to be the office-bearers of the same union, provision should be made in the Trade Unions Act, providing for an election, confined to the members of the unions concerned, to be conducted under the orders of the Labour Court.

Item 3: Amendment of sub-section (3) of Section 1 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, to make provision that the Standing Orders once made applicable to an industrial establishment will continue to apply to it irrespective of any subsequent change in the number of workmen employed therein or in the constitution of such an establishment.

Proposal in the memorandum concerning amendment of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act was accepted.

Item 4: Reference of cases to adjudication whilst criminal cases are pending against workmen involved in the disputes.

(i) Proposal in paragraph 6(i) of the memorandum (regarding reference of industrial disputes concerning workmen against whom prosecutions were pending in a court of law for the same set of charges on the basis of which these have been dismissed by management, to adjudication before finalisation of the criminal cases) was approved.

(ii) As for subsistence allowance, referred to in paragraph 6(ii) of the memoranda, the proposal that during the period of suspension pending enquiry the worker concerned should receive 50% of the wages was accepted in principle. As for the duration and date of commencement of the benefit, it was agreed that Government should consider and decide the matter in the light of the practice followed by the Central Government in respect of its employees, in the industry and in the States.

. . . Item 5

Item 5: Restriction of maternity benefit to the first three births.

The proposal in the memorandum concerning restriction of the maternity benefit to first three births was not approved.

Item 6: Review of the working of the code of discipline.

Item 7: Implementation of labour laws in public sector undertakings.

Consideration of these items was deferred.

Item 8: Constitution of National Arbitration Promotion Board.

(i) The proposal to constitute an Arbitration Promotion Board at the National level was accepted, without prejudice to any existing Boards already set up at the State level.

(ii) As for the functions of the proposed Board and model principles for reference of disputes to voluntary arbitration the central organisations would send their comments to the Government.

Item 9: ILO Convention (No. 111) concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation.

The Central Organisations of workers and employers agreed to impress upon their affiliates the need for observing in practice the principle of non-discrimination in employment even where it was not enforced by law.

Item 10: Joint Management Councils.

Item 11: Industrial co-Partnership.

Item 12: Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

Item 13: Payment by results.

Consideration of these items was deferred.

Item 14: Question of recognition of certain organisations as Central Trade Union Organisations of workers.

It was agreed that the status quo in respect of this matter should be maintained. The Chairman however, stated that he would meet the representatives of the central workers' Organisations for discussing any proposals that might like to make in this regard.

Item 15: Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 - Proposal to exclude services in hospitals and dispensaries from the scope of.

The workers' representatives did not agree with the proposal to exclude services in hospitals and dispensaries from the scope of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947. After some discussion, however, it was decided that a committee should be constituted to examine the matter and make suitable recommendations for safeguarding the interests of the patients. The proposed Committee should consist of four representatives of the workers, Shri R.H. Modi, Labour Ministers of Assam and Gujarat and representatives of the Ministries of Health and Labour and Employment. The workers' organisations agreed to send the names of their nominees very early. The Committee is expected to complete its work within three months.

Item 16: Role of Labour/Welfare Officers in Industrial Under-Takings.

Item 17: Draft scheme of legislation to regulate employment in film industry.

It was agreed that a tripartite committee should be set up to consider the draft scheme and make suitable recommendations in this regard. The proposed committee should consist of one representative each from the Central Organisations of workers and employers and representatives of the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Labour and Employment and of the State Governments of Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madras and Andhra Pradesh.

Item 18: Constitution of the National Safety Council for industries other than mines.

The proposal concerning the constitution of the National Safety Council was accepted. As for arrangements concerning financing of the proposed council raised during the discussion the Chairman said that this matter and other details should be left to Government.

Item 19: Amendment to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, to provide for appointment of Inspectors.

The proposal to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act contained in the memorandum was accepted.

104

The Secretary
AIUC
New Delhi

AIUC
Received 708 21/2/66
Registered.....

Dear Comrade,

As Comrade Govind Srivastava, our member of the General Council is busy with trade union movements at Bhopa he will not be able to come to the forthcoming General Council meeting from 18th February 1966 and Comrade Prakash Roy will substitute him at the Council.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Homi Daji

Homi Daji
General Secretary
M.F. State Committee of
the AIUC

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WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE

All India Trade Union Congress

249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI STREET, CALCUTTA-12

Ref.

A. I. T. U. C. Date 18.2.66
 Received 603 18/2/66
 Replied

To 102

The General Secretary, A. I. T. U. C

of Com,

Com Sunil Das will attend the General Council meeting of the A. I. T. U. C from 18th to 20th Feb. 1966 as an alternate member for Com D. P. Ghose.

Honourajau Roy

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41

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE

All India Trade Union Congress

249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI STREET, CALCUTTA-12

A. I. T. U. C.
Received 681 18/2/66
Replied

Ref.

Date 18. 2. 66

To

The General Secretary,
A. I. T. U. C.

of Com,

Com Bikash Choudhury
will attend the AITUC General
Council meeting from 18th to
28th Feb-1966 as a substitute
for Com Rabin Sen.

with precepts

Monosujan Roy
General Secy.

J

18/2/66

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE

All India Trade Union Congress

249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI STREET, CALCUTTA-12

Ref.

Received 680 18/2/66 Date 18.2.66

Replyed

To the General Secretary AITUC

S/Com,

Com Bijou Choudhury will attend
the General Council meeting of 18th to
20th as alternate member in place
of Com Nohini Das.

Monoranjan Roy

General Secretary

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE

All India Trade Union Congress

249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI STREET, CALCUTTA-12

Ref.

Date 18. 2. 66



To

The General Secretary A. I. T. U. C.

of Com,

Com Rabin Chatterjee
 will attend the General Council
 meeting to be held from 18th to 20th
 Feb 1966 as a substitute for
 Com Bijoy Pal, who is now
 in detention.

Konoranjan Roy
 General Secy.

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI STREET,
CALCUTTA - 12

President : Dr. RANEN SEN, M. L. A.
General Secretary : MONORANJAN ROY.

Ref.

AITUC

677 18/2/66

Date 18-2-66

To
The General Secy, A-I-T-U-C
of Com,

Com Ramen Sen will attend the
ensuing C. C. meeting of the A-I-T-U-C
to be held from 18.2.66 to 20.2.66
in place of Com Abul Hussain who
is in detention now.

Yours Com
Monoranjan Roy
General Secy

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE
ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI STREET,
CALCUTTA-12

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI STREET,

CALCUTTA - 12

President : Dr. RANEN SEN, M. L. A.
General Secretary : MONORANJAN ROY.

A. I. T. U. C.
Received 676
Replied 18/2/66

Ref.

Date 14. 2. 66.

To the General Secy. A. I. T. U. C.
of Com,

Com Asit Chakravarty will attend
the ensuing General Secy, A Council meeting
of the AITUC to be held on & from 18. 2. 66
to 20. 2. 66. in place of Com Pravat Mitra
who has although been recently release
is still seriously ill.

with meetings
yours Com

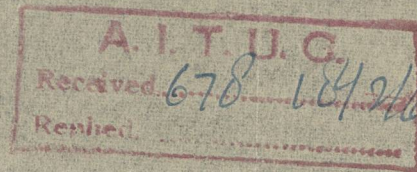
Honoranjan Roy.
General Secy.

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE
All India Trade Union Congress
249, Bepin Behari Ganguli Street,
CALCUTTA-12

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE
ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI STREET,
CALCUTTA - 12

President : Dr. RANEN SEN, M.L.A. M.P.
General Secretary : MONORANJAN ROY.



Ref.

Date 14. 2. 66

To the General Secy AITUC
of Com.
Com Sunil Sen will attend the
General Council meeting of the AITUC
to be held from 18th to 20th Feb '66
as a substitute for Com Rabin Mukherjee
who is in prison now.

with greetings
yours truly

Monoranjana Roy
General Secretary.

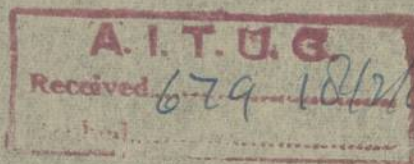
WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE
All India Trade Union Congress
249, Bepin Behari Ganguly Street,
CALCUTTA-12

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE
ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

249, BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI STREET,

CALCUTTA - 12

President : Dr. RANEN SEN, M. L. A.
General Secretary : MONORANJAN ROY.



Ref.

Date

14.2.66

To the Genl Secy AITUC

of Com,

Com Bhupal Roy will attend the ensuing general Council of the AITUC to be held from 18.2.66 to 20.2.66 as a substitute for Com Dhiren Hazumdar who is in detention under D-1 Rules.

with greetings

Yours Com

Monoranjan Roy

General Secy

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE
All India Trade Union Congress
249, Bepin Behari Ganguly Street,
CALCUTTA-12

STRUGGLE DIARY

(April 1965 to February 1966)

- by K.G. Sriwaastava -

BUNDHS

The series of Bundhs started in the year 1964, continued in 1965 also. In spite of the fact that for sometime in April 1965 and then again in September-October 1965 due to Pakistani aggression in Rann of Kutch and on Western Sector of boundary respectively the tempo of struggles was interrupted; there have been a good number of regional or local bundhs and industrial strikes.

Bombay Textile workers struck work on 7th July against the Bonus Ordinance. Calcutta had a general strike on 30 July against rise in tram fare. In West Bengal, Plantations had a token strike on August 2, and then in the same month on August 5, was Bengal Bundh, on August 9, Patna Bundh and on August 11, the whole of Bihar Bundh, followed by recently Kerala Bundh on 28th January. The Vidarbha Textile workers had a strike on October 27 against lay-off, closures and reduction in D.A. followed by Maharashtra Textile workers general strike on December 29 for the same cause.

The movement in Bihar and Kerala was deeper in the sweep and repression by the Government. While Kerala struggle is still continuing, in Bihar even now all the arrested comrades have not been released after about six months.

In Bombay 2½ lakh Textile workers are preparing for a continuous strike for Bonus from February 28.

High prices, food scarcity, reduction in earnings and retrenchment/lay off has been the main reason for these bundhs.

INDUSTRIAL STRIKES

Amongst the continued struggles the strike of 16,000 Amritsar Textile workers for 52 days which was called off on June 1, 1965 on the assurance of release of arrested workers, no victimisation, revision of wages and the issue of strike pay wages being referred to arbitration. The issue of wages is however still deadlocked as the workers representatives had jointly to withdraw for the tripartite Committee against the behaviour of the employers. There was complaint that several workers were not taken back on work. AITUC and INTUC jointly fought it.

75,000 Cashew workers and 4,500 office workers of 110 factories in Kerala carried on 6 days strike from September 2, 1965 for bonus and withdrew it after they got these demands conceded. AITUC and UTUC jointly fought it.

Rashtriya Sangram Samiti had given a call for the observance of 'National Action Day' on 21st September 1965 for resorting to peaceful direct action ranging from demonstration to strike and Hartals and observing 3rd September as 'All-India Anti Bonus Bill Protest Day'. The latter was observed in various centres but the former call had to be withdrawn because fighting broke out on Indo-Pak borders.

There have been more struggles and campaigns. Some of them which were reported to the office are mentioned below:-

1) Defence workers carried on a campaign against mainly retrenchment and other demands by resorting to demonstrations, token hunger strike by seven of their leaders before Parliament and hunger strike for 24 hours by about 5,000 workers on the same day from 24-27 April 1965. The retrenchment was postponed and revival of Negotiating Machinery agreed to in principle.

2) In Rajasthan about 1,000 contractors' labourers participated in hunger strike and strike from 12-25 April, 1965 for implementation of wage Board's recommendations on Interim relief.

3) Over a dozen of Civil Aviation employees went on hunger strike on 19th August 1965 for implementation of their Charter of Demands.

4) In Calcutta there have been protest against attempts by the employers to

reduce D.A. and also against efforts at curbing trade union rights by putting permanent bar on the proceedings.

- 5) 85,000 workers in Calcutta boycotted Bonus.
- 6) In Coimbatore there have been tension and local agitation regarding payment of Bonus.
- 7) In Hinganghat and Tarapur there was firing on the workers. widespread protest through statement was seen.
- 8) Dhori Mines accident also received widespread protest from trade unions.
- 9) Engineering workers of Delhi demonstrated before the Engineering Wage Board on 10 January 1966 for grant of Interim Relief.
- 10) A big demonstration by the Secretariat and allied offices' employees was taken out on 4th January 1966 against threat of retrenchment consequent on introduction of new officer oriented scheme.
- 11) Apprentices of H.A.L. Kanpur continued their strike for 17 days in January 1966.
- 12) A campaign against introduction of electronic computers started with an all-India Conference in Delhi on 6-8 December 1965. Statewide Conferences are being held to widen its base.
- 13) On December 15, 1965, in Bombay 650 workers of Estrella Batteries, 700 workers of Barrel and Drum Manufacturing Co. Ltd. and 500 workers of Extrusion Processes Co. Ltd. went on a local strike against lay-off and retrenchment.
- 14) 12,000 Mica Workers in Bihar went on one-day token strike on 14 February for implementation of their Charter of Demands.
- 15) 1,340 workers of the Dhori Colliery (Bihar) struck work on 6th April protesting against the termination of services of workers.
- 16) 1,101 workers of the Hindustan Construction Co. Ltd. Kakki, Amathode (Kerala) struck work on 29 April 1965 over certain demands.
- 17) 1,472 workers of the Somasundra Mills (P) Ltd., struck work on 4 April 1965 protesting against the incorrect implementation of settlement under Section 18(i) of the Industrial Disputes Act by the management. Later on the management declared lock-out.
- 18) 4,700 workers of the Reliance Jute Mill, Bhatapara (West Bengal) struck work on 19 April 1965 over a charge-sheet served upon workers of power-loom operation. The strike was called off on 20 April 1965.
- 19) 6,850 workers of the Ganges Mg. Co. Ptd. Bansbaria, Hooghly struck work on 26 April 1965 over issuing of charge-sheets to some workers. Later on the management declared a lock-out.
- 20) 4,000 workers of all the Silk Twisting Factories in Arni Taluk (Tamilnad) struck work on 17 May 1965 over deduction of wages by some managements. The strike was called off on 20 May 1965.
- 21) 14,000 workers of the Kolar Gold Mining Undertakings struck work on 17 May 1965 over demands for increase in D.A. supply of boiled rice, reduction of price of rice etc.
- 22) 1,331 workers of Kanpur Textiles Ltd. Kanpur struck work on 14 May 1965 resenting against the management's action in charge-sheeting and suspending a Piecer. The strike was called off on 16 May 1965 after direct negotiation.
- 23) 4,500 workers of Reliance Jute Mill, Bhatapara (West Bengal) struck work on 17 May 1965 over the demand for supply of table of wage rates and billets to beamers etc. The strike was called off on 24 May 1965.

- 24) 6,850 workers of Ganges Mgg. Co. Ltd. P.O. Bansberia Hooghly were affected by the lockout declared by the management in the preceeding month. The lock-out was lifted after conciliation.
- 25) 2,168 workers of No.5 Incline of Singareni Collieries struck work on 17 June 1965 over alleged throwing out of an office worker. The strike was called off on 18 June.
- 26) 3,970 workers of Bombay Dock Labour Board, Bombay, struck work on 16 June 1965 over the demand for payment of D.A. and interim relief. The strike was called off on 18 June 1965 after direct negotiations.
- 27) 2,119 workers of Mysore/Champion/Amalgamated Mines of KCMU Marikuppam struck work on 25 June 1965 protesting against the postponement of conciliation proceedings regarding D.A.
- 28) 8,000 workers of the Contractors under the Indian Iron & Steel Co., Kulti struck work on 14 July 1965 over the demand for increase in wages. The strike was called of after conciliation.
- 29) 3,690 workers of the Bengal Paper Mills Co. Ltd. Raniganj, went on strike on 26 July 1965 in protest against conduct of a supervisor. The strike was called off on the same day.
- 30) 1,250 workers of the Bengal Fine Spg. & Weaving Mills Ltd. Konnagar, struck work on 11 July 1965 protesting against the dismissal of a worker. The strike was called off on the next day.
- 31) 5,000 workers of the Delta Jute Mills, Manickpore, Howrah, were affected by the lock-out declared by the management on 5 July 1965 over the protest of the workers against double loom operation. The lock-out was lifted after conciliation.
- 32) 4,500 workers of the Reliance Jute Mill (West Bengal) went on strike on 13 July 1965 against the issue of charge-sheets to two workers. Later the management declared a lock-out.
- 33) 1,440 labourers working in Ore Drumps, wagon unloading Export General Cargo and Samplers under Shipping employers and others, Vizag Port, went on strike on 1 September 1965 due to non-implementation of Wage Board recommendations. The strike was called off on 9 September 1965.
- 34) 34,505 workers of the various Tea Estates in Kottayam Dist. (Kerala) struck work on 15 September 1965 over the demand for increase in wages. The strike was called off on 21 September 1965.
- 35) The lock-out declared by the management of Naihati Jute Mills (West Bengal) in August 1965 due to the workers grievances against operation of double looms, double spinning frames, permanency etc. affecting 2,700 workers was lifted on 1 September 1965 after conciliation.
- 36) 3,000 workers of the Fort William Jute Mill, Shibpur (Howrah) were affected by the lock-out declared by the management on 2 September 1965 over the demand for bonus and subsequent surrounding of managerial staff. The lock-out was lifted on 9 September 1965.
- 37) 3,000 workers of the Britannia Engineering Co. Ltd., Titagarh, (West Bengal) struck work on 16 September 1965 over the dispute on quantum of Bonus. The strike was called off on 22 September 1965.
- 38) 1,245 workers of M/s Hamimal Jain & Co. Contractors Kokan Iron Ore Mines of B.S.P., Dalli-Rajhara struck work on 4 October 1965 over the demand for supply of rice to the workers by the contractors as per the recommendations of the Tripartite Conference. The strike was called off on 7.10.65.
- 39) The workers of the Shore Labourers of Madras Port Trust went on strike on 27 October 1965 protesting against the provocative language used by the Deputy Traffic Manager. The strike was called off on the same day.

40) 2,520 workers of the Bhanora & South Bhanora Collieries (West Bengal) struck work on 27 October 1965 due to quarrel amongst the workers and supervisor. The strike was called off on 28 October 1965.

MIDDLE CLASS MOVES

C.H.S. Doctors particularly of Delhi fought well for wage settlement. The movement of Doctors has spread wide to Amritsar, Bhopal, Patna and other places. At present this struggle seems to be in suspension but it may erupt any moment.

Field Officers of Insurance Corporation also had their agitation and got some concessions. Class I Officers of L.I.C. have also been on the move.

Central Government employees had a demonstration before the Prime Minister's House on 16 February 1966 to express resentment on the inadequate announcement of D.A. enhanced recently.

All-India Defence Employees Federation had a demonstration before Prime Minister's House on 3 April 1965 against retrenchment.

State Government employees in various States continued their struggle for revision of Wages and D.A. Mass petition for leave on a particular decided day was the unique form applied in Bihar.

Air India and Indian Airlines Corporation employees have also been on lightening strikes or en masse leave to press for their demands.

Teachers are another category which are on the move again.

15,000 State Government employees demonstrated before Council House at Lucknow on 10 February for their demand to get the same rate of D.A. as Central Government employees.

Maharashtra State Government employees resumed their agitation to get the same rate of D.A. as Central Government employees.

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REPORT ON PRICES, WAGES AND D.A.

by K.G. Sriwastava

In recent years and especially in the Second and Third Plan periods, we have had the trend of continuously rising prices of essential articles as our constant companion and the phenomenal rates at which prices have soared, coupled with the shortages, has become the most important national problem. Some economists assert that in a "developing" economy, inflationary trends are bound to persist, as accompaniments of deficit financing, high rate of indirect taxation and the long gestation period of large investments involved in building basic industry. And, according to them, if the process of development has to go on along with preparations for defence and even actual war, for howsoever a limited period it may be, the strain on the economy due to inflationary trends will be considerable. All these assertions are made to "convince" people about the fatalistic inevitability of rising prices. And to bring us convincing proof of such an assertion, it is pointed out that similar trends exist in other countries - and the examples are of capitalist countries where things are worse.

These examples only show that efforts to resolve our economic problems under the capitalist structure cannot but lead to greater crisis and greater misery for the people.

On the other hand, it can be seen from the experience of certain other countries that planning and price rises need not co-exist as it happened in our country. A comparison of wage trends in the German Federal Republic (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) may be relevant in this connection.

According to official statistics, between 1950 and 1964, the money wages of workers in West Germany have gone up by about 300 per cent. During the same period, the purchasing power of the W. German Mark went down by 33 per cent which, in other words mean that the rise in wages, in real terms, is not 300 per cent but 100 per cent.

In GDR, the money wages of the workers went up from 311 marks in 1950 to 610 marks in 1964. During this period, there was price reduction of about 50 per cent and purchasing power of the mark appreciated by about 90 per cent. This mean increase in real wage standards of about 500 per cent during this period.

Therefore, we can see that while production and money wages of workers have gone up in both countries, in capitalist West Germany, money wage gains were considerably offset by price rises and fall in purchasing power while in the socialist GDR, money wages and real wages both go up steadily and prices also show a declining trend.

Only a socialist structure of the economy can guarantee continuous betterment of standard of living of the working class.

In India, we are working under a capitalist system though the ruling party and the Parliament have declared their aim to

. . . build socialist

build a "socialist pattern of society" or "socialist democracy" as they call it these days.

The AITUC has in the past supported some of the main features of the Government's programme of five year plans such as the building of basic and heavy industries in the country and the growth of public sector. During the recent emergency in the Indo-Pak war, we also supported the Government by not interrupting production and helped in raising production in many places. We have taken recourse to struggles only when there was no other alternative. Often, our struggles and programmes of agitation had been withdrawn to fulfil needs of defence in conditions of war. But all this has failed to protect the working people from the onslaughts of the capitalist greed for profits and governmental partnership with them.

Food is the prime necessity of human beings. To make food articles available at reasonable prices is the primary responsibility of the Government. Though draught and floods are there in this or that part of the country every year and are used as a handy excuse by the Government, to hide its failures to feed the people, food statistics go against the Government's case. The following table will show that on the whole, the stocks in the country, both of wheat and rice have been on the increase every year for the past 15 years, and at the same time, prices have been rising higher and higher.

Table I
AVAILABILITY OF FOODGRAINS, 1950-65

	Output of previous agri- cultural year ----- in million tons	Imports	Total availa- ble supply	Popula- tion (in million)	Availa- bility (in Ozs) per capita per day from domestic output	Availa- bility (in oz.) per day from total supply
1950-51	60.7	2.2	62.8	357.6	16.4	17.0
1951-52	54.9	4.8	59.7	363.4	14.6	15.9
1952-53	55.5	3.9	59.5	369.6	14.5	15.5
1953-54	61.7	2.0	63.7	376.1	15.9	16.4
1954-55	72.2	0.8	73.0	382.9	18.2	18.4
1955-56	70.8	0.7	71.3	390.2	17.5	17.7
1956-57	69.2	1.4	70.7	397.8	16.8	17.2
1957-58	72.4	3.7	76.0	405.8	17.2	18.1
1958-59	66.5	3.2	69.7	414.3	15.5	16.3
1959-60	78.7	3.9	82.6	423.3	18.0	18.9
1960-61	76.7	5.1	81.9	432.7	17.1	18.3
1961-62	82.0	3.5	85.5	442.7	17.9	18.7
1962-63	82.8	3.6	86.4	453.4	17.6	18.4
1963-64	78.5	4.6	83.0	464.3	16.3	17.3
1964-65	80.1	6.3	86.4	475.5	16.3	17.6
1965-66	88.3	N.A.	N.A.	487.0	17.5	N.A.

The Government has not succeeded in arranging distribution even of the available food properly and failed to check the hoarders, speculators and blackmarketeers. It has been putting blame on the farmers and sometimes even on the common man for hoarding. But the real fact is that though some well-to-do farmers have taken recourse to hoarding, the responsibility for scarcity and high prices rests squarely on the big business hoarders and speculators, aided by the banks and other monied interests.

. . . The Chart below gives the

The Chart below gives the position of prices as reflected in the officially compiled consumer price indices. It is no exaggeration to say that this chart does not show properly even the trends in prices. In actual life, the sufferings as a result of the increase in prices has been much more. No doubt, the misery in chronically scarcity areas is nowhere reflected.

INDEX NUMBER OF CONSUMER PRICES (WORKING CLASS)
1949 = 100

Year	Food	General
1951	104	105
1952	92	96
1953	105	105
1957	112	111
1958	118	116
1959	125	121
1960	126	124
1961	126	126
1962	130	130
1963	135	134
1964	152	152
1964 August	161	156
September	165	159
October	170	163
November	170	163
December	171	164
1965 January	172	165
February	167	162
March	162	159
April	163	160
May	164	161
June	168	163
July	173	168
August	178	170
September	...	172
October	...	172
November	...	173

Source: LABOUR BUREAU

During this period, the Index of Wholesale Prices (1952-53 = 100) rose to 165.5 in October 1965.

The rate of industrial production since 1951 has also gone up as can be seen from the following chart.

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (1956 = 100)

1951	73.5
1954	91.9
1960	130.1
1961	138.3
1962	150.6
1963	162.7
1964	174.8
1965	185.0 (average of 8 months)

. . . . The rate of

The index of industrial profits also tell their own story (though available only upto 1960).

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PROFITS (1955 = 100)

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
1. Gross profits including depreciation.	109.7	101.1	113.0	141.2	166.1
2. Profits before tax	112.0	90.4	102.9	138.7	160.9

There is no doubt that the trend of profits in subsequent years, as is clearly shown even from the figures of industrial production, is upwards.

Thus we see a picture where in our country agricultural production, imports of cereals and the total stock available for distribution, industrial production and profits have all been going up. Along with it also the Index of Wholesale Prices and the index of Consumer Prices.

Let us see what is the position of real wages of workers during this period.

It will not be out of place to refresh our memory and see how the position about wages has been presented in our previous reports. Relevant extracts from reports since Ernakulam (1957) are reproduced below:

The "Report at Ernakulam" presented to the 25th session in 1957 had stated:

"On the basis of material that is available, we can say that wages and earnings in the major sector of industries have gone up since 1947 as follows:

"The index of nominal earnings for the period 1947 to 1955 (with 1951 as 100) shows:

1947	71.0
1949	95.4
1950	93.7
1951	100.0
1952	108.1
1953	107.7
1954	107.6
1955	116.0

"All this shows that workers were out to fight for overcoming the wage-cuts of war period and securing an improvement in their conditions and they secured significant gains." (page 23)

"It means that not only money wages have made an advance but real wages also have advanced, mainly in the largescale organised industries:

	All-India consumer price index (1939=100)	Index of real earnings (1939 = 100)
1947	323	78.4
1948	360	84.4
1949	371	91.7
1950	371	90.1
1951	387	92.2
1952	379	101.8
1953	385	99.9
1954	371	102.7

In our report to the 1959 General Council meeting, we had noted as follows:

"So summing up the position on wages, we could say that . . . wages cuts as such have not taken place. Small increases have been secured. But real wages have ~~not~~ gone down due to price rise. Bonus payments are likely to be on a lower level, as many industries are pleading less profits, the boom having ended." (page 66).

"In view of all this, we can say that in the year 1958, due to the tremendous rise in food prices, there was a certain fall in the real wages of the working class on the whole."(page 69)

The "General Report at the Coimbatore Session" (1961) had stated:

"Though in these industries (government employees, textiles, cement, sugar), the wage rise awarded has neutralised the rising cost of living to some extent, on an all-India level, for all workers as such, the real wages have definitely gone down.

"Shri G.L.Nanda said on April 11, 1960: 'Between 1939 and 1947, the standard of living of the workers had declined by 25 per cent. By 1951, they had just recovered the lost ground. By 1955, the real wages had increased by 13 per cent. But since 1956, when again prices started rising, their gains have been to an extent wiped out.'"

"It has been claimed by students following the wage trends in the country that considering the trend of reduction in the real wages of the workers, the real wage of the workers in 1960 would be almost again on the level of 1939, if not below that.

"After completing the Five Year Plans, the workers in our country have only that much real wage as they had before the Second World War. That shows that it is only the exploiting classes that are appropriating the major portion of wealth that is growing in the country." (page 31)

"It will, therefore be seen that the mere statement that our real wages are only at the 1939 level does not give us the picture of its completeness. We have made a number of gains!"(page 35).

Year	Wholesale Price Index	Consumer Price Index (Working Class)	Index of real earnings
1951	475.8	374	92.2
1952	N.A.	367	100.7
1953	401.9	377	98.3
1954	379.1	360	103.3
1955	348.9	342	114.1
1956	390.5	374	106.4
1957	413.7	391	105.4
1958	422.5	414	102.1
1958	439.5	431	101.1
1960	467.8	441	104.9
1961	478.8	** 449	106.5
1962	494.1	** 463	107.2
1963	504.3	** 477	104.8
1964	564.4	541	N.A.
1965	*611.4	591	- -

* for 11 months (Monthly Abstract of Statistics)

** Reserve Bank Bulletin

The figures

The figures of real earnings for 1964 and 1965 are not yet available but our experience of day to day life is sufficient to conclude that the price rise during this period has been so high that by now even the 4.8% above the 1939 level must have been wiped out since there has not been much wage rise in many big sectors during this period.

These figures are in respect of organised industries and also of regular employees. There is possibility of certain sections of employees getting full neutralisation as a result of wage increase or increase in D.A. or other allowances e.g. Class IV and Industrial unskilled employees in Central Government, who have got their real wages gone a bit up. This section is almost 50% of the regular Government employees. But at the same time the skilled, highly skilled employees and clerical, storekeeping and supervisory section of Government employees drawing wages of more than Rs.100 to-day have not got their real wages up. In some cases it is just maintained, while large number of them on daily rate of pay - have also not got increase in real wages.

The same is the position in Textile industry which is another old organised industry.

In Plantations real wages have gone down though computations in respect of provision of rice in Assam Plantations in lieu of cash-wages cannot be correctly determined.

..... Cont.

In Mines the position is not likely to be very different. According to Indian Labour Year Book 1963, the average earnings of Miners have gone up from Rs.178.2 in 1957 to 221.2 in 1962 with base as December 1951= 100.

In Steel & Engineering on the whole taking into account the factories that existed in 1959, the position is the same.

In unorganised industries the pace of revision of minimum wages has been very slow and on the whole the workers have suffered in term of real wages.

While determining this the fact that new workers in new factories and mines in some cases with new machines have come into existence on new rates, is to be kept in view. The number of this category of workers is substantial and being non-existent in 1939 or even in 1947 its fall or rise in real wage cannot be determined from that date.

These figures show that working class in India all these years since Independence been trying to resist cut or recouping the wages cut, in terms of real wages. And that there has been a zigzag battle, which all indications show is likely to continue in the years to come. The increase in money wages secured through Tribunals, agreements, Wage Boards and struggles have mostly been to maintain the wage level of 1939.

We can repeat with justification from the Coimbatore session report that the wage increase got during this period "has neutralised the rising cost of living to some extent, on all-India level, for all workers as such; the real wages have definitely gone down". (pp 31)

This of course does mean that during the period from 1939-66 working class movements has not got for the workers any other benefit. In fact the working class has achieved a number of other significant benefits in service conditions and trade union rights during this period but which is not the subject matter of this report.

STRUGGLES OF THE WORKING CLASS FOR WAGES

Since last General Council meeting there has been some notable gains in the sphere of wages. Bidi workers of Bombay & Delhi Municipal Workers got substantial increase in wages. Iron and Steel Wage Board also submitted its recommendations in July 1965 and Coffee Wage Board in August 1965 giving some increase in wages. In Andhra Pradesh, State Government Employees' Pay Commission submitted report two months ago. In U.P., Electricity Body's report has been submitted. We have as yet no report as to how many of their recommendations have been implemented either partly or in toto.

In Kerla the D.A. of State Government Employees has been brought on par with Central Government employees but with the provision of C.D.S. (Compulsory Deposit Scheme). Wage Boards for Port & Dock Workers gave an interim relief of Rs.7.80 in April 1965 and that of Second Cement Wage Board of Rs.5.46 w.e.f. Jan. '65. *Expansive wage Board has announced int: Relief of Rs. 57- to 12.50 for pay up to Rs. 509- per.*

In Banks bipartite talks for wage rise are still going on.

In Punjab the bitter struggles for minimum wages in Textile industry has not yet given due relief to the workers. The Wage Committee stands paralysed as the workers' representatives walked out of it as a protest. Now, after war with Pakistan, the issue is of serious unemployment of thousands of workers in border areas.

In West Bengal the D.A. was threatened to be cut and in Bombay an application for 33% cut in D.A. is already pending before the Tribunal.

Central Government employees got two increases of Rs. 5 each in D.A. of lowest category in March 1965 and again in February 1966 (w.e.f. 1.12.65) on the average of cost of living index for 12 months being reached at 155 and 165 respectively.

WAGE BOARDS

Government has announced the setting up of Four more Wage Boards viz. Sugar (Second), Transport and Electricity. The actual composition of the Boards is yet to be announced.

Lately, Wage Boards are becoming another instrument in delaying of wage increases. The reports of the Wage Boards are being delayed abnormally e.g. Tea Plantations Wage Board which was appointed on 5.12.1960 has not submitted its report for five years. Coal Mines Wage Board appointed on 10.8.1962 is also locked up in discussion only. The Engineering Wage Board appointed on 12.12.1964 has not yet even given any interim relief. Similarly, Second Wage Board for Textiles which was appointed on 12.8.1964. Iron Ore and Dolomite Wage Board appointed on 3.5.1963 and with every limited centres to be covered is still only visiting places.

*announced
on 15.2.66
Rs. 12.50 to
5/- per...*

Some of the adverse features of Wage Boards have been:-

- 1) Abnormal delay in submitting recommendations, 2) Not paying even interim relief say after every 5 points of increase in C.L.I., 3) In the name of Standardization of jobs to deny workers their due wages e.g. in Sugar and Cement,
- 4) Putting a bar on revision of wage for five years and then taking up the issue only after 5 years are over, which means in actual practice denying any wage increase for about 5 years, 5) As the recent trend in the Engineering Wage Board shows, making unanimity in the Wage Board difficult. In Coal and Plantations also the same problem is there.

In the industries where no Wage Board has yet been set up, the demand for having one inspite of these drawbacks is great. The present anarchy in the Wage system specially for the same type of work in the industry, different set of wage scales being prevalent, is perhaps responsible for this urge. Yet the trade union movement should take effective measures to remove the above drawbacks in the working of Wage Boards.

CORRECTION OF INDICES

Since the last General Council we have not moved forward. The Correction Committee in Delhi and Andhra Pradesh have submitted their report but these have not been published. In Delhi the report is being screened by another Technical Committee and the apprehension is that its recommendations will be washed away. In Punjab also such a Committee has been set up.

In Rajasthan the movement for implementation of Mathur Committee report is mounting. In Maharashtra correction of indices has yet to be done for Nagpur, Sholapur etc. In West Bengal yet no Committee has been appointed for correction of indices in Calcutta.

CONSUMER COOPERATIVE STORES AND INDICES

In Kanpur the employers wanted to open Consumer Co-operative Stores only if its prices were to be taken in compiling and computing the C.L.I. governing payment of D.A. to the workers. In Kanpur when D.A. is still paid on C.L.I. of 1939 base, and the basket is of only 21 articles, employers have been often heard demanding review of the whole system of compiling C.L.I. for purpose of D.A.

However in the Zonal meeting of Fair Price Shops and Consumers' Stores held in Delhi on 16-17 January 1966 where this issue has raised, it was decided that opening of Fair Price Shops and the Consumer Stores should not be linked up with the issue of D.A. because not all articles mentioned in the compilation of C.L.I. and of the same quantity and quality are or can be supplied to all workers from these shops or stores.

In the Bombay Zonal meeting on Fair Price Shops and Consumer Stores, the Employers' representatives insisted to the point of making a note of

dissent in the

dissent in the conclusions of the meeting that the prices in the Consumer's Stores and Fair Price Shops should be taken for the purpose of computing CLI and arriving at D.. The workers' representatives unanimously opposed it.

NATIONAL NUTRITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The report of the National Nutrition Advisory Committee which was set up on 16.5.1952 has submitted its report on 23.8.1964 and after screening it has been released in August 1965. As mentioned in our last report it has recommended that the daily calories requirements of a male industrial worker should be 2,800, for his wife 2150 calories and for children 1,230 (age upto 5) and 2,010 (age group 6-14). This makes total of 8,206 for his family and for three consumptive units. An average will come to 2750 calories as against 2,600 computed by the Second Pay Commission on the recommendation of Dr. Jeevaraj Mehta and Dr. Patwardhan.

Yet this report has not been discussed in any of the tripartite Committees. It should be placed before the I.L.C. or S.L.C. and recommendations sent to the wage fixing authorities to take this into consideration in determining minimum and need based minimum wages.

LINKING D.. WITH C.L.I.

The recent noise made by the Chief Ministers of the State Governments demanding Central subsidy for revising D.. of State Government employees everytime the Central Government on the basis of recommendations of Second Central Pay Commission decides to revise the D.. of Central Government employees and the reported assurance given to them by the Finance Minister of the Union Govt. that in future there will be no automatic linking of D.. with the C.L.I. is a serious pointer towards the policy of the Government. It is said the Government will try that prices donot rise and when it does go-up to evolve some method so that at least payment of cash D.. is avoided. In this instance also Central Government employees have not received even 90% neutralization for the lowest grade as recommended by the Dass Commission only a year ago.

Then there are several semi-Government institutions and public sector concerns where though Government decision on D.. is not automatically applicable, but by separate orders they have also been granting D.. on the same scales as Central Government to their employees. Therefore this decision will affect not only 2½ million Central Government employees and some millions of State Government employees but thousands of such employees also.

In the recent past in one of the Mills in Maharashtra State, when taken over under Industrial Development Order, the Government administrator reduced D.. It was followed by Tata's Model Mills of Nagpur. On agitation in these cases the D.. was restored. But the issue that D.. should be cut by not/ 33% in Bombay Textiles even though C.L.I. has/gone down is pending before Tribunal and the Mill Owners Association has demanded consideration by a special meeting of the Wage Board for Cotton Textile Industries. May be this is to forestall the demand for Interim relief. But the threat is there.

A few months ago in West Bengal the Employers specially in the Engineering industry had threatened to reduce D.. as according to them the prices had come down.

The efforts of the employers in Delhi and Bombay Zonal meeting of the Consumer Store and Fair Price Shops to link it for computation of C.L.I. and specially the agreement of Maharashtra Government to it, is all for the purpose of reducing the amount of D..

All this is a clear pointer that the employers want to reduce the amount of D.. being paid to the workers.

If some how the compilation of the figures of C.L.I. can help them in this matter, they will fully utilize it.

In case and

In case and where those figures are not so helpful, they are willing to give a go-by to the very principle of automatic linking of D.A. with the CLI. The Indian Labour Conference has accepted this principle of linking D.A. with CLI and the working class is fighting for correction of the indices so that it reflects correctly the rise in prices and that they get full neutralisation in the amount of D.A. so as not to allow further erosion of their real wages.

The Central and State Governments by their attitude towards payment of D.A. to their employees are lending a helping hand and providing guidance to the private sector employees.

In this context the struggle of Central and State Government employees and it should be a united one for retaining in one case and introducing in another, of the principle of linking D.A. with CLI with full neutralization and for this purpose revision of existing D.A. formula assumes importance for the whole trade union movement, and needs their full support.

REDUCTION IN PAY PACKET

Another effort made during this period is to reduce the pay packet of the workers and employees through various deductions.

Among deductions Provident Fund deduction is on the demand of the workers and in this case the employers have to pay equal amount. Still in all industries the employers are not willing to pay their share of 8.1/3%.

But lately there has been suggestion that only the share of workers in the Provident Fund be raised to 10% or more without making it incumbent on the employers to make the same contribution.

Among Government employees there is a scheme of General Provident Fund in which employers do not contribute anything. Even the rate of interest here is less than the rate of interest prevalent in the Banks.

E.S.I. Contribution was imposed on the workers. Everywhere it was not agreed willingly and specially where there were serious complaints about the functioning of the Scheme. Employers are not paying their due share according to the Act even now. The detail functioning of the Scheme is outside the purview of this report.

Cumpulsory Deposit Scheme was also introduced but had to be later withdrawn on the wide spread agitation by almost all sections of people. Then there is a Small Savings Scheme.

Pay Role Savings Scheme was introduced about five years ago. AITUC had opposed this Scheme even then. Recently again this scheme is being insisted upon.

Lately Unemployment Insurance Scheme is being discussed. Workers who are covered by the Provident Fund are asked to contribute .5% of wage towards this scheme.

In various factories and establishments there are various such schemes like T.B. Seal, Death Benefit Fund etc. for which workers are asked to contribute "in their own interest".

Contributions for National Defence Fund and such other national causes are often made by the workers voluntarily.

In this period of rising prices and fall in real wages, the working class should not be burdened with any Scheme which reduces their pay packet which he takes home, unless willingly agreed to.

AUTOMATION AND RATIONALISATION

Introduction of Mechanisation and rationalisation in the industry have been going on in the country for several decades. The working class have fought the ill-effects of these measures in several battles and it continues even today. In the Fifteenth ILC in 1957 principles were laid down for introduction of Rationalisation

in the industry.....

in the industry. The scheme being in the interest of country, it causing no retrenchment and no additional workload, and the gains in the profits being shared equally between the industry and the workers were the conditions laid down in the resolution. Nowhere any scheme of rationalisation been discussed at the tripartite level and even wages of the workers, even where raised, have been fixed arbitrarily.

Recently Government of India and some of the big foreign monopolists in the country have given lead in the matter of introduction of automation e.g. in L.I.C., Air India and IAC, Foreign Oil Companies, Railways, some Electricity undertakings as in Calcutta are bringing in electronic computers to do clerical work of accounting and tabulating. This have been rightly opposed by the employees and their unions.

It has been our experience that generally rationalisation has been introduced resulting in fattening the profits of the employers, and in some places workload have been increased and in still others if retrenchment has some how been avoided, future recruitment has been stopped for years. Workers have not received their due share from the gains of such measures.

In this particular case the introduction of electronic computers for clerical work at this stage in the country is totally unwarranted and unnecessary. If this is allowed to be introduced it is totally incorrect to say that it will not effect either employment or wages. Therefore AITUC is opposed to this move.

In Oil industry, where workers were being offered gratuity for voluntary retrenchment, a tripartite Committee is going into the question and till then the scheme is held up.

In L.I.C. the workers and their organisation opposed it and in December 1965 held an anti-automation Conference in Delhi.

To sum up the conclusions:-

1. D.A. to be linked with the C.L.I. with full neutralisation. Not only the attempt being made at present to give up this principle is to be fought but it has to be extended to industries where it is not applicable today.
2. a) The struggle for increase in basic wages should continue, irrespective of the rate of D.A.
b) Revision of minimum wages-daily or monthly paid-in unorganised industries to be taken up more seriously.
c) A struggle for a national minimum wage in terms of the needbased minimum conception of 1957, to be initiated.
3. Consumer Price Index to be corrected. 1960 series to be held over till then. All India agitations for publishing the Reports of the Expert Committees at Delhi and Hyderabad and setting up such Committees in all other Centres.
4. Against Automation, Rationalisation or productivity or payment on results Schemes that lead to retrenchment, to greater workload and deny commensurate rise in wages.
5. Holding of Price line of essential articles and for this purpose nationalise Banks, start Wholesale Food grain trading and break up and nationalise the big concentrated monopoly houses.
6. Wage Boards to submit their reports within one year and grant interim relief for every five points rise in C.L.I. (1949 = 100 Base) pending finalisation of the report.
7. Ratio of wage differentials between unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled categories to be fixed and maintained.
8. No reduction in Pay Packets. A general rise in wages in all trades and industries.

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

(New Delhi, 13-14 Feb 1966)

The 24th session of the Standing Labour Committee met in New Delhi on February 13 and 14, 1966. Shri Jagjivan Ram, the Union Labour Minister, presided.

The agenda had 19 items, but the most important and pressing problem of closures, retrenchments and lay-off; prices and D.A. and bonus were put down for discussion. However, on the initiative of the AITUC delegation, the item of closures, retrenchments and lay-off was discussed in great detail.

The main conclusions of the SLC, as drafted by the drafting committee, are given below. On one or two points, the drafting is faulty. For example, on "action taken on the previous decisions, one of the items was re.changes in legislation to enable courts to go into the merits of the case of individual dismissals, etc. This had been agreed to earlier, but the Government has not taken any action. This point was pressed and the Labour Minister stated that there was difference of opinion in the Cabinet on it. However, he agreed to expedite the matter.

The main discussion in the whole session was on closures. The decision is in item 1 of the draft conclusions.

An important gain is regarding reference of cases of individuals against whom criminal cases are pending, to adjudication. This item was included at the instance of the AITUC. The conclusion is at item 4.

Another important point is regarding suspension allowance during enquiry. This item was again proposed by the AITUC. The conclusion is given also on item 4.

Re. recognition of central TU organisations, the INTUC has been pressing for sole recognition on the ground of being the majority organisation. They proposed raising the present limit of one lakh verified membership (for recognition as central TU organisation) to five lakhs. The HMS agreed to raise it to three lakhs. The AITUC delegates vigorously opposed it and ultimately it was agreed to retain the present position. The reason for our opposition is plain. Any upward revision would have led to elimination of all organisations except INTUC, through the manoeuvring of verification.

The Government had circulated a draft scheme on unemployment insurance. This had been severely criticised by the AITUC, - the only central organisation of workers which sent any comments. Subsequently, the scheme was modified by the Government. But even as it stands now, it is entirely unsatisfactory. Discussion on this was deferred.

A draft of a Bill to regulate conditions of work in the film industry was circulated. A Committee has been set up to go into this. The AITUC will have one representative on it.

. . . The Government had

The Government had circulated a proposal that powers should be given to registrars of trade unions to deregister unions in case of violation of union rules. This patently autocratic attempt at Government interference in TUs was strongly opposed and the proposal was withdrawn. Instead, power is to be given to Labour Courts to hold elections in case more than one set of office-bearers claim to represent the same union - a state of affairs which is fairly prevalent in INTUC unions.

Another attempt to ban strikes in hospitals and dispensaries and exempting the employees from the purview of the I.D. Act was also defeated by opposition of workers' representatives.

On behalf of the AITUC, Com. S. A. Dange attended as delegate and Satish Loomba as Adviser.

Official Draft
circulated by Labour Ministry

STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE
(24th Session, New Delhi, February 13-14, 1966)

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

GENERAL

I. Closures.

(i) The Committee viewed with grave concern the situation arising from closures and mass retrenchments which had taken place in recent months for various reasons. The Committee reiterated the decision of the 16th Indian Labour Conference on that subject and agreed that in cases of closure and mass retrenchment, there should be three months' notice to the workers as well as to Government. In cases of lay-off, it was agreed that one month's notice would be given except in cases where the giving of such notice was not possible owing to exigencies beyond the control of the employer. It was considered that situations arising from closures due to mismanagement were covered by the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

to/ (ii) A point was raised whether it was necessary to hand over the same management the unit which had been taken over due to mismanagement and rehabilitated. It was agreed that the point would be examined by Government.

(iii) As for closures arising from factors such as foreign exchange shortage, shortage of raw material, etc., the Chairman explained that the Ministry of Labour had already constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee and a Central Standing Tripartite Committee to look into such matters and that no fresh machinery was considered necessary to deal with matters arising from such closures. However, State Governments which had not yet set up such bodies should do so without further delay. The working of these bodies at the Central and State levels should also be improved upon.

(iv) The Chairman referred to the need for intensified efforts towards import substitution.

(v) The question of equitable distribution of raw materials was raised and the employers stated that there was already some kind of arrangement in a few cases for making such distribution. The Committee urged that suitable arrangements should be made for the equitable distribution of all types of scarce raw materials, spares and components.

. . . . (vi) Wherever possible

(vi) Wherever possible 'fabrication' should be done within the country, and only critical parts of components should be imported.

II. Family Planning Programme.

The Minister of Health appealed to the Central organisations of workers that they should associate themselves more actively with the Family Planning Programmes. After some discussion it was agreed that an Advisory Committee consisting of the representatives of the Central organisations of workers would be set up to advise the Ministry of Health in this regard.

Item 1: Action taken on the main conclusions/recommendations of the 23rd Session of the Standing Labour Committee held at New Delhi on 27th March 1965.

The workers' representatives drew attention to the proposed legislation concerning fair price shops and contract labour and urged that action in this regard should be expedited. Subject to this, the statement of action taken placed before the Committee was noted.

Item 2: Amendment of section 10(b) of the Indian Trade Unions, Act, 1926, so as to empower the Registrars to cancel the registration of a Trade Union, the executive of which has been found to have violated its registered rules.

The proposal contained in the memorandum was not accepted. However, after discussion, it was agreed that where more than one set of persons claimed to be the office-bearers of the same union, provision should be made in the Trade Unions Act, providing for an election, confined to the members of the unions concerned, to be conducted under the orders of the Labour Court.

Item 3: Amendment of sub-section (3) of Section 1 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, to make provision that the Standing Orders once made applicable to an industrial establishment will continue to apply to it irrespective of any subsequent change in the number of workmen employed therein or in the constitution of such an establishment.

Proposal in the memorandum concerning amendment of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act was accepted.

Item 4: Reference of cases to adjudication whilst criminal cases are pending against workmen involved in the disputes.

(i) Proposal in paragraph 6(i) of the memorandum (regarding reference of industrial disputes concerning workmen against whom prosecutions were pending in a court of law for the same set of charges on the basis of which these have been dismissed by management, to adjudication before finalisation of the criminal cases) was approved.

(ii) As for subsistence allowance, referred to in paragraph 6(ii) of the memoranda, the proposal that during the period of suspension pending enquiry the worker concerned should receive 50% of the wages was accepted in principle. As for the duration and date of commencement of the benefit, it was agreed that Government should consider and decide the matter in the light of the practice followed by the Central Government in respect of its employees, in the industry and in the States.

. . . Item 5

Item 5: Restriction of maternity benefit to the first three births.

The proposal in the memorandum concerning restriction of the maternity benefit to first three births was not approved.

Item 6: Review of the working of the code of discipline.

Item 7: Implementation of labour laws in public sector undertakings.

Consideration of these items was deferred.

Item 8: Constitution of National Arbitration Promotion Board.

(i) The proposal to constitute an Arbitration Promotion Board at the National level was accepted, without prejudice to any existing Boards already set up at the State level.

(ii) As for the functions of the proposed Board and model principles for reference of disputes to voluntary arbitration the central organisations would send their comments to the Government.

Item 9: ILO Convention (No. 111) concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation.

The Central Organisations of workers and employers agreed to impress upon their affiliates the need for observing in practice the principle of non-discrimination in employment even where it was not enforced by law.

Item 10: Joint Management Councils.

Item 11: Industrial co-Partnership.

Item 12: Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

Item 13: Payment by results.

Consideration of these items was deferred.

Item 14: Question of recognition of certain organisations as Central Trade Union Organisations of workers.

It was agreed that the status quo in respect of this matter should be maintained. The Chairman however, stated that he would meet the representatives of the central workers' Organisations for discussing any proposals that might like to make in this regard.

Item 15: Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 - Proposal to exclude services in hospitals and dispensaries from the scope of.

The workers' representatives did not agree with the proposal to exclude services in hospitals and dispensaries from the scope of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947. After some discussion, however, it was decided that a committee should be constituted to examine the matter and make suitable recommendations for safeguarding the interests of the patients. The proposed Committee should consist of four representatives of the workers, Shri R.H. Modi, Labour Ministers of Assam and Gujarat and representatives of the Ministries of Health and Labour and Employment. The workers' organisations agreed to send the names of their nominees very early. The Committee is expected to complete its work within three months.

Item 16: Role of Labour/Welfare Officers in Industrial Undertakings.

Item 17: Draft scheme of legislation to regulate employment in film industry.

It was agreed that a tripartite committee should be set up to consider the draft scheme and make suitable recommendations in this regard. The proposed committee should consist of one representative each from the Central Organizations of workers and employers and representatives of the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Labour and Employment and of the State Governments of Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madras and Andhra Pradesh.

Item 18: Constitution of the National Safety Council for industries other than mines.

The proposal concerning the constitution of the National Safety Council was accepted. As for arrangements concerning financing of the proposed council raised during the discussion the Chairman said that this matter and other details should be left to Government.

Item 19: Amendment to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, to provide for appointment of Inspectors.

The proposal to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act contained in the memorandum was accepted.

REPORT ON KERALA BANDH

by P. Balachandra Menon,
General Secretary, Kerala Committee of the AITUC

The Kerala Bandh of January 28, 1966 was an all-pervasive united action, the like of which the State had not witnessed even in the period of our struggle for independence. On that day, all activities in Kerala stopped. Factories, shops, establishments, hotels, etc. were shut down completely for a day. Road and water transport, both in the public and private sectors, ceased plying. Even the rikshaws were off the roads and the country crafts did not ply. All banks and the offices of the LIC had closed down. The daily newspapers, about 40 in number, did not come out that day. The Cochin harbour and all the minor ports were at a standstill. The incoming railway trains were stopped at the borders of Kerala and outgoing trains did not move out of Trivandrum, Quilon, Cochin Harbour, Shoranur, Olavakkot and Calicut. All the workers in the plantations except those in the Munnar area, struck work. Agricultural operations remained suspended and even the pan shops had a holiday. Fishermen took the day off. The Bandh was complete.

The working class, the working peasantry and other sections of the toiling people have been striving to build united action and the ever growing urge for unity on the part of the workers and other toiling sections, including middle class employees, the State Government employees and school teachers, etc., was manifested in the numerous joint struggles and demonstrations some of which were of an all-State character. Despite the sharp political and organisational differences, the workers in Kerala had exhibited a growing sense of unity by united actions and strikes on several previous occasions. And it has been our experience that in most of the industrywide actions, the unions affiliated to the AITUC, UTUC and HMS initiated the joint actions which often drew unions and workers belonging to the INTUC and independent unions into common joint actions. There have several instances of such actions during the last seven years.

Denied their demands and denied democratic rights with the arbitrary imposition of President's rule in Kerala, the problems of the people of Kerala, including the problem of chronic food deficit, had reached crisis dimensions. While the Central Government acted with haste and refused permission to the majority party after the last elections to form a Government and to impose President's rule, the burning problems of the Kerala people remained untouched. Instead of the Central Government taking a direct interest in the State's problems with a view to bringing relief to the people, the policies of the Central Government implemented through the Advisory regime in Kerala only heaped more miseries on the people. This resulted in the State not getting a fair allocation in the Fourth Plan programmes and the formulation of a proper Plan to meet the specific needs of Kerala also went by default in the absence of a democratic set-up. On top of all these came the miserable bungling on the food front and the raw deal meted out to the people of Kerala through a cut in rations and imposing a 4 oz. rice ration was, indeed, the last straw which broke the camel's back.

Before the Food Zones were introduced, Kerala had about five thousand fair price shops covering all villages and towns and these shops used to supply an assured quantity of rice at controlled rates to all those coming under the low income group, having a salary of Rs.150 and below. The Centre used to

. . . . give the State

give the State about 2½ lakh to 3 lakh tons of rice at subsidised rates. The monthly arrival of rice through normal trade channels, from the neighbouring States, was of the order of 70,000 to 90,000 tons.

After the President's rule was imposed, the position in respect of supplies through trade channels began to fall appreciably. The total arrival of foodgrains during the four months, September to December 1964 did not even total up a month's quota which prevailed earlier. It was at such a time that the Governor announced 'informal rationing' in November 1964. With this, the people had hoped that the Central Government had assumed full responsibility to assure Kerala the necessary quota of rice. But all what the Advisory regime did was to collect about 45,000 tons of rice from Kerala itself and carry on with rationing as long as possible. Frantic appeals were made to the Centre as the stock began dwindling. The entire rationing was about to break down and then Governor V.V.Giri openly expressed that the Centre and the surplus States were not helpful. The succeeding Governor, A.P.Jain, got some stock during the early days of his regime but there was no regular supply, sufficient to guarantee the 200 grams per head, he allowed during the Onam festival days. The quantum of rice ration was therefore reduced to 160 grams from August 1, 1965. The price of rice in the black market rose to Rs.2 per kg, and even higher. Rationing was made statutory during the middle of 1965.

Kerala produces about 11 lakh tons of rice. Although the State's economy is predominantly agricultural, a considerable part of the acreage is devoted to the growing of such commercial crops as coconut, tea, coffee, rubber, arecanut, ginger, pepper, cashew, tapioca, lemongrass, bananas, etc. Rice production has increased considerably in Kerala and after Madras, Kerala's record is highest in per acre production. During 1963-64, despite unfavourable weather conditions, production of rice had increased by 35,000 tons. Other agricultural crops also registered substantial increase in production. The exports of commercial crops from Kerala fetch nearly 20 per cent of India's total foreign exchange earnings. This large contribution of foreign exchange earnings out of exports did not, however, merit for the State, even a guarantee from the Central Government to maintain a normal food ration.

Kerala has only 1.2 per cent of the area of India while its population is 3.85 per cent of the total. The population density is the highest with 1,127 per square mile as against the 370 average for the Indian Union. The population in Kerala is increasing by 4.2 lakhs annually and to feed this population, an additional 50,000 tons are required every year.

To maintain a 12 oz. rice ration, the total need of Kerala will be about 20 lakh tons annually. Out of internal production, the marketable surplus is hardly ½ lakh tons which can be procured for distribution since more than 75 per cent of agricultural holdings are small peasant holdings with three acres or less - and such holdings produce no surplus.

The Government has totally failed to get the surplus from the rich cultivators of the Kuttanad and Palghat areas. On the other hand, the representatives of these rich landlords decide the food policy of the Government and they have their men in the Advisory Committee. They have always opposed State trading in foodgrains and monopoly procurement. The levy on peasant holdings of two acres and less has hit the small peasants very hard.

In August 1965, the representatives of left political parties and trade unions belonging to the AITUC, UUUUC, HMS and the kisan organisations, met together and set up a "Kerala Samara Samithi" to carry forward the mass struggles on the basis of demands formulated by the Rashtriya Sangram Samiti on the all-India plane.

. . . . The Samiti called for

The Samiti called for a Kerala Bandh on September 28, 1965, as part of the all-India action. A largely attended conference of TU representatives was held on 12th September 1965. However, because of the Pak aggression, the conference called upon the workers to switch over their activities in the direction of Defence and September 28 was observed as a day of national solidarity for defence.

The Conference of the Samiti had called for the establishment of District and Local units and these were established in all districts and even in villages, Samiti units sprang up.

The trend of preparations for united action initiated by the formation of the Samiti was also taken forward to build industrial unity. Efforts were made under the auspices of the Samiti to hold state-level conferences of various trades. On November 28, 1965, all the trade unions in the textile mills of Kerala, except one, participated in a Textile Workers' Conference convened by the Samiti. This was the biggest ever meeting of textile workers ever held in Kerala. The conference set up a textile trade union organising committee consisting of representatives of AITUC, UTUC, HMS and independent unions.

The plantation workers' conference held jointly on January 23, 1966, was also a very representative conference and an Action Committee was set up on the industrial level jointly.

The PWD Workers' Federation at its conference held in January this year requested the Samiti to convene a PWD Workers' conference under its auspices in which unions of all affiliations may participate. The conference decided to form united committees at district and local levels and conduct district conferences before March 1966.

The Municipal Workers' Federation of Kerala is a united organisation of AITUC and UTUC unions. The trade unions of AITUC, INTUC, UTUC and independent unions functioning in the Government presses have agreed to convene a joint conference to present common demands and conduct united struggles.

Thus, during this period, since the formation of the Samara Samiti, the extent and depth of working class unity reached higher dimensions. The strength and sweep of the forces of unity have grown with the capacity of the Samara Samiti to forge unity in action as well as in organisation.

It was in this context that the trade unions were called upon to intervene against the grave ~~xxxx~~ food situation, caused due to the reduction of the rice ration from six ounces to four ounces imposed by the Advisory regime. The Samara Samiti took note of the situation and decided ~~xx~~ at its meeting held on January 18, to call for a state-wide Bandh action on February 1, as a protest against the reduction in rice ration and to demand an equitable food policy. The INTUC and even the Congress leaders went on record against the food policy of the Government of India and there was the universal demand that the Union Food Minister should resign.

While the Samara Samithi was meeting on January 18, about 40 trade unions in the Ernakulam-Alwaye (the developing industrial area where some big industrial units are situated) took a decision that the workers of the Ernakulam district should go on a general strike on the food issue on January 30. The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee and the local INTUC met on 21st January to discuss the food situation. They authorised their Presidents to fix a day for joint hartal and strike in consultation with the Samara Samiti. The leaders of the Samara Samiti and the leaders of the KPCC and INTUC fixed January 28, by common consent, for KERALA BANDH. The unions in the Ernakulam area also agreed to go into action on the same day.

. . . The Bandh was peaceful

The Bandh was peaceful though by evening there were a few stray incidents in Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Cannanore. The Governor, A.P.Jain, and his wife could move freely on the streets of Trivandrum even without the usual police protection. Frightened by the united struggle, the Governor hatched a plot and hurriedly called a press conference on January 28 afternoon where he announced that the movement would be crushed as it has allegedly turned "violent". This gave the clue to the KPCC and INTUC to withdraw from the struggle and they announced their withdrawal at 4 p.m. The KPCC also suspended their agitation which they had planned for one week beginning from January 27. The Governor announced a cash reward for the police and this was the green signal for them to let loose repression.

Colleges and schools which were closed down by Government orders till January 30, opened on January 31, when the students came out on strike. Brutal repression was let loose on the students in Quilon, Kottayam, Changanacherry and Tripunithura and Calicut. A large number of students were badly injured and had to be admitted to hospitals. The police got into college and school premises, beat up the students including girls. Even professors and teachers were not spared. Colleges and schools were closed in various places and the heads of educational institutions came out with statements against the police and district authorities. Chambers of Commerce, Merchants Associations and Bar Councils demanded public inquiry into the conduct of the police.

Workers in the Quilon area struck work again on February 1 and once again on February 3, to protest against repression.

The Samara Samiti met on February 3 and decided to continue the struggle for increased rice ration, inquiry into police excesses, release of arrested persons and withdrawal of cases. We gave a call for picketing of all District headquarters and the State Government secretariat at Trivandrum. The Government promulgated Sec.144 in Trivandrum and Attingal. The Samiti gave a call for breaking the ban order. Led by P.T.Punnoose, a batch of volunteers broke the ban in Trivandrum while another batch did the same at Attingal.

The new Governor took charge on February 6. On February 7, section 144 was withdrawn. The Samara Samiti met the Governor on the 8th and demanded judicial inquiry, withdrawal of cases, increased rice ration. The same morning, the General Secretary of the AITUC, S.A.Dange who had come to Kerala to study the situation, met the Governor.

Inside the jails where political leaders have for long been detained under DIR, A.K.Gopalan went on an indefinite hunger-strike on January 28. E.M.S.Namboodiripad who was arrested on his arrival in Trivandrum also went on a day's hunger-strike inside jail. A.K.Gopalan's hunger-strike was withdrawn on February 4 at the intervention of the Samara Samiti.

To protest against the police repression and for a public enquiry into police excesses, M.N.Govindan Nair went on a prolonged hunger-strike in Quilon from February 3. The Governor visited Quilon on February 9, and he ordered a public inquiry the next day. M.N.Govindan Nair withdrew the hunger-strike on February 11.

The new Prime Minister has announced that the rice ration in Kerala will be increased to 160 grams, with effect from the middle of March. This announcement has not satisfied the people of Kerala. The Samara Samiti which met on February 12 decided to intensify the struggle by extending picketing to taluq headquarters and village offices also. This struggle for a national food policy will be backed in united action by the Kerala workers.

A.I.T.U.C. AND INDUSTRIAL TRUCE

1. The Industrial Truce Resolution was adopted on November 3, 1962, in a tripartite meeting where there were no discussions on the draft placed by Government. The discussions on the draft had taken place informally between government and the various participating organisations. This position was necessitated because of the "super-patriotism" of the INTUC and HMS which had refused to sit with the AITUC in a tripartite conference. The AITUC, however, had indicated in writing its reservations on the Draft of the Industrial Truce resolution and had moved specific amendments. These amendments were not considered by Government. On the day the resolution was "adopted" in a mute tripartite conference, the General Secretary of the AITUC, S.A. Dange had sent a letter to the then Labour Minister, G.L. Nanda, in which it was stated:

"Two vital things that require mention here are that the resolution puts a blanket ban on strikes, irrespective of what the employers do. Secondly, no clear protection is assured to the workers against rise in prices and fall even in real wages which is low enough.

I feel that the Conference should have given time to this. The emergency of the situation should not have prevented more careful consideration of such vital decisions."

(T.U. RECORD, Nov 20, 1962)

The AITUC had asked for, in its amendments, firstly, that there should be no blanket ban on strikes 'under all circumstances' and secondly, that under the head PRICE STABILITY, the following should be added: "Any increase in prices of essential commodities should be neutralised by adequate Dearness Allowance, so that existing real wages do not fall." (TUR Nov 20, 1962)

These warnings given by the AITUC proved only too true in later experience and the AITUC's reservations on the Truce Resolution were well-founded.

2. The General Council of the AITUC which met in New Delhi on April 15-17, 1963 reviewed the working of the Truce Resolution:

"The Industrial Truce Resolution from its very inception was utilised by the employers, both private and State, to the disadvantage of the workers, in several spheres. Yet the workers showed restraint and made great sacrifices for the country.

The continuation of the Truce Resolution is no longer necessary to fulfil the tasks of development and defence. In fact, quite an accelerated growth is found to have taken place in the Plan period without the help of any such Truce Resolution. Continuation of the Resolution today is now hampering the growth of normal industrial relations and is leading to irritations and unrest among the workers as the employers tend to use it more and more for their own class benefits than for national interests.

The former normal industrial relations laws and policy are sufficient to guide the present and future development of the country's economy.

The General Council of the AITUC is of the opinion that the Government should call a special meeting of the Indian

Labour Conference to discuss the present situation without delay and review the working of the Truce Resolution with a view to its termination." (TUR Apr 20, 1963)

3. The Industrial Truce Resolution came up for review in the 21st session of the Indian Labour Conference held on July 13, 1963. Writing on this session of the ILC in the T.U. RECORD of July 20, 1963, S.A. Dange stated:

"Does not the conclusion to appoint a Committee to look into the implementation of the Truce Resolution imply that it is reiterated? It does not. Because all the three TU organisations (AITUC, HMS AND UTUC) declared their reservations and departures from certain parts of the resolution.

The AITUC particularly made a categorical declaration that it is not prepared to reiterate the Resolution, as it is and refused to support the CDS and surcharges.

The Truce Resolution was adopted in the conditions of October-November 1962, when an invasion on our country was taking place. The conditions of hot war do not exist now, though the state of Emergency is not terminated by government.

Even then, the AITUC, foreseeing that Government and employers would try to prolong the application and the obligations of the Resolution had put forward its amendments and its reservations at the time of the November (1962) meeting itself.

In the present situation, while the AITUC accepts the obligations from the needs of defence and development in general, they must not be of the character of the period of invasion and actual war but of comparative peace-time and which are usually valid and necessary for any developing country.

The need for defence and development in present conditions does not call for a blanket ban on strikes, as has been put in the November Truce Resolution. The AITUC does not accept that clause any more, as conditions do not warrant its continuation any more.

Both the employers and the Government have failed to observe one of the most vital condition of the Truce Resolution - that the price-line would be held and would not lead to a fall in the real wages of the workers.

But in actual practice, both the employers and the Government not only failed to hold the price line, they, in fact, helped to raise prices and depress the real wages. Government did it by imposing taxes on essential commodities, by permitting speculation, by failing to ensure supplies and enforce emergency on the big hoarders and suppliers of foodgrains, sugar etc. The employers did it as part of the exploiting class, participating and aiding in that process. So, when the basic condition of the Truce was violated, there can be no talk of reiterating that resolution.

So the AITUC made it clear that in view of the worsening conditions of the wages of the workers, there was discontent, and strikes were bound to take place. The AITUC would not desert the workers in their struggle to protect their interests. It would lead them.

Hence it did not want to hypocritically reiterate the resolution, as it is, in the Conference and then break it

in actual practice. The HMS and UTUC more or less said the same thing."

4. On February 14, 1964, the then Union Labour Minister D. Sanjivayya, wrote a letter to the AITUC alleging that the National Campaign of Toilers which was then launched and the three-phased struggle would constitute a violation of the Industrial Truce Resolution. Replying to this letter on February 26, 1964, S.A. Dange, General Secretary, AITUC reminded the minister about the clear views expressed by the AITUC at the 21st Indian Labour Conference and quoted for the Minister's reference the review article in Trade Union Record quoted in para 3 above. The Minister's letter and AITUC reply were published for the information of the unions in the Trade Union Record dated March 5, 64.

5. In the 23rd session of the ILC which met in New Delhi in October 1965, in the wake of the Pak aggression, Government made another attempt to get the Truce Resolution reiterated. The AITUC and other TU organisations opposed this reiteration of a meaningless resolution and the Declaration of the Conference did not contain this reiteration. (See Trade Union Record, NOV 5, 1965).

Truce

6. In view of all this, the Industrial/Resolution as it is does not exist, as far as the AITUC is concerned.

Information Document

February 19, 1966

A.I.T.U.C. AND INDUSTRIAL TRUCE

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अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi 1

President: S. S. MIRAJKAR

General Secretary: S. A. DANGE

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Resolution adopted by the AITUC General Council
(New Delhi, 20 Feb 1966)

ON STRIKE DECISION OF BOMBAY COTTON TEXTILE WORKERS

"This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC fully supports the decision of the textile workers of Bombay to go on indefinite general strike from 28 February 1966 in protest against Government's inaction and complacency towards the long-pending question of bonus and other demands made by Bombay Girni Kamgar Union on their behalf.

The Council is convinced that the millowners' notices to effect 33% reduction of D.A., to reduce privilege leave by seven days and to continue the system of badli workers for years on end, are nothing but provocative actions on the part of the employers and must be resisted unitedly by the workers of the textile industry.

This meeting notes with intense resentment that in spite of the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act, the millowners of Bombay should have been allowed to behave with impunity and do not pay the 1964 bonus within eight months of the closure of the year.

The textile workers of Maharashtra have already shown their unity and fighting spirit to secure their demands on bonus, wages, etc., by going on a general strike on December 29, 1965, against closures, retrenchment, bonus and other demands. But that one-day strike does not seem to have moved the Government and employers to take steps to meet the demands of the workers. Both Government and employers are behaving in a manner which forces the workers to undertake prolonged and determined strikes in defence of their rights and standards of living.

The General Council is confident that the textile workers of Bombay will firmly and courageously wage and carry on the justified struggle and will emerge successful in achieving their demands satisfactorily.

AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Delhi, April 12-14, 1965.

List of comrades who attended the meeting

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Com. P. Balachandra Menon. | 60. Com. N.K. Krishnan. |
| 2. " Dr. Ranen Sen. | 61. " M.S. Krishnan. |
| 3. " S.S. Yusuf, M.L.A. | 62. " Umanath Naik. |
| 4. " Mrs. Parvathi Krishnan. | 63. " Nityanand Ponda. |
| 5. " S.A. Dange. | 64. " Satpal Dang (Alternate Sheela) |
| 6. " Satish Loomba. | 65. " Chhajju Mal (Alternate Makhan Singh) |
| 7. " Indrajit Gupta, M.P. | 66. " Madan Lal Didi. |
| 8. " K.T.K. Tangamani. | 67. " Karan Singh (Alternate (Munnilal) |
| 9. " K.G. Sriwastava. | 68. " Piara Singh. |
| 10. " T.B. Vithal Rao. | 69. " Darshan Singh. Dar) |
| 11. " S.G. Patkar, M.L.A. | 70. " Ghanshyam Sinha (Alternate Samir/ |
| 12. " Manoranjan Roy, M.L.A. | 71. " Ram Narain Upadhyaya (Ambika Bajpai) |
| 13. " K.N. Joglekar. | 72. " Harishi Bannerjee. |
| 14. " G. Sundaram. | 73. " T.N. Siddhanta. |
| 15. " S. Krishnamurthi, B.A.B.L. | 74. " Debkumar Ganguli. |
| 16. " Ram Asrey | 75. " Biren Roy. |
| 17. " Sudhir Mukhoti. | 76. " Dhiren Muzumdar (Alternate Md. Zahirul Haque) |
| 18. " Kallat Krishnan. | 77. " S.A. Farooqui, M.L.A. (alternate N.A.) |
| 19. " Sailen Paul. | 78. " Somnath Lahiri, M.L.A. |
| 20. " Md. Elias. | 79. " Ram Sen (Alternate Girija Mukerjee) |
| 21. " Sudhir Ghosh. | 80. " Abdul Hussain (S. Roy) |
| 22. " Homi Daji, M.P. | 81. " Pravat Mitra (Bijoy Shaka) |
| 23. " V. Subbiah, M.L.A. | 82. " Chatur Ali. |
| 24. " Ratan Roy. | 83. " Mohini Das (Bhowani Roy Chowdhury) |
| 25. " D.C. Mohanty. | 84. " Dinen Bhattacharya. |
| 26. " Y.D. Sharma. | 85. " Jadugopal Sen. |
| 27. " Kumararand. | 86. " Kalyan Roy. |
| 28. " A.C. Nanda (Alternate Shakil Ahmed) | 87. " Nihar Mukherjee. |
| 29. " Barin Chowdhury. | 88. " R.C. Sharma. |
| 30. " Baba Kartar Singh. | 89. N.N. Manna. |
| 31. " B.D. Joshi. | 90. " Prem Sagar Gupta. |
| 32. " Chaturanan Mishra. | 91. " Natha Singh |
| 33. " D.P. Ghosh (Alternate - S. Mullick Chowdhury) | 92. " Asha Ram. |
| 34. " Vithal Chaudhari. | 93. " K.B. Panikkar. |
| 35. " M.V. Bhadram. | 94. " Romesh Mukherji. |
| 36. " M.V.N. Kaparde. | 95. " Shiv Sharma. |
| 37. " J. Satyanarayana. | 96. " N.D. Sundriyal. |
| 38. " K. Nagaiah, M.L.A. | 97. " Kameshwar Pandit. |
| 39. " N. Satyanarayana Reddi. | 98. " Prakash Kapatia. |
| 40. " Ali Amjad (Alternate- Dr. U. Mishra) | 99. " Robin Mukherji. |
| 41. " Barin Dey (Alternate- K.K. Sinha) | 100. " |
| 42. " Satyanarain Singh (Alternate - Chandra Shekhar Singh) | |
| 43. " Tulsi Chatterjee (Alternate - Nirmal Bhattacharjee) | |
| 44. " Jagannath Sarkar. | |
| 45. " Anant Nagapurkar (Substitute V.D. Deshpande) | |
| 46. " G.V. Chitnis. | |
| 47. " A. George Chadyamury. | |
| 48. " K.V. Surendranath. | |
| 49. " C.K. Viswanathan. | |
| 50. " K.A. Rajan. | |
| 51. " J. Chittaranjan. | |
| 52. " Diwakar. | |
| 53. " Mustaque. | |
| 54. " R. Sarwate. | |
| 55. " Govind Prasad Sriwastava. | |
| 56. " K.M. Sundaram. | |
| 57. " A.S.K. Iyengar. | |
| 58. " K.S. Janakiraman. | |
| 59. " S.C. Krishnan. | |

SPECIAL INVITEES

1. Com. Bijan Saha.
2. " Ashoke Bose
3. " Gour Gowami.
4. " Prakash Roy.
5. " Biren Majumdar.
6. " S.K. Chowdhury.
7. " Harbans Singh.
8. " Dwarkarath Bagi.
9. " Chandra Shekhar Singh.
10. " Ramakant Sharma.
11. " Nand Dulare Srimani.
12. " Md. Zahurul Haque.
13. " Nityanand Ponda.
14. " Girja Mukherjee.
15. " Mrs. Roza Deshpande.
16. " Janardan Sharma.

AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

DELHI, April 12-14, 1965
 (Sunday, December 12-14, 1963)

S.No.	NAME	Apr. 12	13	14
1.	Com. S.S. Mirajkar			
2.	" Kedar Das			
3.	" P. Balachandra Menon, M.L.A.	<u>P. Balachandra</u>	<u>P. Balachandra</u>	
4.	" P. Ramamurthi			
5.	" Dr. Ranen Sen	<u>Ranen Sen</u>	<u>R Sen</u>	
6.	" S.S. Yusuf, M.L.A.	<u>SSY</u>	<u>SSY</u>	
7.	" Mrs. Parvathi Krishnan	<u>Parvathi</u>	<u>Parvathi</u>	<u>Parvathi</u>
8.	" S.A. Dange	✓	✓	✓
9.	" Satish Loomba	<u>Sa.</u>	<u>Sa.</u>	<u>Sa.</u>
10.	" Indrajit Gupta, M.P.	<u>Gupta</u>	<u>Gupta</u>	<u>Gupta</u>
11.	" K.T.K. Tangamani	<u>KT K Tangamani</u>	<u>KT K Tangamani</u>	
12.	" K.G. Sriwastava	<u>K.G.</u>	<u>K.G.</u>	
13.	" T.B. Vithal Rao	<u>T.B. Vithal Rao</u>	<u>T.B. Vithal Rao</u>	
14.	" S.G. Patkar, M.L.A.	<u>S.G. Patkar</u>	<u>S.G. Patkar</u>	<u>S.G. Patkar</u>
15.	" Manoranjan Roy, M.L.A.	<u>M Roy</u>	<u>M Roy</u>	<u>M Roy</u>
16.	" K.N. Joglekar	<u>K.N. Joglekar</u>	<u>K.N. Joglekar</u>	
17.	" G. Sundaram	<u>G. Sundaram</u>	<u>G. Sundaram</u>	
18.	" R. Sugathan, M.L.A.			
19.	" Shantaran Pai			
20.	" S. Krishnamurthi, B.A.B.L.	<u>S. Krishnamurthi</u>	<u>S. Krishnamurthi</u>	
21.	" Ram Asrey	<u>Ram</u>	<u>Ram</u>	
22.	" Md. Ismail			
23.	" Sudhir Mukhoti	<u>Sudhir</u>	<u>Sudhir</u>	<u>Sudhir</u>

AITUC General Council (Contd.)

S.No.	NAME	12 th	13 th	14 th
24.	Com. Anandi Das			
25.	" Kallat Krishnan	<u>Mukul</u>	<u>Mukul</u>	
26.	" Maqdoom Mohiuddin, M.L.C.			
27.	" T.R. Ganesan			
28.	" Sailen Paul	<u>Sailen</u>	<u>Sailen</u>	<u>Sailen</u>
29.	" Md. Elias, M.P.	<u>M. Elias</u>	<u>M. Elias</u>	
30.	" Sudhir Ghosh	<u>Sudhir</u>	<u>Sudhir</u>	<u>Sudhir</u>
31.	" Homi Daji, M.P.	<u>Homi</u>	<u>Homi</u>	<u>Homi</u>
32.	" M.C. Narsimhan, M.L.A.			
33.	" K.L. Narsimhan, M.P.			
34.	" V. Subbiah, M.L.A.	✓	✓	
35.	" Ratan Roy	<u>Ratan Roy</u> 12/4	<u>Ratan Roy</u> 13/4	<u>Ratan Roy</u> 14/4
36.	" D.C. Mohanty	<u>D. Mohanty</u>	✓	
37.	" Y.D. Sharma	<u>Y.D. Sharma</u>	<u>Y.D. Sharma</u>	
38.	" S.K. Sanyal			
39.	" Kumaranand	<u>Kumaranand</u>	✓	✓
40.	" A.C. Nanda (Allimati - Shakil Ahmed)	<u>A.C. Nanda</u>	<u>A.C. Nanda</u>	<u>A.C. Nanda</u>
41.	" Parin Chowdhury	<u>Parin</u>	<u>Parin</u>	<u>Parin</u>
42.	" Bawa Kartar Singh	<u>Kartar Singh</u>	<u>Kartar Singh</u>	<u>Kartar Singh</u>
43.	" B.D. Joshi	<u>B.D. Joshi</u>	<u>B.D. Joshi</u>	<u>B.D. Joshi</u>
44.	" Bhalchandra Trivedi			
45.	" Chaturanan Mishra	<u>Chaturanan</u>	<u>Chaturanan</u>	
46.	" B.S. Dhyne			
47.	" D.P. Ghosh	<u>Sankar Mullick Chowdhury</u>		<u>D.P. Ghosh</u>

S.No.	NAME		18/4/65	
48.	Com. P.K. Thakur			
49.	" Uthai Chaudhari		<u>Uthai Chaudhari</u>	
50.	" M.V. Bhadram		<u>Bhadram Bhadram Bhadram</u>	
51.	" J.V.K. Vallabha Rao			
52.	" G.S. Balaji Doss			
53.	" M.V.N. Kaparde		<u>M.V.N. Kaparde MVN Kaparde MVN Kaparde</u>	
54.	" J. Satyanarayana		<u>J. Satyanarayana J. Satyanarayana</u>	
55.	" K. Nagaiyah - M.L.A.		<u>K. Nagaiyah K. Nagaiyah K. Nagaiyah</u>	
56.	" P. Ramakottiah			
57.	" Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour, M.P.			
58.	" N. Satyanarayana Reddy		<u>N. Satyanarayana Reddy</u>	
59.	" Amolak Ram			
60.	" Parsa Satyanarayana			
61.	" Santosh Kumar Singha			
62.	" Ali Amjad Alternate Dr. U. Mishra		<u>U. Mishra U. Mishra</u>	
63.	" Barin Doy Alternate K. K. Sinha		<u>K. K. Sinha K. K. Sinha K. K. Sinha</u>	
64.	" Satyanarain Singh Alternate Chandu Shekhar Singh		<u>Chandur Chandur Chandur</u>	
65.	" Purnendu Mozoomder			
66.	" Tulsi Chatterjee Alternate Nirmal Bhattacharya		<u>N. Bhattacharya N. Bhattacharya N. Bhattacharya</u>	
67.	" Lalit Burman			
68.	" Md. Shafique Khan			
69.	" Mahendra Bharati			
70.	" Jagannath Sarkar		<u>Jagan.</u>	

S.No.	NAME	Apr: 12 th	
71.	Com. V.K.K. S.Y. Kolhatkar		
72.	" B.P. Kashyap		
73.	" Rajaram Gujerathi		
74.	" Krishna Khopkar		
75.	" Anant Nagapurkar Substitute: V.J. Deshpande	<u>V.J.</u>	<u>V.J.</u>
76.	" A.B. Bardhan		
77.	" Madhukar Bhise		
78.	" S.B. Dalvi		
79.	" G.V. Chitnis	<u>Chitnis.</u>	<u>Chitnis.</u>
80.	" Vajubhai Shukla		
81.	" Shantilal Vasa		
82.	" Hanuman Singh		
83.	" A.George Chadyammury	<u>Caporze</u>	<u>Caporze</u>
84.	" N.S.Menon		
85.	" P. Shankar		
86.	" K.V.Surendranath	<u>K.V.</u>	<u>K.V.</u>
87.	" O.J. Joseph		
88.	" E.C. Bharathan		
89.	" C.K. Viswanathan		<u>Viswanathan</u>
90.	" M.M. Sundaram S.K. Viswanathan		<u>Viswanathan</u>
91.	" A.N. Yeusuf		
92.	" K.A. Rajan	<u>K.A. Rajan</u>	<u>K.A. Rajan</u>
93.	" T.C.N. Menon		

S.No.	NAME	12/4	13/4	14/4
94.	Com. C. Kannan			
95.	" William Snellux			
96.	" J. Chittaranjan	J. Chittaranjan	J. Chittaranjan	
97.	" P. Bhashkaran			
98.	" P. Ramalingam			
99.	" P. S. Namboodiri			
100.	" K. P. Prabhakaran			
101.	" P. Padmanabhan			
102.	" K. A. Razaque			
103.	" Diwaker	Diwaker	Diwaker	Diwaker
104.	" Mustaque	Mustaque	Mustaque	Mustaque
105.	" R. Sarwattee	R. Sarwati	R. Sarwati	R. Sarwati
106.	" Govind Prasad Srivastava	G. Prasad	G. Prasad	G. Prasad
107.	" K. M. Sundaram	K. Sundaram	K. Sundaram	K. Sundaram
108.	" A. S. K. Iyengar	A. S. K. Iyengar	A. S. K. Iyengar	A. S. K. Iyengar
109.	" K. S. Janakiraman	K. S. Janakiraman	K. S. Janakiraman	K. S. Janakiraman
110.	" S. C. Krishnan	S. C. Krishnan	S. C. Krishnan	S. C. Krishnan
111.	" A. Govindaswami			
112.	" R. Umanath			
113.	" V. Karmegam			
114.	" S. A. Tangarajan			
115.	" A. Nallasivam			
116.	" N. K. Krishnan	N. K. Krishnan	N. K. Krishnan	

S.No.	NAME			
117.	Com. P. Virudhagiri			
118.	" K.R. Ramaswami			
119.	" S.M. Ramaiah			
120.	" T. Balan			
121.	" Surayanarayan Rao			
122.	" M.S. Krishnan		<i>M.S. Krishnan</i>	<i>M.S. Krishnan</i>
123.	" Umanath Naik		<i>Umanath Naik</i>	<i>Umanath Naik</i>
124.	" V.M. Govinda			
125.	" Srinivas Gudi			
126.	" B.N. Kuttappa			
127.	" Nityananda Ponda			
128.	" Banamali Das			
129.	" Satpal Dang <i>Alternate (Sheela)</i>	<i>Sheela Didi</i>	<i>Sheela Didi</i>	
130.	" Chhajju Mal <i>Alternate (Makhan Singh)</i>	<i>Makhan Singh</i>	<i>Makhan Singh</i>	<i>Makhan Singh</i>
131.	" Madan Lal Didi <i>Madan Lal Didi</i>	<i>Madan Lal Didi</i>		
132.	" Karan Singh <i>Alternate (Munish)</i>	<i>Karan Singh</i>		
133.	" Piara Singh	<i>Piara Singh</i>	<i>Piara Singh</i>	<i>Piara Singh</i>
134.	" Darshan Singh	<i>Darshan Singh</i>	<i>Darshan Singh</i>	<i>Darshan Singh</i>
135.	" Ghanshyam Singh <i>Sunil</i> <i>Alternate (Sannik Dher)</i>	<i>Sannik Dher</i>	<i>Sannik Dher</i>	<i>Sannik Dher</i>
136.	" Nizamuddin <i>Alternate (Sannik Dher)</i>			
137.	" Ram Narain Upadhyaya <i>Alternate (Anand Prasad)</i>	<i>Anand Prasad</i>		
138.	" Mughal Beg			

S.No.	NAME			
139.	Com. Harishi Bannerjee	Harishi	Bannerjee	Bannerjee
140.	" T.N.Siddhanta	T.N. Siddhanta	T.N. Siddhanta	T.N. Siddhanta
141.	" Deb Kumar Ganguli	Deb Kumar	Deb Kumar	Deb Kumar
142.	" Biren Roy →	Biren Roy	Biren Roy	Biren Roy
143.	" Dhiren Mazumdar Md. Zahurul Haque.	Dhiren Mazumdar		
144.	" S.A. Farooqui, M.L.A.	S.A. Farooqui		
145.	" Somnath Lahiri, M.L.A.	S. Lahiri	S. Lahiri	
146.	" Ran Sen / Girjo Mukherji	Ran Sen	Ran Sen	Ran Sen
147.	" Abdul Hussain / Sadagar (Roy)	Sadagar	Sadagar	
148.	" Pravrat Mitra / Bijon Shaha	Pravrat	Pravrat	
149.	" Chatur Ali	Chatur Ali	Chatur Ali	
150.	" Mohini Das (Chakraborty) / Showani Roy Chowdhury	Mohini Das	Mohini Das	
151.	" Dinen Bhattacharya	Dinen	Dinen	Dinen
152.	" Jadugopal Sen	Jadugopal	Jadugopal	Jadugopal
153.	" Bejoy Paul			
154.	" Robin Sen			
155.	" Kalyan Roy	Kalyan	Kalyan	Kalyan
156.	" Nihar Mukherjee	Nihar	Nihar	
157.	" R.C. Sharma	R.C. Sharma	R.C. Sharma	
158.	" N.N. Manna	N.N. Manna	N.N. Manna	N.N. Manna
159.	" Prem Sagar Gupta	PSG	PSG	PSG
160.	" Natha Singh		Natha Singh	Natha Singh
161.	" Asha Ram	x	Asha Ram	Asha Ram

S.No.	NAME			
162.	Com. K.B. Panikkar	<i>K.B. Panikkar</i>	<i>K.B. Panikkar</i>	—
163.	" Mahendra Sen			
164.	" Satish Chatterjee			
165.	" Romesh Mukherjee	<i>Romesh Mukherjee</i>	<i>Romesh Mukherjee</i>	
166.	" Prasanta Burman			
167.	" Shiv Sharma	<i>S. Sharma</i>	<i>S. Sharma</i>	<i>S. Sharma</i>
168.	" N.D. Sundriyal	<i>N. Sundriyal</i>		
169.	" Kamethon Samant	<i>Kamethon Samant</i>		
170.	PARKASH KAPATI A	<i>Parkash Kapati</i>	<i>Parkash Kapati</i>	<i>Parkash Kapati</i>
171.	Robin Deshpande	<i>Robin Deshpande</i>	<i>Robin Deshpande</i>	<i>Robin Deshpande</i>
SPECIAL INVITEES				
169.	Priyan Saha.	<i>Priyan Saha</i>	<i>w. Bengal</i>	
170.	Ashokbori v.p.	<i>Ashokbori</i>		<i>Ashokbori</i>
171.	Gom Gowami (cal)	<i>Gom Gowami</i>	<i>Calcutta</i>	<i>Gom Gowami</i>
172.	Prakash Roy	<i>Prakash Roy</i>		
173.	Bijen Bajjunder	<i>Bijen Bajjunder</i>		<i>Bijen Bajjunder</i>
174.	Sant. K. Choudhary	<i>Sant. K. Choudhary</i>	<i>Calcutta</i>	<i>Sant. K. Choudhary</i>
175.	Harbans Singh	<i>Kanpur</i>	<i>Harbans Singh</i>	
176.	Chandramate Das	<i>Delli</i>		
177.	Chandramate Das	<i>Rohar</i>		
178.	Janakant Singh	<i>U.P.</i>	<i>Varanasi</i>	
179.	Nanda Abdul almunani (cal)	<i>w. Bengal</i>	<i>Nandars</i>	<i>Nanda almunani</i>
180.	H. Zehin ul Haque	<i>w. Bengal</i>	<i>H. Zehin ul Haque</i>	
181.	NITYANAND PANDA	<i>N. Ponda</i>	<i>N. Ponda</i>	
182.	Girija Meherji		<i>Girija Meherji</i>	<i>Girija Meherji</i>
183.	Rozita Deshpande	<i>Delhi</i>		
184.	Rozita Deshpande			<i>R. Deshpande</i>

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Resolutions adopted by the General Council of the AITUC

ON STRIKE DECISION OF BOMBAY COTTON TEXTILE WORKERS

This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC fully supports the decision of the textile workers of Bombay to go on indefinite general strike from 28 February 1966 to protest against Government's inaction and complacency towards the long-pending question of bonus and other demands made by the Bombay Girani Kamgar Union on their behalf.

The Council is convinced that the millowners' notice to effect 33% reduction in D.A., to reduce privilege leave by seven days and to continue the system of badli workers for years on end, are nothing but provocative actions on the part of the employers and must be resisted unitedly by the workers of the textile industry.

This meeting notes with intense resentment that in spite of the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act, the millowners of Bombay should have been allowed to behave with impunity and do not pay the 1964 bonus within eight months of the closure of the year.

The textile workers of Maharashtra have already shown their unity and fighting spirit to secure their demands on bonus, wages, etc., by going on a general strike on December 29, 1965, against closures, retrenchment, bonus and other demands. But that one-day strike does not seem to have moved the Government and employers to take steps to meet the demands of the workers. Both Government and employers are behaving in a manner which forces the workers to undertake prolonged and determined strikes in defence of their rights and standards of living.

The General Council is confident that the textile workers of Bombay will firmly and courageously wage and carry on the justified struggle and will emerge successful in achieving their demands satisfactorily.

ON CLOSURES, RETRENCHMENT, LAY-OFFS, ETC.

In recent months, there has been a mounting offensive by the employers of different industries against the working class in the form of mass retrenchment through lay-offs and closures. At a moderate estimate, more than two lakh workers have been rendered idle throughout the country through closures and lay-offs.

The immediate causes underlying these closures and lay-offs are varied and fall under different categories.

There are those cases, particularly in the engineering and metal industries, which are due to foreign exchange crisis aggravated by the Indo-Pak war, leading to difficulties in the way of securing scarce raw materials, spare components, replacements, etc. This crisis is the direct result of dependence of our economy in these fields on the Anglo-American bloc and of the policy adopted by the imperialists of utilising this dependence to tighten the screw against our nation and further their political aggrandisement.

Secondly come the closures in the border areas, particularly in the Punjab, which are directly due to the war.

Next come the closures in Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnad, Andhra Pradesh and the Punjab which are due to the heavy power-cut resulting from the failure of rainfall.

. . . . The closures in the

The closures in the textile industry, however, come in a different category altogether. In this case, the real reasons underlying the closures are gross mismanagement, fraud and inner-management squabbles. The textile magnates are covering this up by exaggerated talk of "accumulation of stocks" and "financial crisis" and utilising this in order to counter-attack the workers' claim for bonus and rise in wages and D.A., and demand, instead, a cut in wages and D.A. and increased workload in the name of "rationalisation".

The General Council of the AITUC strongly condemns the policy of inaction of the Congress Government, both at the Central and at State levels, which has led to steady aggravation of the situation to the detriment of the working class.

At the 23rd session of the Indian Labour Conference held at the end of October 1965, united trade union pressure forced the Government to agree to set up a high-power inter-ministerial committee at Centre and tripartite committees at State level to deal with the problem of closures and lay-offs. But nothing effective was done to implement these decisions and the employers were permitted to carry on their offensive against the workers unchecked.

The issue was forced for discussion again, chiefly at the initiative of the AITUC, at the 24th session of the Standing Labour Committee which met on February 13-14, 1966. However, it cannot be said that much was achieved at this session also, beyond the general agreement that allocation of scarce raw materials should be done on an equitable basis and that efforts must be made to maximise import substitution.

The General Council of the AITUC puts forward the following demands before the Government and the employers as urgent, if the problem of mass retrenchment due to closures and lay-offs is to be effectively tackled and the interests of industrial production and industrial peace safeguarded.

Prompt action must be taken by Government to take over and run all units facing closure whatever the reasons for such closure be, well in advance of the actual closure itself, paying to the workers full wages and D.A. There must be no obligation to hand over the undertaking taken over by the Government to the earlier management after rehabilitation. The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act must be suitably amended to this end.

Full wages must be paid to all the workers (including temporary and badli workers) for lay-offs and no retrenchment of any worker or closure of shifts must be permitted in cases of temporary difficulties such as power-cut, scarcity of raw materials, stock accumulation, etc.).

The employers and the Government must concentrate on taking concrete steps, industrywise, to promote self-reliance and import substitution. The cooperation of the trade unions must be fully enlisted for this purpose.

Special relief must be given by the Government for the rehabilitation of industries in the border regions affected by the war.

Government must nationalise banks and import-export trade, as essential urgent steps needed to tackle the foreign exchange crisis, decrease our dependence on the imperialist bloc and enlarge our area of cooperation with the rupee payment areas, particularly the socialist States.

The Union Government and the State Governments concerned must speed up the planning and execution of schemes for inter-State and national grids as well as thermal stand-by power plants.

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The General Council of the AITUC calls upon all its units to carry on an intense campaign on the basis of the above demands and to take every step for forging trade union unity at every level for a determined joint action to resist closures and lay-offs.

ON B O N U S

The AITUC has been campaigning against the pro-employer modifications made by the Government in the report of the Bonus Commission and retained in the Payment of Bonus Act. As a result of this, most of the gains, limited and unsatisfactory as they were, made under the Report, were wiped out. Now a serious situation has developed with the employers' offensive against the few beneficial clauses of this wholly pro-employer Act.

The employers are generally taking concerted steps to deprive the workers even of the limited gains which they had made under the Act, to involve the workers in prolonged litigation, and to take advantage of the lacunae in the Act and thus torpedo the entire bonus question.

In eleven States, writs are pending before the High Courts and more and more writs are coming up before the Supreme Court. The chief targets of attack are the minimum bonus and Sec.34(2) relating to protection of past benefits.

The trade union movement must therefore take stock of the situation and struggle to preserve the gains while seeking to remove the retrograde sections of the Act and meet the offensive of the employers.

The General Council of the AITUC therefore suggests that:

- (i) All State TUCs and unions must take urgent steps to put up bonus demands in all those industries and factories where even the minimum bonus has not been paid.
- (ii) The AITUC must intervene in the cases pending before the Supreme Court.

The General Council further decides that:

- a) Demand must be made to amend Section 34, providing option to workers to choose whether they should get bonus under their settlements, agreements, awards or contract of service or the Act;
- b) Demand amendment of Sec.16, calling for abrogation of the clause regarding non-payment of bonus in new concerns;
- c) Demand amendment of Sec.20 calling for payment of bonus in all public sector enterprises.

The General Council directs affiliated unions to resist through strike action the game of the employers to entangle the workers in prolonged litigation.

In some industries and factories, workers have been able, through their organised strength, to get bonus where under the previous dispensation, they would not have got it. In some places, under bipartite agreements, more bonus than under the Act has been secured.

Hence there is no reason to suppose that if the workers unitedly raise their demands, relief cannot be secured.

. . . The General Council calls

The General Council calls upon all workers and their unions to unitedly raise the above-mentioned immediate demands, to campaign vigorously for their fulfilment and to take appropriate action.

ON THE DEMAND FOR NEED-BASED MINIMUM WAGES

The General Council of the AITUC notes with concern that the recommendation of the 15th Indian Labour Conference (1957) on norms of need-based minimum wages has not been implemented in industrial wage-fixation all these eight years. Although the tripartite agreement on need-based wages was a specific recommendation for wage-fixing authorities and the Wage Boards had specific terms of reference to implement the tripartite recommendation, no Wage Board has cared to fix such wages even in the most prosperous industries.

The AITUC notes that while the fixation of need-based wages has been denied to the working class during those years which comprise the Second and Third Plan periods, the Government's economic policies have led to the cancerous growth of private monopolies, as testified by the Report of the Monopolies Inquiry Commission, and the accumulation of vaster quantum of super-profits in the hands of the monopolies. The monopolies have thus fattened at the expense of the working class which is the real creator of wealth but which is denied even the minimum norm of a need-based wage.

The 15th Tripartite had recommended need-based wage fixation as an important element of wage policy during the Second Plan period and it was designed to raise the real wages of workers from the sub-human colonial standards at which wages were fixed in the pre-independence days.

The General Council of the AITUC considers that the question of need-based wage fixation can no more be delayed under any pretext. The Council calls upon the Government to take steps to secure the fixation of need-based wages in all industries and employments and give a lead to private employers by fixing need-based wages in the State Sector.

The General Council calls upon the trade unions to pursue through collective bargaining and other channels the demand for the immediate fixation of need-based minimum wages and to secure this demand through united action.

ON PRICE RISES AND THE D.A. QUESTION

The sharp and continuous increase in the prices of essential commodities and the resulting erosion of the real wage standards of the workers has remained an acute problem facing the trade union movement from the second world war years. The steady fall in the purchasing power of the workers has not been adequately compensated by systems of D.A. payments and even in the case of workers in organised industries, the real wages of workers are estimated to have fallen below the 1939 level. Thus, after three five-year plans, the record on the wages front is that, in real terms, the country is still to make a break with the colonial wage standards, which prevailed in the pre-independence days.

The organised trade union movement after sustained struggles and supreme sacrifices of the workers had enforced the principle on the employers and the Government that the system of dearness allowance should be such as to prevent the fall in purchasing power of the workers' wages, in a period of rise in prices.

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Although this principle is accepted in the tripartite agreement for linking D.A. with the consumer price index numbers, the Government and employers are making every effort to delay its implementation or sabotage a rational determination of D.A. in important industries, services and even in the employments under the Central Government.

The situation is far worse in relation to the workers in the so-called "sweated" industries covered under the Minimum Wages Act. The so-called "minimum wages" fixed statotirly years ago - and which are sub-marginal even in relation to the so-called "poverty line" - have, in most cases, no element of D.A. When for years together such "minimum wages" are not revised, the fall in the real wage standard in such cases brings wages to sub-human levels.

Even in cases of minimum wage fixation with provision for D.A. revision statutorily, the employers have wilfully ignored the statutory provisions. For instance, in the case of plantation workers of West Bengal, the employers have refused to pay the additional D.A. to the extent of 40 to 80 paise per day, which became due since 1963 under the statutory minimum wage fixation. The Government has not taken any steps to enforce the statutory provisions in this respect, even though the minimum wage in plantations is as low as Rs.50 per month.

The employers are, on the other hand, planning to directly attack the workers' D.A., as is seen in the demand of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation before the Wage Board for a 33 per cent cut in the D.A. of textile workers in Bombay.

The General Council of the AITUC is of the opinion that the failure of the Government to hold the price line in relation to essential commodities as well as to enforce the principle of linking D.A. with the consumer price index reflects the anti-people, pro-capitalist policy of the Government.

The situation is made far worse by the fraudulent practices in compiling the consumer price index numbers and the refusal of the Government to correct the faults in index compilation, despite the continued agitation of the trade unions in various States.

In such a situation, the working class and the organised TU movement will have to resist the offensive of the employers and Government on wages and D.A. The General Council notes that action is being taken in various centres by the trade unions, as by the textile workers in Bombay against the proposed cut in D.A., by the plantation workers of West Bengal belonging to AITUC, HMS, UTUC and independent unions, to secure the implementation of statutory revision in D.A., etc. The engineering and cotton textile workers of W. Bengal are also preparing for strike action on the demand for correction of the faulty price indices, for securing adequate neutralisation for the rise in prices and for increased wages. In other States too, workers are preparing for struggle on this issue.

The General Council of the AITUC, therefore, calls upon the working class to prepare for united action on the following demands:

1. Linking D.A. with the consumer price index, providing for full neutralisation of rise in prices, in all industries and services not so covered, and resist all attempts to abandon this principle on the part of the Government and the employers.
2. Expert Committes to be set up to inquire into the faults into the consumer price indices compiled for various centres - both of the old and the new 1960 series.

. . . 3. Measures to hold the

3. Measures to hold the price line of essential commodities - and for this purpose, the nationalisation of banking, State take-over of wholesale trade in foodgrains, and the break-up and nationalisation of monopolies.
4. A general rise in wages in all trades and industries and rejection of all demands for wage-freeze or wage-cuts.

O N W A G E B O A R D S

The General Council of the AITUC views with grave concern the recent trend in the working of the tripartite Wage Boards, the abnormal delays in the submission of recommendations and the denial of the workers' demands by 'notes of dissent' by employer representatives on the Wage Boards.

The Wage Board for Tea Plantations appointed on 5.12.1960 has not yet submitted its report. The Coal Wage Board has taken $3\frac{1}{2}$ years and the Wage Board for iron ore and dolomite mining with only a limited area to cover has taken about 3 years and yet the Boards are nowhere near finalisation of their reports. The Central Wage Board for Engineering Industries and the Second Wage Board for Cotton Textiles have taken over an year on simply discussing interim relief.

Such delays and the stipulation that recommendations of the Wage Boards will be operative for five years, in fact, deny to the workers any wage revision for seven or eight years, when profits go on piling high for the employers. In a period of continuous rise in prices and D.A. element not covering full neutralisation of the price rises, the real wages of workers continue to fall.

The principle of "unanimity" in the Wage Boards as pre-condition for acceptance of the Boards' recommendations by Government is being availed of by employers to delay and reject the justified wage increases and interim relief to the workers.

Some of the recommendations of the Wage Boards, while giving some monetary increase in wages, provide for curtailment or abolition of certain facilities which the workers were enjoying, as it happened in the sugar industry in U.P. In the name of standardisation of skills, attempt is being made to increase the workload. In the process of fitment to the recommended scales, employers have sought to reduce their earnings or deny them the legitimate grades and wage scales. In the case of the textile industry, in some centres, employers have managed to secure "agreements" with local INTUC unions for lesser rate of wage rise than awarded by the Board. Government machinery has not been found effective in dealing with such cases. The Boards have not cared to fix need-based wages recommended by the tripartite agreement. Thus, it is apparent, an attempt is being made to turn these Wage Boards to make them into an instrument of denying the legitimate wage increases. The General Council therefore demands that:

1. In industries where the Wage Boards have once fixed national or regional wage scales, further revision and settlements of wages should take place through national tripartite meetings at appropriate intervals.
2. In other industries such as in Railways, Defence, Glass, Paper, etc., national wage boards should be set up and they should submit reports within one year of their constitution. If the Boards take more than one year, they should be required to recommend interim relief for every rise of 5 points in the All-India index (1949=100).

.....Government

3. Government should implement the majority recommendations of the Wage Board. While efforts should be made for unanimity in arriving at conclusions, no one should have a veto on the Board's majority decisions. The Government should accept and implement the majority recommendations of the Engineering Wage Board over grant of interim relief.
 4. For implementing the recommendations of the Wage Boards, or tripartite agreements on wage revision, a small tripartite committee should be constituted at national and local levels.
 5. While implementing Wage Boardx decisions or tripartite recommendations, existing benefits should not be withdrawn.
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