

-2 APR 1960

(Registered No. 146.)

KARNATAKA PROVINCIAL  
PLANTATION WORKERS' UNION.

(AFFILIATED WITH A. I. T. U. C.)

President : M. C. NARASIMHAN, M.L.A.  
Secretary : M. V. BHASKAR.

MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,  
CHIKMAGALUR.

Ref. No.

Date 27th March 1960

The Honourable Minister for Labour,  
Government of Mysore,  
Camp : CHIKMAGALUR.

Dear Sir,

Subject : MEMORANDUM

We submit this memorandum on behalf of the  
Karnataka Provincial Plantation Workers' Union for  
your kind consideration and suitable action.

1. Labour Welfare Centre: We are happy that you  
are declaring open the Labour Welfare Centre at Chik-  
magalur during your current visit. The Plantation  
Workers form the overwhelming majority of the workers  
in this district. They also form a very big section  
in the neighbouring district of Hassan. Most of the  
workers live in estates far away from big towns. The  
advantages of the Labour Welfare Centre can be derived  
by these workers only when the Welfare Centres are  
opened near the places where they work. We appreciate  
that Welfare Centres cannot be opened in every estate.  
But if, say, a dozen Welfare Centres are opened at various  
centres in the plantation area, situated in such places  
where large numbers of plantation workers could come,  
it would be a great boon to them from the dreary jungle  
life where intelligent recreation is practically non-  
existent.

2. Plantation Labour Inspectors: The present number  
of the plantation Labour Inspectors and their powers in  
the districts of Chikmagalur and Hassan is inadequate  
to enforce the provisions under the Plantation Labour Act,

Contd.

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1951. The first difficulty is a legal one. They are not empowered under the rules provided in the Act to prosecute the managements who do not implement the provisions beneficial to the workers under the Plantation Labour Act. We learn that in other states the Plantation Inspectors have such powers conferred upon them by the Governments. Such powers could be conferred here also. Secondly, their number is very inadequate to the volume of work that faces them. Large number of complaints remain many times unattended for this reason. Besides, the Inspectors themselves taking the initiative to find out how far the managements have implemented the provisions of Plantation Labour Act has become almost impossible. Thus in our humble opinion both the powers of the Plantation Labour Inspectors and their numbers should be increased.

### 3. Application of The Provisions of the Plantation Labour Act to the estates below 25 acres:

Of late, the employers are resorting to artificial and benami transactions of splitting their estates into small bits so that they can circumvent the provisions of Plantation Labour Act. Nextly even in the bonafide cases of plantations which are less than 25 acres in extent, it is necessary to extend the provisions of the Act because the benefits conferred thereunder are so elementary that every worker irrespective of the size of the estate in which he or she works should get them in order to maintain minimum labour efficiency not to speak of any luxury.

Contd.

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#### 4. Representation for labour of this area in the Coffee Board:

The two districts of Chikmagalur and Hassan grow nearly 60 to 70 percent of the coffee grown in India. But so far no true representation in the Coffee Board has ever been given to the workers of these two districts. This is indeed regrettable. Madras and Kerala who have also some small coffee acreage seem to catch the eye of the authorities when it comes to selecting the labour representative on the Board. It is not that we are jealous of that, or we are parochial in feeling. We only consider that it is fair and proper that this area should not be so thoroughly overlooked in this matter. We hope that the labour of this area will also be remembered when it comes to appointing the labour representative on the Board.

5. Labour Courts: At present there is great delay in the disposal of cases before the Labour Court. It is extremely important, at least so far as the plantation labour is concerned, that cases should be disposed off as quickly as possible so that there is no great industrial unrest and also because of the peculiar nature of the location and the surrounding of the industry. We submit that there is absolutely no reflection of any sort on the Honourable Labour Court. We consider that the delay is entirely due to fact that the present Labour Court has a very large jurisdiction which has become unwieldy. In our opinion this problem could be solved by constituting a separate labour Court functioning at Chikmagalur covering the four districts of Mangalore, Coorg, Hassan and Chikmagalur. We also submit that this is rather pressing problem.

Contd.

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MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD

CHIKMAGALUR.

Ref. No.

Date .....

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We request you kindly to consider the above points sympathetically and take early and necessary action.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

M.V. Bhaskar  
SECRETARY

- Copy to: 1) The Chief Labour Commissioner (Central),  
New Delhi.
- 2) The Secretary, A.I.T.U.C., Ashoka Road,  
New Delhi.
- 3) The Commissioner of Labour in Mysore,  
Bangalore.
- 4) The Secretary, L. & P.H.,  
Mysore, Bangalore.
- 5) The Assistant Commissioner of Labour,  
Plantation Division, Chikmagalur.
- 6) The Secretary, Karnataka Pradesh Trade  
Union Congress, Bangalore.

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President : M. C. NARASIMHAN, M.L.A.

MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,

Secretary : M. V. BHASKAR.

CHIKMAGALUR.

Ref. No. KPL 56-60/61.

Date 5th May, 1960.

The Secretary,  
Mysore State Planters Association,  
CHIKMAGALUR.

Dear Sir,

Subject:- DEMANDS RAISED BY OUR UNION ON 31-3-60 FOR WAGE REVISION E.T.C.

It is already more than a month since we raised the demands and we regret to note that no concrete steps are taken as at to consider the demands.

On the meantime we have learned through reliable source that the Mysore State Planters Association is not serious about a negotiated settlement in view of the proposed wage board.

If this is so, we have to state that it is not a very helpful attitude to take. Constitution of a wage board and its decision to take effect and all that is a matter of conjecture yet and even if such a board is formed the workers are not prepared to wait indefinitely for such a long time as such a procedure would entail in the face of beating increase in the cost of living. Thus, there is every need for a negotiated settlement regarding wage increase without further delay.

If the planters are so keen on waiting for the decisions of the wage boards we wish to state that the workers also would have no objection provided the planters

THANK YOU

MAY 1950

# KARNATAKA PROVINCIAL PLANTATION WORKERS' UNION.

(AFFILIATED WITH A. I. T. U. C.)

DAOR IHNDAG AMTAMHAM  
CHIKMAGALUR.

President: M. C. NAHARASHIMHAN, M.L.A.  
Secretary: ...

... if the wage board ... implement them fully the movement ...  
... they are published and in the mean time an interim relief ...  
... of Rs. 1/- in wages per month is given to all the workers ...  
... which increase may be absorbed in the ...  
... wage board may award ...

Thus we place the following suggestions for your

Subject: - DEMANDS FOR WAGE REVISION A.I.T.U.C.  
31-3-50 FOR WAGE REVISION A.I.T.U.C.

1. There should be an early negotiation ...  
... it is already more than a month since we raised the ...  
... irrespective of the constitution of wage board for the ...  
... demands and we refer to note that no concrete steps are ...  
... taken as yet to consider the demands.

2. The Mysore State Planters Association and other ...  
... allied associations should arrive at a settlement with ...  
... workers as per Sec. 12 of Industrial Dispute Act, agreeing ...  
... to implement fully the decisions as soon as they are ...  
... announced with an interim relief of Rs. 1/- per month to ...  
... all workers without delay. Further, they should take ...  
... also allied associations and other allied associa- ...  
... the list of such planters who ...  
... the above decision and ...  
... workers and ...  
... industrial dispute for a wage revision ...  
... bearing increase in the cost of living. Thus, there is ...  
... We solicit your help in this matter.

Thanking You,

... Copy: ... Secretary, ...  
... A.I.T.U.C. Shoka Road  
NEW DELHI