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Name : AITUC General Council Meeting

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From : 1961

To : 1966



AITUC DIGITAL ARCHIVE - 2021

Folder Code: 2/3/4 File No. AI-265 S. No.

Digital File Code:

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27th Session of the AITUC
May 16-22, 1966

Address by
ALFRED WILKE

Member of the Presidium of the National Executive
Committee of the Confederation of Free German Trade
Unions, German Democratic Republic.

Dear Comrades,

The Delegation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions conveys fraternal greetings to you, the delegates to the 27th Conference of the AITUC on behalf of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, its National Executive Committee, the organised working class and all working people of the German Democratic Republic.

We want to connect these greetings with our best wishes for a successful carrying out of your Conference. We are sure that you will adopt important resolutions influencing effectively an improvement of the working and living conditions of the Indian working class and contributing to the strengthening of national and international unity of action and last but not least to the safeguarding of peace.

The All India Trade Union Congress and the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions as organisations of the working class have many common aims and opinions in the struggle against imperialism for the safeguarding of peace.

We follow with great interest your trade union activities and fully support your demands for an increase of the salaries, for dearness allowance and bonus payment.

We are sure that the implementation of these demands corresponds entirely with the interests of the workers of your country. We are also at one with all those people of your country who condemn the dirty war of aggression carried out by the USA against the Vietnamese people. We highly esteem these heroic fighters and are ready to render fraternal solidarity to them. Only recently a delegation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions handed over medicines, blood preserves, motorcycles and bicycles, as well as clothes and other things valued at one million German Marks which had been provided by the working people of the German Democratic Republic. Also in future we shall give effective moral and material aid to the Vietnamese patriots.

The trade unionists of the GDR strongly demand to put an end to the US war of aggression in Vietnam. This demand we connect, in correspondence with the resolutions adopted on the 6th World Trade Union Congress, with the firm conviction that the international working class together with all peace forces in the world will be successful in curbing the war mongering and neocolonial activities of American imperialism and its main ally, West German imperialism. West German imperialists tries by all means to extend its political power. By supporting the American war in Vietnam it hopes to get in return access to atomic weapons. By means of these weapons it hopes to put into effect the aggressive and revanchist aims in Europe. West Germany is the only state in Europe putting territorial demands to other countries. Their aims are directed at annincorporation of the German Democratic Republic and the reestablishment of the borders of 1937. To persue such aims in reality means to prepare a war.

But these aggressive plans are barred by the existence of the socialist German Democratic Republic, by the peace policy of the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist camp.

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With respect to internal policy, the west German monopolies try to crush all resistance against their aggressive and revanchist policy by means of the emergency legislation. By this they oppose the most elementary interests of life of the West German working class and their trade unions. The West German unionists are ever more worried by this severe danger.

We agree with many West German trade unionists that it is high time to unite the West German working class and its allies to ban this danger. In a letter to the delegates of the 7th Ordinary Congress of the West German Trade Union Federation which is taking place at present in West Berlin, the National Executive Committee of the FDGB said among other things; "It is not possible to step up armament in order to forcibly change the frontiers in Europe, to long for atomic weapons and to solve at the same time urgent social and cultural tasks".

In contradiction to the German Federal Republic the German Democratic Republic carries out a policy of peace and peaceful co-existence. It is also a result of this policy that recently the five-days-week every fortnight and some other cuts in the working hours were introduced effecting more than three million working people. But this was only possible because of the unity of the working class and the trade union in our republic.

By its peace policy and by the strict adherence to the charta of the United Nations the still young German Democratic Republic has proved its right to get an equal place in the community of the peoples.

We should like to use this opportunity to thank the All India Trade Union Congress and especially Comrade Dange for the solidarity when advocating for the removal of the Hallstein doctrine and for the recognition of the German Democratic Republic.

The GDR put into effect the Potsdam agreement from 1945 and is rightly called the first German peace state, a state where the trade unions have got the legally fixed right of codetermination in all fields of social life.

By making use of this right we are trying to solve the German question by peaceful means, especially by the understanding between the working class in both German states.

We think that the reunification of Germany can be reached by the recognition of the existence of two German states and by rapprochement. To normalise the relations between both German states and towards other states we consider as an important precondition for a peaceful solution of the German question. We also hold the view that an admission of the German Democratic Republic as an equal member to the United Nations would be a positive contribution for the solution of the German problem and for the safeguarding of peace in Europe.

We are firmly convinced that the working class and the trade unions in both German states have got the high obligation to promote understanding between themselves to use their mighty power in order to secure peace and to overcome together with all peace-loving and democratic Germans the war policy of the imperialists.

Our people knows by its own experience how terrible a war effects the life of the peoples. Therefore we fully understand those people in India who are worried about the safeguarding of peace and therefore wholeheartedly welcome the Tashkent agreement. This document of Good will is doubtlessly a proof for the fact that it is possible to solve disputed questions by peaceful means.

Dear friends,

We think that it is our fraternal and solidaric duty to

tell you how glad and satisfied the working class of the German Democratic Republic is, because the peace initiative of the Soviet Union largely contributed to the banning of the danger of war.

Dear friends,

The Confederation of Free German Trade Unions wants to express its certainty that the relations between the FDGB and the AITUC will develop further in the spirit of friendship and fraternal collaborations.

On behalf of the working class of the German Democratic Republic we wish the AITUC further success in the strengthening of the unity of action of the Indian working people. We fully understand the efforts of the AITUC to solve the problems related with an improvement of the working and living conditions. The trade unionists in the German Democratic Republic wish their class brothers in India and all the forces united with them much success in the implementation of the resolutions of the 6th World Trade Union Congress as well as in the putting into effect of the AITUC resolutions directed against imperialism, for democracy and the well being of the people.

Long live our joint anti-imperialist struggle for peace, democracy and social progress !

Long live the friendship between the working class of India and the German Democratic Republic !

Long live proletarian internationalism !

27th SESSION OF AITUC
Bombay, May, 16-22, 1966.

Address
by
L.W. PANDITHA,
Assistant General Secretary, Ceylon
Federation of Trade
Unions.

Comrade Chairman !
Brother Delegates !

It gives me great pleasure to attend and address this 27th Sessions of the All-India Trade Union Congress and convey to all delegates present here the fraternal greetings and warm wishes of the workers of Ceylon, particularly the workers organised in the Ceylon Federation of Trade Unions.

India and Ceylon have always been and still are friendly neighbours. Our destinies down the ages have been inextricably connected. In the dark days of colonial rule were united by a common struggle against the common foe of British imperialism. It was your fight for national freedom that inspired our own freedom struggle and in no little way helped its eventual victory. Since our two countries achieved independence, our two peoples have been facing similar problems bequeathed to us by British imperialism and we are today engaged in similar struggles to develop and consolidate our independence from the last vestiges of colonialism and neo-colonialism. That is why the people of Ceylon have the highest regard and respect for and a great sense of solidarity with the great people inhabiting the Indian sub-continent.

This solidarity is especially evident between the workers of India and Ceylon. The heroic struggles of the Indian workers have inspired the workers in our country and at times helped them in their own struggles. We also remember with gratitude the help you extended to our workers in very tangible form after the great Hartal that took place in Ceylon in 1953.

The great proletarian solidarity between the workers of our two countries is greatly strengthened by the fact that a large part of the working class in Ceylon is of Indian origin. But unfortunately this factor has also been used by the capitalist class of both countries to create dissension between our working classes and even ill-feeling between our two countries.

Our Federation welcomed the agreement concluded in late 1964 between the then Premiers, the late Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike to solve this vexing problem. Though there are still various difficulties in the way of the implementation of this agreement to the mutual satisfaction of both parties, we have no doubt that these will be overcome and the basis laid for the ultimate solution of the so-called Indo-Ceylon problem bequeathed us by British imperialism. This will undoubtedly further strengthen the ties of friendship between our two countries, in particular the ties proletarian solidarity between Indian and Ceylon workers.

Brother Delegates !

Great changes have taken place in Ceylon during recent times. As you know, following closely upon the achievement of independence by India in August 1947, Ceylon too was granted formal independence in February 1948. But until 1956 this independence only meant for the mass of the people in Ceylon a change from

direct to indirect forms of colonial rule. Politically, foreigners continued to function under a constitution drawn up by three British Commissioners. Economically, foreigners continued to plunder the wealth of our land through their continued ownership of the plantations, banks and insurance companies and their monopoly of foreign trade. Culturally, Western imperialism continued to rule the roost through the domination of the missionary-established system of denominational schools.

The independence that was supposed to be granted to Ceylon continued to be vitiated by the presence in Ceylon of British naval and air bases - bases that were used by the US / British and Dutch imperialists to carry death and destruction to our fellow Asians fighting for liberation in Indo-China, Burma, Indonesia etc. In the field of foreign relations, Ceylon continued to tail in the wake of the US and other imperialists and did not have diplomatic relations with even a single socialist state. In international conferences as at San Francisco in 1951 and Bandung in 1955 Ceylon became the laughing stock of resurgent Asia and Africa for the part she played as the stooge of the US and other Western imperialists.

It was only after the then ruling United National Party was routed in the general elections of 1956 and a progressive government under the leadership of the late Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike came to power that an end was put to this sorry state of affairs and Ceylon began to take her place as a fully independent state in the comity of nations. Under the enlightened leadership of the late Mr. Bandaranaike, Ceylon began to play an independent role in world affairs and together with your late Premier Nehru played a leading part in popularising the concepts of non-alignment between power blocs, of opposition to all forms of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, of support to all peoples still struggling for their independence.

Politically, our independence was made more real by the removal of the foreign military bases from Ceylon soil and the establishment of diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with the countries of the socialist camp also. Democracy was strengthened by the repeal of certain repressive laws such as for example those prohibiting certain types of strikes and also by the extension of electoral and trade union rights.

Making use of these democratic freedoms, the workers were able to win increased wages to meet the rising cost of living and also a Provident Fund scheme for which they had fought for years. The government of the late Mr. Bandaranaike also nationalised the Port of Colombo and the bus services and the workers in both these nationalised services were able to win better wages and improved conditions of service.

The peasants too won a great victory through the enactment and implementation of the Paddy Lands Act which won them a certain security of tenure and an increased share of the harvests. In the sphere of culture, indigenous arts and crafts which had for centuries languished under colonial rule gained a new lease of life with the establishment of a new Department of Cultural Affairs. Sinhala, the language of the vast majority of the people of Ceylon was made the official language, replacing English which had hitherto ruled supreme in all spheres of public administration. Local culture was given a further fillip by the setting up of two Buddhist Universities.

Neither the foreign imperialists nor the local reactionaries were idle while all these changes were taking place, they even resorted to such tactics as Cabinet strikes by certain Right-Wing Ministers in Mr. Bandaranaike's government in an attempt to hold back the march of progress. But all this proved to be

to be of no avail. Eventually Mr. Bandaranaike himself was assassinated in 1959 and in the crisis that followed another UNP government was able to come back to power and remain in power and remain in power for a short period.

But in the general elections of July 1960 the unity of the working class and progressive forces which had helped Mr. Bandaranaike to assume power was established once again and this resulted in the formation of a government led by his widow, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike. From 1960 till December 1964 her government continued along the path of progress opened up by her late husband.

In the course of these four years, her government took over to state management the great majority of denominational schools, nationalised the import and distribution of petroleum hitherto controlled by three foreign oil companies, nationalised the Bank of Ceylon and all insurance business and imposed restrictions on the operations of all foreign banks and wholesale merchants in Ceylon.

The government of Mrs. Bandaranaike also sought to ensure the further march of Ceylon along a progressive path against the ever-increasing opposition of reaction by taking into her Cabinet representatives of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, which was then associated with the Communist Party and the People's United Front in the United Left Front formed in 1963.

Although the admission of only one constituent party of the ULF into her government disoriented the working class movement to a certain extent, the SLFP-LSSP Coalition government formed in June 1964 was an improvement from the point of view of the workers and other progressive elements and the imperialists and local reactionaries lost no time in mounting a massive campaign to bring it down.

The attempt on the part of the SLFP-LSSP government to take over the Lake House press - the inspirer and organiser of all the forces of foreign and local reaction - was the signal for a new alliance of all the Rightist and obscurantist forces who were brought together to defeat the government. It is an open secret that the oil companies ousted from their Ceylon market the notorious Central Intelligence Agency and all other imperialist outfits functioning in this part of the world played no mean part in forging this reactionary alliance.

But to the eternal shame of the working class movement of Ceylon it must be said that their attempts would not have succeeded if they did not also have the overt and covert support of certain sectarian and disruptive elements inside the trade union movement itself. While the imperialists and reactionaries attacked the Sirimavo Bandaranaike's government from the Right, the ultra-Left splitters which included some renegades from the ranks of the working class joined the battle from the so-called extreme Left. Finally the government was defeated in Parliament by a vote the only two Trotskyite M.P.'s joining hands with the Right reactionary parties to stage this Parliamentary coup.

In the election campaign that followed, the Trotskyites and the ultra left splitters further helped the UNP and other Right-wing parties by putting forward splinter candidates to split the progressive vote. After the March 1965 elections, the UNP though it did not get a clear majority was able to form a government by joining hands with six other reactionary Right-wing parties and splinter groups.

The return of this reactionary hotch-potch to power on the basis of a secret agreement between the two main Rightist groups, the

UNP and the Federal Party, was a serious set-back to the entire working class and progressive movement. During their last 14 months in power, this government has sought to take the clock back to the old pre-1956 era and make Ceylon a happy-hunting ground for the imperialists by granting them largescale concessions in return for the so-called foreign aid which this government is fondly hoping to obtain from them.

At the same time, the government, has launched a massive attack against the organised trade union movement. A large number of teachers, clerks in government service and workers in the port railway and bus services have been meted out severe punishments. Some of the gains the workers achieved during the 1956-64 period have already been nullified and many more seem to be in imminent danger. Nevertheless, the workers have not taken these attacks lying down and have rallied to fight back this offensive on the part of the government.

Early this year the trade union movement with our Federation too in the lead played a prominent part in opposing the government attempt to implement the UNP-Federal secret agreement. This agreement whose terms are so reprehensible that both parties have kept them secret, is an attempt to divide up the country to further the interests of the capitalists among both the Sinhalese and Tamil people under the guise of "national unity". It is opposition to this unprincipled agreement between the capitalists of the two main racial groups in Ceylon that is sought to be labelled as "communalism" to discredit the working class and progressive movement.

However communalism has been and is foreign to our movement, and workers of all communities joined in a massive demonstration on 8th January this year to express their opposition to the UNP-Federal agreement. This demonstration was brutally attacked by the police resulting in severe injuries to hundreds of workers. It was followed by the declaration of an emergency, the censorship of the progressive press and a ban on all public meetings, demonstrations and other forms of opposition to the government.

All these repressive measures testify not to the strength but the weakness of the government and its mortal fear of the masses. The unity of the workers with other progressive sections which reactionaries have been trying hard to smash remains firm as ever. And the workers in the 11 main trade union centres in Ceylon irrespective of other differences have united in the newly-formed Joint Committee of Trade Unions on the basis of 15 immediate demands which they soon hope to present to the government and the private employers.

The recent May Day celebrations which announced the agreement on these 15 demands was one of the biggest demonstrations of working class and progressive strength and struck fear into the hearts of reaction. Today the working class movement in Ceylon is united as never before in the history of our trade union movement. The splitters and disruptors who helped reaction to come back to power have been decisively rejected by the workers and find a place only in the columns of the capitalist newspapers.

Today the alliance between the forces of the working class and other progressive sections finding its concrete expression in the united front of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party and the Ceylon Communist Party with the support of the entire trade union movement in Ceylon represented by the JCTU's has developed into a strong united anti-imperialist and progressive movement and emerged as the decisive force influencing the political development of the country. It has already won the support and confidence of the overwhelming majority of the people and is ready to assume government power the moment the present government is defeated, as it undoubtedly will be unable as it is to fulfil any of the pledges on which it won last year's general election

or solve any of the pressing problems facing the people.

With an economic crisis already looming ominously on the horizon and the government preparing even to abolish the food subsidies which is bound to create further public dissatisfaction and lead to further unrest among the masses, the coming defeat of the government can no longer be in doubt. And when that takes place, there can be no doubt that the united anti-imperialist front of the SLFT, LSSP and CP with the backing of the united working class movement will sweep away the imperialists and reactionaries who have today managed to capture temporary power and lead Ceylon back again along a progressive path in the not too distant future.

May 19, 1966

Address by
BROTHER ANTONIN ZAZVORKA,
Member of the Secretariat of the
Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions

Comrade Chairman, Comrade General Secretary, Dear Comrades:

It is a great honour for us and through our intermediary for our trade union movement, for the working class and for all working population of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, to participate in the 27th Congress of the AIUC, the most progressive and most important trade union organisation of the Indian workers.

I convey to you sincere and fraternal greetings extended by more than five million Czechoslovak trade unionists. It is already for the second time that a Czechoslovak trade union delegation got the opportunity of visiting your great and beautiful country and have personal talks with the representatives of your courageous and self-sacrificing working people. We are proud of it that we are able to convey here, in the Congress Hall warm greetings from the Czechoslovak workers to the best representatives of the Indian trade union movement.

Czechoslovak workers and all people of our country follow with great attention and sincere sympathies the fight of the Indian workers and their trade union organisation, the AIUC, for the development of national economy, for a permanent improvement of living conditions, for more extensive democratic rights and liberties and for the maintenance of world peace. We had therefore much pleasure in accepting your invitation to participate in your Congress. Although we are separated by a distance of some thousands kilometres, we are members of the same working class and every success attained through your struggles in the interest of the workers, is also our success. On the other hand every step forward in the process of building a developed socialist society in our country is a contribution to the working people of India.

Both fraternal organisations - the All-Indian Trade Union Congress and the Czechoslovak trade union movement - as members of the World Federation of Trade Unions - are closely bound to the international trade union movement. We have common aims. Our workers, alike the Indian workers, need peace for their creative work and life and that is why they support on the basis of peaceful co-existence the efforts made in this way between the nations and states. We are therefore united in the demands for stopping the imperialist aggression in Vietnam, for stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and for total disarmament; let us use the costs connected with armament for the economic and cultural development of the nations and for the living standard of their inhabitants.

We share pleasure from the attained achievements by Indian workers thanks to the untiring efforts of the All India Trade Union Congress. Our working people as well as our Trade Unions have always stood at your side in the struggle for the just demands and interests of your workers. We stand in solidarity at your side in all actions which brought and are bringing wage increase, for the miners, textile workers, public employees and other groups of workers in your country.

Dear Comrades, in the past eighteen years the building of Socialism in the Czechoslovak Republic brought forth an unexpected development of national economy, of the living and cultural standards of all people.

The living standard of our workers has rapidly grown and in some spheres, for instance in social security of the mother and the child, in education, in health services, etc., we have exceeded in this way many states.

In the long-term plan on the development of national economy we have set to ourselves the goal to ensure the many-sided development of a socialist society.

The basis of all achievements of the Czechoslovak people and their Trade Unions is the firm and indivisible unity of the workers. Experiences prove that the unity of workers are the key to success of all actions carried out by the workers in all countries and it is the pre-condition for their victory.

Unity, friendship and solidarity -this is the message which we are passing on to you in the name of the working people of our country. We came to your country on the fraternal invitation with this slogan, and allow me, please, to convey this slogan of unity, friendship and solidarity in the conclusion of my fraternal address to the 27th Congress of the AIUC, to the most progressive and most important trade union organisation of India. May I, on behalf of the workers of my country express my best wishes for every success in your negotiations, for good health and for lots of success in your efforts to all delegates present at this Congress and through them to all workers of your great famous country.

I assure you that the Czechoslovak workers will always stand side by side with the workers of India in the spirit of international solidarity and together with the working class of all countries they will fight for its unity, joyfull and happy life, for a lasting peace and for social progress in the whole world.

- *** LONG LIVE THE 27th CONGRESS OF THE AIUC .
- *** LONG LIVE THE EVER LASTING FRIENDSHIP OF THE WORKERS OF INDIA AND OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC.
- *** LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL UNITY AND SOLIDARITY OF WORKERS THE WORLD OVER.

WFTU's Draft

C H A R T E R O N

S O C I A L S E C U R I T Y

Social security is a fundamental right of the working class and the result of countless united struggles that the workers have been waging for many years against exploitation by the employers.

The complete systems of social security which exist and are developing in the socialist countries guarantee allowances at a high level without the workers having to pay contributions. These systems, financed entirely by the State, guarantee all the workers complete protection in all cases of loss of capacity to work and against all risks and also undertake preventive measures. This example shows further the superiority of the socialist system in the field of social security and constitutes a considerable moral force for the workers of the capitalist countries in their struggles against the employers' attacks and for the improvement of social security.

The general worsening of the living and working conditions of the working class in the capitalist countries, the low wages, unemployment, inflation, the work speed-up and the evil consequences of mechanisation and automation have even further accentuated the difficulties that the workers encounter. Moreover, under the pressure of the monopolists and their imperialists, the governments systematically reduce or suppress the budgetary allocations for social aims and use them for military purposes. The burden of armaments means a reduction in social allowances and weighs heavily on the living standard of the working people.

For this reason, a wide mass movement must be developed in the capitalist countries for the use of the funds which can be made available through disarmament, for the improvement of social security, in particular. This struggle requires much vigilance and perseverance because of the imperialists' hostility to any genuine disarmament policy.

The situation presents itself in an even more unfavourable light in the under-developed countries because of colonial exploitation, the extremely low living standards and the over-exploitation of the workers by foreign monopolies.

In the countries recently freed from the colonial yoke, where the economy is insufficiently developed, the workers are supporting the economic development of the country and the campaigns for complete decolonialisation and for social progress.

In those countries still under colonialist domination, the workers in their general struggles for national liberation are demanding social legislation which daily becomes more necessary.

... Taking its stand

Taking its stand on the common interests of all workers throughout the world, without distinction of race, of opinion, or of trade union affiliation, the WFTU submits for the discussion of the workers and trade unions this first draft of the Social Security Charter drawn up by the members of the International Trade Union Commission on Social Security, composed of leaders from trade unions in different countries, some affiliated and some not affiliated to the WFTU. This draft has been inspired by the Programme of Social Security adopted at the Vienna Conference in 1953.

The adoption of this Charter will be proposed to the 5th World Trade Union Congress which will take place on December 4-16 in Moscow.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS

1. A genuine social security system must be based on the recognition of a fundamental social right guaranteed by law to every person who lives by his work, who is unable to work, or who is temporarily or permanently incapacitated, and to the members of his family, without any financial contribution by him.
2. The social security systems must assure to the workers, their normal means of existence through allowances in cash and kind. Allowances in cash should be readjusted on the basis of the cost of living, increase in wages, and the vital needs of the workers and their families. Completely free medical care must be guaranteed to all workers either by a National Health System or by the Social Security System itself.
3. Social security must cover all the social responsibilities and risks including sickness, maternity, disablement and old age, work accidents and occupational diseases, family allowances, unemployment and death.

In the general framework of the social situation and of working conditions, effective measures must be taken to guarantee the workers their rights in the following fields:

- social measures of health protection;
- health at work and labour safety;
- the right to work, a job and a minimum guaranteed wage;
- shorter hours of work;
- paid holidays;
- housing, etc.,

in order to contribute to the improvement of material and cultural conditions as well as to the security of the workers.

4. Social security must apply to all workers and office staffs (including agricultural labourers, domestic workers, seasonal and casual workers, home workers, apprentices, etc.) to small peasants, tenant farmers, farmers, artisans, members of the liberal professions, students and independent workers as well as to those who are physically unable to work.

5. The right to social security must be equal for all without discrimination of race, nationality, religion, sex or age; there should be no discrimination based on occupation nor discrimination between the public and private sectors of the economy.

... 6. Finances.

6. FINANCES - The financing of social security must be assured by the employers or the State, or by a combination of the two, without any contribution from the workers.

7. MANAGEMENT - The management of social security institutions must be entrusted to the representatives of the workers and other beneficiaries.

The management must be provided for at all levels by the election of members of the controlling bodies with the participation of the trade unions.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND RISKS COVERED BY SOCIAL SECURITY

The following social responsibilities and risks must be covered by the Social Security system, on the basis of the principles set forth under Point 3 of this Charter:

8. SICKNESS - Workers and members of their families have the right to preventive, curative and convalescent medical care - free and without any limit - for all sicknesses. The cash allowances should be paid to the workers from the very first day and must guarantee normal means of existence until the cure is complete or until the right to a disablement pension is recognised.

9. MATERNITY - The working woman as well as her children have the right to special protection, including free medical care during pregnancy, during the confinement and after the birth, clinical care for the child up to the age of one year, the payment of allowance in the nursing period, paid maternity leave and grants for the birth, as well as the provision of a layette. The wife of the insured worker is entitled to the same rights with the exception of maternity leave.

10. FAMILY ALLOWANCES - Family allowances must be given for all dependent children and fixed at a sum allowing a family to keep up a good standard of living and to provide for the education of children.

11. WORK ACCIDENTS AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES - All accidents occurring at the place of work or on the journey to and from work, or resulting from the work, must be considered as work accidents and receive full compensation.

Medical care as well as artificial limbs and dentures, and re-training with a guarantee of re-employment, must be assured free and without any limitation.

In case of temporary incapacity, allowances in cash must be paid during the medical treatment, guaranteeing the workers the same living standard as before. If it is a case of permanent incapacity, a pension must be granted estimated on the basis of the wage and according to the degree of incapacity. In the event of permanent partial incapacity, the worker must receive, as well as his pension, a job in keeping with his capacity.

In the event of an occupational disease, compensation must be paid as soon as the disease is discovered, even if medical recognition of this fact is not made until afterwards.

Every disease resulting from the exercise of a trade or profession must be recognised as an occupational disease.

All occupational diseases must be compulsorily registered on the official lists established for these diseases. These lists must be completed periodically to include new diseases arising from new techniques and production methods.

12. Disablement and old age

12. **DISABLEMENT AND OLD AGE** - The age at which one is entitled to an old age pension must be lowered. An additional lowering of the age must be made for difficult, insanitary and unhealthy work.

The minimum basic rate for disablement and old age pensions, fixed according to the actual wage of the worker, must guarantee him normal means of existence, allow the pensioned man and his family to maintain a reasonable living standard.

The disablement pension must have additional allowances above the minimum according to the degree of physical or occupational disability.

13. **UNEMPLOYMENT** - A benefit should be paid to each unemployed person on the basis of his actual wage for each day or each hour of work lost until he is re-employed, allowing him to live normally.

14. **DEATH AND SURVIVORS' PENSIONS** - An adequate funeral allowance should be granted to cover the costs of burial.

A pension must be paid to the survivors and dependent persons to allow them to keep up normal living standards.

15. **PREVENTION** - The Social Security system must promote the application of social health protection measures. To this end, it must provide for the setting up of institutions, and do everything possible at the places of work and help to exercise a permanent watch and control in the interests of safeguarding the health of the workers.

16. **HEALTH AT WORK AND LABOUR SAFETY** - Safety delegates and health and safety committees, elected by the workers and holding executive powers, must be appointed in the undertakings and at the places of work in order to promote, in collaboration with the labour inspectorate, effective preventive measures adapted to the working conditions.

17. **RIGHT TO WORK** - The right to work should be laid down in the Constitution or by law in all countries. Its effective application must guarantee a job with a minimum guaranteed wage to all workers.

18. **HOURS OF WORK** - The protection of the workers' health and the struggle against unemployment and dismissals make necessary the progressive reduction of hours of work without pay reductions. The granting of a rest period during the working day is necessary in certain undertakings to safeguard the workers' health.

19. **PAID HOLIDAYS** - All workers should have the right to a paid annual holiday of a minimum guaranteed length as well as the facilities to get the maximum profit from it.

20. **HOUSING** - Workers and their families must be guaranteed accommodation at reasonable rents.

A housing allowance may be granted according to the number of dependants.

A L L - I N D I A T R A D E U N I O N C O N G R E S S

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

26 October 1966

To All Members of the
Working Committee of the AITUC

Sub: Meeting of the Working Committee
- New Delhi, November 30, 1966

Dear Comrades,

The Working Committee of the AITUC will meet in New Delhi
in the N.M.Joshi Hall on November 30, 1966 at 11 a.m.

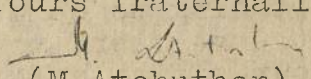
Members are requested to be in Delhi by 29th November evening.

The following agenda is proposed:

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Matters to be placed on the agenda of the
General Council.
3. Consideration of applications of unions for
affiliation.
4. Any other business with the permission of the Chair.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,


(M. Atchuthan)
Secretary

P.T.O.

'Grams: AITUCONG
'Phone: 57787
54740

A L L - I N D I A T R A D E U N I O N C O N G R E S S

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

26 October 1966

To All Members of the
General Council of the AITUC

Sub: MEETINGS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE
AND GENERAL COUNCIL - New Delhi,
November 30, December 1 & 2, 1966

Dear Comrades,

The Working Committee and General Council of the AITUC will meet in New Delhi in the N.M. Joshi Hall, on November 30, December 1 and 2, 1966.

The Working Committee will meet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on November 30. The General Council meeting will start at 3.30 p.m. on the same day and continue on December 1 & 2.

The following agenda is proposed for the General Council:

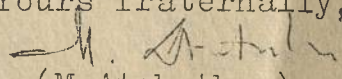
1. Confirmation of Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Finalisation of Report of the General Secretary made to the 27th Session of the AITUC.
3. Consideration of problems which have arisen since the 27th Session.
4. Resolutions
5. Any Other Business with the permission of the Chair.

According to the resolution of the 27th Session, any member wishing to send amendments to the General Secretary's Report to the session, may do so in advance. Such amendments should reach our office before November 20, 1966.

Those Members of the General Council requiring accommodation may kindly write to us in advance so that lodging arrangements may be made here accordingly.

It is planned to hold some trade group meetings as of cotton textiles, road transport, etc., immediately after the General Council meeting. Members of the Council connected with these industries may keep this in mind in finalising their programmes.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

(M. Atchuthan)
Secretary

Copy to: All STUCs

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:

1. 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

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

DL 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 cannons of justice, even those released by Courts are immediately re-arrested 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.

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// 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

DL 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 of 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-

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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.

AITUC General Council
February 1966
New Delhi

February 20, 1966

Resolution on Mines

AITUC'S CALL TO THE MINE WORKERS OF INDIA

DL → 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.

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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 coal miners 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 coal miners are exposed to.

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The AITUC further notes with grave concern the fresh offensive on the trade union rights and unions by employers of Bird & Co., Samla Collieries Ltd. (Jaipur concern) and other coal mines in the Raniganj-Assansol coal belt; in HSL mines and Burhar coal mines in MP. In these places, the mine owners have started mass scale victimisation and instituting false criminal cases against the activists and leaders of the unions affiliated to the IMWF and AITUC.

Faced with this vicious attack from the employers and police, the miners are resolutely defending their trade union rights with great courage and determination and the AITUC congratulates them and pledge all support in their grim battle against massive offence of the mine barons.

The AITUC regrets that in all these matters the Government has miserably failed to protect the interest of miners and repeated requests and appeals for intervention by the AITUC and Federation and their affiliated unions have brought no response and the miners have been left at the hands of mine owners who do not hesitate to use gangster methods to liquidate militant unions.

In view of this desperate condition, and anti-working class policy of the mine owners and the government, the AITUC has no other alternative but to call upon the miners all over the country to prepare for a direct action and launch a three day hunger strike in all mines, coal and non-coal, and indefinite hunger strike in Assansol-Raniganj coal belt, starting from the 1st March, in support of the following demands:

1. Immediate payment of profit sharing bonus from 1961 to 1965.
2. Correction of cost of living index and payment of additional dearness allowance to coal miners with retrospective effect.
3. Linking of dearness allowance with the cost of living index in all non-coal mines.
4. Immediate decisions of the Wage Boards.
5. Reinstatement of victimised workers in Bird & Co., Saunda Collieries WB in West Bengal and Bhillai mines and Ballaghat manganese mines in MP.
6. End of gangsterism and attack on trade union rights in the mining belts.

The AITUC appeals to all unions and workers, irrespective of their trade union affiliations to build up a powerful movement in support of the just struggle of the miners and force the mine owners and the government to concede these demands without any further delay.

Resolution adopted by the General Council of the AITUC on
affiliation fees

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ON AFFILIATION FEES

Having heard the views of members regarding payment of affiliation fees, the General Council resolves:

- i) All arrears under the affiliation fee clause of the Constitution should be paid.
- ii) Any union seeking exemption will have to apply in writing and exemption must be obtained before the AITUC session, as per the constitution. All such applications should be sent to the AITUC office and should reach the AITUC before 15th April 1966. Copies of such applications should be sent to the concerned STUCs.

The General Council authorises the working committee to consider such requests sympathetically, provided the union has paid for at least three years since the last session, including the last year's affiliation fees, i.e., for the year ending December 31, 1965.

8/11/65
(A. S. S.)

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THE PORT, DOCK & WATERFRONT WORKERS FEDERATION OF INDIA
Head Office: 1/73 Broadway, Madras 1

Camp: New Delhi
February 19, 1966

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The Working Committee of the Port, Dock & Waterfront Workers' Federation of India which met at Delhi from 15th to 18th February, 1966 has adopted the following statement:

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India's major Ports are faced with the unprecedented challenge of handling millions of tons of food-grains which are to be imported from abroad during the current year. Food ships are expected to arrive almost daily, particularly at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Their speedy and efficient unloading will determine prompt despatch of wheat and rice supplies to different parts of the country and will also ensure that shipping berths are not abnormally congested. It must be remembered that these massive foodgrains consignments have to be handled by our Ports in addition to their normal traffic of exports and imports whose volume is also growing.

At a time like this when the Port capacity of the country will be subjected to a severe strain, our Federation wishes to draw public attention to the fact that the existing system of Port handling and labour utilisation continues to suffer from certain anarchic and primitive features inherited from the past. Unless these are removed it will be impossible to mobilise the capacity of the ports to the utmost in the coming weeks.

For example, tens of thousands of workers engaged in the vital jobs of cargo handling for years together have yet to be decasualised. They include, among others even skilled workers, winchmen and cranimen, 'B' & 'C' category shore labour and so-called 'casual' and 'temporary' hands in various Department under the Port Trusts & Dock Labour Boards. These men are not only denied registration as permanent workers, but are also deprived of equal wages for equal work, minimum guaranteed pay, elementary benefits and facilities like provident fund, earned leave with pay, housing, bonus, medical provisions etc. The current strike of 3,000 'B' category Port workers of Calcutta which is continuing since 24 December 1965 is only one indication of the prevailing unrest and discontent among such workers.

Even the permanent and registered workers of different categories are nursing long-standing grievances, non-redressal of which cannot but have adverse effects on labour efficiency and morale. These grievances arise out of unscientific and anomalous pay scales and grades; imperfect categorisation and assessment of job differentials; piece-rates which are inadequate in relation to work loads and speed-up; undermanning of labour gangs; inadequate compensation for the high and ever-rising costs of living in the cities where the major ports are located; and many other unsatisfactory conditions of service.

To relegate these and other burning issues to a Wage Board, as has been done recently by the Government of India, merely amounts to indefinite prolongation of the disputes inherent in them and postponement of their solution, instead of devising means of expeditious settlement in conformity with the urgent needs of the situation.

Administrative anarchy is also rampant. For example, there is an artificial division of authority between the Ministry of Transport which is responsible for the Port Trusts and the Ministry of Labour which is responsible for the Dock Labour Boards. The stevedore system has become a cesspool of corruption and mismanagement of funds. Facilities for training of labour in specialised occupations are conspicuous by their absence.

...Food

~~SECRET~~

Faced with the challenge of massive food imports and pressurised by the US 'experts' of the PL 480 Programmes, the Government of India and the various Port authorities can think of nothing better than grandiose schemes of mechanisation which will allegedly transform their handling capacity. Crores worth of foreign exchange are planned to be expended on installation of grain silos, mechanical 'legs' and stitchers, and other forms of automatic equipment which will dispense with manual labour. These are all too familiar methods of creating an army of so-called 'surplus' workers who will be tomorrow's victims of retrenchment, and of sharply reducing the employment potential in the Ports. All this has added to the job-insecurity and apprehensions of labour.

Our Federation is firmly opposed to such schemes of mechanisation which are unsuitable and unnecessary in the conditions of an under-developed country like India with unlimited man power resources. Effective and planned mobilisation of the latter would be more than adequate to meet the increased demands of Port traffic, and this is possible by adopting a rational and considerate attitude towards the problems and needs of Port Labour, whose enthusiastic and voluntary cooperation is essential today.

Our Federation, therefore, demands the following measures be immediately taken to meet the urgency of the situation:

1. Decasualisation of all temporary and casual categories of Port and Dock labour; and immediate settlement of the strike of B category shore workers of Calcutta;
2. Pending the decisions of the Wage Boards, administrative steps for removing the outstanding grievances of permanent 'A' Category workers with special references to piece-rates, work loads, under manning etc. providing higher incentives;
3. Grant of adequate dearness and other allowances to compensate for the high cost of living and to plug erosion of real wages;
4. Recognition of the Port, Dock & Waterfront Workers' Federation and its affiliated unions;
5. An integrated system of administration of the Port Trusts and Dock labour Boards under a single governmental authority;
6. Abolition of the stevedore system;
7. Proper facilities for training of workers to perform various types of specialised jobs;
8. Bonus for all workers, provision of adequate housing and medical facilities; improved safety measures at the work place;
9. Scrapping of elaborate schemes of mechanisation, and reliance primarily on trained man power to handle Port traffic.

Our Federation firmly believes that this is the only way to improve the efficiency and capacity of the Ports, and to enlist labour cooperation and enthusiasm in the task of handling the abnormal volume of import and export of cargoes which is anticipated in the coming months. Failure to seek a solution along the lines indicated above would only perpetuate anarchy, create additional problems and bottle-necks, and add to labour's frustration and discontent with unfortunate consequences for which the Government's and Port authorities short-sightedness would alone be responsible.

Indrajit Gupta, MP. A.S.K. Iyengar
President General Secy.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF METAL AND ENGINEERING WORKERS OF INDIA

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

21 February 1966

To All Affiliated Unions

Dear Comrades,

The Executive Committee of our Federation which met in New Delhi on February 20, 1966 adopted the following resolution unanimously, on the question of the interim recommendation of the Engineering Wage Board:

The Executive Committee of the National Federation of Metal and Engineering Workers of India has considered the developments in the Central Wage Board for Engineering Industries culminating in the adoption of an interim report by majority vote in the Wage Board. The NFMEWI expresses its deep concern at the refusal of the employers in the engineering industry to accede to even the minimum demand for interim relief for the engineering workers, although the desirability of an interim recommendation on the part of the Wage Boards has now been established by convention and practice and is necessitated by the very fact of the time involved in finalising the Board's final recommendations. The attitude of the employers has to be severely condemned and the organised TU movement of the engineering workers should unitedly face the challenge of the employers and secure the demands of the engineering workers as expeditiously as possible.

The Executive Committee is of the opinion that the interim recommendation made by the majority in the Wage Board represents a gain, although the quantum of the relief is absolutely inadequate and is much below the expectation of the workers. It is therefore of utmost importance that the efforts of the employers to veto the majority decision of the Engineering Wage Board will have to be fought against and defeated.

The Executive Committee of the NFMEWI demands the immediate acceptance by Government of the majority decision of the Engineering Wage Board and the implementation of the decision on interim wage increase by the employers in the engineering industry.

The Executive Committee warns that any delay in this matter on the part of the Government and employers will provoke serious industrial unrest in the entire engineering industry throughout the country.

The Executive Committee of the NFMEWI calls upon the engineering workers and affiliated unions all over the country, to organise a united, powerful movement, for realisation of the following demands:

1. Payment of the interim increase in wages to all engineering workers according to the majority decision of the Engineering Wage Board.
2. Prompt steps for finalisation of the report by the Engineering Wage Board and further increase in wages on the basis of the demand of the NFMEWI.
3. Revision of D.A. formula, wherever necessary, guaranteeing for the engineering workers full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living index.

Unions are requested to take necessary steps to implement the above resolution. With greetings,

(Vithal Chaudhari)
Vice President

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ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

23 February 1966

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

PROPOSED GENERAL STRIKE IN BOMBAY TEXTILES OVER BONUS, ETC.

- PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVENTION SOUGHT

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~~Shri~~ S.A. Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, has written a letter to Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, on the decision of the textile workers of Bombay to go on an indefinite strike from February 28, over the demand for bonus (a settlement of which is pending for an year now), for job security for badli workers, against retrenchment and against the employers' threat to cut D.A. by 33%.

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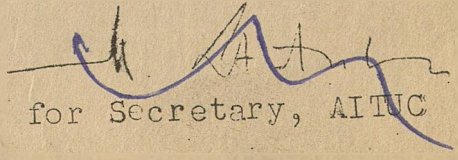
Shri Dange pointed out that the employers have launched an attack on workers' bonus on an all-India scale and have refused to implement the meagre benefits available to the workers under the Payment of Bonus Act. Faced with this, Shri Dange said, the workers have been forced to take recourse to direct action.

In his letter, ~~Shri~~ Dange cited the many instances of the anti-labour actions of the employers and said that "the millowners and big capital are out in a concerted manner to launch attacks on the wages, D.A., bonus and employment of the workers, in order to raise the level of the vast super-profits they are making. They are out to compel Government to side with them in these attacks, even at the cost of disrupting the economy and creating discontent and unrest among those very millions who are the real, creative pillars of the economy, namely, the working people.

"Not content with the vast wealth they accumulate every year from the toil of the workers, they want to destroy even those small gains and rights the workers have secured by hard struggles and sufferings over years.

"I am therefore requesting you to seriously take note of this situation, the tactics of the big employers and their supporters and take steps to intervene in the situation on the side of the workers whose cause alone is just and not that of the employers."

The AITUC requested the Prime Minister to call upon the millowners to pay the bonus which is due before February 28, 1966, and also settle the other demands.


for Secretary, AITUC

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi 1

23 February 1966

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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AITUC DELEGATION MEETS PRIME MINISTER

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10 lines
A five-member delegation of the AITUC met the Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, ^{on February 23.} ~~this morning.~~ In the delegation were S.S. Mirajkar, President; S.A. Dange, General Secretary, Indrajit Gupta, M.P., Secretary, K.G. Sriwastava, Secretary, and Dinen Bhattacharya, M.P.

The delegation had specifically sought the interview with the Prime Minister as per a resolution adopted by the General Council of the AITUC which met in New Delhi recently, urging Government to end the emergency, scrap the DIR and release all political and trade union leaders detained and for the cancellation of pending warrants.

The delegation pointed out that the emergency powers were being misused and the authorities are arbitrarily intervening in legitimate trade union and political activities and ordering detention without trial in a most indiscriminate manner. The delegation conveyed the AITUC's protest over Government policy in this respect.

^{listened to}
The Prime Minister ~~gave a patient hearing to~~ the views expressed by the AITUC delegation and stated that the points would be considered by the Government.

K.G. Sriwastava
(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary, AITUC

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TUR

PRESS CONFERENCE, 24.2.1966

Resolutions adopted by the General Council of the AITUC

ON STRIKE DECISION OF BOMBAY COTTON TEXTILE WORKERS

DL 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.

DL 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.

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

DL — 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

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

(New Delhi, 13-14 Feb 1966)

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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.

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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

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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:

ital [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.

ital [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.

ital [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.

ital [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

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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.

Box TUR
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Statement about ownership and other particulars
about newspaper TRADE UNION RECORD) ~~to be~~
published in the first issue every year after
last day of February.

FORM IV


(See Rule 8)

1. Place of publication 5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi
2. Periodicity of its publication Fortnightly
3. Printer's Name M. Atchuthan
Nationality Indian
Address 208 North Avenue, New Delhi
4. ~~Publica~~
4. Publisher's Name M. Atchuthan
Nationality Indian
Address 208 North Avenue, New Delhi
5. Editor's Name M. Atchuthan,
Nationality Indian
Address 208 North Avenue, New Delhi
6. Names and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital. ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

I, M. ATCHUTHAN, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Sa)

Date 26 Feb 1965

Signature of Publisher 

~~THIS IS NOT TO BE RETURNED TO THE PRESS REGISTRAR~~

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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

DL 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 vast 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

DL 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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This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC greets the heroic workers at the construction site of the Tarapur nuclear power plant in Maharashtra State who waged a militant strike struggle against heavy odds for 51 days from ~~10th Dec. 1965~~ December 10, 1965

~~This meeting~~ ^{The General Council} extends its heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of the nine workers who laid down their lives in ^{face of} ~~the~~ police firing. ^{The Council conveys its sympathy} ~~This meeting also sympathises~~ ^(and were injured) ~~with several other workers who underwent much suffering~~ in tear gas/attacks which the Home Minister of Maharashtra ^{unashamedly} ~~State~~ claimed was bought from the Americans and used by the State Police ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to crush the striking workers.

^{General Council of the AITUC} ~~This meeting~~ condemns the Maharashtra State Govt. for its policy of resorting to police firing and tear gas attacks to crush workers' genuine struggles in defence of their vital interests. The provocative policy of ^{The Government} ~~this Govt.~~ was witnessed even as early as August 1965 when the District Magistrate of Thana issued an order banning all meetings, processions etc. in Tarapur on the ground that there existed a dispute between the American Betchel Corporation and their employees led by Bombay Labour Union and that a serious situation had arisen which this august gentleman declared was likely to disturb "the public peace, safety and order".

^{The AITUC} ~~this meeting also~~ condemns the labour policy of the Maharashtra Govt. which gave rise to this strike and the terrible sacrifice imposed upon the workers of this vital construction project. The Labour Dept. of the Maharashtra State Govt. served as a stooge of both the ^{monopolists} ~~diabolical~~ American ^{company} and the pro-INTUC policy of the ruling class and thus gave rise to a situation which obliged the workers to resort to the indefinite strike from Dec. 10, 1965 against the unfair agreement

imposed upon the workers. This unfair agreement was blessed by the Labour Dept through a 2(p) settlement under I.D. Act reached by the American management in the labour office of the Govt. with a newly formed INTUC union led by Shri Choubey, an INTUC leader of Electrical Workers Federation and who is all the time around Bihar and north-eastern parts of India and who had come down from Patna ^{only} to play his inglorious role. This agreement was reached without ^{obtaining} a democratic verdict of the thousands of workers concerned. Such is the outstanding example of the Maharashtra Govt.'s ^{agreements} labour policy of foisting unwanted unions by the administrative abuse of the provisions of the Code of Discipline for according recognition to unwanted unions. The foremost lesson of this strike is that the Govt. should scrap all provisions ^{for} determining recognition of unions by verification of membership and instead provide for ^{the} same through freely-exercised ballot of all workers concerned.

Resolutions

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ON THE 27TH SESSION OF THE AITUC

The General Council at its last meeting in New Delhi had decided to convene the 27th session of the AITUC in December 1965 at Indore. But in view of the conditions then existing, although preparations for the session were quite at an advanced stage, the Working Committee had to take an urgent decision to postpone the same.

Now the session can no longer be postponed in view of the many complex problems facing the working class.

The General Council therefore decides to hold the 27th session of the AITUC in Bombay in May 1966.

ON I.C.P. WORKERS' STRIKE

The General Council of the AITUC extends its support to the 150 workers of the I.C.P. factory, Calcutta, who have been on strike since January 1, 1965 in protest against the arbitrary dismissal of four union leaders by the management and demanding their reinstatement.

During conciliation proceedings before the strike, the management had turned down even the Labour Commissioner's proposal to refer the dispute to arbitration. When the workers were left with no ~~alternative~~ choice but resort to strike, the Government rushed to the management's help by unleashing police repression and arresting the Union Secretary.

The ICP factory belongs to the Shri Ram group of industries and supplies condensers to all the electric fan manufacturing concerns in West Bengal. As a result of the strike, many of these concerns have been seriously affected and have laid off thousands of workers. But instead of taking urgent steps to settlement the strike, the Government has issued licences to big manufacturers of electric fans like Shri Ram group, Birlas, etc., to import condensers from Japan. This goes counter to the declared policy of saving foreign

exchange and encouraging indigenous production and has been done solely with the aim of suppressing the strike in the interests of the owners.

The General Council protests against these reactionary policies of the employers and Government and demands that the victimised workers of the ICP factory be reinstated immediately and all arrested persons be released so that the strike can be speedily settled and normal production be resumed.

GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF KERALA

DT The General Council of the AITUC greets the people of Kerala and particularly the working class and students for the part they played in connection with the movement they launched on January 28 to resist the attack on the people by the Congress Government in the State by way of a sudden and unjust ration-cut and to oppose the food policy pursued by the ruling party in the Centre and the Kerala Governor.

The Council highly appreciates the part played by the Kerala State TUC and its affiliates in this popular protest action of Kerala Bandh.

The General Council declares that the working people of the whole country would continue their determined struggle to compel the Congress Government to reverse its pro-hoarder food policy and adopt a genuinely national food policy and also to ensure equitable distribution of foodgrains and sufficient measures of supplying full rations to the entire people.

The General Council further records its vehement protest at the wanton repression let loose by the Government to suppress the food movement and urges upon the Government to release the arrested forthwith and also withdraw the cases brought in connection with the food agitation.

ON INDUSTRIAL TRUCE RESOLUTION

DL — When the AITUC, along with the other central TU organisations, signed the Industrial Truce Resolution of November 3, 1962, in the conditions of actual India-China hostilities on the border, its spokesmen made it categorically clear that this represented a mutual tripartite obligation between the ~~workers~~ workers on the one hand and the employers and Government on the other and that failure of one party to discharge its obligations under the terms of the Truce Resolution would naturally absolve the other party from its obligations.

In the three years which have passed since then, the Truce Resolution, both in its letter and spirit, has been reduced to a scrap of paper by the Government itself and by the employers. The major obligations undertaken by the Government were to hold the price line and to ensure speedy settlement of disputes. But, in practice, it has permitted profiteers, hoarders and speculators to take over the market; has subjected the working class to erosion of its living standards due to run-away prices; has plunged the country into a crisis of acute food shortages; and continues to deal with industrial disputes in a dilatory, bureaucratic, pro-employer and partisan manner. Not content with this, the Government utilises the "Truce" resolution as a constant threat against the workers and charges unions indiscriminately with so-called violations of the same.

Taking full advantage of this attitude of the Government, the employers have completely thrown to the winds their specific obligations under the "Truce" to refrain from dismissals, discharges and unilateral changes in the status quo, and to cooperate in all matters with the workers and their representatives. On the contrary, this period has seen a marshalling of forces by the big capitalists to attack the workers' rights in a more concerted and planned manner. Employers' violations of agreements,

awards and even various laws have been on a mass scale and with impunity. Union leaders and activists are systematically sought to be victimised. Even the work of ^{tripartite} ~~statutory~~ Wage Boards is being sabotaged by the employers. Dismissals, discharges, retrenchment, lay-offs and closures are practised arbitrarily.

Even during the recent Indo-Pak war, while the trade union movement consciously and patriotically refrained from stoppages of work, the employers did not hesitate to go on attacking the workers mercilessly. The bitter experience of the last two years in particular is reflected in the statistics of mandays lost showing that workers and unions of all affiliations are increasingly faced with no alternative but to use strikes and other forms of action to beat back the Government's and employers' offensives and ~~to~~ to defend even their existing rights and living standards. Even the 23rd session of the ILC, meeting at the end of October 1965 recognised this reality by not insisting on a reiteration of the Industrial Truce Resolution.

The AITUC is of opinion that, in these circumstances, the Industrial Truce Resolution of 1962 has been reduced to a dead letter by the actions of the Government and the employers and hence, the obligations under it can no longer be unilaterally binding on the workers' side alone.

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GOVT NOTIFICATION ON CORRECTIONS TO DELHI INDEX

Following is the text of the notification issued by the Delhi Administration dated February 1, 1966, on the corrections accepted by Government to the consumer price index for Delhi:

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Dated the 1st Feb. 1966.

No. F. 25(55)/61-Lab. :- Whereas the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, had, vide Notification of even number dated the 23rd July, 1964, appointed an Expert Committee with the following terms of reference, namely:-

"To examine the method of price collection and compilation of the consumer price index numbers with 1944 as base and to make recommendations as to the corrections, if any, that are required to be made for the proper readjustment of these Consumer Price Index Numbers, and whether the linking factor already adopted as the basis for linking these numbers to the 1960 base requires any change and, if so, what specific readjustments are necessary."

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No index

And Whereas the aforesaid Expert Committee has submitted its report and given its recommendations in two parts viz.,

Part (i) Suggesting readjustment in the Consumer Price Index Numbers for 1960 and a corresponding linking factor; and

Part(ii) suggesting improvements for future surveys and maintenance of the "index";

And Whereas the report and the recommendations in Part (i) have been carefully examined by the Chief Commissioner in consultation with the Government of India, in the Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation, and in the light of the comments of the Technical Advisory Committee on Cost of Living Index Numbers of the Central Statistical Organisation of the Government of India;

Now, therefore, the Chief Commissioner has been pleased to decide:

(a) that the recommendations of the Expert Committee in so far as corrections in the pricing of Cinema Tickets & House Rent may be accepted to the extent endorsed by the Technical Advisory Committee;

(b) that accordingly

(i) the Housing Group Index for Delhi (Base 1944-100) for the year 1960 will stand corrected at 255.84 as against the original figure of 100;

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- (ii) the Miscellaneous Group Index for the year 1960 will stand corrected at 169.38 as against the original figure of 171.21;
- (iii) the revised General Index for the year 1960 will be 167.73 or 168, on rounding, as against 158, the original index figure, and the linking factor to be adopted as the base for linking the Consumers Price Index Numbers with 1944 as base to the 1960 base will stand corrected to this extent; and
- (c) that the estimated Consumers Price Index Numbers with the linking factor as revised shall be given effect to from January 1966 in respect of monthly indices which would become due for publication by the Labour Bureau, Simla, in February 1966.

By order

Sd/-
(S. C. VAJPEYI)
SECRETARY (INDUSTRIES & LABOUR)
DELHI ADMINISTRATION:
DELHI.

No.F.SS(i)/BES/66/ 253 - 1059

Dated 10/2/1966.

Copy forwarded for information

24 M/S. Petroleum Workers Union,
Tel Mandi, Paharganj, New Delhi.

(D.K. GUPTA)
STATISTICAL OFFICER

TUR

EUROPE'S BIGGEST TRADE UNION ACTION INITIATED

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By all indications 1966 might turn out to be the year of the biggest trade union action in Europe. The scene surprisingly will be West Germany, where since long there has been hardly any concerted trade union action.

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Difference among the trade unions had led to virtual cessation of any militant action but recently a united platform of the trade unions has been built with the key note of unity in action. Under this new impetus, the West German workers have come out against the employers and governments attack on their living and working conditions.

Over eleven million workers have decided to terminate their wage-agreement and ask for new ones which would ensure restoration of cuts and no inroads further to their incomes. Over 700,000 workers in banks, building combines, ports, railways and metal industries have already terminated existing wage-agreements.

Specific demands of the workers include wage increases between 9 to 12 per cent, better social allowances and protection from effects of automation. Of late, West German workers had been subjected to shooting prices, increased work-period and intensification of work. In addition, government budget reduced social amenities which they were enjoying.

During the last year cost of living went up by 4.2 per cent and prices of all consumer goods increased, particularly food and housing. In addition, railway fare, postal rates are to go up substantially in a few days time.

West German journal MAIN-POST said a few days ago that Germany faces "a price increase unprecedented after the war." Another influential West German journal declared that during last fifteen years West German mark has lost half its value. It admitted "1965 is a new record year of climbing prices..." Purchasing power fell by 4.5 per cent in 1965.

This is followed by largescale retrenchment and lay-offs. Over 100,000 railway workers have already been laid off and 12,000 face retrenchment following government decision to close down 8,000 km of railway which is roughly 27 per cent entire railway mileage. Similar action on plea of recession is in the offing.

On the other hand, profits of capitalists have reached new high. All-time record of post-war era has been made in dividend distribution in most of the industrial undertakings. According to German Statis-

Statistical Office average industrial undertaking rose to 13.47 per cent during the last year. New tax concessions have also been granted to monopolists, particularly those big trusts dealing with armament manufacture.

Automation, speed-up and increased fatigue are leading to sharp rise in accidents in work. From 1.1 million in 1949, the figure of industrial accidents has shot up to 2.8 million in 1964. About 7,000 accidents resulted in loss of life. There has also been sharp incidence of occupational diseases including consumptive and contratable ailments. By this, the monopolists have gained an increase in productivity per worker by over five per cent.

Government, controlled as it is by big monopolists, is apathetic to workers' conditions. It has planned wage-freeze on the one hand and on the other called upon the workers to sacrifice more. The motto was reflected in West German Chancellor's message to people last month in which he said that with rising claims of the people "our prospects for realising the national tasks" were dwindling.

And what are these national tasks? More spending in military matters, production and control of nuclear weapons, setting of new colonies and overthrow of the German Democratic Republic. In short, it is a policy of aggressive military design specially tuned to old Nazi aims and favours only big business.

FREIES VOLK, a leftwing journal, giving details of financial positions of the industries concluded that "the wage claims of the trade unions are justified - the ~~xxxx~~ trusts can pay."

But justified or not, the capitalists are not prepared to pay. They have whipped up an anti-trade-union campaign through their big propaganda media pouring venom every day against the workers and the trade unions.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE declared that the wage claims were "fantastic ideas of mad brains" and INDUSTRIEKURIER, organ of industrial combines, advocated that "the hard line pursued now by the employers must not be softened..." In addition, so-called experts are at pains to explain over the radio and television how higher wage would lead to higher prices and therefore rise in earning is no solution to workers problems.

The employers have urged government to take drastic action. One journal of big business HANDELSBLATT has called for "direct state interference and dictation of wages.

And how does the government propose to deal with this issue? Well,

it has decided to follow advice of big business. It has planned to coerce the workers to accept status quo, either by consent or by force.

Well-laid plans have been made for breaking strikes and any other militant action of the workers. Some days back, DIE POLIZEI (The Police Journal) published as a confidential supplement a plan giving minute details of "how to break a strike". The plan was drafted by Police Commissioner himself and it calls for close police-employer collaboration, infiltration of police agents in the trade unions, mass arrests of "agitators" etc. The document deals with an imaginary strike and traces step by step the measures which ultimately crushed the strike although almost all workers favoured strike.

Special police forces have ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ been trained in strike-breaking techniques. The trade union paper HOLZARBEITERZEITUNG alleged that federal troops also had exercises involving suppression of actions by workers and trade unions. This was later confirmed by PAROLE, an illustrated journal for troops which showed pictures of such exercises.

A few days back, a "Textbook For Training And Tactics of Military And Police Units" has been published in West Germany. Its author is a former colonel of Hitler's security force. He tackles strikes in a much more stright way. The chapter dealing with strikes gives directives for use of riot police, machine guns, mortars and tanks to force the strikers to return to work. This book advocates abrogation of civil rights from the West German Constitution as that "seriously hampers training of the armed forces".

In addition, DIE POLIZEI, of late has published a number of articles dealing with the question of most effective deployment of armed forces against striking workers and civilian population. These articles give stress of police actions to support strike-breakers and to attack picketers. The suggestions also include use of police dogs, mounted police, guns, armoured vehicles against the strikers. Preventive measures before strike include execution of strike leaders, burning of houses and incarceration of strikers in concentration camps.

Last month, an article in this journal has demanded suspension of constitutional rights by invoking "emergency" rules deeming all wage-struggles as "actions endangering the state and the Constitution."

But these terror plans have not thwarted the movement of the workers and if the employers do not yeild, it will be the bloodiest trade union action in 1966.

TASHKENT DECLARATION

(Full Text)

THE Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan, having met at Tashkent and having discussed the existing relations between India and Pakistan, hereby declare their firm resolve to restore normal and peaceful relations between their countries and to promote understanding and friendly relations between their peoples. They consider the attainment of these objectives of vital importance for the welfare of the 600 million people of India and Pakistan.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan agree that both sides will exert all efforts to create good-neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan in accordance with the United Nations Charter. They reaffirm their obligation under the Charter not to have recourse to force and to settle their disputes through peaceful means. They considered that the interests of peace in their region and particularly in the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent and, indeed, the interests of the peoples of India and Pakistan were not served by the continuance of tension between the two countries. It was against this background that Jammu and Kashmir was discussed, and each of the sides set forth its respective position.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan have agreed that all armed personnel of the two countries shall be withdrawn not later than 25 February 1966 to the positions they held prior to 5

August 1965, and both sides shall observe the cease-fire terms on the cease-fire line.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan have agreed that relations between India and Pakistan shall be based on the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of each other.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan have agreed that both sides will discourage any propaganda directed against the other country, and will encourage propaganda which promotes the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan have agreed that the High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and the High Commissioner of Pakistan to India will return to their posts and that the normal functioning of diplomatic missions of both countries will be restored. Both governments shall observe the Vienna Convention of 1961 on diplomatic intercourse.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan have agreed to consider measures towards the restoration of economic and trade relations, communications, as well as cultural exchanges between India and Pakistan, and to take measures to implement the existing agreements between India and Pakistan.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan have agreed that they will give instructions to their respective authorities to carry out the repatriation of the prisoners of war.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan have agreed that the two sides will continue the discussion of questions relating to the problems of refugees and evictions of illegal immigrations. They also agreed that both sides will create conditions which will prevent the exodus of people. They further agreed to discuss the return of the property and assets taken over by either side in connection with the conflict.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan have agreed that the sides will continue meetings both at the highest and at other levels on matters of direct concern to both countries. Both sides have recognized the need to set up joint Indian-Pakistani bodies which will report to their governments in order to decide what further steps should be taken.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan record their feelings of deep appreciation and gratitude to the leaders of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Government and personally to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR for their constructive, friendly and noble part in bringing about the present meeting which has resulted in mutually satisfactory result. They also express to the Government and friendly people of Uzbekistan their sincere thankfulness for their overwhelming reception and generous hospitality.

They invite the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR to witness this Declaration.

President of Pakistan

MOHAMMED AYUB KHAN

Prime Minister of India

LAL BHADUR SHASTRI

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AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL TO
MEET IN DELHI ON FEBRUARY 18-20

The General Council of the AITUC has been convened to meet in New Delhi on February 18, 19 and 20, in New Delhi. The AITUC Working Committee will meet earlier on February 17.

The Council will have the following agenda:

1. Brief Report on Present Situation and Tasks
2. Position with regard to T.U.Unity
3. Proposals of all-India campaigns or urgent problems before workers.
4. Organisational problems
5. AITUC Session

In a letter to the members of the General Council, S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, has stated: "The 27th session of the AITUC which was to have met in December 1965 having been postponed, it is necessary that the General Council should meet in order to take stock of the situation and plan the future course of action and work and also the holding of the Session.

"The situation in the country as a whole and the problems of the working class in particular require an assessment by the General Council. The struggle of the defence of the workers' wages and TU rights is entering a new phase in which the problem of trade union unity for unified action has assumed crucial importance."

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PRAHA, 24th December 1965
To Fraternal National
Centres and Trade Unions
Abroad

AN APPEAL BY THE SOBSI

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Dear Friends,

Of late, all press circles in the world have been paying much attention to the development of the situation in Indonesia. Particularly the propaganda machine of the imperialists and that of the domestic as well as the foreign reactionary forces has been circulating all kinds of slanders and false reports. Their motives for conducting such activities are primarily to arouse confusion in connection with the events relating to the 30th September Movement. Furthermore, they have been utilising this event for fanning up a campaign against Communists and against all progressive forces in general and for splitting up the national united front.

By launching such a campaign, which they regard as a means to save themselves from their final doom, the imperialists and the reactionaries have condemned the 30th September Movement alleging it as "a coup d'etat plot to overthrow the Indonesian Republic and to eliminate President Sukarno." They also stubbornly accused the Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI) and the revolutionary mass organisations such as the SOBSI, the Indonesian Peasant Front (BTI), the People's Youth, the Indonesian Women's Movement (GERWANI), the Concentration of Indonesian Students' Movement (CGMI) and all other Indonesian progressive forces in general, of being on a par with the 30th September Movement.

At present a reign of terror is raging in towns and regions where right-wing elements of the army hold power. Innocent inhabitants are falling victims to the cruel acts of terror which is causing insecurity for personal life. Irresponsible groups of mobs and paid gangs are being employed by the Indonesian reactionary forces to wreck and burn down offices of the PKI, of the SOBSI and of other revolutionary

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mass organisations. Even the homes of their respective leaders are not spared from their criminal acts of destruction. Thousands of Communists, trade union activists, militant patriots and progressive and democratic minded persons have been arbitrarily arrested and cruelly tortured, while hundreds of them have been brutally murdered. In comparison with the bestial tortures suffered by the Indonesian people during the Japanese fascist occupation, the tortures carried on by the Indonesian reactionary forces at present are more horrible. Hammering nails into the shoulders of a captive as if fixing nails into a piece of wood is being regarded as a normal act. Shooting to death without much ado in broad daylight of workers who defy to work under pressure of bayonets is regarded as a matter of shooting a bird.

Meanwhile mass dismissals are being imposed upon all workers and employees who are regarded to be Communists or to be involved in the 30th September Movement directly or indirectly, the criterion of which is up to the reactionary forces to determine, or who are considered to be opposing the reactionary military rulers.

In several provinces the "dissolution" of the PKI and of revolutionary mass organisations, including the SOBSI, have been already proclaimed by the reactionary elements in power in the regions concerned. Newspapers regarded to be having sympathies for the PKI, and other progressive newspapers have been since banned for long immediately after the 30th September Movement, while on the other hand only right-wing newspapers under the control of the rightist elements in the army in the main have been permitted to appear freely. Press, radio and other means of mass communication are in general under the control of the reactionaries, particularly those in the ranks of the army. Military men are installed almost in all the government administration. In such a situation one can understand that it has become difficult for the real voice expressing the interests of the working class and of the other progressive forces in Indonesia to be heard in Indonesia and even more so abroad.

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The presumption made (by some circles) abroad as if there was no resistance at all by workers and other strata of the people in face of such a situation stems from the fact that such actions of resistance are being concealed by the press and propaganda apparatus of the reactionaries and the imperialists, while at the same time the progressive forces in Indonesia at present are deprived of their own means of communication.

In fact, it is not only in the Central and East Java that the workers and other sections of the people are putting up fierce resistance, but in other parts of the country also such as in North Sulawesi, North Sumatra, West Sumatra, etc. Strikes have been launched by the workers employed in the transport, telecommunications, plantations and the mines. The people, particularly the peasants, who have been deceived and ill-treated by the anti-people clique of the ruling group too much and for too long a period already, have risen up and are in an organic way launching an armed resistance and fighting through other forms of struggle at their disposal. At present, the struggle of the workers and other sections of the Indonesian people, in resistance against the reactionary forces, has reached its highest form, namely, the armed struggle, though still in its initial stages. And they are engaging in this form of struggle after having experienced and having been tempered for a long period in democratic actions taking the form of demonstrations, strikes and the like. In such a situation the perspective of the revolutionary movement in Indonesia has never been so bright as it is today.

The imperialists, particularly those of the United States, and the reactionaries have certainly no interest in the spreading of news about the resistance being carried on by the Indonesian people, as the real state of affairs. They are struck with fear with the prospects of development that as soon as the broad masses of the people would get to know of these actions, the flames of resistance could be set ablaze in increasing intensity.

For the time, the imperialists and the reactionaries are arrogantly busy spreading news as if the rightists in the

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military "are in complete control of the situation" and as if all resistance by the people is absent. This arrogance is in fact a manifestation of their weakness. They are struck with panic in face of the fact that at any time the storm of revolution could rise in a rage to smash them into pieces.

The development of the situation in Indonesia, no matter how dark it is being portrayed by the imperialists and the reactionaries, does not show any serious crisis in the position of the PKI, the SOBSI and other revolutionary mass organisations. Its organisation remains compact; its policy remains revolutionary far from being opportunistic, it remains firmly united in the ideological field and its main leadership remains intact. Its leaders are at present working untiringly day and night to accomplish the honourable task, namely, to complete the national democratic revolution as the first stage for advancing towards socialism.

The reactionaries at home supported by the imperialists and foreign reactionaries may for the time be in a position of carrying on wild bestialities against the people and they may also for the time put on an air of arrogance and mocking. However, they should be warned that all this is just a sign of their final doom, from which they cannot escape. The wheel of history cannot be turned back.

In connection with the 30th September Movement, SOBSI is of the understanding that the objective of this Movement is correctly aimed at safeguarding the Indonesian Republic and President Sukarno and at foiling the plan of the reactionary generals. These generals are the compradores of the imperialists, particularly of the US imperialists, who in conspiracy with the American CIA have been engaged for long in preparing the grouping of forces, particularly in the military field, to overthrow the Indonesian Republic from within and to eliminate President Sukarno.

The stand taken by the SOBSI is in conformity with its stand of supporting any step which leads to the cleaning up of the apparatus of the revolution from elements opposed to the working class and to the people. SOBSI, with its 3.7 million members is convinced that such a stand is a correct one and is an important contribution to the safeguarding of the revolution and to

making it victorious in the interests of the working class and other broad masses of the Indonesian people.

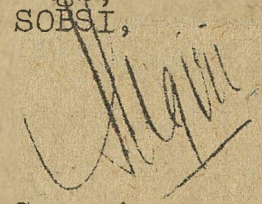
SOBSI is of the opinion that the most decisive factor for the victory of the national democratic Indonesian revolution advancing towards Socialism is the struggle of the Indonesian working class and the Indonesian people themselves.

Solidarity of workers and peace-loving peoples throughout the world fighting against imperialism with the workers and people of Indonesia, based on the principles of proletarian internationalism, will be a very significant contribution to the revolution in Indonesia.

While expressing gratitude from the bottom of its heart to all those who have expressed their solidarity with the SOBSI and condemn the anti-democratic crimes of the Indonesian reactionaries, the National Council of the SOBSI appeals to the workers and trade union organisations in all countries throughout the world:

1. To condemn the cruelties being perpetrated by the Indonesian reactionaries, especially by those holding power in the military.
2. To demand the restoration of democratic freedoms and of trade union rights.
3. To demand the immediate and unconditional release of the fighters of the working class and of the patriots who are imprisoned for the alleged involvement in the 30th September Movement, since they are the fighters who firmly defend the preservation of the Indonesian Republic.
4. To render solidarity and in whatever form possible in conformity with the position of the organisations and the objective conditions prevailing in their respective countries.

With fraternal greetings,
National Council of SOBSI,



Suguri,
(Vice Chairman)

PROSPECTS OF UNITED ACTION OF
NON-COAL MINERS

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by PRAKASH ROY, Secretary, Indian Mine Workers Federation

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The problems facing the vast sector of "non-coal" mines - iron ore, limestone, manganese, dolomite, etc., - have reached a critical stage and the attention of the ~~mine~~ workers in these mines is therefore centred around possibilities of industry-wide united action to secure their demands.

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The position of the non-coal miners in the industrial map of India is indeed unique and their role in the task of building modern industry is of utmost importance. Iron ore, dolomite, limestone and manganese are the essential minerals to feed our iron and steel industry. The vast expansion needed in this sector also throws up a vast number of technical cadre drawn from among our talented people.

and the increasing pace of mechanised mining

India possesses about one-fourth of the total world reserves of iron ore. It is the single biggest country possessing such large iron ore deposits, although our output today constitutes barely two percent of the total world production, compared to USA (43 per cent) and USSR (28 per cent).

During 1961, despatch of iron ore for consumption in our own steel plants totalled 8.4 million tonnes as against 7.2 million tonnes in 1960. Foreign exchange earned through the export of iron ore during 1961-62 ~~xxxxxxx~~ amounted to Rs.17.28 crores. The share of iron ore in India's total

mineral exports was of the order of Rs.36.4 crores in 1963-64. Manganese ore exported fetched Rs.9.2 crores in 1963-64.

There are at present 175 limestone mines and quarries in our country. The estimated production of limestone in 1961 was 14.3 million tonnes, valued at about Rs.6.70 crores.

There are 22 ~~functioning~~ dolomite mines now being worked in India. Estimated production in 1961 was 7.2 lakh tonnes, valued at Rs.78.3 lakhs.

The average daily employment in non-coal mines in India in 1963 was 2,44,976. Employment in iron ore mines was 44,457; limestone 61,506; manganese - 36,467 and dolomite - 5,608. Following the expansion of mining, ~~in the public sector~~ particularly in the public sector, the present employment in the industry would be considerably higher.

Despite the strategic position of the industry and the significant contribution made by the miners to the national economy, the non-coal mining sector in India today has the worst wage rates and working conditions among the organised industries.

In relation to iron ore, ~~and~~ limestone and dolomite, the wages are to be nationally fixed through Wage Boards but these Boards, after ~~making some~~ recommending some meagre interim relief, have become largely defunct and no one knows when their reports will ~~even~~ see the light of the day.

In relation to manganese, even the appointment of a Wage Board has been denied and it would appear as if the Government feels that even the very talk of a wage board would send the manganese mines out of business!

Even to secure the recommendation of the Iron Ore Mines Wage Board on interim relief implemented, the miners had to launch determined strike struggles.

The presentday problems of scarcity and high prices of essential commodities, ~~are~~ afflicting the workers and the people at large, assume graver dimensions in relation to the non-coal miners. This is because the mines are situated in predominantly forest areas, where even normal facilities for obtaining day-to-day requirements are non-existent and the workers are perforce made victims of unscrupulous trading elements.

The scourge of the industry is that tribe of parasites miscalled "raising contractors". Mining conditions for raising ore are ~~indeed~~ no doubt quite hazardous but on top of these hazards, ~~highly hazardous to the workers and the~~ is imposed the most cruel exploitation of the miners by the perpetuation of the hated contract system. It would appear that the socialist pattern of society in this country cannot be built except leasing out the economy piece by piece to contractors and sub-contractors. At least, this is what the miners who raise ore for the nation's biggest steel plant in Bhilai feel ~~and this~~ - this public sector project has a very imposing Department of Mining and extensive organisation and equipment but nevertheless, the bureaucrats at the helm cannot work the mine, at least partly, without the help of raising contractors.

The country has the know-how to run modern steel plants but the policymakers would have us believe that unless the

contractors have a big slice out of the workers' wages, the mining operations will come to a dead stop.

And this situation has come about as a peculiar anti-climax to a very solemn tripartite decision, ~~firstly~~ both in the Indian Labour Conference and the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal to "abolish" contract system. The latest thinking in the Labour Ministry has however undergone a change and instead of "abolishing" contract labour, the move is to "regulate" contract labour!

This is no accident. In the pyramid of the bureaucratic structure of public sector projects, the "contractor" has his own place and a share of his loot dutifully has to filter upwards. The struggle against this monster is therefore no easy task.

In such conditions, the enormity of the problems of securing even implementation of even such legislations as the Mines Act, etc., can well be imagined. Even the meagre benefits of bonus under the Payment of Bonus Act are not enforced in this sector of the industry. ✓

In the name of boosting exports, tax-credit certificates and other incentives are given to the mining industry but no thought is given by the policymakers about providing ~~axfrix~~ ~~desixtaxthaxworkersx~~ minimum conditions of work. Under this strange logic, the employer will get the advantage of low wages which ~~taxixwix~~ Government will keep frozen and further incentives will be given to the employer as if it is not through the hard toil of the miners but by the employers' good work that this country is raising and exporting ore to earn foreign exchange.

Again, it is strange logic that the miners who raise the ore and feed the steel plants should get much less wages than what prevails in the iron and steel industry. It is an untenable position that the miners who work in more hazardous conditions should remain in sub-human conditions either to improve the "competitive" position of our ores in export markets or the "cheapening" of steel produced by our steel plants.

What requires to be specially stressed is that the apparent contradiction between a slightly better wage and export prices or raw material costs in steel plants is not a very real one. A certain minimum capital investment is required per ton of steel ingot to be produced and it only stands to reason that there should be a certain minimum level of wages, to ensure which the higher wage cost should automatically be considered as part of the capital investment. Robbing Peter to pay Paul may be sound economics as between the bourgeoisie and its State but this is not something which the working class can blindly accept.

There can also be no reason why when a minimum of sliding scale adjustment of D.A., linking with the consumer price index numbers, is accepted as of necessity to safeguard the purchasing power of wages, such an arrangement should be totally denied to the non-coal miners on the basis of spurious economic theories.

The trade union movement of the non-coal miners is fast developing, mobilising the ~~miners~~ workers behind these vital demands. The year which has passed by has witnessed

many important instances of united actions by the miners.

There were a series of hunger-strikes in the manganese mines of Balaghat (M.P.) and Maharashtra, the 14-day united strike of 10,000 iron ore and manganese miners in Keonjhar belt in Orissa, strikes and hunger-strikes in the captive mines of the Bhilai Project at Rajhara and Nandini and militant agitation by miners in the captive mines of TISCO, IISCO and in the NMDC mines at Kiriburu project in Bihar and Orissa. The miners of Goa were also engaged in determined struggles.

The vast expansion of the industry has ~~put~~ posed new problems of expanding TU organisation. This is engaging the attention of the TU organisers since only by expanding organisation and building coordinated industry-wide action can the important demands of the non-coal miners be fulfilled.

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DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO AITUC CONSTITUTION

The following draft amendments to the Constitution of the AITUC are proposed for the consideration of the 27th Session of the AITUC:

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1. Delete Article 4.
 2. In Article 5, sub-section (a) (iii), line 4, delete the words "by a qualified auditor" and substitute by: "as per provisions of the Indian Trade Unions Act."
 3. In Article 6, the "Note" after (b) to be substituted by the following:
"(Note: Accounts of the AITUC shall be maintained in accordance with the calendar year beginning from January 1 and ending with December 31.)"
 4. In Article 9, sub-section (a)(v), delete the words "Not more than" before "five Secretaries; and"
 5. After Article 12, add a new Article 12-A:
"SECRETARIAT
(i)
"12-A. The President, the General Secretary and Secretaries shall constitute the Secretariat."
"(ii) The functions of the Secretariat will be defined by the Working Committee from time to time."
 6. In Article 19, after the sentence ending with "respective bodies, add a new sentence: "The quorum for meetings of the Secretariat shall be four."

NOTES ON PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS

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as part of
the AITUC
Constitution.

1. Article 4: This article in the Constitution lists the "Demands". These Demands were formulated long ago and ~~require~~ some of them have become outdated. It is not considered necessary that the Constitution should list the "Demands" which would change from time to time, depending upon the situations. Article 3 has dealt with the "Aims and Objects" and it is not ~~considered~~ necessary to supplement them with a list of demands. Hence the proposal for deletion of Article 4.

2. Article 5: The existing provision reads: "It (the affiliated union) shall send a copy of its rules and regulations, a list of its office-bearers, a copy of the statement of accounts for the official year, giving an average paying membership for the period, duly audited by a qualified auditor and such other information or materials as the General Secretary of the AITUC may require." It has been represented on behalf of the small unions that they do not have to get their accounts audited by "a qualified auditor" and that two members of the union may be designated as "auditors" under the provisions of the Indian Trade Unions Act, for the purpose of annual returns. The amendment is proposed to bring the provision of auditing of returns conforming to the statutory provisions.

3. Article 6: Under the recent amendment to the Indian Trade Unions Act, trade unions have to submit annual returns on the basis of the calendar year, i.e., January 1 to December 31. It is therefore felt necessary that the financial year of the AITUC be changed in conformity with the new provisions in respect of accounting by the unions and hence the proposed amendment.

4. Article 9: The present ~~existing~~ provision reads: "(a) The General Council shall consist of (i) ~~A~~ President, (ii) Seven Vice Presidents; (iii) A General Secretary; (iv) A Treasurer; and (v) Not more than five Secretaries; and....." It is proposed that the words "not more than" before "five Secretaries" be deleted, in view of the proposed amendment No.5, and the proposal for a constitutional provision regarding a Secretariat.

5. Article 12-A: There is no provision in the Constitution relating to the functioning of a Secretariat at the Central Office of the AITUC. Hence the proposed amendment.

~~Article~~

6. Article 19: This Article defines the "quorum" for the meetings of the various bodies of the AITUC. The addition suggested is in respect ~~for~~ of quorum for meetings of the Secretariat, following from proposed amendment No.5.

S.A. Dange

TUR

27th Session of the AITUC
Bombay, May 16-22, 1966

19th May 1966

Address by
MRS. B. SHANYKHUU,
Secretary of the Central Council of the Trade
Unions of Mongolia

Dear members of Presidium
and delegates,

Comrades and friends,

Allow me on behalf of all the members of the Trade Union organizations of the Mongolian People's Republic and the working class of Mongolia to convey our hearty greetings to you, the members of the presidium and the delegates to the 27th Session of the All India Trade Union Congress and through you to all the members of the AITUC.

I should like to express our sincere gratitude to the AITUC for its kind invitation to part take part in your Session.

This Session is an event of great importance in the life of the All India Trade Union Congress and working people of India. We are firmly convinced that the AITUC, defending the interests of the working class of India and interests of its thousands of members will inspire them in the struggle for the prosperity of their country.

The Mongolian Trade Unions are happy that the AITUC is playing an important role in the Social and Political life of the country. We know that you have achieved great success in implementing the historic decisions of the 26th Session held in January 1961, as we have learnt to know it from the report of Comrade Danga.

The growth of the World Communist and Working people's movement is a clear indication of the fact that the forces of Socialism and democracy are much stronger than that of imperialism and war.

Peaceloving peoples all over the world are indignant with the American imperialists who are threatening and committing aggression against the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence.

Mongolian people resolutely condemn the imperialist bloody war wages by the USA in Vietnam. Mongolian people have rendered moral and material assistance to the heroic Vietnamese people and will undoubtedly continue to do so in the future. We firmly believe that the heroic Vietnamese people, who enjoy the support of all the peaceloving progressive mankind will ultimately win in their noble cause and just struggle.

Mongolian people are consistently waging the struggle for peace, security among nations and for a complete liquidation of the colonial system, for the general and complete disarmament, and for a peaceful settlement of all disputed international problems.

We in Mongolia are following with great attention the persistent efforts made by the working people of the friendly India towards developing their national economy and industrialising their country and wish them every success in their noble cause.

Mongolian people under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party following the path of non-capitalist development had achieved historic successes in making their homeland prosperous and have now set the task of completing the Socialist construction. The Third Five-year plan for the development of national economy and culture has been fulfilled successfully thanks to the selfless labour of our toilers and the fraternal assistance and close co-operation with the great Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries. Now the Mongolian people have taken up with new inspiration the tasks of the first year of the new Fourth-Five year plan of the development of national economy and culture for 1966-1970.

The 15th Session of the MPRP which is being held very soon will endorse a new programme of the Party-the historic programme of completing the socialist construction in our country. Now the programme is being widely discussed by the people.

The Mongolian Trade Union take an active part in all the social-economic life of the country and has developed into the most popular organisation, which included in their ranks more than 90 per cent of all workers and employees.

Our Trade Union organisations actively participate in the leading and planning of the national economy and their activity is directed to the fulfillment of the plan targets and to the improving of the economic effectiveness of industrial and economic enterprises. The Trade Unions participate in establishing salary-wage system of the workers and employees working in all the branches of the national economy and pay constant attention to its fulfilment, implementation of all decisions of Party and Government on development of the labour productivity and protection and improvement of the labour conditions of the socialist industrial and economic enterprises is the important task of our trade union organisations. They are also responsible for social insurance and regulate the distribution of social consumption funds.

The 9th Session of the Trade Unions of Mongolia is to be held at the end of this year. It will be an important event in the life of the Mongolian working people and working class.

We are very glad to note that the friendly relations between Mongolia and India are developing and strengthening with every passing year.

Dear friends and delegates,

In conclusion, may I wish you and through you to all the members of the All-India Trade Union Congress and working class of India every success in the struggle for implementing the decisions to be taken by the Session, for economic and cultural development of the country and for strengthening and preserving peace throughout the world.

LONG LIVE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MONGOLIAN
AND INDIAN TRADE UNIONS !

LONG LIVE PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM!

LONG LIVE WORLD PEACE !

27th SESSION OF AITUC
Bombay, May, 16-22, 1966.

May 19, 1966

Address by
BROTHER ANTONIN ZAZVORKA,
Member of the Secretariat of the
Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions

Comrade Chairman, Comrade General Secretary, Dear Comrades:

It is a great honour for us and through our intermediary for our trade union movement, for the working class and for all working population of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, to participate in the 27th Congress of the AITUC, the most progressive and most important trade union organisation of the Indian Workers.

I convey to you sincere and fraternal greetings extended by more than five million Czechoslovak trade unionists. It is already for the second time that a Czechoslovak trade union delegation got the opportunity of visiting your great and beautiful country and have personal talks with the representatives of your courageous and self-sacrificing working people. We are proud of it that we are able to convey here, in the Congress Hall warm greetings from the Czechoslovak workers to the best representatives of the Indian trade union movement.

Czechoslovak workers and all people of our country follow with great attention and sincere sympathies the fight of the Indian workers and their trade union organisation, the AITUC, for the development of national economy, for a permanent improvement of living conditions, for more extensive democratic rights and liberties and for the maintenance of world peace. We had therefore much pleasure in accepting your invitation to participate in your Congress. Although we are separated by a distance of some thousands kilometres, we are members of the same working class and every success attained through your struggles in the interest of the workers, is also our success. On the other hand every step forward in the process of building a developed socialist society in our country is a contribution to the working people of India.

Both fraternal organisations - the All-Indian Trade Union Congress and the Czechoslovak trade union movement - as members of the World Federation of Trade Unions - are closely bound to the international trade union movement. We have common aims. Our workers, alike the Indian workers, need peace for their creative work and life and that is why they support on the basis of peaceful co-existence the efforts made in this way between the nations and states. We are therefore united in the demands for stopping the imperialist aggression in Vietnam, for stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and for total disarmament; let us use the costs connected with armament for the economic and cultural development of the nations and for the living standard of their inhabitants.

We share pleasure from the attained achievements by Indian workers thanks to the untiring efforts of the All India Trade Union Congress. Our working people as well as our Trade Unions have always stood at your side in the struggle for the just demands and interests of your workers. We stand in solidarity at your side in all actions which brought and are bringing wage increase, for the miners, textile workers, public employees and other groups of workers in your country.

Dear Comrades, in the past eighteen years the building of Socialism in the Czechoslovak Republic brought forth an unexpected development of national economy, of the living and cultural standards of all people.

The living standard of our workers has rapidly grown and in some spheres, for instance in social security of the mother and the child, in education, in health services, etc., we have exceeded in this way many states.

In the long-term plan on the development of national economy we have set to ourselves the goal to ensure the many-sided development of a socialist society.

The basis of all achievements of the Czechoslovak people and their Trade Unions is the firm and indivisible unity of the workers. Experiences prove that the unity of workers are the key to success of all actions carried out by the workers in all countries and it is the pre-condition for their victory.

Unity, friendship and solidarity - this is the message which we are passing on to you in the name of the working people of our country. We came to your country on the fraternal invitation with this slogan, and allow me, please, to convey this slogan of unity, friendship and solidarity in the conclusion of my fraternal address to the 27th Congress of the AIUC, to the most progressive and most important trade union organisation of India. May I, on behalf of the workers of my country express my best wishes for every success in your negotiations, for good health and for lots of success in your efforts to all delegates present at this Congress and through them to all workers of your great famous country.

I assure you that the Czechoslovak workers will always stand side by side with the workers of India in the spirit of international solidarity and together with the working class of all countries they will fight for its unity, joyfull and happy life, for a lasting peace and for social progress in the whole world.

- *** LONG LIVE THE 27th CONGRESS OF THE AIUC .
- *** LONG LIVE THE EVER LASTING FRIENDSHIP OF THE WORKERS OF INDIA AND OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC.
- *** LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL UNITY AND SOLIDARITY OF WORKERS THE WORLD OVER.

27th Session of the AITUC
May 16-22, 1966

Address by
ALFRED WILKE

Member of the Presidium of the National Executive
Committee of the Confederation of Free German Trade
Unions, German Democratic Republic.

Dear Comrades,

The delegation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions conveys fraternal greetings to you, the delegates to the 27th Conference of the AITUC on behalf of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, its National Executive Committee, the organised working class and all working people of the German Democratic Republic.

We want to connect these greetings with our best wishes for a successful carrying out of your Conference. We are sure that you will adopt important resolutions influencing effectively an improvement of the working and living conditions of the Indian working class and contributing to the strengthening of national and international unity of action and last but not least to the safeguarding of peace.

The All India Trade Union Congress and the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions as organisations of the working class have many common aims and opinions in the struggle against imperialism for the safeguarding of peace.

We follow with great interest your trade union activities and fully support your demands for an increase of the salaries, for dearness allowance and bonus payment.

We are sure that the implementation of these demands corresponds entirely with the interests of the workers of your country. We are also at one with all those people of your country who condemn the dirty war of aggression carried out by the USA against the Vietnamese people. We highly esteem these heroic fighters and are ready to render fraternal solidarity to them. Only recently a delegation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions handed over medicines, blood preserves, motorcycles and bicycles, as well as clothes and other things valued at one million German Marks which had been provided by the working people of the German Democratic Republic. Also in future we shall give effective moral and material aid to the Vietnamese patriots.

The trade unionists of the GDR strongly demand to put an end to the US war of aggression in Vietnam. This demand we connect, in correspondence with the resolutions adopted on the 6th World Trade Union Congress, with the firm conviction that the international working class together with all peace forces in the world will be successful in curbing the war mongering and neocolonial activities of American imperialism and its main ally, West German imperialism. West German imperialism tries by all means to extend its political power. By supporting the American war in Vietnam it hopes to get in return access to atomic weapons. By means of these weapons it hopes to put into effect the aggressive and revanchist aims in Europe. West Germany is the only state in Europe putting territorial demands to other countries. Their aims are directed at annexation of the German Democratic Republic and the reestablishment of the borders of 1937. To pursue such aims in reality means to prepare a war.

But these aggressive plans are barred by the existence of the socialist German Democratic Republic, by the peace policy of the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist camp.

With respect to internal policy, the west German monopolies try to crush all resistance against their aggressive and revanchist policy by means of the emergency legislation. By this they oppose the most elementary interests of life of the West German working class and their trade unions. The West German unionists are ever more worried by this severe danger.

We agree with many West German trade unionists that it is high time to unite the West German working class and its allies to ban this danger. In a letter to the delegates of the 7th Ordinary Congress of the West German Trade Union Federation which is taking place at present in West Berlin, the National Executive Committee of the FDGB said among other things; "It is not possible to step up armament in order to forcibly change the frontiers in Europe, to long for atomic weapons and to solve at the same time urgent social and cultural tasks".

In contradiction to the German Federal Republic the German Democratic Republic carries out a policy of peace and peaceful co-existence. It is also a result of this policy that recently the five-days-week every fortnight and some other cuts in the working hours were introduced affecting more than three million working people. But this was only possible because of the unity of the working class and the trade union in our republic.

By its peace policy and by the strict adherence to the charter of the United Nations the still young German Democratic Republic has proved its right to get an equal place in the community of the peoples.

We should like to use this opportunity to thank the All India Trade Union Congress and especially Comrade Dange for the solidarity when advocating for the removal of the Hallstein doctrine and for the recognition of the German Democratic Republic.

The GDR put into effect the Potsdam agreement from 1945 and is rightly called the first German peace state, a state where the trade unions have got the legally fixed right of codetermination in all fields of social life.

By making use of this right we are trying to solve the German question by peaceful means, especially by the understanding between the working class in both German states.

We think that the reunification of Germany can be reached by the recognition of the existence of two German states and by rapprochement. To normalise the relations between both German states and towards other states we consider as an important precondition for a peaceful solution of the German question. We also hold the view that an admission of the German Democratic Republic as an equal member to the United Nations would be a positive contribution for the solution of the German problem and for the safeguarding of peace in Europe.

We are firmly convinced that the working class and the trade unions in both German states have got the high obligation to promote understanding between themselves to use their mighty power in order to secure peace and to overcome together with all peace-loving and democratic Germans the war policy of the imperialists.

Our people knows by its own experience how terrible a war affects the life of the peoples. Therefore we fully understand those people in India who are worried about the safeguarding of peace and therefore wholeheartedly welcome the Tashkent agreement. This document of Good will is doubtlessly a proof for the fact that it is possible to solve disputed questions by peaceful means.

Dear friends,

We think that it is our fraternal and solidaric duty to

tell you how glad and satisfied the working class of the German Democratic Republic is, because the peace initiative of the Soviet Union largely contributed to the banning of the danger of war.

Dear friends,

The Confederation of Free German Trade Unions wants to express its certainty that the relations between the FDGB and the AITUC will develop further in the spirit of friendship and fraternal collaborations.

On behalf of the working class of the German Democratic Republic we wish the AITUC further success in the strengthening of the unity of action of the Indian working people. We fully understand the efforts of the AITUC to solve the problems related with an improvement of the working and living conditions. The trade unionists in the German Democratic Republic wish their class brothers in India and all the forces united with them much success in the implementation of the resolutions of the 6th World Trade Union Congress as well as in the putting into effect of the AITUC resolutions directed against imperialism, for democracy and the well being of the people.

Long live our joint anti-imperialist struggle for peace, democracy and social progress !

Long live the friendship between the working class of India and the German Democratic Republic !

Long live proletarian internationalism !

May 18, 1966

Address by
MUNJAS PETAR,
Member of Presidium of the
Central Council of Yugoslav Confederation of Trade Unions.

Comrades,

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We are very glad for the opportunity that is being offered to us to attend your Congress. May, we on behalf of the Yugoslav Working Class and the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia wish your Congress fruitful work and convey to you Delegates and through you to all the Trade Union members sincere and warm greetings and feelings of solidarity.

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In the past years we endeavoured to observe your activity, to learn as much as possible about the problems and difficulties facing your organisation and the working class of India. We know that the working class and people of India has to cope with enormous difficulties beginning with unemployment, industrialisation of the country, raising of living standard, upto safeguarding of the peaceful and independent development of the country. We are also acquainted with the struggles of your organisation for the social justice, for the protection and improvement of the workers interest and rights so that the whole burden of solving important economic and social problems would not fall exclusively of the shoulders of the working class. The address of the President, Comrade Mirajkar and the report of the General Secretary, Comrade Dange, helped us to acquaint ourselves much better with the complex problems your organisation is facing and struggles which you are carrying on.

Colonialists and imperialists forces were plundering the wealth of your country for more than two centuries, Others were building their wealth and civilisations on the victims and poverty of Indian and other nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is generally known that the developing countries are subject to brutal exploitation. Through economic and financial arrangements, through the present system of relations in world trade and in other ways, neo-colonialism and imperialism are trying to channel the development and policies of under-developed countries so as to satisfy their own interests. Thus for instance they are preventing the under developed countries from diversifying their economics and forcing them to go on with their monocultural production. This is not only the most brutal exploitation through the dictation of prices of raw materials by international monopolies, but in a state of constant instability and dependence on the advanced part of the world and of preventing them from raising the extremely low standard of living.

Frequently credits and economic assistance are granted on condition that they are not to be used for the development of the public sector of the economy, the foreign capital be given definite concessions, and all this exerts pressure on the internal social development of the underdeveloped countries. Also credits are granted on condition that they be invested in the branches of economy, principally in infrastructure, in which capitalists monopolies in certain countries are directly interested.

We are therefore profoundly convinced that the accelerated economic development of the under developed countries and effective international assistance, primarily, through a change of the present system of international economic relations which are based on the exploitation of weaker, must be the objective of the working class, since this helps raise the living standard of the workers and people in the underdeveloped countries and since it intensifies the struggle of the working class against imperialism and neo-colonialism, which in present circumstances find it possible to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

The war imposed by the USA on the Vietnamese people, their armed intervention in the Dominican Republic, in Congo, the armed provocation against the Cuban Republic, are the most evident examples of the imperialist interventions which jeopardise not only freedom and independence of the people but also peace in the whole world.

By opposing all the forms of the intervention into the internal affairs of other nations and expressing its solidarity with all the people waging the struggle for freedom and independence, the confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia simultaneously advocates the unity of action of the International Trade Union movement towards the solution of above mentioned problems. We stand for the concrete actions of the Trade Union movement, for the Unity of the Working Class on the basis of a large number of common problems which are vital for all the working people in the world. The sooner the unity of the Trade union movement is achieved, the less will be the means and manouvering space of the imperialism and neo-colonialism to interfere and block the internal democratic development and progressive orientation of many countries.

The working class of Yugoslavia, from its own experience, is convinced that the progressive forces of every nation are capable of providing such social and economic development of their countries which are the most suitable for the interests of their people provided the foreign interference is made impossible irrespective of where it comes from. That is why we are fighting for the victory of principals of active peaceful co-existence among the countries. The peaceful co-existence in our understanding means the right of each nation to freedom and independence, free choice of socio-economic and political system, free disposal with the national wealth, non interference into the internal affairs of other countries, elimination of the force and war as the means of solving international problems. It also means that each nation has the right to revolution if it needs it, and the oppressed people to choose any kind of struggle, including the armed one too, so as to win their freedom.

The confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia has been always expressing its solidarity with the struggle of all nations for the national freedom and independence. Hence the working class and all all Yugoslav people offer their full support to the people of Vietnam in its just struggle for the national independence, resolutely asking for the ceasing of bombing of democratic Republic of Vietnam, withdrawal of the interventionist American troops from South VietNam, so that the people of this country headed by the front of the national liberation could freely decide on their internal problems. Besides full moral and political support, working class and people of Yugoslavia are despatching material assistance to the people of Vietnam and Confederation of trade unions of Yugoslavia plays an important role in these actions.

Comrades, the working class is an enormous material force of the contemporary society. Unfortunately its movements are divided not only on the international scale, but also on the national scale. We consider that in this period more firm cooperation and solidarity is indispensable so as to achieve highest degree of unity with regard to common problems of the present world. If this unity fails, then it is obvious that the power and the role of the working class will be greatly reduced. Therefore the confederation of trade unions of Yugoslavia stands for the widest possible unity in the international trade union movement, for there are numerous vital problems facing all the workers and working people which are common to all of them. We are deeply convinced that such unity can be achieved provided that the cooperation is maintained on the equal and friendly footing. Comrades, the time is short to acquaint with all that the working class of Yugoslavia has achieved in the development of socialism in our country. It is known that the basis of our socialist system constitutes workers and self-management system. It means that our workers and working people are autonomously managing enterprises and institutions in which they are working. In enterprises workers are deciding independently on production plans, investment, earnings, employment, dismissal and on all other questions which concern them as workers.

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Contd.

Twenty years ago, before the victory of our socialist revolution we were a very backward country with national per capital income of about 100 USA dollars and today it amounts to about 500 USA dollars. The material force of our society is rapidly increasing and it is reckoned that by 1970, with completion of the Five Year socio-economic development plan, national per capita income will reach the level of about 800 USA dollars. But our working class and all the working people still cope with big difficulties to pave the way to reach the target which we have placed before ourselves. By realisation of this target in the course of next five years, we expect that our country will reach the level of the medium developed industrial country and developed agrarian country. We are deeply convinced that we shall achieve this target.

The confederation of trade unions of Yugoslavia plays an active role in the socio-economic development of the country and especially in the professional, economic and ideological -political training of workers so as to enable them to exercise their management functions in the best possible way.

Comrades, once more we wish your Congress fruitful work and successful ending and express our solidarity with your struggles for the benefits of your trade union members and the whole working class and working people of India.

LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS SOLIDARITY

LONG LIVE PEACE IN THE WORLD.

~~Comrades, allow me on behalf of our delegation and the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia to present this statue of a worker which symbolises our deep conviction that everything that was created in the field of science, techniques and culture should serve for the benefit of workers and working people and not for war and destructive purposes.~~

MEMBERS OF THE NEW GENERAL COUNCIL

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1. S.S. Mirajkar, President
2. Dr. Ranen Sen, M.P., Vice President
3. P. Balachandra Menon, " "
4. Parvathi Krishnan, " "
5. S.S. Yusuf, M.L.A. " "
6. Maqdoom Mohiuddin " "
7. Kedar Das " "
8. Md. Ismail " "
9. S.A. Dange, General Secretary
10. Indrajit Gupta, M.P., Secretary
11. Satish Loomba " "
12. K.G. Sriwastava " "
13. M.K. Pandhe " "
14. M. Atchutha n " "
15. M.S. Krishnan, Treasurer

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17. Jyoti Basu
18. Niren Ghosh
19. K.L. Narasimhan
20. E. Balanandan
21. Mohan Punamiya
22. Ram Asrey
23. Sudhir Mukhoti
24. Sailen Paul
25. Anadi Das
26. Yeshwant Chavan
27. Barin Chowdhury
28. Md. Elias
29. Kalyan Roy
30. D.P. Ghosh
31. D.C. Mohanty
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34. Y.D. Sharma
35. Kartar Singh
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39. S.G. Patkar
40. Vithal Chaudhari
41. G. Sundaram
42. A.B. Bardhan
43. Shantaram Pai
44. N. Satyanarayana Reddy
45. P.K. Kumaran
46. Bhalachandra Trivedi
47. V. Subbiah
48. K.M. Sundaram
49. George Chadayammuri
50. N.K. Krishnan

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Members of General Council

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|--------|--------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| | 51. A.S.K. Iyengar | | 116. Nakul Guha |
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| | 82. S.K. Sanyal | | 142. P.G. Padmanabhan |
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| | 110. Nirmal Bhattacharya | | 169. Amar Majumdar |
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| | 114. Ali Amjad | | 173. H.S. Mittra |
| | 115. Satyanarain Singh | | 174. Manoranjan Roy |
| | | | 175. Kamal Sarkar |
| | | | 176. Haripada Chatterjee |

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178. Surhid Mallick Chowdhury
179. Shanti Chatterjee
180. Kali Banerjee
181. Robin Mukherjee

Andhra Pradesh 182. Raj Bahadur Gour
183. J. Satyanarayana
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187. M. Komariah
188. J.V.K. Vallabha Rao
189. R.P. Ranga Rao
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191. C. Prabhakara Chowdhary
192. P. Ramakotiah
193. Ramachandra Reddy
194. M. Krishna Murthy
195. K. Malliah Lingam
196. S.V. Subba Raju

File Min

PART I

THE POSITION OF IRON ORE AND FERRO-MANGANESE MINING INDUSTRY
AND THE EXPORT TRADE POSITION .

The mining industry in Goa is roughly only 20 years old . The First beginning were made by a French mining company which carried out extensive survey work and even started mining in the Bicholim section this was before the Second World War which brought a close to the mining venture .

Early pioneers were names like V.N.Bandekar who used the most crude methods and carried the ore with the use of bullock carts and country crafts, to the harbour for sale to foreign buyers . The Ore being in D mand the Portuguese Government leayed out on long term basic Mining Concessions for paltry sums of Rs 200 and Rs. 300 on the basis of paying royalty to Government . There was a rush to get these concessions . About 798 mining concessions were leased out by the Portuguese Government during the period from 1947 to 1961 .

The Iron Ore deposits available in Goa were of the 58 per cent to 60 per cent lumpy ore and it is estimated that the total deposits available in Goa are in the neighbourhood of 400 million matric tons (About 250 million matric tons of blue dust or powder and 150 million matric tons of lumpy ore)

There are about 23 Big mine owners in Goa who are also exporters and the rest are considered small mine owners who either sell to the big mine owners or the M.M.T.C. which is a Government Trading Corporation started after the liberation in Goa to buy ore at reasonable prices for the purpose of export .

In 1960/1961 there was a boom period for the Iron Ore and Ferro-Manganese export trade in Goa and it was known as the sellers market and many of the mine owners ammassed capital and foreign imported industrial assets . Over 30 per cent of the export went to West Germant and 60 per cent to Japan and the remaining 10 per cent to other countries . (see chart on page 3 & 4)

The entire Iron Ore industry of Goa is dependent on the Export Trade and there is no local consumption of the Ore .

The mining of ore in Goa is not a costly process . Ore is available almost on the surface and most mines are surface mines which do not require major capital investiments or little mining equipment and machinery . However in recent years a number of mine owners have machanised their mines with washing and highgrading and crushing the ore in especially built Orbins with conveyor belt systems and even Ropeways to carry the ore to the river side dumping grounds from where the Ore is loaded

arges to be carried to the Marmagoa Harbour for direct loading into the Oceangoing Ships or at the Dumping Ground at the Harbour at the Chowgule & Company Mechanical Loading Plant .

A Plant for palatisation has been set up at the Pali Mines by Chowgule & Company and other mine owners like Madhu Timlo and V.M. Salgaocar are also investing in machinery for the purpose of palatisation.

Messrs V.S.Dempo is to start a Pig Iron Plant at Saldem and has also procured 30,000 tonner ocean going liners to carry ore to foreign countries . Messrs Chowgule & Company Limited is also starting in the neighbourhood of Goa at Ratnagari a Pig Iron Plant which will be fed by Goa deposits of Ore besides that available at the Reddy mines at Vengurla .

The loading of ore at Marmagoa Harbour is considered slow with a clearance capacity of 400 matric tons per hour at the Chowgule Mechanical loading plant . Ore is also directly loaded from the barges into the ships and weather conditions effect the loading . Besides Marmagoa Harbour has got a reputation for being a Strike bound port where the constant labour trouble has dislocated shipping.

The formationn of the Dock Labour Board with representatives of the Management , Labour and Government on the Board has to some extent ~~has~~ eased the strike situation which had become inevitable because of the retrogressive attitude of most of the mine owners of Goa, many of whom are still looking to the good old days when they could exploit labour as they wished without Unions or labour disputes becoming possible under the Portuguese fascist regime .

The introduction of the Labour Laws has been resisted throughout the last four years after the liberation on the pretext that Goa is new to the laws and is in a transation. Actually this transation has long since ended and the urge is for open exploitation.

Export being the major outlet for Goan Iron Ore and Ferro Manganese and Manganese Ore all attention is being exerted under the Five Year Plans to make Goa a all weather port to clear the maximum tonnage . The rive bed and ~~the~~ harbour is to be dredged so that even the biggest liners could come along the harbour for loading purposes.

The Government is considering under the IV Plan to so condition the Harbour so that 3000 Matric Tons could be cleared per hour or roughly 60,000 matric tons per 24 hours of a working shift . This speed in loading is necessary because of competition of countries like Australia in the Japanese market and Brazil, Liberia and the Middle East in the European Market . The ore available in Australian and Liberia is of high gradesx and the facilities for quick loading ~~throu~~ through machamised process is also available where 5000 matric tons are cleared per hour .

The whole mining process from the blasting and actual mining to the transport by river barges is economical and greater efficiency will increase the export trade . However the industry to get stabalised will have to seek avenues like a Steel Plant at home to x feed the available ore . The Iron Ore industry cannot be stabalised only on the export trade .

LIST OF MINERAL ORE EXPORTED FROM 1960 to October 1965

(in Metric tons)

Year	Iron Ore	Ferro-Manganese	Manganese Ore
1960	56,52,086	1,24,150	33,668
1961	65,27,475	71,454	37,784
1962	52,90,477	1,00,396	19,919
1963	52,36,978	90,320	12,900
1964	57,61,448	2,13,866	28,536
1965	70,21,448	2,74,066	60,259

PRODUCTION OF IRON ORE, MANGANESE AND FERRO MANGANESE from 1960 to 1965
(In metric tons)

Year	Iron Ore	Ferro-Manganese	Manganese Ore
1960	59,26,106	1,87,116	66,279
1961	58,36,197	2,00,487	65,049
1962	54,40,491	2,08,581	87,754
1963	54,69,888	1,45,458	44,041
1964	60,51,925	65,564	36,065
1965	64,87,329	77,236	33,286

Despite a recession in the world market, the export figures for the various categories of ore were not lower than for the boom year of 1961. The year 1961 is considered the best year for the export of Iron ore.

The total export for 1951 of all types of ore were only 3,47,826 metric tons which rose to 11,00,000 metric tons in 1953, 14,00,000 metric tons in 1954 and 17,00,000 metric tons in 1955; 21,00,000 metric tons in 1956 and 29,00,000 metric tons in 1957; 29,00,000 metric tons in 1958 and 38,00,000 metric tons in 1959.

The total value of exports rose from 1.6 crores in 1951 to Rs.10.8 crores in 1957 and 16.2 crores in 1960. In 1961 the total value of exports was Rs.19.0 crores - Rs.18.3 crores for iron ore Rs.28.5 lakhs for ferro manganese and Rs.45 lakhs for Manganese ore. The total value of exports in 1962 was Rs.15.6 crores, Rs.14.97 crores for Iron Ore, Rs.39 lakhs for ferro manganese and Rs.20 lakhs for manganese ore.

In 1962 for the first time in the history of the mining industry of Goa there was a recession in the world market for iron ore, which has caused considerable hardship to the small mine owners who found it difficult to sell their stock piles as the Big mine owners had huge stock piles of their own awaiting clearance. The Manganese ore market was similarly dull for a number of years and suffered a set-back in 1957.

COUNTRY-WISE EXPORT OF IRON ORE , MANGANESE ORE and FERRO-MANGANESE ORE FROM GOA

XXXXXX COUNTRY	YEAR 1962			YEAR 1962			YEAR 1964		
	Iron Ore .	Ferro-Manganese ,	Manganese	Iron Ore,	Ferro-Manganese ,	Manganese	Iron Ore ,	Ferro-Manganese ,	Manganese
BEIGIUM -LUXENBURG :	32,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Czecho SLOVAKIA	1,44,000	-	-	1,68,000	-	-	1,98,765	-	-
FRANCE	61,000	-	-	22,000	-	-	38,900	-	-
WEST -GERMANY. .	1,894	61,242	37,784	11,06,000	80,020	13,112	8,99,024	94,855	-
HOLLAND	85,000	3,099	-	76,000	-	6,807	-	-	-
ITALY	6,36,000	-	-	9,92,000	-	-	2,93,668	-	-
JAPAN	34,76,000	7,112	-	29,60,000	20,377	-	39,87,764	33,050	-
PORTUGAL	71,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
YUGOSLAVIA	61,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,94,960	10,140	-
OTHERS U.K.	26,000	-	-	15,000	-	-	-	-	-
OTHERS AUSTRIA :	15,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	-
OTHERS :	27,000	-	-	29,000	-	-	-	-	-
ANTWERP :	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,630	-	-
GREECE :	-	-	-	-	-	-	71,980	-	7,569
SWEDEN :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,230
AMERICA :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
BELGIUM :	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,730	-	10,400
POLAND :	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,780	-	1,500

PART II

LABOUR ORGANISATIONS AND STRUGGLES IN GOA

Soon after the liberation of Goa Daman & Diu on December 19th 1961 labour in Goa which under the Portuguese Fascist regime was denied elementary trade union rights or civil liberties began to assert itself.

The Red Unions were the first to come into the field and Comrade S.S. Mirajkar, President of the AITUC inaugurated a Conference of Mine workers in Goa where a Constitution was adopted to form the Goa Mining Labour Welfare Union. Similarly in Marmagea Harbour was formed the Marmagea Port Dock and Transport Workers Union.

The First struggles waged ~~for~~ were for trade union rights and the introduction of the Labour Laws covering the mines and port under central jurisdiction. There were strikes in the leading mining firms ~~to~~ to fight retrenchment and a cut in wages which the Mine Owners were introducing on the pretext of a recession in the world Iron Ore export trade.

The total strength of employees in the mining industry was 32,264 at the end of 1956 according to statistics provided by the Government of Goa Daman & Diu. 34,721 at the end of 1957, 22,800 at the end of 1958 and 25,778 at the end of 1959 and labour at daily rate or under Contractors or Mukadams amounted to over 93 per cent.

The total number employed at the end of 1962 which included technical and semi-technical skilled labour was estimated to be 21,130 as compared to 36,792 at the end of 1961. Thus to all appearance 15,662 workers skilled and unskilled were rendered un-employed in the mining industry in the first year of liberation (1962). The Workers organisations started a wide agitation against the policy of whole scale retrenchment introduced by the mine owners and the Government was forced to Issue an ORDER in the name of the Lieutenant Governor of Goa Daman & Diu in the middle of March 1963 which required that no mineowner can discharge except with Government permission in writing any employee engaged in the mining undertakings.

On one pretext or another the mine owners however continued to retrench their workers and at the end of 1965 it is estimated that 20,500 workers are actually employed in the mining industry.

Mining is the only industry in Goa and the bulk of the export ~~is~~ handled at Marmagea Harbour is of Iron Ore. Thus Goa's industrial life centers around the mining industry. This has led to a number of subsidiary industries like building and repair of Barges which carry the ore from the rive sidings to the Harbour. Recently the Mazagea Dock (Goa) was formed which employs about 400 workers. This is in the public sector and is a shipbuilding company.

The Iro Ore industry in Goa is entirely at the mercy of the Foreign buyers and the Steel Industry in Japan and West Germany. The Industry will only get stabilised if a ~~Steel~~ Steel Industry can be developed for Goa to consume the available local ore. The Government is encouraging the small mine owners to form themselves into Co-operatives which with the assistance from the STATE TRADING CORPORATION and the Industrial Finance Corporation could help the small traders to survive. The bulk of the small mine owners have closed down their mining concessions because of want of buyers

The Government was alarmed at the growing influence of the Red dominated Trade Union in the mines and harbour and in the other industrial and factory establishments like Mazagoan Docks, Barge Repair Factories, Oil etc. The Government struck against the Trade Union in Movement & in November 1962 on the pretext of the Chinese aggression and 15 leading trade union workers were arrested under the DIR and detained indefinitely. It was creditable that neutral patriotic forces protested in Goa against the arrests among whom were some of the foremost patriots and freedom fighters during the ~~Rax~~ period of the national struggle to overthrow the rule of Portugal in Goa.

The Government by March 1963 had to release most of those ~~detained~~ detained under the DIR.

Then Again both in the mines and the Harbour rival trade Unions of the INTUC were started to break the influence of the red Unions. The INTUC played a notorious role in Marmagoa Harbour in employing black-legs to break the glorious three months strike of the Marmagoa winchmen which had for all practical purposes paralysed the harbour. Over 500 workers were arrested and all the active workers were taken in under the DIR. All attempts of the INTUC to break the unity of the harbour workers were frustrated and the Government was forced to take back the winchmen who were dismissed during the strike into the Dock Labour Pool which regularised the services of the Gangmen, and Winchmen in the Harbour.

In the mines the INTUC started the National Mine Workers Union which worked in close collaboration of the mine owners mainly to stop the spread of the Goa Mining Labour Welfare Union. Recently it is reported that the ~~the~~ INTUC has stopped financing the Goa wing because of internal squabbles and misappropriation of Rs. 50,000/- which was spent to stabilise this Union in Goa. Workers are deserting the INTUC Union to come to the red flag.

The Red Flag Union has signed agreements giving a wage scale in some of the leading mining firms like Dempo & Souza Ltd., V.M. Salgaocar, Chowgule & Company. Much work has still to be done to embrace the large sections of contractor labour which has still not been touched or organised either by INTUC or AITUC. The section organised is the departmental workers of officers, skilled technical and semi-skilled workers who are on the direct register of the Company as workmen either monthly rated or daily rated.

A long struggle was waged leading to strikes and threats of strikes to get implemented the Interim Wage Increase as recommended by the Central Wage Board for Iron Ore Industry. The Board held one public sitting in Panjim (Gpa) to hear the Mine owners as also the labour representatives.

Most mine owners in Goa have now implemented the recommendation for 'interim wage increase' as far as the departmental workers are concerned. The bulk of the piece rated workers under contractors and 'mukadams' have not been touched and there is no corresponding increase in the piece rates to make the benefits of the ~~recommendation~~ recommendation for wage increase accepted by Government from reaching this large section of exploited labour. The Mining Union as also the central INDIAN Mine Workers Federation will have to make special efforts to organise this section of labour and exert influence on Government to fulfill the minimum obligation.

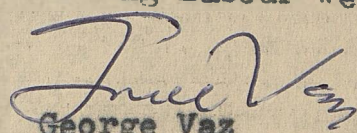
The system of contractor labour in the Marmagoa harbour has been done away with but the Government or the labour organisation has taken no steps to end the exploitation by contractors in the mining belt where over 15,000 workers are employed directly under contractors and mukadams on a piece rate which works out to Rs.1.62 for women labourers per day and Rs.3.00 for Male workers. This when there is work. No leave facilities or other benefits or welfare amenities of medical attention is available for the contractor labour sections. This by far is the most neglected section and neither the AITUC union or the INTUC union has put their hand to the problem.

Another problem which is a burning issue is the grant of Dearness Allowance to workers in Goa. While in the harbour some form of DA has been fixed no other section of labour in Goa is entitled to DA. The Government has still to work out a Cost of living index for Goa and it is reported that a Special commission has been sent from Simla to help the Local Government in preparing the family budget and cost of living index. The Unions however are pressing for the immediate declaration of an INTERIM DA and the workers are prepared to Organise a 'Goa Bundh' on an all Goa scale to achieve their demand. The Cost of living has more than doubled since the liberation and there is a real cut in wages for a large section, the present high cost of living has made it impossible even to sustain themselves on the present rates of salaries.

The struggle for DA is on the immediate agenda both for the mines and docks and others sections of workers.

Although the Red Flag has come to stay in Goa and the number of strikes and struggles have thrown up a number of workers militants we will have to still do a lot of persistent, and determined work to win over the bulk of the mine and dock workers. Although the INTUC has suffered a set-back they cannot be considered to be dead and will stage a come back. Our Unions have ~~lost~~ lost ground in some sections. In the harbour the bulk of the barge-crews left the red flag for the INTUC similarly the Gang workers are still being controlled by the rival HMS Romesh Desai Union. In the mines we are gaining ground but the important question facing us is one of trained-cader and funds to arrange even the minimum of one transport jeep to move from mine to mine and keep constant contact with the workers. Unlike the harbour where the 5000 workers in Marmagoa Harbour is concentrated in the Mining Belt the workers are scattered through out a belt which stretched out about 60 miles from the Sircaim mines to the mines in Quepem and Savordem regions. The task to organise this large section is a major task and the mere confidence that we enjoy will not make us succeed.

Report submitted by the
Goa Mining Labour Welfare Union


George Vaz
General Secretary

Date: 15th May 1966

27TH SESSION OF THE
ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
(May 16-22, 1966)

Press Communique

Bombay
18 May 1966

MESSAGE OF GREETINGS TO
PRESIDENT HOCHI MINH ON HIS BIRTHDAY

8/10/66
The 27th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress adopted the following message of greetings to President Ho Chi Minh on his birthday ~~today~~: *on May 18.*

9/10/66
" ON OCCASION OF YOUR BIRTHDAY, DELEGATES ASSEMBLED AT 27TH SESSION OF THE ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS SEND AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS WISHING YOU MANY MORE YEARS OF SELFLESS SERVICE AS INSPIRING LEADER VIETNAMESE PEOPLES STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, UNIFICATION AND VICTORY OF SOCIALISM.

" THE AITUC SALUTES HEROIC LIBERATION WAR OF WHICH YOU ARE SYMBOL, PLEDGES AITUC WILL MOBILISE ENTIRE INDIAN PEOPLE IN SOLIDARITY WITH YOU FOR FINAL DEFEAT OF AMERICAN AGGRESSORS".

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INDIA'S OIL POLICY - WHAT IT SHOULD BE

A Panel on petroleum distribution has been appointed to study the problems of retail distribution of petroleum products in the light of the last 10 years' experience and to suggest ways to regulate it in future.

First of all, what is the experience of the last 10 years, i.e. 10 years after the Industrial Policy resolution which called for oil to be developed solely in public sector?

The Government fought shy of nationalising the private foreign oil companies and sought to counterpose a number of measures which only brought more problems to solve, one of which is the throttling effect of private oil companies in the distribution wing. Now, a committee has been set up to go into all kinds of problems by which the main issue nationalisation will perhaps be avoided. One must be prepared herpas for a kind of solution like of devaluation of the rupee to solve the economic ills, i.e. have the private sector itself run the public sector enterprise in distribution.

One of the leaders in private sector distribution, the Esso, resently claimed that it made only 8.3% before tax and 3.83 after tax on capital employed in 1965 and expected to make considerably less this year, and yet, it is in business and expanding. The public sector generally is now to be geared to giving good returns for which the Prime Minister is mobilising the public sector management. If public sector in oil distribution has to compete with the private sector and if 3 or 4% net return after tax is not attractive, well, the best thing is to hand over the public to the private, can be a solution of the new panel on petroleum distribution and which has been asked to submit its report in four months. Who knows?

The crux of the oil policy, however, lies elsewhere. 100 crores of foreign exchange is now involved in oil imports and it will go on increasing. The policy of self-reliance which is what the Industrial Policy Resolution meant called for finding the oil in this country to save this big drain on foreign exchange which was not so big in 1956.

One redeeming feature of the measures taken on the road to self-reliance was to learn the bitter lesson of the infructuous outcome of the deal with the then Stanvac (Esso's predecessor) in prospecting for oil in West Bengal on a turn key project basis. The Government came round to relying on the experience and guidance of Soviet geological and drilling experts to find the oil in our country and with the financial credits they were prepared to give. Thus to was that we accepted the recommendations of Soviet specialists who did initial surveying and prospecting which prepared a basis for drafting the first five year plan for oil 1956-57--1960-61 along with the allocation of about Rs.85 crores being 25% of the total sum of all Soviet credits to India till October 1964.

Third Five Year Plan target was to raise the proved commercial reserves to 120 million tons so as to increase oil extraction by the public sector to 3 to 3½ million tons a year by the end of the Plan and to complete the drilling of 332 producing wells in Gujerat, Assam etc.

Shri Alagēsan, our Oil Minister claimed in Parliament in April this year that in the field of oil exploration, etc. we have reached a measure of independence. What he however did not highlight was the fact that the output of about 6½ million tons of oil by end of Third Plan had been provided for; i.e. a 12 to 15 fold increase in the country's output was planned though it would only mean 45% of demand. He stated that in 1965 ONGC and the Oil India Ltd. produced about 3.5 million tons of oil and this year it may go upto 5.5 million tons. This, plus the OIL production, will meet at least fifty per cent of the crude oil needs of the country.

During the Second Plan, an oil field at Ankleswar and a gas field in Cambay and another field in Rudrasagr were discovered. During the Third Plan, two or three oil fields in Gujarat, viz. Kalol, Navagam, Katana and another oil field in Assam viz. Lakwa were discovered apart from several small gas fields. About 150 crores of which about Rs.25 crores were found from its own resources, were only invested by ONGC apart from investments by OIL, a 50:50 collaboration with BOC and on which the Government paid a heavy subsidy of Rs.11 crores were paid for 1962, 1963 and 1964 and Rs.7 crores for 1965.

So, the object lesson should be to rely on Soviet advice and recommendations for continued expansion in public sector oil exploration and production. What do we find however?

Government is going about discussing with half a dozen American oil companies for collaboration in the field of exploration "on the basis of suitable proposals". Suitable for whom?

Shri Alagesan stated in Lok Sabha that he asked the ESSO company to come and participate in exploration and he wanted the foreign refiners whose imported crude cost Rs.40 crores every year in hard foreign currency to help in finding oil in our own country. ESSO declared in answer: "We have invested Rs.5.5 crores in exploration in partnership with the Government. Surely, we would not have expended such large sums if we did not have the intention to find oil. Unfortunately, these efforts were not successful and although we did seek other areas for exploration in India, we were unable to agree on terms." !

How did ESSO invest? They wrote off the expense from the profits made in marketing so that 70% of the same they recovered from tax saving and Indian gained nothing except some dry holes drilled apart from writing off from the exchequer about Rs.1.5 crores, its share of ESSO's expenses in finding oil. Now, ESSO obviously takes the lead from the results of geological prospecting done with the help of Soviet experts and knows for ~~xxxx~~ certain where oil is available in our country. So, in respect of offshore drilling in Cambay region which appear to contain large reserves of oil the Americans have come forward. Shri Alagesan's contention is that the Soviet Union is not doing the sort of drilling called for in Cambay offshore, therefore, we have to take the assistance of Americans who have the know-how and we have willy-nilly to take their help.

What is the reality? Shri A. Zaman, the ex-chairman of the ONGC had said in November that the Soviet team on geology which visited India discussed Fourth Plan targets of the ONGC. It was felt by the Soviet experts that India should be able to drill 1.5 million metres during the Fourth Plan against the target of 2.4 million and that the team suggested that India would be able to produce 6.4 million tons of oil against a target of 3.5 million tons.

Why? Because, during the Third Plan only 700,000 metres were drilled as against the target of 1,200,000. How can one jump 3.5 times the actual achievement which even the Soviet oil industry with a high degree of centralised planning and productivity is not able to do? It requires roughly 3.5 times personnel and finance. (pre-devalued).

Shri Alagesan stated that ONGC had provided a very ambitious programme and would like to spend, if funds are available, upto Rs.225 crores in the Fourth Plan (as against 115 crores in Third Plan) and would like to drill another 800 wells and also explore in areas in which we have not been able to explore due to various handicaps. In fact, allocation of Third Plan was revised to 115 crores as against original 202 crores because earlier target of drilling 601 wells was reduced to 480.

To hope for a target of 3.5 times increase, much basic geological work has to be done. In April this year two Soviet academicians had visited India and one of them Mr. Salaev said

academicians had visited India and one of them Mr. Salaev said Indian and Soviet geologists, working in collaboration during the early stages of exploration for oil in India, were fortunate to have achieved great successes in four to five years. Geophysical prospecting has immense possibilities though it needs lot of work. Indian scientists could profit from the Soviet experience. Of particular importance to India was oil prospecting in off-shore regions. Intensification of off-shore exploration in India could be expedited with Soviet collaboration. Soviet scientists had already constructed floating drills 40 to 60 metres deep. "Indian scientists can work on our mining sites and gain all the necessary know-how which would help them to develop their own oil sector", he concluded.

Obviously, this genuine advice of Soviet experts which will lead us to self-reliance does not suit our new ideas which are being developed on the road of devaluation of the rupee. American collaboration can be had on a turn-key basis and that seems to be the crze, irrespective of the bitter outcome of planning on such turn-key basis both in the past and the present.

The fact of the matter is Rudrasagar oilfield discovered with Soviet help has 20 million ton reserves and there is a possibility of 50 million and may prove to be much bigger even than Ankleswar. But, hard work on a self-reliance basis is called for in drilling and overcoming the bottle-necks in moving equipment from Calcutta to the drilling site. It would be worthwhile drilling 750,000 metres in Assam alone where another oilfield in Lakwa discovered has to be developed.

It may be that it is desirable to extract 14 million tonnes by 1970 to reduce the gap of imports but one cannot escape the logic of geological point of view which may permit extraction of only 8.5 million tonnes. Capital expenditure aspect is also another criterion. Ankleswar oilfield gives 3 million tonnes yearly and the new oil fields in Navagam, Kalol and Katana would call for setting up another refinery.

Then, there is the matter of pipes being available. 8000 km of pipe have been used for Ankleswar and the two oil fields of Rudrasagar and Lakwa would require perhaps 6.5 million km to develop. As it is, we have the task of putting 1200 km pipeline to Calcutta from Barauni, a considerable task indeed.

For geophysical work we only have about 25 parties. 1.2 million sq. km. out of 3 million sq.k.m. area are good for prospecting from perspective point of view. But, that will call for more than 50 such teams and acquiring technical know-how of much new equipment.

In the Cambay region Soviet specialists discovered 3 structures with great prospects of which 1 structure 1000 sq.km extends to Gujerat. The American know the gold mine here and, no wonder are keen to negotiate to get at it, of course on their terms.

What does it matter that we have to begin with stationary platform drilling as the Soviets are doing in Baku, instead of moving platform which is difficult to fabricate in our country and difficult also to obtain elsewhere? Even if moving platform is considered essential, 5 to 6 million dollars may be spent on importing one from America itself because the Soviet specialists are there to help and train Indians do the drilling.

But, the Govt. and Shri Alagesan seem to have turned their back on this road because of the new craze for rupee devaluation road. The road of self-reliance indicated by Soviets which calls for maximum geological work in Gujerat and Assam itself, to extract about 3.5 million tonnes in Gujerat and 3 million tonnes in Assam annually calls for maximum capital investment to be there to sustain the Gauhati, Barauni and Koyali refineries on a long term basis as well as go in for new refineries in step with new discoveries of reserves.

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One redeeming feature of the measures taken on the road to self-reliance was to learn the bitter lesson of the infructuous outcome of the deal with the then Stanvac (Esso's predecessor) in prospecting for oil in West Bengal on a turn key project basis. The Government came round to relying on the experience and guidance of Soviet geological and drilling experts to find the oil in our country and with the financial credits they were prepared to give. Thus to was that we accepted the recommendations of Soviet specialists who did initial surveying and prospecting which prepared a basis for drafting the first five year plan for oil 1956-57--1960-61 along with the allocation of about Rs.85 crores being 25% of the total sum of all Soviet credits to India till October 1964.

Third Five Year Plan target was to raise the proved commercial reserves to 120 million tons so as to increase oil extraction by the public sector to 3 to 3½ million tons a year by the end of the Plan and to complete the drilling of 332 producing wells in Gujerat, Assam etc.

Shri Alagōsan, our Oil Minister claimed in Parliament in April this year that in the field of oil exploration, etc. we have reached a measure of independence. What he however did not highlight was the fact that the output of about 6½ million tons of oil by end of Third Plan had been provided for; i.e. a 12 to 15 fold increase in the country's output was planned though it would only mean 45% of demand. He stated that in 1965 ONGC and the Oil India Ltd. produced about 3.5 million tons of oil and this year it may go upto 5.5 million tons. This, plus the OIL production, will meet at least fifty per cent of the crude oil needs of the country.

During the Second Plan, an oil field at Ankleswar and a gas field in Cambay and another oil field in Rudrasagr were discovered. During the Third Plan, two or three oil fields in Gujarat, viz. Kalol, Navagam, Katana and another oil field in Assam viz. Lakwa were discovered apart from several small gas fields. About 150 crores of which about Rs.25 crores were found from its own resources, were only invested by ONGC apart from investments by OIL, a 50:50 collaboration with BOC and on which the Government paid a heavy subsidy of Rs.11 crores were paid for 1962, 1963 and 1964 and Rs.7 crores for 1965.

So, the object lesson should be to rely on Soviet advice and recommendations for continued expansion in public sector oil exploration and production. What do we find however?

Government is going about discussing with half a dozen American oil companies for collaboration in the field of exploration "on the basis of suitable proposals". Suitable for whom?

Shri Alagesan stated in Lok Sabha that he asked the ESSO company to come and participate in exploration and he wanted the foreign refiners whose imported crude cost Rs.40 crores every year in hard foreign currency to help in finding oil in our own country. ESSO declared in answer: "We have invested Rs.5.5 crores in exploration in partnership with the Government. Surely, we would not have expended such large sums if we did not have the intention to find oil. Unfortunately, these efforts were not successful and although we did seek other areas for exploration in India, we were unable to agree on terms." !

How did ESSO invest? They wrote off the expense from the profits made in marketing so that 70% of the same they recovered from tax saving and Indian gained nothing except some dry holes drilled apart from writing off from the exchequer about Rs.1.5 crores, its share of ESSO's expenses in finding oil. Now, ESSO obviously takes the lead from the results of geological prospecting done with the help of Soviet experts and knows for ~~xxxx~~ certain where oil is available in our country. So, in respect of offshore drilling in Cambay region which appear to contain large reserves of oil the Americans have come forward. Shri Alagesan's contention is that the Soviet Union is not doing the sort of drilling called for in Cambay offshore, therefore, we have to take the assistance of Americans who have the know-how and we have willy-nilly to take their help.

What is the reality? Shri A. Zaman, the ex-chairman of the ONGC had said in November that the Soviet team on geology which visited India discussed Fourth Plan targets of the ONGC. It was felt by the Soviet experts that India should be able to drill 1.5 million metres during the Fourth Plan against the target of 2.4 million and that the team suggested that India would be able to produce 6.5 million tons of oil against a target of 8.5 million tons.

Why? Because, during the Third Plan only 700,000 metres were drilled as against the target of 1,200,000. How can one jump 3.5 times the actual achievement which even the Soviet oil industry with a high degree of centralised planning and productivity is not able to do? It requires roughly 3.5 times personnel and finance. (pre-devalued).

Shri Alagesan stated that ONGC had provided a very ambitious programme and would like to spend, if funds are available, upto Rs.225 crores in the Fourth Plan (as against 115 crores in Third Plan) and would like to drill another 800 wells and also explore in areas in which we have not been able to explore due to various handicaps. In fact, allocation of Third Plan was revised to 115 crores as against original 202 crores because earlier target of drilling 601 wells was reduced to 480..

To hope for a target of 3.5 times increase, much basic geological work has to be done. In April this year two Soviet academicians had visited India and one of them Mr. Salaev said

academicians had visited India and one of them Mr. Salaev said Indian and Soviet geologists, working in collaboration during the early stages of exploration for oil in India, were fortunate to have achieved great successes in four to five years. Geophysical prospecting has immense possibilities though it needs lot of work. Indian scientists could profit from the Soviet experience. Of particular importance to India was oil prospecting in off-shore regions. Intensification of off-shore exploration in India could be expedited with Soviet collaboration. Soviet scientists had already constructed floating drills 40 to 60 metres deep. "Indian scientists can work on our mining sites and gain all the necessary know-how which would help them to develop their own oil sector", he concluded.

Obviously, this genuine advice of Soviet experts which will lead us to self-reliance does not suit our new ideas which are being developed on the road of devaluation of the rupee. American collaboration can be had on a turn-key basis and that seems to be the crux, irrespective of the bitter outcome of planning on such turn-key basis both in the past and the present.

The fact of the matter is Rudrasagar oilfield discovered with Soviet help has 20 million ton reserves and there is a possibility of 50 million and may prove to be much bigger even than Ankleswar. But, hard work on a self-reliance basis is called for in drilling and overcoming the bottle-necks in moving equipment from Calcutta to the drilling site. It would be worthwhile drilling 750,000 metres in Assam alone where another oilfield in Lakwa discovered has to be developed.

It may be that it is desirable to extract 14 million tonnes by 1970 to reduce the gap of imports but one cannot escape the logic of geological point of view which may permit extraction of only 8.5 million tonnes. Capital expenditure aspect is also another criterion. Ankleswar oilfield gives 3 million tonnes yearly and the new oil fields in Navagam, Kalol and Katana would call for setting up another refinery.

Then, there is the matter of pipes being available. 8000 km of pipe have been used for Ankleswar and the two oil fields of Rudrasagar and Lakwa would require perhaps 6.5 million km to develop. As it is, we have the task of putting 1200 km pipeline to Calcutta from Barauni, a considerable task indeed.

For geophysical work we only have about 25 parties. 1.2 million sq. km. out of 3 million sq.km. area are good for prospecting from perspective point of view. But, that will call for more than 50 such teams and acquiring technical know-how of much new equipment.

In the Cambay region Soviet specialists discovered 3 structures with great prospects of which 1 structure 1000 sq.km extends to Gujerat. The American know the gold mine here and, no wonder are keen to negotiate to get at it, of course on their terms.

What does it matter that we have to begin with stationary platform drilling as the Soviets are doing in Baku, instead of moving platform which is difficult to fabricate in our country and difficult also to obtain elsewhere? Even if moving platform is considered essential, 5 to 6 million dollars may be spent on importing one from America itself because the Soviet specialists are there to help and train Indians do the drilling.

But, the Govt. and Shri Alagesan seem to have turned their back on this road because of the new craze for rupee devaluation road. The road of self-reliance indicated by Soviets which calls for maximum geological work in Gujerat and Assam itself, to extract about 3.5 million tonnes in Gujerat and 3 million tonnes in Assam annually calls for maximum capital investment to be there to sustain the Gauhati, Barauni and Koyali refineries on a long term basis as well as go in for new refineries in step with new discoveries of reserves.

TOR FRATERNAL GREETINGS FROM Com. ~~THE~~ MLADEN
IVANOV, SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF
TRADE UNIONS IN THE PR OF BULGARIA.

Dear Comrades,

(Dr 11) Our delegation is extremely happy to have the honour ~~to~~ extend ^{OF} ^{ING} greetings to you and through you, to all members of AITUC on behalf of the Central council of trade unions and all working people in the PR of Bulgaria.

809 11 All our factory and office workers, all our people, are following with the greatest of attention and solidarity the AITUC struggles against the domination of foreign monopolies in India. We are very happy to share with you the joy of the success scored so far ~~in~~ by AITUC in the just struggle for better life, democracy and social progress.

Having joined the militant ranks of the WFTU, the AITUC has gained indisputably the respect of the international workers' and trade union movement.

Dear Comrades,

The Bulgarian people who suffered in the past the ferocities of a century-long foreign oppression, the oppression of capitalistic ~~exploitation~~ exploitation and fascist tyranny, has been, for 21 years now, building our socialist society. Thanks to the fraternal and unselfish aid of the Great Soviet Union, to the help rendered by the remaining socialist countries, Bulgaria has turned from a backward country with underdeveloped industry and parched up rural economy into a socialist industrial state with speedily developing industry and fully cooperated agriculture. The 1964 volume of production was 19 times higher than that of the prewar period. The industrial output turned out ^{now} for less than 17 days is as much as the production reached for the whole of 1939, the best year for ~~largest~~ capitalist Bulgaria. The means of production are increasing steadily and in high rates. During the years of the peoples' government they grew over 19 times. ✓

The economic construction of the country leads to increased material and cultural welfare of the working people, of the whole nation and we are witnessing now a considerable increase of their real income. For the period 1956-1964, eg for 8 years the average annual wages of factory and office workers went up by approximately 40%.

Social security covers all Bulgarian working people. They are entitled to ~~also~~ allowances in case of sickness and labour accidents, in case of looking after a sick member of the family, childbirth and maternity. For their social security workers and employees do not pay anything. The required funds are secured by the factories and offices themselves which invest the amount of 12.5 percent of the total wages without decreasing the wages of the working people.

In many cooperative farms the cooperative farmers enjoy paid annual leave and allowances in case of sickness or labour accidents all on the account of the farms' funds. Since 1957 all farmers enjoy the right to pensions. Such achievements were unthinkable of by peasants in the past. Life in the country side has radically changed in the years of the peoples' government. Many new houses, schools, cultural clubs, laundries, bakeries and other facilities are cropping up in the villages making life of farmers ever more easy and happy. All villages have already been electrified.

With the aim of protecting the health and life of our people, the peoples' government has covered the country with a vast network of medical establishments, rest houses, sanatoria etc. Not only cities, but all villages as well, have at their disposal medical establishments where ~~both~~ citizens and villagers get free medical care and treatment. Besides, over 600,000 working people and the members of their families spend their holidays and improve their health condition in the great number of rest houses and sanatoria while in prewar capitalist Bulgaria that was possible for about 6,000 high officials, alone.

Housing construction is in full steam. Blocks of flats are being built by the state, by housing cooperatives and individuals. Housing cooperatives and individuals are granted long term ~~loans/credits/~~ by the state at very favourable conditions. Rents are extremely low. They amount to the ~~minimum~~ ^{very low} percentage ~~of~~ of 4.5 of the monthly wages.

The achievements of the socialist revolution reached so far are also due to the Bulgarian trade unions. In addition to management of the social security they also

~~exercise~~ control over the implementation of labour safety and protection, over the application of labour laws. They organize the holidays and rest of the factory and office workers. ^{By} Putting in all their efforts and energy to mobilize the creative initiatives of the working people for the fulfilment and overfulfilment of the economic targets the ~~of~~ Bulgarian trade unions play an ever greater part in the life of the state and the society.

The true reality of our time has confirmed it that the peaceful construction of the different states ^{without any interference} ~~within themselves~~ is one of the main conditions for democracy, social progress and the realisation of the basic interests of the working people. Therefore the preservation of peace among the nations, which is the strongest desire of all working people, ^{of} the progressive and peaceloving mankind, is a vital necessity.

The Bulgarian people, being part of the peaceloving and progressive mankind ^{are} ~~is~~ fighting for peaceful coexistence ~~with~~ of the states with different social systems, for doing away with the remnants of colonialism and neo colonialism, for total disarmament, against imperialism, for peace throughout the world. Therefore the Bulgarian people met with great satisfaction the signing of the Moscow Treaty for partial ban on nuclear tests.

We approve of and fully support the ~~proposed~~ Soviet proposal for signing an international treaty or agreement according to which states should abandon the use of ~~strength~~ force in solving territory ^{ial} and frontier disputes.

The trade unions and the working people in our country support ~~as well~~ the Soviet proposal, moved at the disarmament committee, for ^{the} withdrawing ^{al of} all foreign troops from foreign territories for cutting down the number of armed forces and military budgets for signing a non attack pact between the NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Countries, for the creation of atom free zones. The ^{realization} ~~implementation~~ of such proposals ~~measures~~ shall lessen international tension and shall strengthen the world peace for ^{the} further success of the class struggle against ~~the~~ imperialism and ^{for} the construction of socialism.

Dear Comrades,

The working people and the whole Bulgarian nation follow with alarm the ~~reports~~

Start G-9 could

recent activization of the imperialist circles, and particularly so of the american imperialists, who are trying to turn South Vietnam into their colony and military basies thus jeopardizing peace in South ASia and the world.

The Bulgarian people fully supports the struggle of the heroic vietnamese people and is deeply confident in the final victory of their just cause. Alongside the peoples of the remaining socialist countries, ^{with} the Soviet Union at the head, our people is on the side of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. on the side of the Vietnamese people in their fight to liquidate the agression of the American imperialists.

The trade unions and the working people in our country condemn the American imperialism, the brutal reprisals and unhuman ferocities, the extermination ^{of} the patriots and population of South Vietnam and the barbaric air-raids over the DR of Vietnam. They also condemn the American intervention in the Dominican Republic, the provocations against Laos and Combodja.

The whole Bulgarian nation supports the just struggle of the Congolese people. We insist on immediate discontinuation of the imperialist intefarrence and agression in Congo, on allowing the Congolese people solve their internal affairs. *by themselves*

A great manace to ~~the~~ peace in Europe and the world is the Westgerman millitarism, trying its best to get nuclear weapon. We are strongly against the ^{approaches of} Westgerman revan- chism and military circles ~~desire~~ to be supplied with nuclear weapons. At the same time we fully support the GDR and its aspiration to strengthen its sovereignty and international prestige in its fight to solve the German problem in the interest of the German people, in the interest of peace and security in Europe and the world.
Comrade Delegates,

The interests of the working class, of all working people, no matter the continent they live on, necessitate the unity of the ranks of the international workers movement in the struggle for peace, the incessant strengthening the unity of their will and actions. All attempts to split the workers and trade union movement, all efforts to make it disembark from the road of ~~bbbbh~~ internationalism and unity af action, are only a service to the enemies of the working class. The Bulgarian working class, ~~brought up~~

~~in the spirit of~~

and the Bulgarian trade unions, brought up in the spirit of internationalism by our wellknown international working class ^{leader} ~~functionary~~, Georgi Dimitrov, are doing and will do ~~their~~ their utmost to rally all forces of the international working class and to imple^ment the decisions of the 6th Congress of the WFTU.

~~In~~ With its long struggle to rally the forces of the working class the WFTU has won the respect and gratitude of the working people throughout the world and has gained indisputable respect and influence on a ~~world~~ world level ~~stage~~.

The Bulgarian trade unions, loyal to the internationalism, are constantly developing and strengthening their ~~Relations~~ relations with the trade unions of other countries. Our ties and relations with the AITUC are also developing successfully and ~~we~~ shall further strengthen them in the interest of the working people in our countries.

Winding up I would like to express our gratitude for the invitation and our wishes for successful work ~~of~~ of the session and the AITUC in defence of the rights of its members.

Long live friendship between the Bulgarian trade unions and AITUC.

Long live the international working class and trade union unity.

Long live the WFTU

Long live the world peace.

Thank you for the attention.

17, 5, 1966

BOMBAY

I N D I A

27th Session of the AITUC
May 16-22, 1966

Address By

19 May 1966

ALFRED WILKE
Member of the Presidium of the National Executive
Committee of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions,
GDR

Dear comrades,

The delegation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions conveys fraternal greetings to you, the delegates to the 27th Conference of the AITUC on behalf of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, its National Executive Committee, the organised working class and all working people of the German Democratic Republic.

We want to connect these greetings with our best wishes for a successful carrying out of your Conference. We are sure that you will adopt important resolutions influencing effectively an improvement of the working and living conditions of the Indian working class and contributing to the strengthening of national and international unity of action and last but not least to the safeguarding of peace.

The All India Trade Union Congress and the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions as organisations of the working class have many common aims and opinions in the struggle against imperialism for the safeguarding of peace.

We follow with great interest your trade union activities and fully support your demands for an increase of the salaries, for dearness allowance and bonus payment.

We are sure that the implementation of these demands corresponds entirely with the interests of the workers of your country. We are also at one with all those people of your country who condemn the dirty war of aggression carried out by the USA against the Vietnamese people. We highly esteem these heroic fighters and are ready to render fraternal solidarity to them. Only recently a delegation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions handed over medicines, blood preserves, motorcycles and bicycles, as well as clothes and other things valued at 1 million German Marks which had been provided by the working people of the German Democratic Republic. Also in future we shall give effective moral and material aid to the Vietnamese patriots.

The trade unionists of the GDR strongly demand to put an end to the US war of aggression in Vietnam. This demand we connect, in correspondence with the resolutions adopted on the 6th World Trade Union Congress, with the firm conviction that the international working class together with all peace forces in the world will be successful in curbing the war mongering and neocolonial activities of American imperialism and its main ally, West German imperialism.

West German imperialism tries by all means to extend its political power. By supporting the American war in Vietnam it hopes to get in return access to atomic weapons. By means of these weapons it hopes to put into effect the aggressive and revanchist aims in Europe. West Germany is the only state in Europe putting territorial demands to other countries. Their aims ^{are directed} at an incorporation of the German Democratic Republic and the reestablishment of the borders of 1937. To pursue such aims means in reality to prepare a war.

But these aggressive plans are barred by the existence of the socialist German Democratic Republic, by the peace policy of the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist camp.

With respect to internal policy, the west German monopolies ^{try} to crush all resistance against their aggressive and revanchist policy by means of the emergency legislation. By this they oppose the most elementary interests of life of the West German working class and their trade unions. The West German trade unionists are ever more worried by this severe danger.

We agree with many West German trade unionists that it is high time to unite the West German ~~irra~~ working class and its allies to ban this danger. In a letter to the delegates of the 7th Ordinary Congress of the West German Trade Union Federation which is taking place at present in West Berlin, the National Executive Committee of the FDGB said among other things:

"It is not possible to step up armament in order to forcibly change the frontiers in Europe, to long for atomic weapons and to solve at the same time urgent social and k cultural tasks?"

In contradiction to the German Federal Republic the German Democratic Republic carries out a policy of peace and peaceful coexistence. It is also a result of this policy that recently the five-days-week every fortnight and some other ~~cutting~~ cuts in the working hours were introduced effecting more than 3 million working people. But this was only possible because of the unity of the working class and the trade union in our republic.

By its peace policy and by the strict adherence to the charter of the United Nations the still young German Democratic Republic has proved its right to get an equal place in the community of the peoples.

We should like to use this opportunity to thank the ALL India Trade Union Congress and especially Comrade Dange for the solidarity when advocating for the removal of the Hallstein doctrine and for the recognition of the German Democratic Republic.

The GDR put into effect the Potsdam agreement from 1945 and is rightly called the first German peace state, a state where the trade unions have got the legally fixed right of codetermination in all fields of social life.

By making use of this right we are trying to solve the German question by peaceful means, especially by the understanding between the working class in both German states.

We think that the reunification of Germany can be reached by the recognition of the ~~inexistence~~ existence of two German states and by rapprochement. To normalise the relations between both German states and towards other states we consider as an important precondition for a peaceful solution of the German question. We also hold the view that an admission of the German Democratic Republic as an equal member to the United Nations would be a positive contribution for the solution of the German problem and for the safeguarding of peace in Europe.

We are firmly convinced that the working class and the trade unions in both German states have got the high obligation to promote understanding between themselves to use their mighty power in order to secure peace and to overcome together with all peace-loving and democratic Germans the war policy of the imperialists.

Our people knows by its own experience how terrible a war affects the life of the peoples. Therefore we fully understand those people in India who are worried about the safeguarding of peace and therefore wholeheartedly welcome the Tashkent agreement. This document of Good will is doubtlessly a ^{of} proof for the fact that it is possible to solve disputed questions by peaceful means.

Dear friends,

We think that it is our fraternal and solidaric duty to tell you how glad and satisfied the working class of the German Democratic Republic is, because the peace initiative of the Soviet Union largely contributed to the banning of the danger of war.

Dear friends,

The Confederation of Free German Trade Unions wants to express its certainty that the relations between the FDGB and the AITUC will develop further in the spirit of friendship and fraternal collaboration.

On behalf of the working class of the German Democratic Republic we wish the AITUC further success in the strengthening of the unity of action of the Indian working people. We fully understand the efforts of the AITUC to solve the problems related with an improvement of the working and living conditions. The trade unionists in the German Democratic Republic wish their class brothers in India and all the forces united with them much success in the implementation of the resolutions of the 6th World Trade Union Congress as well as in the putting into effect of the AITUC resolutions directed against imperialism, for democracy and the well being of the people.

Long live our joint antiimperialist struggle for peace, democracy and social progress!

Long live the friendship between the working class of India and the German Democratic Republic!

Long live proletarian internationalism!

27th Session of the AITUC
May 16-22 1966

May 18, 1966

Address by:

MUNJAS PETAR,
Member of Presidium of the
Central Council of Yugoslav Confederation of
Trade Unions

MUNJAS PETAR,
MEMBER OF PRESIDUM OF THE
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF YUGOSLAV-
CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Comrades,

We are very glad for the opportunity that is being offered to us to attend your Congress. May we, on behalf of the Yugoslav Working Class and the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia wish your Congress fruitful work and convey to you Delegates and through you to all the Trade Union members sincere and warm greetings and feelings of solidarity.

In the past years we endeavoured to observe your activity, to learn as much as possible about the problems and difficulties facing your organisation and the working class of India. We know that the working class and people of India has to cope with enormous difficulties beginning with unemployment, industrialisation of the country, raising of living standard, upto the peaceful and independent development of the country. We are also acquainted with the struggles of your organisation for the social justice, for the protection and improvement of the workers interest and rights so that the whole burden of solving important economic and social problems would not fall exclusively on the shoulders of the working class. The address of the President, Comrade Mirajkar and the report of the General Secretary, Comrade Dange, helped us to acquaint ourselves much better with the complex problems your organisation is facing and struggles which you are carrying on.

Colonialists and imperialists forces were plundering the wealth of your country for more than two centuries. Others were building their wealth and civilisations on the victims and poverty of Indian and other nations

safeguarding of

of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is generally known that the developing countries are subject to brutal exploitation. Through economic and financial arrangements, through the present system of relations in world trade and in other ways, ^{UCC-} colonialism and imperialism are trying to channel the development and policies of under-developed countries so as to satisfy their own interests. Thus for instance they are preventing the under developed countries from diversifying their economies and forcing them to go on with their monocultural production. This is not only the most brutal exploitation through the dictation of prices of raw materials by international monopolies, but also one of the ways of keeping the developing countries in a state of constant instability and dependence on the advanced part of the world and of preventing them from raising the extremely low standard of living.

Frequently credits and economic assistance are granted on condition that they are not to be used for the development of the public sector of the economy, the foreign capital be given definite concessions, and all this exerts pressure on the internal social development of the under developed countries. Also credits are granted on condition that they be invested in the branches of economy, principally in infrastructure, in which capitalists monopolies in certain countries are directly interested.

We are therefore profoundly convinced that the accelerated economic development of the under developed countries and effective international assistance, primarily, through a change of the present system of international

~~system~~ of economic relations which are based on the exploitation of weaker, must be the objective of the working class, since this helps raise the living standard of the workers and people in the underdeveloped countries and since it intensifies the struggle of the working class against imperialism and neo-colonialism, which in present circumstances find it possible to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

The war imposed by the USA on the Vietnamese people, their armed intervention in the Dominican Republic, in Congo, the armed provocation against the Cuban Republic, are the most evident examples of the imperialist interventions which jeopardise not only freedom and independence of those people but also peace in the whole world.

By opposing all the forms of the intervention into the internal affairs of other nations and expressing its solidarity with all the people waging the struggle for freedom and independence, the confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia simultaneously advocates the unity of action of the International Trade Union movement towards the solution of above mentioned problems. We stand for the concrete actions of the Trade Union movement, for the Unity of the Working Class on the basis of a large number of common problems which are vital for all the working people in the world. The sooner the unity of the trade union movement is achieved, the less will be the means and manouevring space of the imperialism and neo-colonialism to interfere and block the internal democratic development and progressive orientation of many countries.

The working class of Yugoslavia, from its own experience, is convinced that the progressive forces of every nation are capable of providing such social and economic development of their countries which are the most suitable for the interests of their people provided the foreign interference is made impossible irrespective of ~~IX~~ where it comes from. That is why we are fighting for the victory of principals of active peaceful co-existence among the countries. The peaceful coexistence in our understanding means ~~XHXXXIXNX~~ the right of each nation to freedom and independence, free choice of socio-economic and political system, free disposal with the national wealth, non interference into the internal affairs of other countries, elimination of the force and war as the means of solving international problems. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ It also means that each nation has the right to revolution if it needs it, and the oppressed people to choose any ~~IXXX~~ kind of struggle, including the armed one too, so as to win their freedom.

The confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia has been always expressing its solidarity with ~~XXX~~ the struggle of all nations for the national freedom and independence. Hence the working class of ~~Yugoslavia~~ and all Yugoslav people offer their full support to the people ~~of~~ Vietnam in its just struggle for the national independence, resolutely asking for the ceasing of bombing of democratic Republic of Vietnam, withdrawal of the interventionist American troops from South Vietnam, so that the people of this country headed by the front of the national

liberation could freely decide on their internal problems. Besides full moral and political support, working class and people of Yugoslavia are despatching material assistance to the people of Vietnam and Confederation of trade unions of Yugoslavia plays an important ^{role} in these actions.

Comrades, the working class is an enormous material force of the contemporary society. Unfortunately its movements are divided not only on the international scale, but also on the national scale. We consider that in this period more firm cooperation and solidarity is indispensable so as to achieve highest degree of unity with regard to common problems of the present world. If this unity fails, then it is obvious that the power and the role of the working class will be greatly reduced. Therefore the confederation of trade unions of Yugoslavia stands for the widest possible unity in the international trade union movement, for there are numerous vital problems facing all the workers and working people which are common to all of them. We are deeply convinced that such unity can be achieved provided that the autonomy of each movement is being respected and that the cooperation is maintained on the equal and friendly footing. Comrades, the time is short to acquaint with all that the working class of Yugoslavia has achieved in the development of socialism in our country. It is known that the basis of our socialist system constitutes workers and self-management system. It means that our workers and working people are autonomously managing enterprises and institutions in which they are working. In enterprises workers are deciding independently on productio

plans, investment, earnings, employment, dismissal and on all other questions which concern them as workers.

Twenty years ago, before the victory of our socialist revolution, we were a very backward country with national per capita income of about 100 USA dollars and today it amounts to about 500 USA dollars. The material force of our society is rapidly increasing, and it is reckoned that by 1970, with completion of the Five Year socio-economic development plan, national per capita income will reach the level of about 800 USA dollars. But our working class and all the working people still cope with big difficulties to pave the way to reach the target which we have placed before ourselves. By realisation of this target in the course of next five years, we expect that our country will reach the level of the medium developed industrial country and developed agrarian country. We are deeply convinced that we shall achieve this target.

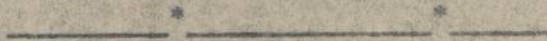
The confederation of trade unions of Yugoslavia plays an active role in the socio-economic development of the country and especially in the professional, economic and ideological -political training of workers so as to enable them to exercise their management functions in the best possible way.

Comrades, once more we wish your Congress fruitful work and successful ending and express our solidarity with your struggles for the benefits of your trade union members and the whole working class and working people of India.

Long live the unity of the International Trade Union movement.

Long live International Workers Solidarity.

Long live peace in the world.



Comrades, allow me on behalf of our delegation and the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia to present this statue of a worker which symbolises our deep conviction that everything that was created in the field of science, techniques and culture should serve for the benefit of workers and working people and not for war and destructive purposes.

27th Session of the AITUC
May 16-22, 1966

May 19, 1966

Address by

BROTHER ANTONIN ZAZVORKA,
Member of the Secretariat of the
Central Council of Czechoslovak Trade Unions

ANTONIN ZAJVORKA, MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CZECHOSLOVAK T. U.

Comrade Chairman, Comrade General Secretary, Dear Comrades, ~~Dear Friends~~

It is a great honour for us and through our intermediary for our trade union movement, for the working class and for all working population of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, to participate in the 27th Congress of the AITUC, the most progressive and most important ^(trade union) organisation of the Indian workers.

I convey to you sincere and fraternal greetings extended by more than five million Czechoslovak trade unionists. It is already for the second time that a Czechoslovak trade union delegation got the opportunity of visiting your great and beautiful country and have personal talks with the representatives of your courageous and self-sacrificing working people. We are proud of it that we are able to convey here, in the Congress Hall, warm greetings from the Czechoslovak workers to the best representatives of the Indian trade union movement.

Czechoslovak workers and all people of our country follow with great attention and sincere sympathies the fight of the Indian workers and their trade union organisation, the AITUC, for the development of national economy, for a permanent improvement of living conditions, for more extensive democratic rights and liberties and for the maintenance of world peace. We had therefore much pleasure in accepting your invitation to participate in your Congress. Although we are separated by a distance of some thousands kilometres, we are members of the same working class and every success attained through your struggles in the interest of the workers, is also our success. On the other hand every step forward in the process of building a developed socialist society in our country is a contribution to the working people of India.

Both fraternal organisations - the All-Indian Trade Union Congress and the Czechoslovak trade union movement - as members of the World Federation of Trade Unions - are closely bound to the international trade union movement. We have common aims. Our workers, alike the Indian

workers, need peace for their creative work and life and that's why they support on the basis of peaceful co-existence the efforts made in this way between the nations and states. We are therefore united in the demands ^(for stopping the imperialist aggression in Vietnam) for stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and for total disarmament; let us use the costs connected with armament for the economic and cultural development of the nations and for the living standard of their inhabitants.

We share your pleasure from the attained achievements by Indian workers thanks to the untiring efforts of the All-Indian Trade Union Congress. Our working people as well as our Trade Unions have always stood at your side in the struggle for the just demands and interests of your workers. We stand in solidarity at your side in all actions which brought and are bringing wage increase ~~and other demands~~, for the miners, textile workers, public employees and other groups of workers in your country.

Dear Comrades, in the past eighteen years the building of Socialism in the Czechoslovak Republic brought forth an unexpected development of national economy, of the living and cultural standards of all people.

The living standard of our workers has rapidly grown and in some spheres, for instance in social security of the mother and the child, in education, in health services, etc., we have exceeded in this way many states.

In the long-term plan on the development of national economy we have set to ourselves the goal to ensure the many-sided development of a socialist society.

The basis of all achievements of the Czechoslovak people and their Trade Unions is the firm and indivisible unity of the workers. Experiences prove that the unity of workers are the key to success of

all actions carried out by the workers in all countries and it is the pre-condition for their victory.

Unity, friendship and solidarity - this is the message which we are passing on to you in the name of the working people of our country. We came to your country on the fraternal invitation with this slogan, and allow me, please, to convey this slogan of unity, friendship and solidarity in the conclusion of my fraternal address to the 27th Congress of the AITUC, to the most progressive and most important trade union organisation of India. May I, on behalf of the workers of my country, express my best wishes for every success in your negotiations, for good health and for lots of success in your efforts to all delegates present at this Congress and through them to all workers of your great, ~~happy~~ and famous country.

I assure you that the Czechoslovak workers will always stand side by side with the workers of India in the spirit of international solidarity and together with the working class of all countries they will fight for its unity, joyfull and happy life, for a lasting peace and for social progress in the whole world.

Long live the 27th Congress of the AITUC !

Long live the ever lasting friendship of the workers of India and of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic !

Long live international unity and solidarity of workers the world over !

27th Session of the AITUC
Bombay, May 16-22, 1966

19 May 1966

Address by

MRS. B. SHANYKHUU,
Secretary of the Central Council of the Trade
Unions of Mongolia ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxxxxx~~

Speech of greetings by Mrs. B. Shanykhoo,
Secretary of the Central Council of the
Trade Unions of Mongolia and head of the
delegation to the 27th Session of the All
Indian Trade Union Congress,

Dear members of Presidium
and delegates,

Comrades and friends,

Allow me on behalf of all the members of the Trade
Union Organizations of the Mongolian People's Republic and the working
class of Mongolia to convey our hearty greetings to you, the members of
the presidium and the delegates to the 27th Session of the All India
Trade Union Congress and through you to all the members of the AITUC.

I should like to express our sincere gratitude to
the AITUC for its kind invitation to part take part in your Session.

This Session is an event of great importance in the
life of the All-India Trade Union Congress and working people of India.
We are firmly convinced that the AITUC, defending the interests of the
working class of India and interests of its thousands of members will
inspire them in the struggle for the prosperity of their country.

The Mongolian Trade Unions are happy that the AITUC
is playing an important role in the Social and Political life of the
country. We know that you have achieved great success in implementing the
historic decisions of the 26th Session held in January 1961, as we have
learnt to know it from the report of comrade Danje.

The growth of the World Communist and Working
people's movement is a clear indication of the fact that the forces of
Socialism ^{and} democracy ~~and~~ are much stronger than that of imperialism and war.

Peaceloving peoples all over the world are indignant with the American imperialists who are threatening and committing aggression against the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence.

Mongolian people resolutely condemn the imperialist bloody war waged by the USA in Vietnam. Mongolian people ^{have} ~~has been~~ rendered moral and material assistance to the heroic Vietnamese people and will ^{un} ~~no~~ doubtedly continue to do so in the future. We firmly believe that the heroic Vietnamese people, who enjoy the support of all the peaceloving progressive mankind will ultimately win in their noble ^{and} ~~cause~~ / just struggle.

Mongolian people are consistently waging the struggle for peace, security among nations and for a complete ^{liquidation} ~~liquidation~~ of the colonial system, for the general and complete disarmament, and for a peaceful settlement of all disputed international problems.

We in Mongolia are following with great attention the persistent efforts made by the working people of the friendly India towards developing their national economy and ~~and~~ industrialising their country and wish them every success in their noble cause.

Mongolian people under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party following the path of non-capitalist development had achieved historic successes in making their homeland prosperous and have now set the task of completing the socialist construction. The Third Five-year plan for the development of national economy and culture has been fulfilled successfully thanks to the ~~to~~ selfless labour of our toilers and the fraternal assistance and close co-operation with the great Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries. Now the Mongolian people have taken up with ~~the~~ new inspiration the tasks of the first year of the new Fourth - Five year plan of the development of national economy and culture for 1966-1970.

The 15th Session of the MPRP which is being held very soon will ^e endorse a new programme of the Party - the historic ~~of~~ programme of completing the socialist construction in our country. Now the programme is being widely discussed by the people.

The ~~Central Council of~~ ^{take an} Mongolian Trade Unions ~~has taken~~ active part in all the social-economic life of the country and has developed into the most popular organization, which ^c included in their ranks more than 90 per cent of all workers and ^{employees.} officers.

Our Trade Union Organizations actively participate in the leading and planning of the national economy and their activity is directed to the fulfillment of the plan ~~and~~ targets and to the improving of the economic effectiveness of industrial and economic enterprises. The Trade Unions participate in establishing salary-wage system of the workers and ^{employees} officers ~~working~~ in all the branches of the national economy and pay constant attention to ~~the~~ its fulfilment. Implementation of all decisions of Party and Government on ^{development} improvement of the labour ^{productivity} organizations and protection and ^{improvement of} the raising up the labour conditions of the socialist industrial and economic enterprises is the important task of our trade union organizations. They are also responsible for social insurance and regulate the distribution of social consumption ^a funds.

The 9th Session of the Trade Unions of Mongolia is to be held at the end of this year. It will be an important event in the life of the Mongolian working people and working class.

We are very glad to note that the friendly relations between Mongolia and India are developing and strengthening ^{with} every passing year. The visit of Dr. Radhakrishnan, the prominent statesman of India to our country in 1957 and the visit of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1965 are one of the clear expressions of this fact.

Dear friends and delegates,

In conclusion, May I wish you and through you to all the members of the All-India Trade Union Congress and working class of India every success in the struggle for implementing the decisions to be taken by the Session, for economic and cultural development of the country and for strengthening and preserving peace throughout the world.

(XTO)

1. Long live the co-operation between the Mongolian and Indian trade unions Congress.
2. Long live proletarian internationalism.

LONG LIVE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MONGOLIAN
AND INDIAN TRADE UNIONS!

LONG LIVE PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM!

LONG LIVE WORLD PEACE!

TUI CHEMICAL & OIL

The 16th Session of the Administrative Committee of the Trade Unions International of Chemical Oil and Allied Workers (WFTU) which met in Budapest from June 1 to 4, has called for concerted efforts in the task of the workers against capitalist exploitation and for unity of action.

The Committee decided to intensify the worldwide solidarity movement in support of the just struggle of the people of Vietnam.

In a resolution, the Committee condemned the acts of provocation and subversion committed by the U.S. imperialists against the Cuban Republic.

For the purpose of preparing for the Conference of the TUI, the Committee appointed a working group. The Conference is to be held in Geneva in May 1967.

G.Sundaram, Member of the Working Committee of the AITUC and General Secretary of the All-India Petroleum Workers' Federation attended^{ed} the meeting on behalf of the AITUC. In his speech at the Committee meeting, G. Sundaram called for greater efforts to build unity of oil workers ~~sixthextra~~ in the new favourable situation existing in the Afro-Asian region. He ~~was~~ also suggested that the TUI should devote greater attention to problems of research.

VIETNAM WEEK - JULY 4 TO 11

TUN

The 27th Session of the AITUC had called for observance of a Week from July 4 to 11, in solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. imperialism.

In a circular to State Committees, the AITUC Secretariat has called for demonstrations before U.S. consulates and USIS Libraries ~~where~~ in protest against the aggressive policy of the American imperialists.

The circular called for organising collections of funds from workers, for Vietnam, as a token of material solidarity. These collections should be sent to the AITUC office and the fund will be centrally presented to the representatives of the heroic Vietnamese people and Government in Delhi.

In his draft report at the 27th Session, S.A.Dange, General Secretary of the AITUC, had stated:

"The Indian people and particularly the working class and trade unions have expressed solidarity and sympathy with fighting Vietnam and have demanded the withdrawal of American troops and observance of the Geneva agreement as demanded by the DRV Government and the NLF of South Vietnam. In India, in all strike meetings under the flag of the AITUC, resolutions of support to the people of Vietnam have been passed. Demonstrations against the American embassy and their visiting dignitaries have been staged from time to time and days have been observed in accordance with the resolutions of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

"Yet we have to state that the campaign for Vietnam and against U.S. imperialism has not gathered that momentum that it should.

"Apart from our own weaknesses, there is also the regrettable fact that some of the left political parties and trade unions in

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India consider that the U.S. imperialists in Vietnam are containing Chinese 'expansionism' and that the Vietnamese are merely 'tools' of the Chinese Communists. And since China has adopted a posture of hostility to India, it is better if the Americans fight them or beat them in Vietnam, thereby helping India in an indirect way.

That the Vietnamese people have their own country, civilisation and people to defend, that the Americans in Vietnam are not fighting China but only creating a base for themselves ~~xxx~~ from which they can threaten the freedom of the whole of Asia and its new independent States is completely lost sight of.

The monopoly press in the country feeds this illusion in order to strengthen the influence of reactionary forces in our country, in which the U.S. imperialists help them.

" The Government of India, which under Shastri had at least mildly disapproved of the bombing of North Vietnam and asked for its 'pause' as the Americans put it, the present Prime Minister in her anxiety to secure American economic aid abstained from taking even the stand of the previous government. And, in addition, she signed a statement with the U.S. imperialists agreeing to common aims with the U.S. imperialists in the matter of 'containing China'. This was nothing but surrender before American blackmail.

"The trade unions throughout the country must launch a vigorous campaign in support of Vietnam and force the Government of India to lend unequivocal support to the demands of the Vietnamese people. The people of India must loudly proclaim that they would rather starve than live on American wheat only to go and die for saving the U.S. imperialists in Vietnam."

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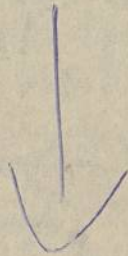
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AITUC-FDGB JOINT COMMUNIQUE

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Following is the text of the joint communique issued by the AITUC and the FDGB, on the occasion of the visit to India of Alfred Wilke, Member of the Presidium of the Confederation of Free German Unions, GDR:



Joint Communique of the All India Trade Union Congress and the Federation of Free German Trade Unions.

On the occasion of the participation of a Delegation of the Federation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB) in the 27th Session of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) which was held from 16th to 22nd May, 1966, at Bombay, the representatives of both the organisations made the following joint declaration:

The stay of the Delegation of the FDGB contributed to the strengthening of the fraternal relations between both organisations. All discussions and talks were carried out in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual respect. They served the cause of better understanding of the problems facing the labour movement both in India and GDR. The AITUC and the FDGB are connected by common aims in the struggle against imperialism, militarism, neo-colonialism, for peace and peaceful co-existence, for improvement of the working and living conditions, and for the establishment of international unity of action of the working class. The delegates to the AITUC Session and the Delegation of the FDGB reaffirmed their complete solidarity with the patriots of Vietnam heroically fighting against US aggression.

In the course of the AITUC Session, the role and the nature of West German imperialism as the main ally of US imperialism and as the main trouble-maker in Europe was exposed several times. In contrast to this, the policy of peace of the German Democratic Republic was stressed by the representatives of both the organisations. The AITUC expressed its conviction that it lies in the interest of peace and relaxation of tensions when normal inter-state relations towards the German Democratic Republic will be established and demanded in this connection the full recognition of the German Democratic Republic by the Indian

Government. The FDGB supports the efforts of the AITUC for united trade union activities directed at improvement of the working and living conditions and the safeguarding and implementation of trade union rights. The representatives of both the organisations mutually agree that the relations between the AITUC and the FDGB will be strengthened further on the basis of proletarian inter-nationalism and on the basis of the decisions of the WFTU in the interests of the working class of India and the German Democratic Republic.

~~Bombay, 23rd May, 1966~~

~~Alfred Wilke
Member of the Presidium
of the National Executive Committee
of the Confederation of
Free German Trade Unions~~

~~K.G. Srivastava
(K.G. SRIVASTAVA)
SECRETARY,
All India Trade Union
Congress~~

The joint statement was signed in
Bombay on May 23, 66 by Alfred Wilke
on behalf of the FDGB and K.G. Srivastava
on behalf of the AITUC

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.

AITUC General Council
February 1966
New Delhi

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 coal miners 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 coal miners are exposed to.

The AITUC further notes with grave concern the fresh offensive on the trade union rights and unions by employers of Bird & Co., Samla Collieries Ltd. (Jaipur concern) and other coal mines in the Raniganj-Assansol coal belt; in HSL mines and Burhar coal mines in MP. In these places, the mine owners have started mass scale victimisation and instituting false criminal cases against the activists and leaders of the unions affiliated to the IMWF and AITUC.

Faced with this vicious attack from the employers and police, the miners are resolutely defending their trade union rights with great courage and determination and the AITUC congratulates them and pledge all support in their grim battle against massive offence of the mine barons.

The AITUC regrets that in all these matters the Government has miserably failed to protect the interest of miners and repeated requests and appeals for intervention by the AITUC and Federation and their affiliated unions have brought no response and the miners have been left at the hands of mine owners who do not hesitate to use gangster methods to liquidate militant unions.

In view of this desperate condition, and anti-working class policy of the mine owners and the government, the AITUC has no other alternative but to call upon the miners all over the country to prepare for a direct action and launch a three day hunger strike in all mines, coal and non-coal, and indefinite hunger strike in Assansol-Raniganj coal belt, starting from the 1st March, in support of the following demands:

1. Immediate payment of profit sharing bonus from 1961 to 1965.
2. Correction of cost of living index and payment of additional dearness allowance to coal miners with retrospective effect.
3. Linking of dearness allowance with the cost of living index in all non-coal mines.
4. Immediate decisions of the Wage Boards.
5. Reinstatement of victimised workers in Bird & Co., Saunda Collieries WB in West Bengal and Bhillai mines and Ballaghat manganese mines in MP.
6. End of gangsterism and attack on trade union rights in the mining belts.

The AITUC appeals to all unions and workers, irrespective of their trade union affiliations to build up a powerful movement in support of the just struggle of the miners and force the mine owners and the government to concede these demands without any further delay.

STRUGGLE DIARY

(April 1965 to February 1966)

- by K.G. Sriwastava -

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.. 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 KGMU 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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A NOTE ON CLOSURES, RETRENCHMENTS, LAY-OFFS

- Satish Loomba

The number of closures of factories and consequent unemployment among industrial workers, retrenchment and lay-offs has sharply increased in the last few months. There is no doubt that the Indo-Pak aggression and its aftermath has played a big role in this. However, the fact remains that the basic cause of the malaise of our economy as a whole and, in particular, the spate of closures, etc., is not something which is accidental or extraneous to the very nature of our economy. On the contrary, it is precisely the capitalist economy and the anarchy which it breeds which aggravated by some events, has brought about the present state of affairs. Planning operates within this capitalist framework and is therefore subordinate to the laws of capitalist economy.

At a recent meeting of the Tripartite Committee set up in pursuance of a decision of the ILC, the problem came up for discussion. However, it was clear that no concrete action had been taken by the Government nor were there any proposals for it.

The inter-ministerial committee which was to be set up under the chairmanship of the Labour Minister and having various Ministers concerned as members, in order to expedite and coordinate action on closures due to these or any other causes, was never formed. Instead, a Committee at Secretaries level has been set up. This itself shows that there is no urgency in the Government on this matter.

The 24th Session of the Standing Labour Committee which met on February 13-14, 1966, did not have closures, etc., as an item on its voluminous agenda. However, the issue was forced for discussion, chiefly at the initiative of the AITUC. However, it cannot be said that much was achieved.

The final outcome was that apart from the Central Tripartite Committee, State level tripartite committees will also be set up. Notices of closure will be given three months in advance as per the earlier tripartite agreement. Notices of retrenchment and lay-off will be three months and one month in advance except when exigencies beyond the control of employers rule it out. It was agreed that the present anomalous situation when a mill taken over by the Government in case of mismanagement, etc., is handed back to the same company after it has been rehabilitated, should be changed and the Government will examine what should be done in this regard. The SLC agreed that allocation of scarce raw materials, etc., should be done on an equitable basis. At the same time, efforts should be intensified to conserve scarce raw materials, etc., and to maximise import substitution.

* * *

The recent closures, retrenchments and lay-offs are due to various immediate causes. Firstly, there are those which are due to mismanagement, fraudulent practices, financial irregularities, etc. Secondly, those directly due to the war - in this category fall the closures, etc., in the border areas. Thirdly,

those which are due to

those which are due to the foreign exchange crisis, leading to difficulties in the way of procurement of raw materials, components, replacements, etc. Fourthly, those due to accumulation of stocks. Fifthly, those due to the power-cut in some States.

Let us briefly examine the position with regard to each of these.

(i) The textile industry in Maharashtra, U.P., Tamilnad, Pondicherry and W. Bengal has had a large number of closures, retrenchments and layoff, chiefly due to causes which may be classified broadly under mismanagement. These include litigation among partners, fraudulent practices, financial difficulties, etc. Though complete and upto date data are not available, on a rough estimate, it would appear that about 80,000 workers have been affected, through closures, retrenchments and lay-offs. These figures do not include badli workers who are refused work.

The trade union movement has been demanding that mills which close down due to mismanagement, etc., should be taken over and run by the Government. In a few cases, this has been done, as for instance, the Indu Group of mills at Bombay. In the case of Muir Mills, Kanpur, financial assistance has been given by the Government. In some cases, enquiry is pending as in Pondicherry. However, in the large majority of cases, no action has been taken.

Secondly, this slogan becomes operative only when a mill is actually closed down. What is to be done to prevent closure and what is to be done in cases of retrenchment and lay-off?

Another connected problem is the action of the State Governments which impose a cut in D.A. and make other changes in working conditions, after take-over of the closed units. In Madhya Pradesh, the State Government has through an ordinance excluded such undertakings taken over by the Government from the provisions of almost all labour legislation. The TU movement has been fighting against such reactionary steps and this struggle has to continue.

(ii) Then there are the closures, retrenchments, etc., due to difficulties arising out of the Indo-Pak war. These are chiefly in the border areas, mainly in Punjab, though parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat are also affected.

In Punjab, a serious situation has arisen. The textile (art silk and woollen industry of Amritsar and Dhariwal, the engineering units of Batala, Amritsar and even Ludhiana were very seriously affected. Recently there has been some revival. On a rough estimate, about 30,000 workers were at one time directly affected.

In the wake of the aerial bombardment of Amritsar, some evacuation of industrial units took place. This process has now halted. But the workers are out of work for a long time. The Government announced grant of loans of Rs.100 for each worker. But so far even these have not been given in practice. Anyhow, these loans are a very meagre palliative and leave the real problem intact.

Part of the difficulty in woollen textiles has been caused by the short supply of imported wool tops. Besides, the real shortfall is the maldistribution of the available material.

On top of all this is the very severe cut in electric power caused by the failure of rains.

. . . . The textile union

The textile union of the AITUC in Amritsar has been demanding relief to the small-scale industry in various forms and a correct distribution of wool tops. They have demanded the consideration of the question of exemption of textile looms for six months from excise duty. The Government has only agreed to postpone collection for some period.

(iii) Closures, retrenchment and lay-offs due to foreign exchange shortage have increased very sharply after the Indo-Pak war. The crisis in foreign exchange shows the utterly vulnerable position of our economy which has been tied down to the Anglo-U.S. bloc.

Though the crisis has reached an acute stage during the past few months, the foreign exchange position has been progressively deteriorating throughout the Third Plan period. Foreign exchange reserves had declined to Rs.241 crores at the end of September 1965 from Rs.306 crores at the end of 1963-64. Since then they have been further depleted. By March 1966, the total external debt had risen to about Rs.2,750 crores from Rs.2,200 crores at the end of March 1965. At the same time, the total annual trade deficit is about Rs.400 crores.

During and after the Indo-Pak war, as part of their pressure on India, the American and British imperialists have tightened the screw. For decades, our country has been dependent upon them for machinery, components, replacements, spares and raw materials. This dependence has been increasing through the spite of entirely unjustified collaboration agreements even in cases where indigenous know-how and capability of production exist. Press reports indicate that the USA is insisting on conversion annually of 3.5 per cent of the current P.L.480 funds into free foreign exchange which means an additional deficit of approximately Rs.40 crores.

On the other hand, there is no crisis so far as the rupee payment areas are concerned. The doubling of Indo-Soviet trade and the recent trade pact show that a great possibility exists for partially easing the situation with the help of friendly countries.

The foreign exchange crisis in some cases is coupled with enormous price increase of some raw materials, etc., in the world market. For example, consequent upon the Rhodesian crisis, the price of copper has shot up. Supply from Zambia is dependent upon Rhodesian coal and power. In Chila, there has been a strike since January 4 in the El Tensicate mine which has affected production. And lastly, since January 20, the U.S. has tightened its copper export. The result is that in the London Metal Exchange, the price of copper bars has gone up from £565 per ton on 30 December 1965 to £657½ on 31 January 1966. Hence to buy a ton of copper, more foreign exchange is needed. Since the foreign exchange allotted is inelastic, the quantity purchased for the same amount goes down.

It has been estimated that in Bengal alone, "200 big and medium non-ferrous units, employing about 1,50,000 people have virtually exhausted their quotas and are at their wits end" (Commerce, 5 February 1966, p.180). As these industries stores and machinery for other industries, stoppage or curtailment of production here will have a cumulative effect.

Apart from the closures, retrenchment and further threats of these, the foreign exchange crisis has a deep political significance with which the working class is most concerned. Already, a movement for national self-reliance is taking shape. We must further it and contribute through conservation of scarce material, elimination of waste, suggestions for substitution and preventive maintenance.

. . . As a result of

As a result of the present crisis, there is a movement for national self-reliance. Technicians and scientists are already exploring the possibility of indigenous replacement of imported materials. A Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Dr.V.K.R.V.Rao. Some steps have been taken, for instance in replacing copper by aluminium. The ISI is revising the standards. However, this movement is facing stubborn opposition from vested interests who would like India to kow-tow to imperialism and obtain concessions by lining up. The only lesson which a columnist in Commerce (5.2.66, p.180) draws for instance is: "It is only when the U.S. Government resumes economic aid can it hope to obtain some significant relief."

The problem was discussed at the recent meeting of the SLC. It was agreed that efforts should be intensified for import substitution. At the same time, ways should be found to pool all requirements and distribute the scarce materials, etc. Imported materials, etc., should be reduced to the utmost and fabrication must be done indigenously wherever possible with the help only of imports critically needed.

However, if this policy is to be really effective, it can only be through nationalisation of import and export trade. But the Government is unwilling to take this step.

At the same time, we cannot underestimate the immediate problems. Figures are again not available. But thousands of workers have already been retrenched or laid off specially in the engineering, pharmaceutical and woollen textile industries.

(iv) Accumulation of stock has led to difficulties in the textile and coalmining industries.

In cotton textiles, the so-called accumulation of stocks is at best marginal and the power-cut in South India and the resultant fall in production has more or less offset whatever little rise in cloth stocks may have created, due to the slackness in lifting of cloth in the emergency period of Indo-Pak hostilities.

In the coal mines, the employers have alleged that stock accumulation is about some four million tonnes although current production falls far short of Third Plan target. Some collieries including those belonging to the NCDC have been closed.

(v) Lastly, there is the problem of power-cut in Kerala, M.P., Tamilnad, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab which ranges from 20 to 30 per cent. The shortfall in rains has affected the hydro-power production and as a result in these regions, some industries have had to close down shifts, while others could work only with partial capacity. This has led to retrenchment and lay-off on a big scale.

Another main feature of these power cuts is that production of essential industrial raw materials has been cut. For example, the Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd. has stated that it could not fully utilise the capacity for producing virgin metal at Alupuram in Kerala due to the power-cut. Similarly, the fertiliser and other factories in the Alwaye industrial belt in Kerala have been affected. The Fertiliser factory in Nangal has suffered a cut of 60 per cent. Aluminium is essential as a substitute for copper. But even that has to suffer.

The main point is that our schemes of electricity generation have been almost completed dependent upon hydro-electric schemes. These schemes are entirely dependent on rainfall to fill their reservoirs and failure of rains therefore directly leads to cut in electricity. So far proposals for inter-state

and national.....

and national grids have met with the resistance of various State Governments. Now, however, a grid covering Tamilnad, Kerala and Mysore has been planned and proposals for an all-India grid being studied.

However, the question of thermal stand-by power plants has not been considered at all. In all advanced countries, thermal stand-by plants are always provided. In some cases. In some cases where industrial undertakings were willing to instal thermal generators on their own, the foreign exchange difficulty has held them up.

Meanwhile, the situation will not even begin to ease till July and even then will depend upon rains.

CONCLUSIONS

If we take all the major factors into account, not less than two lakh workers have been rendered idle through closures, retrenchments and lay-offs. These workers have at best received only the small lay-off compensation or service compensation as laid down by law. This army of unemployed can have serious repercussions on wages of those employed and in all their struggles. Already, in the textile industry, the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has asked for a 33% cut in D.A.

The question that arises for consideration is what is to be done by the trade unions.

1. NATIONALISE IMPORT-EXPORT TRADE

At the All-India Conference of Trade Unions held at Bombay in December 1963, the 11-point demands formulated for the national campaign included the demand for nationalisation of import-export trade. In the present context of foreign exchange shortages, this demand not only shows that the TUs had put forward a very necessary slogan but brings out the urgent necessity for its immediate implementation. It is necessary to pool the requirements of imported materials, etc., to cut out the non-essential ones, to distribute equitably what is imported. This cannot be done unless import trade is nationalised. Such a procedure will also help in isolating and pinpointing the cases where import substitution is feasible.

2. NATIONALISE BANKS

This slogan was also put forward at the Bombay Conference. It is all the more urgent now in order to help in distribution of proper credit facilities where necessary.

3. PROMOTE SELF-BELIANCE AND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION.

4. AMEND THE INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT: This Act should be amended to provide for action preceding closure so as to prevent these and not merely act post facto. It must also be amended to cover other cases other than that of mismanagement only as at present. And thirdly, it must take away the compulsion to hand back the ~~xx~~ mill or factory or undertaking taken over by Government to the earlier management after rehabilitation.

5. RESIST WAGE CUTS & CUT IN D.A.

In mills taken over by the State, wages and D.A. is generally cut. In M.P. the application of labour laws to such units has been suspended under an ordinance. These have to be resisted and all attempts by employers to force a cut in D.A. or wages should be fought and defeated.

. . . Demand full wages

6. DEMAND FULL WAGES FOR LAY-OFF AND NO RETRENCHMENT FOR TEMPORARY CAUSES.

Instead of the present rate and limits on lay-off, the demand must be raised for full wages for lay-off. At the same time, there must be no retrenchment in cases of temporary difficulties such as power-cuts, etc.

Large profits have been accumulated by most of the mills in recent years due to the rise in productivity coupled with the continued and sharp price rises. These funds must be used partially at least for helping the workers to tide over the difficult period.

7. TOTAL STRIKE FOR PARTIAL CLOSURE!

The concrete possibility of calling a total strike where managements declare partial closure should be explored. This should be done on the basis of a concrete study of the situation and possibility of action unit level or regional industry level and assessing the possible effectiveness of such a call, to intervene in the situation.

WFTU's Draft

C H A R T E R O N

S O C I A L S E C U R I T Y

Social security is a fundamental right of the working class and the result of countless united struggles that the workers have been waging for many years against exploitation by the employers.

The complete systems of social security which exist and are developing in the socialist countries guarantee allowances at a high level without the workers having to pay contributions. These systems, financed entirely by the State, guarantee all the workers complete protection in all cases of loss of capacity to work and against all risks and also undertake preventive measures. This example shows further the superiority of the socialist system in the field of social security and constitutes a considerable moral force for the workers of the capitalist countries in their struggles against the employers' attacks and for the improvement of social security.

The general worsening of the living and working conditions of the working class in the capitalist countries, the low wages, unemployment, inflation, the work speed-up and the evil consequences of mechanisation and automation have even further accentuated the difficulties that the workers encounter. Moreover, under the pressure of the monopolists and their imperialists, the governments systematically reduce or suppress the budgetary allocations for social aims and use them for military purposes. The burden of armaments means a reduction in social allowances and weighs heavily on the living standard of the working people.

For this reason, a wide mass movement must be developed in the capitalist countries for the use of the funds which can be made available through disarmament, for the improvement of social security, in particular. This struggle requires much vigilance and perseverance because of the imperialists' hostility to any genuine disarmament policy.

The situation presents itself in an even more unfavourable light in the under-developed countries because of colonial exploitation, the extremely low living standards and the over-exploitation of the workers by foreign monopolies.

In the countries recently freed from the colonial yoke, where the economy is insufficiently developed, the workers are supporting the economic development of the country and the campaigns for complete decolonialisation and for social progress.

In those countries still under colonialist domination, the workers in their general struggles for national liberation are demanding social legislation which daily becomes more necessary.

.... Taking its star

Taking its stand on the common interests of all workers throughout the world, without distinction of race, of opinion, or of trade union affiliation, the WFTU submits for the discussion of the workers and trade unions this first draft of the Social Security Charter drawn up by the members of the International Trade Union Commission on Social Security, composed of leaders from trade unions in different countries, some affiliated and some not affiliated to the WFTU. This draft has been inspired by the Programme of Social Security adopted at the Vienna Conference in 1953.

The adoption of this Charter will be proposed to the 5th World Trade Union Congress which will take place on December 4-16 in Moscow.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS

1. A genuine social security system must be based on the recognition of a fundamental social right guaranteed by law to every person who lives by his work, who is unable to work, or who is temporarily or permanently incapacitated, and to the members of his family, without any financial contribution by him.
2. The social security systems must assure to the workers, their normal means of existence through allowances in cash and kind. Allowances in cash should be readjusted on the basis of the cost of living, increase in wages, and the vital needs of the workers and their families. Completely free medical care must be guaranteed to all workers either by a National Health System or by the Social Security System itself.
3. Social security must cover all the social responsibilities and risks including sickness, maternity, disablement and old age, work accidents and occupational diseases, family allowances, unemployment and death.

In the general framework of the social situation and of working conditions, effective measures must be taken to guarantee the workers their rights in the following fields:

- social measures of health protection;
- health at work and labour safety;
- the right to work, a job and a minimum guaranteed wage;
- shorter hours of work;
- paid holidays;
- housing, etc.,

in order to contribute to the improvement of material and cultural conditions as well as to the security of the workers.

4. Social security must apply to all workers and office staffs (including agricultural labourers, domestic workers, seasonal and casual workers, home workers, apprentices, etc.) to small peasants, tenant farmers, farmers, artisans, members of the liberal professions, students and independent workers as well as to those who are physically unable to work.

5. The right to social security must be equal for all without discrimination of race, nationality, religion, sex or age; there should be no discrimination based on occupation nor discrimination between the public and private sectors of the economy.

... 6. Finances.

6. FINANCES - The financing of social security must be assured by the employers or the State, or by a combination of the two, without any contribution from the workers.

7. MANAGEMENT - The management of social security institutions must be entrusted to the representatives of the workers and other beneficiaries.

The management must be provided for at all levels by the election of members of the controlling bodies with the participation of the trade unions.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND RISKS COVERED BY SOCIAL SECURITY

The following social responsibilities and risks must be covered by the Social Security system, on the basis of the principles set forth under Point 3 of this Charter:

8. SICKNESS - Workers and members of their families have the right to preventive, curative and convalescent medical care - free and without any limit - for all sicknesses. The cash allowances should be paid to the workers from the very first day and must guarantee normal means of existence until the cure is complete or until the right to a disablement pension is recognised.

9. MATERNITY - The working woman as well as her children have the right to special protection, including free medical care during pregnancy, during the confinement and after the birth, clinical care for the child up to the age of one year, the payment of allowance in the nursing period, paid maternity leave and grants for the birth, as well as the provision of a layette. The wife of the insured worker is entitled to the same rights with the exception of maternity leave.

10. FAMILY ALLOWANCES - Family allowances must be given for all dependent children and fixed at a sum allowing a family to keep up a good standard of living and to provide for the education of children.

11. WORK ACCIDENTS AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES - All accidents occurring at the place of work or on the journey to and from work, or resulting from the work, must be considered as work accidents and receive full compensation.

Medical care as well as artificial limbs and dentures, and re-training with a guarantee of re-employment, must be assured free and without any limitation.

In case of temporary incapacity, allowances in cash must be paid during the medical treatment, guaranteeing the workers the same living standard as before. If it is a case of permanent incapacity, a pension must be granted estimated on the basis of the wage and according to the degree of incapacity. In the event of permanent partial incapacity, the worker must receive, as well as his pension, a job in keeping with his capacity.

In the event of an occupational disease, compensation must be paid as soon as the disease is discovered, even if medical recognition of this fact is not made until afterwards.

Every disease resulting from the exercise of a trade or profession must be recognised as an occupational disease.

All occupational diseases must be compulsorily registered on the official lists established for these diseases. These lists must be completed periodically to include new diseases arising from new techniques and production methods.

12. Disablement and old age

12. **DISABLEMENT AND OLD AGE** - The age at which one is entitled to an old age pension must be lowered. An additional lowering of the age must be made for difficult, insanitary and unhealthy work.

The minimum basic rate for disablement and old age pensions, fixed according to the actual wage of the worker, must guarantee him normal means of existence, allow the pensioned man and his family to maintain a reasonable living standard.

The disablement pension must have additional allowances above the minimum according to the degree of physical or occupational disability.

13. **UNEMPLOYMENT** - A benefit should be paid to each unemployed person on the basis of his actual wage for each day or each hour of work lost until he is re-employed, allowing him to live normally.

14. **DEATH AND SURVIVORS' PENSIONS** - An adequate funeral allowance should be granted to cover the costs of burial.

A pension must be paid to the survivors and dependent persons to allow them to keep up normal living standards.

15. **PREVENTION** - The Social Security system must promote the application of social health protection measures. To this end, it must provide for the setting up of institutions, and do everything possible at the places of work and help to exercise a permanent watch and control in the interests of safeguarding the health of the workers.

16. **HEALTH AT WORK AND LABOUR SAFETY** - Safety delegates and health and safety committees, elected by the workers and holding executive powers, must be appointed in the undertakings and at the places of work in order to promote, in collaboration with the labour inspectorate, effective preventive measures adapted to the working conditions.

17. **RIGHT TO WORK** - The right to work should be laid down in the Constitution or by law in all countries. Its effective application must guarantee a job with a minimum guaranteed wage to all workers.

18. **HOURS OF WORK** - The protection of the workers' health and the struggle against unemployment and dismissals make necessary the progressive reduction of hours of work without pay reductions. The granting of a rest period during the working day is necessary in certain undertakings to safeguard the workers' health.

19. **PAID HOLIDAYS** - All workers should have the right to a paid annual holiday of a minimum guaranteed length as well as the facilities to get the maximum profit from it.

20. **HOUSING** - Workers and their families must be guaranteed accommodation at reasonable rents.

A housing allowance may be granted according to the number of dependants.

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

All-India Trade Union Congress

27th SESSION
Bombay

INDUSTRY REPORTS

on Ports & Docks

By PROSANTO KUMAR DUTTA

on Hotel Workers in Bombay

By P. V. UPADHYAYA

on Woollen Textile Industry in India

By PARDHUMAN SINGH

on Cashew Industry

By A. SHANTARAM PAI

on Iron & Steel (Note)

By NIHAR MUKHERJEE

SIXTEENTH—TWENTYSECOND MAY, 1966

Report on Ports & Docks

By

PROSANTO KUMAR DUTTA

India with a long sea board of over 5,000 kilo-metres has 225 ports of which 150 are working ports. Under the British Rulers, there were only three Major Ports — Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. After the attainment of independence, and the formulation of various Five Year Plans for building national economy of our country, the development of Ports took its rightful place on the Agenda. Today the Ports of Kandla, Marmagao, Vishakapatnam and Cochin have been developed as Major Ports. It was in 1950, that the National Harbour Board was set up by the Government of India to co-ordinate the development of Ports. The Ports of Tuticorin, Haldia and Karwar and their development engaged the attention of the free India Government.

Traffic figures for Major Ports from 1950 to 1965 are given below:—

Traffic at Major Ports
(million tonnes)

	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1964-65
Calcutta	7.6	8.0	9.5	11.1
Bombay	7.0	10.3	14.7	17.3
Madras	2.2	2.4	3.0	4.4
Vishakhapatnam	1.0	1.3	2.9	3.9
Cochin	1.4	1.6	2.1	2.8
Kandla	0.1	0.3	1.6	2.3
Marmugoa	..	..	..	6.6
Total	16.3	23.9	33.8	48.4

*Changes in the Composition of Traffic in Major Ports
(million tonnes)*

Foodgrains	..	52.2	6.5
Fertilizers	..	0.3	1.8
Iron and Steel and Machinery	..	0.6	2.1
Coal	..	3.8	2.8
Iron-ore and other ores	..	1.5	9.3
General Cargo	..	6.9	9.6
Petroleum products	..	3.9	16.3
Total	..	22.2	48.4

*Provisional Estimates of Traffic at Major Ports in 1970-71
(million tonnes)*

Major Port	Petroleum products	Iron & other Ores	Coal	Fertilisers Rock Phosphate & Sulphur	Food grains	General Cargo	Total
Calcutta							
1964-65	1.8	0.9	1.8	0.1	1.7	4.8	11.1
1970-71	2.8	3.2	2.0	1.7	2.3	6.9	18.9
Bombay							
1964-65	9.8	0.6	0.1	0.8	2.3	3.7	17.3
1970-71	6.9	0.3	..	1.0	1.2	7.1	16.5
Madras							
1964-65	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.8	1.0	4.4
1970-71	3.5	3.2	0.2	0.8	0.4	1.5	9.6
Cochin							
1964-65	1.1	..	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7	2.6
1970-71	2.8	..	..	0.8	0.2	2.0	5.8
Vishakhapatnam							
1964-65	2.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.7	3.9
1970-71	1.5	6.6	..	0.5	0.1	1.0	9.7
Kandla							
1964-65	0.6	0.1	..	0.1	0.9	0.6	2.3
1970-71	2.7	..	0.3	0.2	0.8	1.5	5.5
Marmugoa							
1964-65	0.1	6.2	..	0.1	..	0.2	6.6
1970-71	0.2	6.3	0.8	0.4	..	0.6	8.3
TOTAL:							
1964-65	16.3	9.3	2.8	1.8	6.5	11.7	48.4
1970-71	20.4	19.6	3.3	5.4	5.0	20.6	74.3

The estimates for 1970-71 are drawn from the report of the Haldia Study Team. For Bombay Port, the Bombay Port Trust has estimated the likely traffic for 1970-71 as 20.7 million tonnes comprising 10.5 million tonnes of petroleum products, 0.3 million tonnes of iron and other ores, 0.3 million tonnes of coal, 1.0 million tonnes of fertilizers, 1.6 million tonnes of foodgrains and 7.0 million tonnes of other cargo.

The problem of Indian Shipping is intrinsically connected with the development of our Ports and Docks. It is also a vital factor in the development and consolidation of our National Economy. Dockers of India, who are interested in strengthening our national economy, must also play their rightful part in nation-building activities.

In 1947 India had less than 250,000 G.R.T. Merchant Shipping. The Free India Government progressively increased it and on April 5, 1966 it was 1,531,000 G.R.T. The tonnage at the beginning of the Third Plan was 8.57 lakhs G.R.T. and today it is 15.31 lakh G.R.T.

The following figures show the progress of Indian Shipping during the last five years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cargo carried in Overseas trade including adjacent trades (lakhs of tons dead weight)</i>	<i>Earnings in the Overseas trade including adjacent trades (Rupees in crores)</i>
1960-61	30.78	21.46
1961-62	34.21	31.66
1962-63	35.38	39.29
1963-64	53.73	43.13
1964-65	67.36	51.37

A target of 1.1 million tons fixed for the Third Plan period was revised upwards several times and it is expected to go up to 1.8 million tons (actual) by the end of 1965-66. This is expected to go up to 2.4 million tons if ships on order and under construction are taken into account. (Courtesy : *Indian Shipping*, November, 1964).

Workers' Struggles

In Ports and Docks all over the world, there is a long history of militant trade union movement. This was mainly because in every country of the world the workers engaged in loading and unloading of ships have been casual from the very beginning. There was no security of employment. The stevedores and contractors etc. exploited the workers. This problem engaged the attention of all the countries. In U.K. guaranteed wage was first demanded in 1920 by Mr. Bevin. Simultaneously voicing the identical demand 20,000 dock workers in India went on strike from 2nd to 16th February 1920.

The Royal Commission on labour in its report submitted to the Government of India in March 1931, recommended the de-casualisation of dock workers with a view to securing 'as large a measure of regular employment as the nature of calling will allow'. According to this report 'the aim should first be to regulate the number of dock labourers in accordance with requirements and secondly to ensure that the distribution of employment, depends, not on the caprice of the intermediaries but on a system which, as far as possible gives all efficient men an equal share'. On the recommendation of the Royal Commission, Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act of 1948 was legislated.

The mounting waves of Post war trade union movement in the Port and Docks achieved some signal gains. The 87 days long historic strike by the Calcutta Port workers in the year 1947 compelled the Authority to come out with a commitment to implement the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. Twenty-two thousand port workers' strike was hailed by all sections of the people of West Bengal, because it changed the entire atmosphere of the country, which was vitiated by communal riots. Hindus, Muslims and workmen hailing from different provinces of the country stood firmly united under the Red Flag, ignoring all sorts of provocations. The strike volunteers were considered as peace makers in the locality and areas quartered by Port workers remained unaffected by the fratricidal war.

The strike threat by Bombay dockers compelled the Bombay Stevedores' Association to come to a settlement on 22nd November, 1947. According to the terms of the settlement, a Committee was appointed by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of S. C. Joshi to frame a scheme for the dock workers. Shri Joshi submitted his report on the 10th of July 1948. Three schemes one each for Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, called Dock Workers

(Regulation of Employment) Scheme came into operation in the years 1951 and 1952.

Federation Formed

The lessons of various struggles launched by the workers independently from Port to Port, brought the trade union leaders to a common platform. A federation styled as the "All India Port & Dock Workers' Federation" was formed in the year 1949. The attempt of Shri G. H. Kale of Bombay to bring all the organisations working in the field within the federation was not liked by a section of the Trade Union Leaders. Some of the A.I.T.U.C. affiliates were carefully avoided. Despite sectarian outlook of the Federation leaders, the A.I.T.U.C. Unions were directed to respond to the call of the Federation.

In the year 1955, the I.N.T.U.C. Unions formed a separate federation of their own named as 'National Federation of the Port & Dock Workers'.

In the year 1963 the A.I.T.U.C. Unions formed a federation named as "Port, Dock & Waterfront Workers' Federation of India".

The biggest struggle in the history of the Port and Dock workers movement sparked off on the 15th of June 1958. The ten day old national general strike of nearly one and half lakh of workers was called off on June 15, 1958, following the assurance of Prime Minister Nehru that he would assume personal responsibility to see that the legitimate demands of the workers were agreed to. The unity of the dock workers solidly around the All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation triumphed in the strike. The policy of the 'big stick' with which the Government wanted to suppress the strike — calling in of troops, Government sponsored recruitment of black-legs through employment exchange as in Madras, and the brutal firing in the Madras port did not succeed in crushing the unity in action established by the Port and Dock Workers in their momentous general strike. Within 24 hours of the strike on the 16th June 1958 the police resorted to firing upon the Madras dockers. The Madras dock workers were organised under the Madras Harbour Workers Union, (A.I.T.U.C.) an affiliate of the All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation. Solidarity with the striking port and dock workers reached a new high in Madras city when the working class and people of this leading commercial and industrial centre observed

a protest hartal on June 18, 1958. On June 21, when the dead bodies of the victims of firing were handed over after inquest, forty thousand people marched along a ten mile route to the cremation ground. Thousands of people lined the streets to pay respect to the martyrs.

This national general strike was significant in many respects.

This was the first time when the port and dock workers struggled together on a common charter of demands, simultaneously on all the major ports.

The positive achievement of the June 1958 struggle was appointment of a categorisation and classification committee for fixation of scales of pay of port and dock workers and publication of Government decisions on the recommendations of the Chowdhury Committee, other than its recommendation on retirement benefits.

Split in the Federation

The success of this struggle was keenly watched by the I.T.F. General Secretary, Omer Beku. The Federation Secretary in reply to the instructions of the I.T.F. Secretary informed him under letter No. Fed 15/58 dated 9th July 1958 that the small number of communists who were in the federation should be driven out and that he had set the ball rolling as per direction. On July 14, 1958 when detailed discussions at Government level started following the strike, Com. A. S. K. Iyengar, who led the heroic struggle of the Madras Dockers under the banner of the Federation and who was in the delegation which met the Prime Minister on the 28th of June 1958 had been conspicuously excluded. Simultaneously there was a split in the Calcutta union. Later on Shri Kale of Bombay and Shri Bishwanath Dubey were excluded from the officials of the Federation. Therefore the 1958 National Struggle by the Port and Dock Workers was a landmark of success as well as failure in the task of extending organised movements in the Ports and Docks on a National Plane. It is a pity that Trade Union movement has been disrupted on political reasons under the behest of the foreign agency.

After the publication of the C.C.C. report there was widespread unrest amongst the Port workers of Bombay and Calcutta. The report of the C.C.C. was binding on the workers as well as the Port administration. Bombay employees were already in receipt of wage scales higher than those recommended. The All India Port & Dock Workers' Federation was compelled to

serve a Strike Notice. The strike notice was withdrawn on the 11th June, 1961. It was mutually agreed that both the labour unions and Port administration stood fully committed on the binding character of the C.C.C. report and agreed to devise ways and means to avoid strikes and lock-outs in the Ports in India.

Under the leadership of the B.P.T. General Workers' Union Bombay, one of the affiliates of the Federation 865 members of the crew of the Harbour Flotilla including the men working in the Pilot vessel, went on strike from 25-2-62 to 2-3-62 demanding removal of anomalies arising out of the C.C.C. The strike was withdrawn on the assurance of reconsideration of the matter by the Government.

Four thousand workers of the Calcutta Port Commissioner's workshop staged a two-day strike on 28-2-62 to 1-3-62 demanding removal of anomalies of the C.C.C. report and creation of the posts of Basic Tradesman.

On the 16-4-62 ten thousand Calcutta Port & Dock workers staged a day's token strike and demonstrated demanding arrear payment of account of the Second Pay Commission and removal of anomalies of the C.C.C. report.

The Mormagao Port, Dock & Transport Workers' Union (A.I.T.U.C.) resorted to strike action from 30-6-62 to 3-7-62. They demanded extension of Indian Labour laws to liberated Goa, reinstatement of 60 workers including the union President who were retrenched earlier by the Stevedore Companies and restoration of cut in wages. During the strike a complete General Hartal was observed on July 3rd, 1962 at Mormagao and Vasco-de-Gama towns against police excesses and for solidarity with the striking workers. The strike was withdrawn on the assurance of the Lt. Governor of Goa, Daman and Diu, to settle the grievances of the workers.

From 21-9-62 to 26-9-62 Crane Drivers of the Mechanical Coal Loading Plant of Calcutta Port went on strike under the leadership of the Calcutta Port & Dock Workers Union (AITUC) on the demand of the implementation of the recommendation of the C.C.C. scales of pay, which the authorities denied to implement.

Marmugao Dock Labourers led by Marmugao Port, Dock & Transport Workers Union (A.I.T.U.C.) went on strike from 23-5-63 to 3-6-63. The strike started because the Stevedore

Association and a newly formed union of the I.N.T.U.C. and H.M.S. in Goa Port signed an agreement to introduce the pool system of work. The A.I.T.U.C. Union which led the largest following among the workers was refused consultation and the Stevedore Association directly advertised the scheme in the Press and wanted to introduce it from 1st June. But the Scheme was enforced from 23rd May 1963. Consequent upon the implementation of the Scheme a large number of men were retrenched.

The Government of India with all its forces came out to break the strike. The strike was declared illegal under the Defence of India Act. About 204 persons including Union General Secretary Gerald Pereira and Secretary, Gajanan Patil were arrested. The strike was settled through the intervention of the A.I.T.U.C. Secretary and an agreement was reached which includes inter alia (1) Release of Union leaders, (2) No retrenchment as a result of the implementation of the pool scheme, (3) Re-instatement of all the retrenched workers, etc.

On the 26th of June 1963, Bombay Flotilla crews numbering about 2,000 struck work on the demand for reference of their case to adjudication, revision of pay scales for certain categories and improved service condition. The strike was organised by the B.P.T. General Workers' Union, a constituent of the H.M.S. Federation. The strike was settled on the 27th June following assurance by the Shipping Minister to refer the matter to adjudication.

In September 1963, the Port and Dock Workers of all the major ports participated in the great march at Delhi.

In the year 1964, there was no instance of struggle in the major ports except the observance of Demands Day on the 25th July 1964 by Port, Dock & Waterfront Workers' Federation for a Wage Board to be constituted with the representatives of the three Federations. The 'B' category workers of Calcutta demonstrated on several occasions to voice their grievances for permanency in service.

The biggest strike in the Waterfront during the Third Plan Period was the 85-day long 3000 'B' Category workers' strike at Calcutta Port led by the Port & Dock Workers' Union. The strike was called off following reference of the issues to a Court.

An analysis of the struggle, will go to show that the Port & Dock Workers had two pronged struggles one on the dock side

and the other on the ports. This was due to some basic problems facing the workers' movement in the waterfront.

Problems Facing the Workers' Movement

The primary objective in the port operation is quicker turn round of ships calling at the ports. This depends on speed, efficiency and care with which cargo handling operation is carried out not only on board the vessels but also at shore as well as transportation of cargo by rail or road.

In the cargo handling operations two sets of workmen function. Those who are on shore are employed by the Port Commissioners, and those who work on board the ship are employed by the Stevedores through the Dock Labour Boards. These two sets of workers are complimentary to each other in the loading and unloading of ships in Indian ports. But two sets of autonomous administration namely Port Trust Commissioners and Dock Labour Boards are prevailing, controlled by two different ministries of the Government of India. At some foreign ports, however, one gang of workers, one part of whom work on the ship and another part on shore carry out the work.

In the past there was no uniformity in the pattern of administration. Three major ports namely Visakhapatnam, Kandla and Cochin were run departmentally by the Ministry of Transport. With the coming into force of the Major Port Trusts Act 1963, with effect from 29th February, 1964, the first Boards of Trustees were set up at these ports for their administration. The major port trust Act was also extended to Marmugao port with effect from 1st July, 1964, when the first Board of Trustees was constituted. Flowing from this new set up two sets of service conditions will prevail hereinafter viz. (a) those who were on Government service prior to the formation of the Port Trust Boards (b) those who will be appointed hereafter. Added to this, three sets of service rules are now prevailing in three major ports, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras administered by three different Ports Acts.

In the Dock side also according to Dock Workers employment scheme Dock Labour Boards are entrusted with the task of regulating the working conditions of the stevedoring workers, although according to the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act of 1948 the Scheme should have been drawn to regulate the employment of all waterfront workers.

There fore the key problem before the Port and Dock workers in the Major Ports was the standardisation of wages and uniformity in service conditions. This was sought to be solved by bringing the port workers under the purview of the Central Pay Commission; but it failed to achieve the desired results. In the Dock side different sets of piece-rate schemes in different ports could not solve the problem. There are some practical difficulties which hamper the bringing in of the Port and Dock workers of all the major ports in a uniform standard. Port transport work at the Docks is different from that of other industries, local conditions vary considerably from port to port, between cargo and cargo, between ship and ship, and even between the holds of the same ship or different ports of the same shed, so that a standard can hardly be laid down. As a result an unhealthy atmosphere prevails. Some adjudicators have stated that the work of the stevedore labour is more arduous than that of the port trust labour, but there was no evidence on the point and as such the adjudicators refrained from committing positively to either of the views. Suggestions from some quarters are that the stevedore workers should be at par with the shore workers in respect of wages as in the case of the Port of London. At one stage the stevedore workers in Bombay were being paid less than the shore workers. But this suggestion was not accepted by the adjudicators as the existing difference had been in existence since 1951.

Various Committees have been set up by the Government to investigate and make recommendations on the problems connected with the working conditions of the port and dock labour. But unfortunately the quality, foresight and imagination which is necessary in an industry whose functional objective is quicker turn round of ships are lacking and the out-turn of each of the committee's recommendations could not be implemented, unless authorities were compelled to do so. This can be illustrated by a few examples.

The report of the Central Pay Commission 1948 has been implemented in so far as allowances are concerned, in the year 1947, but not the scales of pay. In January 1955, the Vasist Committee was appointed to enquire into the workings of the various dock labour schemes and it was set up only after a lengthy go-slow movement by the dock workers. The Vasist Committee submitted its report in the month of September 1955 but its main recommendations have not yet been implemented. The Chowdhury Committee was constituted by Government in 1956 to investigate disparities and anomalies in the pay scales etc. of labour of all

major ports. This was due to the fact that the recommendations of the Pay Commission were not implemented in toto. It came into being after a widespread unrest in major ports. The report of the Chowdhury Committee was published in September 1957 and due to delay in implementing the recommendations, the major port and dock workers resorted to an all India strike in June 1958 resulting in the loss of approximately 4½ million man-hours. Jeejeebhoy Committee appointed to work out a Piece rate scheme for shore and stevedore labour in Calcutta submitted its report in August 1957. No decision could be reached on the subject until 1964, when a fresh scheme replacing the old scheme was introduced. The categorisation, classification committee was appointed on 23rd August 1958. It was asked to submit its report within six months. The C.C.C. actually submitted it on 28th May 1961. The report was given effect to in the year 1962 along with the recommendations of the Second Pay Commission with retrospective effect from 1st October 1957 and on 1st July 1959 respectively. A Wage Board was recommended during the Second Five Year Plan period. The Wage Board was appointed on the 13th of November, 1964. It has so far granted Interim Relief to the tune of Rs. 7/80 and a demand for Second Interim Relief is pending consideration. It is not known when the final report will come out.

Organisational Problems

The main weakness of the Trade Union movement in the Ports and Docks is the multiplicity of the Unions. There are altogether 52 unions functioning in the major ports. The number of unions at Bombay is 8, Calcutta 9, Cochin 16, Kandla 4, Madras 6, Marmugoa 5, Vishakhanatnam 4. Most of the unions are affiliated to one of the three All India Federations. The three Federations are affiliated to A.I.T.U.C., I.N.T.U.C. and H.M.S. Besides two unions of U.T.U.C. have one union each at Calcutta Port. There are quite a good number of craft committees in the Calcutta and Bombay Ports, which are reckoned with at the time of struggles.

The major strength of the H.M.S. Federation is located in Calcutta and Bombay. The source of the strength of I.N.T.U.C. is overall recognition by the authorities concerned. The A.I.T.U.C. is stronger than other Central organisations in five major ports other than Bombay and Calcutta, the two biggest ports in India.

The A.I.T.U.C. Unions in different ports suffer from another weakness. In some ports the major strength is on the dock side, as in the case of Madras, whereas at Vizag port side is comparatively stronger. At Kandla, Cochin and Goa, the strength in both the port and dock side is squarely distributed. But in Cochin, the number of A.I.T.U.C. unions are 6. Unless the A.I.T.U.C. unions at Calcutta and Bombay ports command the confidence of the majority of workers, the balance of forces, cannot be materially changed in the waterfront in India. This shortcoming has got to be overcome. Much of it depends on the success of our central functioning, because, now-a-days, the port and dock authorities meet the workers' demands under the guidance of their co-ordinated organisations called Inter Port Consultative Committee, whose directive is not to yield on the demands of the workers in isolation.

Reports on Hotel Workers in Bombay

By

P. V. UPAHDYAYA

It was under the leadership of the Hotel Mazdoor Sabha that the slogan for the the Minimum Wage to Hotel and Restaurant workers was raised first in Maharashtra. That was the time when there was no legislation worth the name to protect the Hotel and Restaurant workmen save the Bombay Shops & Establishments Act which was hardly sufficient to regulate their working conditions. Some of the provisions of the Shops Act needed modifications.

This class of workmen numbering more than a lakh in the City of Bombay alone, and spread over in 10,000 establishments and more, was subjected to the worst type of exploitation. The Hotel Mazdoor Sabha therefore demanded a minimum wage for this class of workmen and had to launch agitation for a number of years to achieve this demand. Side by side, the Sabha demands application of Payment of Wages Act, Provident Fund Act and other amenities like leave, regulated working hours, gratuity for the Hotel Workmen. The agitation of the Union was successful. The Government announced the formation of a Coimmittee. The General Secretary of the Hotel Mazdoor Sabha was one of the two members representing the employees on this Committee. The minimum wage worked out by this Committee came to be applied from October 1963.

The Hotel Mazdoor Sabha today claims membership in most of the large scale Hotels, leading Clubs, Canteens in major industrial and commercial establishments, medium and small Hotels.

The workmen organised under the Sabha have been able to achieve higher wages by introducing incremental scales, bonus, gratuity, sick leave and casual leave facilities.

In most of the big units, the Union has been successful in replacing the existing tip system with "service charges system". The service charges forming part of the bill are distributed equally among the employees periodically.

The element of Dearness Allowance was totally unknown to the Hotel workmen. The Hotel Mazdoor Sabha placed this demand before the management of Hotel Nataraj, a fashionable top grade Hotel in the City. The Union contended before the Tribunal that an award should be made for Dearness Allowance taking into consideration the paying capacity of the Hotel and more so on account of the unabated rising cost of living for the workers and their families. The Tribunal allowed the plea of the Union. The D.A. was fixed at graded rates i.e. Rs. 15/- or 15% with retrospective effect from April 1, 1965.

Another success of the Sabha was when it secured D.A. for workmen of the Canteen in the factory of Pfizer Private Ltd. run by Industrial Catering Services. As per the terms of the Agreement the D.A. is linked to the cost of living index.

The Hotel Mazdoor Sabha has consistently struggled for linking the wages of workers with the cost of living index. This struggle has to be intensified. The minimum granted by the Committee will become illusory if the minimum is not linked with living index and workers are not proportionately compensated.

To start with, after fixation of Minimum Wages, the Hotel Mazdoor Sabha launched agitation for a minimum Dearness Allowance of Rs. 15/- for all Hotel, Restaurant and allied industry workers. The minimum wage to the Hotel workers is losing its importance in the face of rising cost of living and hence relief by way of Dearness Allowance is urgently required. The Government, however accepted an increase of Rs. 5/- from 1st April 1965 as against the minimum demand of Rs. 15/- made by the Sabha.

In the initial period the characteristics of Canteens owned and conducted by Employees' Co-operative Societies for providing food articles to its members, presented difficulties. But the Union overcame the obstacles with the unity and strength of Canteen workers. The dispute between the workmen and the Accountant Generals' Office Staff Cooperative Consumers Society (Canteen and Stores) Ltd. Bombay was referred to Industrial Tribunal. The Tribunal awarded incremental scales and leave facilities. The minimum scale awarded is Rs. 10/- higher than the minimum fixed by Government.

Similarly the Sabha secured an interim relief of Rs. 17/- in the D.A. for workers of Bombay Presidency Radio Club, the membership of which consists of aristocratic strata of the Society.

The experience has taught the Union that managements of Hotels whether they are small or big units were flouting the implementation of labour laws, awards, settlements and/or agreements. As a result it was suggested that Government should appoint a Committee of the Employers and Workers to consider the problem and suggest remedies to remove the grievances. Thus the Government appointed a Committee which held a number of sittings. In the end it came out with a procedure to redress the grievances and Draft Standing Orders. These Standing Orders were signed recently by the Employers' Association and the Workers' Unions in the industry.

There are over 10,000 workers in the Canteens attached to commercial and industrial establishments in the city. Though Hotel and Canteen workers are doing similar jobs, Canteen workers are excluded from the operation of Minimum Wages Act and Shops and Establishments Act. This is a great injustice done by the Government. When the statutory acts are not made applicable to the Canteen, the managements are taking advantage of the situation by paying low wages, denying leave and holidays and compelling the workers to put in long hours of work. Though it is true that because of the organised strength of Canteen workers under the leadership of Hotel Mazdoor Sabha, the Canteen workers have been able to defeat the mala fide tactics of managements, it is necessary that the Canteen workers also should be protected by legislation without delay and brought on par with Hotel workers.

The most non-cooperative and vindictive are the managements of Co-operative Societies running the Canteens in the city. A good number of Canteens are run by different Co-operative Societies the membership of which consists of Government Employees as in the case of Income Tax Department, Accountant Generals Office, Central Telegraph, Western and Central Railways, Bombay Telephones, etc. These employees while agitating for their own demands with the Government, refuse ordinary facilities to the Canteen workers. Under the pretext of "losses" managements of these Societies continuously refuse to concede wage rise, or any other facility. When the workers agitate, they either threaten to close down or resort to retrenchment. A recent case is the closure of Canteen run by the Co-operative Society of Income Tax Employees. The Canteen was closed down without prior notice to the workers, not to speak of any compensation to the workers. This action has caused unemployment to 60 workers — all of them young boys attending Night Schools to better

their future by dint of hard labour. They lost the jobs on the eve of their annual examination. All decent language when dealing with these Societies has failed to convince the managements of Co-operative Societies for giving a fair deal to their workers and the situation needs an urgent solution.

Therefore the Union has organised a conference of Hotel and Canteen workers towards the end of this month to deliberate upon ways and means to bring pressure upon diehard managements to give relief immediately needed by the Canteen workers.

The Hotel and Canteen workers are today required to work 9 hours a day and for 54 hours a week, while all other workers in various industries work only for 8 hours a day and 48 hours a week. There is no reason why this discrimination and injustice should continue. The Hotel Mazdoor Sabha has repeatedly demanded reduction in the working hours of Hotel workers. It is high time now that Government should recognise the fairness of this demand and do away with discrimination.

Similarly there are other problems of Hotel and Canteen Workers. Provident Fund Act is no doubt applied: but only to such establishments which employ more than 20 workers. It means that thousands of Hotel workers employed in small establishments do not get the benefit of that Act. Similarly Canteens and Hotels are given to contractors on temporary basis and services of such workers are broken under the pretext of renewing or changing the contract.

Hotel workers are not given any casual leave or sick leave though Sabha has been able to secure this privilege in many Hotels and Canteens on its own strength. The recent Bonus Act also would not be applied to thousands of Hotel and Canteen workers.

The Industry still employs child labour. Agitation has been carried on in the past but with little effect on the Government.

The Conference referred to above will discuss all the problems enumerated above and vital decisions will be taken and future course of action decided. The Hotel and Canteen workers will be further organised on the basis of the slogans which will be evolved by the Conference.

Report on Woollen Textile Industry in India

By

PARDHUMAN SINGH

*By Pardhuman Singh, General Secretary,
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The climatic conditions in India do not require a big Woollen Textile Industry. Only in some parts especially in the northern areas the need for woollen goods is felt. Here also the low purchasing power of the people and the high cost of Woollen goods inhibit the growth of this industry. Another inhibiting factor is the lack of long staple wool in this country.

Apart from the above this industry has made rapid progress since we gained independence in 1947 and especially in the Second and Third Plan periods.

I. Spinning and Weaving on Powerlooms

In 1947 we had 48,000 Woollen Spindles, 37,500 worsted spindles and 1,500 powerlooms; as against this we had at the end of the Second Plan period i.e. in 1961-62, 64,973 Woollen Spindles 1,24,664 worsted spindles and more than 4,000 looms. During this period production increased from 7.75 million kgs. of Woollen/Worsted Yarn and 11.10 million metres of cloth to 18.01 million kgs. of Woollen/Worsted Yarn and 18.28 million metres of cloth.

The targets for the Third Plan ending 1965-66 were 32 million metres of cloth and 23.6 million kgs. of Yarn. These targets have been nearly fulfilled. Thus we have an increase of nearly 300% in the installed capacity and in production in the 15 years of planning.

Apart from Spinning and Weaving, there was no wool combing plant in India at the beginning of the First Plan, but now we have 9 Wool Combing Units with a licensed capacity of

15.57 million kgs. There are also 45 Combers with 7 Woollen Mills capable of producing 3.2 million kgs.

(Note:—The difference between woollen and worsted branches of the Industry is that in the worsted process of preparing the raw wool for spinning only the long fibres are subjected to combing and the combed wool in the form of wool tops is spun into yarn. No combing is necessary on the woollen side where the shortest staple is spun utilising not only virgin wool but also rags. Worsted fabrics include shawls, serges, suitings and knitted goods whereas woollen fabrics include blankets, tweeds, meltons, flannels and blazers).

The State-wise distribution of spindles and looms at the beginning of the Second Plan was as under:—

Distribution of Spindles and Looms

<i>States</i>	<i>Woollen spindles.</i>	<i>Worsted spindles</i>	<i>Looms</i>
Punjab	20,402	25,182	2,558
Maharashtra and Gujarat	12,226	47,936	605
U.P.	12,358	9,672	368
Mysore	10,478	—	221
Saurashtra	2,130	7,032	84
Kashmir	1,542	1,500	181
			(now 172)
West Bengal	1,380	5,094	76
Madhya Bharat	516	—	20

In 1952 there were 34 composite woollen mills and 251 powerloom units, 18 of the mills were situated in Punjab, 5 in Maharashtra, 3 in West Bengal, 2 each in Gujarat, Mysore and U.P. and 1 each in Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. All the powerloom units were in Punjab.

From the above we find that this industry is mainly situated in Punjab and Maharashtra. 75% of Weaving is done in Punjab. In Punjab the industry is concentrated in Amritsar and Ludhiana. Amritsar is the biggest Woollen Cloth Manufacturing Centre in India.

II. Handlooms

Before the advent of powerlooms, Loos and pattaos, rough blankets and carpets were manufactured on handlooms in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, U.P. and Punjab. In Mysore and Himalayan regions e.g. Kulu superior wool was used for finer blankets and tweeds. Famous pashmina fabrics were made in Kashmir.

With the import of long staple Merino Wool, mill spun yarn has partly substituted the hand spun yarn in handlooms.

According to the report of the Village and Small-scale Industries Committee, the estimated production of wollen cloth in the cottage sector was 4.5 million yards at the beginning of the Second Plan when about 80,000 handlooms worked on wollens. The fly-shuttle looms numbering about 18,000 used mill spun yarn.

With the rapid growth of powerloom weaving and power spinning, this branch of industry declined and there was a considerable amount of idle capacity in this sector. To utilise this idle capacity the Government allowed a price preference in purchase of blankets etc., manufactured on handlooms and the All India Handloom Board provided assistance during the Second Plan period.

This industry mainly depends on Defence and Hospital orders from the Government. If there is a spurt in Government buying, there is a spurt of activity in this sector.

III. Woollen Carpets and Rugs

India achieved a high level of excellence in this field before the British. Originally this industry was in Central Asia and it came to India in the wake of the Afghans and the Turks. Because of intense exploitation by the British, the carpets made in India were cheaper than the Central Asian products. Because of the overseas demand for Indian carpets, factories were established mainly in Amritsar.

But as other industries, this industry also declined gradually.

At the time of independence, the size of the industry in three most important centres of carpet manufacture was as under:—

Mirzapur : 290 active and 62 idle carpet weaving looms
owned by 145 loom owners.

Srinagar : 5 Carpet factories.

Amritsar : 7 Carpet factories.

Apart from the above there was a carpet factory in Gwalior and 250 Carpet looms were operating in the Mysore State mainly in Bangalore.

At the end of the Second Plan the position as investigated in case of Kashmir by the Development Commissioner and in the rest of India according to 'Large Industrial Establishments' was as under:—

Kashmir : 13 Carpet Factories with 320 looms, 80 Cottage units with 400 looms.

Madras : 31 Registered Factories.

U.P. : 8 Registered Factories.

Maharashtra : 5 Registered Factories.

Punjab : 4 Registered Factories.

Mysore : 4 Registered Factories.

Rajasthan : 4 Registered Factories.

Andhra Pradesh : 3 Registered Factories.

Madhya Pradesh : 3 Registered Factories.

Among the woollen manufactures, carpets and other woollen floor coverings constitute the major group in exports. Total value of exports in 1960-61 was Rs. 4.8 crores; it was 4.3 crores in 1961-62.

IV. Hosiery

The most important centre of this branch of industry is Ludhiana (Punjab). According to 'Wealth of India', the first ever woollen hosiery factory started work in Ludhiana in 1884. In 1902 the Dhariwal Mills added a hosiery section.

The Industry expanded after 1928 and especially in 1932-33. During the Second World War the industry had to cater to Defence needs, hence it expanded further.

In 1951-52 it was estimated that 875 units manufactured woollen hosiery in the country. Out of these 805 were in Ludhiana, 30 in Amritsar, 8 in Jullundur, 15 in West Bengal, 10 in U.P., 5 in Bombay and 2 in Delhi. Besides these 4 big composite woollen mills viz. Cawnpore Woollen Mills, Kanpur, New Egerton Woollen Mills, Dhariwal, Raymond Wollen Mills, Bombay and Mahaluxmi Woollen Mills, Bombay had hosiery sections.

In the beginning of the Second Plan, according to survey undertaken by the Development Commissioner Small Scale Industries there were 908 woollen hosiery units in the country apart from hosiery section in the 4 above mentioned mills, out of which

803 units were in Punjab, 98 in Jammu & Kashmir, 3 in Mysore and 1 each in Maharashtra, Delhi, Rajasthan and U.P.

In Ludhiana more than 90% units worked on a Cottage Scale.

This industry is seasonal in character and its main problem is high prices of hosiery yarn.

At the time of independence the value of the output was only Rs. 54 lakhs but it rose to Rs. 123 lakhs in 1948 and Rs. 205 lakhs in 1950.

The total output reached the level of 5.0 million lbs. in 1956, the mills accounting for 9%, the small scale organised units for 21% and small scale unorganised units for 70%.

Main Problem faced by the Industry

I. Raw Materials

Because of the fact that long staple wool is not available in India, the industry has to depend on import of this wool and wool tops from other countries.

The Government of India because of growing scarcity of foreign exchange especially in the Third Five Year Plan period has been continuously reducing the imports of the raw materials for the industry with the result that apart from big composite mills, the medium and small scale units whether in spinning, weaving or in hosiery continuously face great difficulties and most of them have to work on a seasonal basis.

To overcome this the need of the hour was to start on a big scale the breeding of the type of sheep which has long staple wool. Merino the long staple wool was ordinarily found in Spain but it has been successfully developed in other wool producing countries e.g. Australia, Italy, Britain etc.

The Government has set up an All India Development Council for Woollen Textile Industry but this body mainly deals with distribution of yarn etc. Some farms have also been set up by the Government to breed the required type of sheep but the work is half-hearted. In the absence of indigenous supply of long staple wool, the distribution of imported wool and wool tops should be more scientific and should be on the basis of actual requirements i.e. on the basis of use of raw material per spindle. The big sharks corner most of the imported raw material and the medium and smaller units go on suffering.

Hence the distribution of raw materials should be on the basis of actual use and there should be some stability in the policies of the Government in this respect. The changing policies harm the industry. Similarly the distribution of yarn is very defective. Hosiery units, small weaving units and small handloom units are the worst sufferers. Though the Government has controlled the prices of yarn through Woollen Yarn Prices Control Orders, these units do not get yarn at controlled rates and they have to pay black market prices. Even then they are at the mercy of spinners. The Government must evolve a fool-proof system by which yarn is distributed through a Government agency on the per loom basis.

III. Taxation Policy

The excise policy of the Government in case of the Woollen Textile industry has been ever changing and erratic. Especially the policy of giving exemption at first to 4-loom units and then to one-loom units has led to bifurcation of medium units. Anybody can see that a four-loom woollen unit is not cottage industry. This policy has led to disintegration of the industry and to reduction in the quality of goods manufactured.

Moreover the policy has been ever changing which has led to instability.

The Government should, therefore, have a stable policy and the policy of exemptions should be abolished.

The Workers: Their Struggles, Gains and Problems

Punjab :

The biggest concentration of installed capacity in this industry is in the Punjab; the biggest concentration of workers of this industry is therefore also in Punjab. The workers of the Woollen Textile Industry have waged glorious battles during the Third Five Year Plan period. These struggles have been fought on the questions of Minimum Wages, Dearness Allowance, Bonus, Gratuity, Grades and Scales, Paid Festival Holidays, Paid Casual and Sick Leave etc., and against retrenchment, lay off etc.

These struggles have taken the shape of Court struggles as also strikes in individual mills, as well as general strikes.

The biggest struggle in this period was fought on the question of Minimum Wages in 1965, along with workers of the Art Silk Industry. General strikes took place in Amritsar, Ludhiana

and Kharar on this question. Whereas 10,000 workers fought a 10-day struggle in Ludhiana, the 20,000 workers of Amritsar waged a glorious 53-day strike inspite of severe repression, the use of the D.I.R., full use of official machinery and all the onslaughts of the employers. The strike ended in a victory. The Minimum Wages notification was implemented in case of time-rated workers giving them a rise of Rs. 5|- to Rs. 40|- per month. In case of piece-rated workers the Government accepted the principle of minimum time rate unlinked with production for these workers and the matter was entrusted to a committee to work out the details. In the meantime these workers got 24% increase in rates of wages — a big increase indeed !

Also there was no victimisation, all the cases were withdrawn and 2,000 workers and leaders were released forthwith. The question of wages for the strike period was entrusted to a tripartite committee. It is still pending.

Due to war with Pakistan and now reorganisation of the State, these matters i.e. questions of minimum time-rate unlinked with production, wages for strike period etc., are still pending.

Fixing of the Minimum Wages by the State Government for various categories of the woollen industry for which the workers had been continuously agitating and struggling for the last 10 years was a big gain for the workers. These wages are given in Annexure 'A'. For the time-rated workers there was a gain of Rs. 5|- to Rs. 40|- p.m.; for piece-rated workers, time rate was fixed at the rate of Rs. 175|- p.m.

Other gains in this period.

1. Grades and Scales :— In nearly 20 medium and big units, grades and scales were fixed providing regular increments to time-rated workmen for 15 years. The grades fixed were :—

Unskilled	..	60-2-80-3-95.
Semi-Skilled 'A'	..	70-2-90-3-105.
Semi-Skilled 'B'	..	75-3-105-4-125.
Skilled 'A'	..	100-4-140-5-165.
Skilled 'B'	..	110-4-150-5-175.
Highly Skilled	..	150-8-230-10-250.

In view of the new minimum wages notification, these grades are being revised and now the grades are :

Unskilled	..	75-3-105-4-125.
Semi-Skilled 'A'	..	90-3-120-4-140.
Semi-Skilled 'B'	..	100-4-140-5-165.
Skilled 'A'	..	115-4-155-5-180.
Skilled 'B'	..	125-5-175-6-205.
Highly Skilled	..	175-6-235-7-270.

2. *Gratuity Schemes* :— In many units gratuity schemes have been introduced. Main features are :—

In case of death of the worker :	One month's basic wages per year of service.
In case of termination of services after 5 years service :	15 days' basic wages per year of service.
In case of being unfit to work due to old age or continuous ill health but after 15 years service :	One month's basic wages per year of service.

In some cases there are additional provisions :

- 1) On retirement at the age of 60 years. 15 days consolidated wages per year of service.
- 2) On resignation after 15 -do-

In a recent award of the Industrial Tribunal, gratuity at the rate of 15 days' consolidated wages is payable to a dismissed worker who has put in more than 5 years' service.

3. *Festival Holidays, Casual Leave and Sick Leave* :— In dozens of mills and factories the workers were able to secure six paid festival holidays, 7 days paid casual leaves and 7 days paid sick leaves in a year.

The facility became so widespread that the State Government has now enacted a legislation providing 7 paid festival holidays, seven days paid casual leave and 14 days half-paid sick leave for all registered factories. Unregistered factories already provide these holidays and leaves according to Shops and Commercial Establishments Act.

4. *Dearness Allowance* :— In most of the mills there were consolidated Wages. In some D.A. was separate. When the prices

rose exorbitantly during the Third Plan, the workers demanded and secured Dearness Allowance or rise in Dearness Allowance from Rs. 8|- to Rs. 12|- p.m.

5. *Bonus* :— In most of the medium and big Woollen Mills the workers have been able to secure bonus at the rate of 25 days' to 2½ months' consolidated wages.

During the Chinese and the Indo-Pak Conflicts.

The woollen workers of the Punjab along with their brothers in other industries played a glorious role during the Indo-Pak conflict. The workers joined in their hundreds the Home Guard and Civil Defence organisations. During the Chinese Aggression the workers gave one day's wages to the National Defence Fund. During Indo-Pak War, workers ran free canteens for the Army, donated blood etc. The workers increased production, kept their disputes pending and helped the Defence effort in every way.

Report on Cashew Industry

By

A. SHANTARAM PAI

All fruits have their seeds inside the fruit. But the Cashew fruit has its seed outside at the bottom of the bell shaped fruit. Unlike all other fruits Cashew fruit is unique. So also are the problems of the Cashewnut Industry.

In the modern industrial set-up in India, Cashewnut industry may not be very important but it has a very important place on the West Coast along the Arabian Sea from Mangalore to Trivandrum in the two states of Mysore and Kerala. Employment potential is great because very little machinery is involved in the process of manufacture of the finished product. It is unique because the entire labour force consists of women workers. It is a vital industry on the West Coast because, among the dollar earning products, Cashewnut holds a proud place.

The industry is mainly confined to Quilon, Calicut and Mangalore areas on the West Coast, where factories exist. In Sriakulam District in Andhra Pradesh and Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra, Cashewnut industry exists on a small scale and there are no organised factories. So the virtual monopoly of this industry is held by the Kerala State and the Mangalore area of the Mysore State. Kerala accounts for 85% of the industry and the rest is in the Mangalore area of the Mysore State.

The industry gets its supply of raw nuts both from within India as well as from the East African countries like Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia. The bulk of money of this industry flows into these two states and gets distributed among the cultivators as price of nuts, among the merchants as their share of profit and commission, among the workers as their share of wages and to the Central and state exchequers as Income-tax and Sales-tax etc.

The industry gives not only direct but also indirect employment to workers manufacturing packing cases and tin containers.

The Shell liquid (oil) is an important by-product and it has a wide demand in America and Japan.

Origin and Growth

Cashewnut is a delicacy with high nutritive value. It was never an item of nutmeat in the past. The kernel was extracted from the nut, raw or roasted and eaten by the people. Only by about 1925-30, certain enterprising people in Mangalore and Quilon conceived the idea of making an industry of it and marketing the kernels on a commercial scale.

This industry with its small beginning rose to prominence in about 1935 and especially in the forties. Absence of sales-tax and encouragement given by the then Travancore state government accounts for the rapid rise of this industry in Quilon area. In 1941 there was only one registered factory but by February 1953 the number of registered factories rose to 190. In Mangalore, factories were bigger and better organised with pucca buildings and their number was 12. In Quilon area the number of persons employed in all the factories was estimated at 65,000 and in Mangalore area 7,500. In Quilon area 6 employers owned about 85 factories among themselves. In Mangalore area 5 employers owned 10 factories.

Capital investment in the form of fixed assets is small. What is required is factory buildings. Machinery is used at two stages—roasting and drying. The main investment is on raw nuts. The proportion between the cost of raw materials and labour for every ton of kernels would be in the ratio of 20:3.

The processing of cashew is interesting. The nuts are soaked in water and taken to the roasting plant (or drums) where roasting and shell oil extraction takes place. After roasting they go to the centrifuge and then they are given for shelling. Shelling is done with a wooden mallet and the kernels are extracted whole or in pieces. They are then put in the drier and given for peeling the husk. Then they are graded. Then follows tin filling and vitapacking. Kernel is the main product and shell oil is the by-product.

Since the above-mentioned process involves manual work, each factory employs a large labour force mainly comprising of women workers.

The most disagreeable part of work is shelling. The workers are subjected to the risk of shell oil and blisters are seen

all over their hands and feet. Peeling work is more difficult because it requires care. The grading work is most skilful because only training gives the workers the knack of picking kernels of the correct size. Shelling, peeling and grading absorb the largest number of workers exclusively women. Hard jobs like carrying of bags etc., are done by the male workers who are very few in each factory. Shelling and peeling are paid by the piece-rate. Graders and other types of workers are paid by the time-rate. No Dearness allowance was paid till 1960. But since then D.A. is being paid in Kerala.

The workers are organised in Trade Unions. There are about 22 Trade Unions in this industry on the West Coast with affiliations to AITUC, INTUC and UTUC.

The industry has made steady progress in all these years as will be evident from the following tables :

		<i>Export</i>	
		<i>Kernels Value in (crores of Rupees)</i>	<i>Shell oil</i>
1939-40	.. ..	1.24	
1949-50	.. ..	5.60	
1951-52	.. ..	9.03	
1961	.. ..		Rs. 63,69,452
1962	.. ..	18.50	Rs. 65,84,051
1963	.. ..	21.76	Rs. 99,55,156
1964	.. ..	26.49	2.03

Import of Cashewnuts from East African countries and local production.

<i>Period</i>	<i>Import tons</i>	<i>Local tons</i>
1953	82,000	46,000
1954	66,100	51,000
1955	55,350	70,000
1956	71,457	55,000
1957	92,480	60,000

The number of countries to which Cashewnuts are exported has been on the increase. The monopoly of U.S.A. has been broken by the U.S.S.R. by making substantial purchases. Cashewnut is exported to 35 countries of Asia, Africa, Europe and America. The state governments of Kerala, Mysore and Madras have given great assistance for the cultivation of raw nuts on plantation basis and Indian production has been on the increase in the course of the last few years of the Third Plan. The Industry has seen steady prosperity and made great progress and the latest figure of export in value is Rs. 33 crores. Though the industry has made progress the conditions of the workers are deplorable. The workers are sweated. Ordinary amenities are not available. In the entire industry the existing wages are paid as fixed by the Minimum Wages Committee. The wage rate has never gone above the level fixed by the Minimum Wages Committee even in a single case.

A socio-economic survey was conducted in Kerala. The survey covered 1,222 families from various taluks of Quilon District. The Minimum Wages Committee in Kerala in its report in 1952 has this to say on the earning of the workers.

“The condition of the house is an index of the prosperity or poverty of the worker concerned. The nature of the houses in which the workers live will be clear from the table given below. It analyses the distribution of 1,000 houses classified in terms of the types of walls and roofs. About fifty per cent of the houses have mud walls and 90 per cent are thatched.

<i>Walls</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Thatched</i>	<i>Tiled</i>
Plastered	54	44	10
Wood	20	20	—
Bricks	278	266	12
Mud	497	495	2
Thatties	151	151	—
	1,000		

“There are approximately 613 persons per 100 families. The age and sex composition of these 613 persons are shown in the table below. There is clearly a preponderance of females over males (1,205 females for every 1,000 males). The 1951 census has shown that for Quilon District there are 1,007 females per

1,000 males. The sex ratio in the working families is on the high side. A study of the age-groups shows that this abnormal ratio results from the great excess of females over males in the age group of 15-54. The sex ratio in this groups is 1,268 females to 1,000 males. This points to one or other or a combination of both of two alternatives : (1) Males in the earning age group 15-54 have gone out in search of a livelihood or (2) females in the earning age group not directly connected with the family — may be distant relations — live in the household. It is believed that the second alternative is more probable. Cashew industry being predominantly 'manned' by women, distant relations or paying guests who came in search of work might be present on a fairly large scale in the families of workers.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Below 5	97	47	50
5—14	137	62	75
15—24	137	58	79
25—54	201	91	110
55 and over	41	20	21
Total	613	278	335

It may not be out of place to point in this connection that the percentage of workers in the age group 15 to 54 is 55 and in other age groups 45. Thus more than half the inmates in the family belong to the age group of 15 to 54.

The percentage of literates is 26.4, the figure for males and females being 30.4 and 23.1 respectively. The recent Census has shown that 48.5 per cent are literate in the Quilon District; the corresponding figures for males and females being 57.6 and 39.5. The low literacy ratio among cashew workers calls for comment.

One of the reasons for the low literacy ratio may be the backwardness of the community from which the majority of workers are drawn. As has been pointed out elsewhere, the shelling section is mainly filled by agricultural labourers who belong mostly to scheduled castes and castes on the border line. The percentage of literacy in these communities is small. The reason for the same is that the youths of the community seldom attend schools. The unskilled work for which the boy or the girl gets paid whether within the factory or outside it is a relief to the parents whose earnings are meagre. Probably their

earning is an absolute necessity to keep the pot boiling. One does not know whether it is under-nourishment or over-statement of the age; but the fact remains that the committee during their itinerary met boys and girls who appeared to be below their teens working in the factories.

In the long run lack of education will prove detrimental to the progress of the community. The Committee, therefore, wish to draw the attention of the Trade Unions, the Employers, Adult education organisers, the Government and those sections of the public who take interest in social service to take up the question of liquidating illiteracy among the adults and promoting school going habits among the children. Also the provisions regarding the prohibition of child labour may be more strictly enforced."

The income in a cashewnut working class family is about Rs. 64 per mensem. The components of this income are shown in the table below :

SOURCE OF INCOME			
<i>Earners</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Cashew</i>	<i>Others</i>
Persons	2.91	1.81	1.10
Males	1.32	0.36	0.96
Females	1.59	1.45	0.14

INCOME PER WORKER (Rs.)			
<i>Earners</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Cashew</i>	<i>Others</i>
Persons	22.1	18.6	28.1
Males	28.13	25.11	29.15
Females	16.7	16.9	15.4
Average family income	64.2	33.2	31.0

SOURCE OF INCOME			
<i>Earners</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Cashew</i>	<i>Others</i>
Persons	100	517	48.3
Males	59.3	14.3	45.0
Females	40.6	57.4	3.3

An average family of 6.13 members consists of 2.91 earners and 3.22 non-earners. Almost 62 per cent of the earners were employed in cashewnut industry while the remaining 35 per cent had other means of livelihood. 52 per cent of the total income came from the cashewnut industry and the rest from other sources.

Thus even though 62 per cent of the earners were devoted to this industry, it brought in only 52 per cent of the total income. The table above gives the break-up of the income as percentage of total. Thus females contribute 41 per cent of income which is almost wholly from cashew industry. Males on the other hand bring in 59 per cent of the family income and this is earned mostly from other sources. The table below shows the average income per worker and the days of work and the average earnings.

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Average No. of days of work</i>		<i>Average income per worker.</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Cashew	24	24	25-11-0	16-9-0
Others	22	19	22-15-0	15-4-0

This analysis clearly brings out the fact that the cashew industry is relatively more important to the female workers than to the male workers.

The burden of dependents on the earners in the family seriously affects the economy of the household. In the previous paragraph it has already been stated that in a family of 6.13 members only 2.91 are earners. Thus every 100 earners have to support 211 persons including themselves. The burden of dependency is therefore not great among the cashewnut workers.

There is however an indication of unemployment among them. In a household, total number of persons in the age group 15-54 is 3.38 and the number of earners is only 2.91. Thus 14 per cent of persons in the working age group 15 to 54 are unemployed. In respect of males, out of 1.49 in the age group 15 to 54 only 1.32 are employed which means that 11 per cent males are unemployed while among females, the percentage of the unemployed is 16.

Even though the family income according to the results of the investigation, is only Rs. 64.2 the monthly expenditure of the family is Rs. 73-14-0. This means a monthly deficit of Rs. 9-12-0. It is hard to believe that a working class family can consistently fall into debt to the extent of almost Rs. 10 a month. May be, this is made up by the small earnings of the boys and girls in the family or some of the indispensable items of expenditure are not incurred at all.

The expenditure pattern is shown in the table below :

	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Food ..	Rs. 50-14-0	68.8
Clothing ..	7- 0-0	9.5
Rent ..	2- 2-0	2.9
Fuel and light ..	13- 0-0	3.8
Miscellaneous ..	11- 1-0	15.0
Total ..	Rs. 73-14-0	100.0

Almost 69 per cent of the income is spent on food stuffs while 10 per cent is spent on clothing and 15 per cent on miscellaneous needs. It is obvious that the life based on such a distribution can only be one of hand to mouth existence."

(Minimum Wages Committee Report, 1952)

Family Budget Revision and Minimum Wages

Details concerning the family budget survey conducted by the Statistics Department and the family budget provided by the previous Committee are given in Appendix No. 8.

For the purpose of comparison the family budget as obtained from the survey, and as computed by the previous Committee are given below :

Family Budget

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Sample survey</i>	<i>Previous Committee</i>	<i>Present Committee</i>
		Rs.As.P.	Rs.As.P.	Rs.As.P.
1.	Food ..	50-14-0	93- 2-0	83-13-0
2.	Clothing ..	7- 0-0	9-14-0	9-14-0
3.	Rent or house maintenance	2- 2-0	2- 2-0	5- 0-0
4.	Fuel and Lighting	2-13-0	2-13-0	
5.	Miscellaneous ..	11- 1-0	11- 1-0	24-11-0
	Total ..	73-14-0	119- 0-0	123- 6-0

Thus the revised family expenditure is Rs. 123-6-0 at the cost of living index of 365. At the cost of living index of 200 it would be Rs. 67.534. At the index of 400 allowing for a neutralisation of 85 per cent for all points above 200 the family expenditure would be Rs. 125,171. This is the amount which must be earned by the earners in the family namely 1.32 males and 1.59 females. The earning members, males and females jointly, are equivalent to 3.57 females earners on the basis of the ratio 3:2, that is 3 women being taken as the equivalent of 2 men. Estimating the number of days of work as 25 days in the month, the daily wage of the woman worker has to be 140 naye paise if the income from the wages of the earning members is to be sufficient for covering the family expenditure; correspondingly the wage of a male worker has to be 210 naye paise.

The Committee therefore came to the conclusion that at the cost of living index of 400 the minimum wage of a woman worker has to be approximately 140 naye paise and that of a male worker approximately 210 naye paise."

(Minimum Wages Committee, 1959)

"Even for this hand to mouth existence there is a gap of Rs. 9-12-0 per month. This gap if allowed to continue will mean deterioration in the standards of life and health of the working class. The increasing indebtedness of the industrial working class will in the ultimate analysis lead to deterioration in industry with grave danger to national economy.

The discussion in Chapter II will bear out that the industry can afford to give at least a small percentage of rise in wages regard being had to the cost of production and the price of raw material.

In the Industrial Dispute No. 8 of 1124 between Messrs. Pierce Leslie & Co., Ltd., (Kundara) and their Workmen, the workmen demanded increase in wages. The industrial tribunal in their award kept open the question of the increase of wages and recommended that the Government order an enquiry into the matter on an industrywise basis. The Government in pursuance of the above recommendation appointed a Court of Enquiry but the same was withdrawn on the appointment of this Minimum Wages Committee. Under the circumstances detailed above the fixing of the minimum rates of wages for the Cashewnut Industry is important in the interests of the Industry."

(Minimum Wages Committee Report, 1952)

The position is much worse now. The Second Minimum Wages Committee appointed in 1959 carried forward the work of the 1952 Committee and collected the data. It found the average earnings of the workers in the Quilon area as follows :

	<i>Shelling</i>	<i>Peeling</i>	<i>Grading.</i>
	Rs.As.P.	Rs.As.P.	Rs.As.P.
Average for the industry as a whole	1- 0-7	0-13-9	1- 3-5

It further stated:

“Though the wages are said to be uniform, they are only uniform on a fictitious basis. Actually for the same wages there are different workloads in different factories and sometimes the variations are considerable. (Vide Appendix No. VII).

This Committee noted that in some factories the customary load is so high that workers are unable to complete the work assigned in the course of the day. Thus the earnings of the workers are pulled down to a level not intended by the previous Committee.”

(Minimum Wages Committee Report, 1959, page 11)

Apart from this, the worker's annual wages are adversely affected because work is not provided all through the year and lay-off without wages is resorted to. The following table gives the analysis of the information available with the Chief Inspector of Factories.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of factories which submitted annual returns</i>	<i>Total No. of days worked</i>	<i>Average</i>
1955	88	19,967	226
1956	70	14,840	212
1957	95	21,510	226
Average for the 3 years :			222

From the above it is evident that work is provided only for 8 to 8½ months in a year. Rest of the period the workers have to fend for themselves without any help.

It is from this deplorable wage condition the Minimum Wages Committee in the year 1960 fixed the minimum wages. Besides the basic wages the Committee granted dearness allowance linked to Cost of Living Index.

Basic Wage

		<i>Piece-Rate</i>
Sheller	.. ..	9 paise per pound.
Peeler	.. ..	11 paise per pound.
		<i>Time Rate</i>
Grader	.. ..	140 paise per day.
Male Worker	.. ..	205 to 260 paise per day.

Over and above this, Dearness Allowance at the rate of 1 paise per day for every increase of 3 points in the Cost of Living Index above 400 for Quilon.

This Committee also made general recommendations, which are :—

- (1) The labour laws should be enforced more strictly by Government than at present.
- (2) Government should prohibit by suitable legislation the plucking of nuts before they are properly ripe.
- (3) Steps should be taken to persuade the Government of other States to introduce minimum wages in the cashew industry.
- (4) The Industrial Relations Committee for Cashew Industry for Quilon should be expanded and its scope widened so as to include within its purview the entire industry in the Kerala State.
- (5) The Government should adopt a more liberal policy for bringing about rapid expansion in the area of Cashewnut cultivation.
- (6) Government should follow in general a policy of restricting the establishment of new factories.

(Minimum Wages Committee Report, 1959, page 33)

In Mysore State the Government fixed the Minimum wages in July 1960 which are as under :

1) Shellers	.. ..	9 paise per pound.
2) Peelers	.. ..	11 paise per pound.
3) Graders	.. ..	Rs. 1.36 per day.
4) Male Workers	.. ..	Rs. 2.30 per day.

The above rates were made all inclusive and no separate Dearness allowance was granted in the Mysore State for Mangalore area. Thus the workers in Mangalore were at a greater disadvantage than their co-workers in Kerala State.

The worker's earnings are determined on the above — State Minimum Wage — rates even till to-day.

The Struggle :

The Cashew workers though women, have very militant traditions. They have fought great strike battles for improvement of their conditions of work and living. They fought for every little benefit which they enjoy at present. These struggles have been conducted by the AITUC Unions and those belonging to the UTUC.

Of the recent struggles, the strike conducted in 1960 July-August for the implementation of the recommendation of the Minimum Wages Committee to pay dearness allowance linked to Cost of Living Index in Kerala was most memorable.

It was jointly fought by all the Unions affiliated to AITUC, INTUC and UTUC involving about 65,000 workers. It lasted 27 days throughout the Quilon area where marvels of workers' heroism were shown by the workers.

The Minimum Wages Committee's recommendation was accepted by the Kerala Government and a notification was issued by it to pay D.A. linked to Cost of Living Index of Quilon. On the basis of figures for Quilon each worker would have got 25 paise as D.A. The Employers filed a writ in the High Court challenging the Minimum Wages Notification of the Government. The workers struck demanding implementation of the notification and payment of D.A. But, after 27 days the strike was withdrawn following a tri-partite agreement, reached. The Dearness allowance was fixed at 15 paise instead of 25 paise on the basis of the new formula. It was then raised to 25, 34 and 52 paise as from 1-1-1965 per worker per day. The Dearness Allowance now is paid on this basis.

Similarly in Mangalore area the workers carried on agitation for fixation of Minimum Wages. Mysore Government fixed Minimum Wages by notification in July 1960. The AITUC Union raised the demand for Dearness Allowance. The matter was referred to the Tribunal in the year 1963. The Tribunal awarded 50 paise flat rate of D.A. with effect from 21-8-1965.

The Employers filed a writ in the Mysore High Court challenging the award of the Industrial Tribunal. The 3,000 workers struck work from 13-10-1965 demanding implementation of the award and payment of D.A. The demand for payment of bonus as per Bonus Act was also made. The strike struggles lasted for about 5 months. Only 2 factories employing about 3,500 workers are paying D.A. now. The High Court has remanded the dispute back to the Tribunal for re-hearing. It is being heard again by the Industrial Tribunal. It was one of the glorious strikes and the longest one, in the history of Cashew Workers. Interim settlement has been reached.

The workers are conducting struggles for ensuring full guaranteed work, work throughout the year, adequate Dearness Allowance, payment of lay-off wages by declaration of Cashew factories as non-seasonal and other facilities. The Cashew workers are one of the well organised contingents of the Indian working class.

A Note on Iron & Steel

By

NIHAR MUKHERJEE

As against two major steel plants with aggregate output of 1.5 million tonnes, both in the private sector, at the beginning of the Second Plan, the iron and steel industry today comprises of six steel plants. Among these two are in the private sector-Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., at Jamshedpur and Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., at Burnpur. The public sector plants are at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur under the Hindustan Steel Ltd., and at Bhadravati, under the Mysore Iron & Steel Ltd. An integrated steel plant under Bokaro Steel Ltd., in the public sector will join as a major unit of the industry soon.

To cater to the requirements in the field of alloy steel, hitherto solely dependent on imperialist sources, a plant with an initial capacity of one lakh tonnes of ingot with provision to expand ultimately to 300,000 tonnes is also being set up at Durgapur. The plant has already started supplying the badly needed special and alloy steels in the form of ingots and semis to various consuming industries and is expected to go into market for finished steels by the end of this year when the finishing mills will be commissioned one by one.

Excluding alloy steel project and the Bokaro plant, as per statement of accounts for the year 1963-64, the subscribed capital of the six plants was Rs. 470.11 crores, comprising Rs. 54.11 crores in the private sector and Rs. 416.00 crores in the public sector.

The loan capital of the industry was to the tune of Rs. 434.64 crores comprising Rs. 75.17 crores in the private sector and Rs. 360.47 crores in the public sector.

The total reserves with the steel plants amounted to Rs. 146.16 crores — Rs. 145.41 crores in the private sector and Rs. 0.75 crores in the public sector in 1963-64. The latter figure represented the reserves of Mysore Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., and HSL had no reserve by that year.

The total capital employed in the industry including share capital, borrowings and reserves in Rs. 1051.91 crores, Rs. 274.69 crores in the private sector and Rs. 777.22 crores in the public sector.

The industry gives employment to over 1.30 lakh workers — 55,000 in the private sector and 75,000 in the public sector.

The estimated capacity of all the steel plants in 1963-64 was 6.03 million tonnes. Whereas capital employed per tonne of production figured at Rs. 1752 for the industry as a whole, for the private sector, it was Rs. 915 and public sector - Rs. 2560.

The targets fixed for the third five years plan were as follows:

			<i>million tonnes</i>
Bhilai	..	..	2.5
Durgapur	..	..	1.6
Rourkela	..	..	1.8
TISCO	..	..	2.0
IISCO	..	..	1.2
Mysore	..	..	0.1
			9.2
Total	..		9.2

At the end of 1963-64, production of ingots was:

			<i>million tonnes</i>
Bhilai	..	..	1.14
Durgapur	..	..	0.97
Rourkela	..	..	0.80
TISCO	..	..	1.89
IISCO	..	..	1.03
Mysore	..	..	0.48
			6.31
Total	..		6.31

Although there has been some improvement in realisation of production targets in recent years, it is patent that during the Third Plan period, the targets were not realised. This has been due to faulty planning and mismanagement.

Workers' Organisation

At the plant level, there are altogether 26 workers' organisations. Most of these unions belong to the Central trade union organisations. Rest are independent unions.

1. Jamshedpur .. (1) INTUC (Recognised)
(2) AITUC
2. Burnpur .. (1) INTUC (Recognised)
(2) AITUC
3. Bhilai .. (1) INTUC (Recognised)
(2) AITUC
(3) HMS
(4) UTUC
(5) 2 Independent Unions
4. Rourkela .. (1) INTUC (Recognised)
(2) AITUC
(3) HMS
(4) UTUC
5. Durgapur .. (1) INTUC (Recognised)
(2) Independent
(3) HMS (defunct)
(4) UTUC (defunct)
6. Bhadravati .. (1) INTUC
(2) HMS
7. H.S.L. Calcutta .. Independent union (recognised)
8. H.S.L., Ranchi .. Independent union (recognised)

Although the employers have recognised the INTUC unions in all the steel plants, it has been seen in action, that the majority of workers rally behind the AITUC unions during struggles relating to demands.

The independent unions of HSL employees at Ranchi and Calcutta are recognised and both the unions enjoy the confidence of the majority of employees.

At Durgapur, in Works Committee elections, the INTUC union was trounced by the candidates of the independent union, and the project management did not allow the works committee to function. Instead, elected members of the Works Committee were victimised. The non-functioning of the Works Committee in Durgapur has been criticised in a recent report of the Parliament's Committee on Public Undertakings.

In Rourkela, the HMS union defeated the INTUC union recently in the recent Works Committee elections. INTUC could not get a single seat but nevertheless, that union is recognised by the management.

Problems of the Movement

Apart from Jamshedpur and Burnpur, other steel plant unions are new. Not only the plants and unions are new, but the working force too comprises of young workers.

The AITUC and the National Federation of Metal and Engineering Workers directly helped the organisation of the workers' unions in the new plants from 1959 onwards. Immediately after the formation of the unions, the AITUC took the lead in demanding a Wage Board for Iron and Steel Industry and this wage board was constituted in 1962. The Wage Board gave two instalments of interim relief before finally fixing wages at 152 points in the all-India index (average of 1964) and recommending a sliding scale of D.A.

The Wage Board recommendations on wage structure were as follows:

Production and Maintenance

	<i>Basic Wage</i>		<i>D.A.</i>	<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
TISCO, } HISCO }	51-2-71	61-2-71	64	115-135	125-135
HSL	70-1-81-2-85	80-2-90	45	115-130	125-135
MISL	55-2-75	65-2-75	50	105-125	115-125

Service and Outside Works

	<i>Basic Wage</i>		<i>D.A.</i>	<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>		<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
TISCO, } HISCO }	51-1-85	56-2-66	64	115-130	120-130
HSL	70-71--2-75	72-2-85	45	115-130	120-130
MISL	54-2-70	60-2-70	50	104-120	110-120

An important recommendation of the Wage Board has been the linking of D.A. with the consumer price index numbers and D.A. revision is recommended every quarter. The variable D.A. is payable at 75 paise per point rise and in February this year, D.A. has been increased by Rs. 15 covering a rise of 20 points.

However, although the Wage Board recommended that D.A. should not be revised for the first six months of the new wage rates, the first additional D.A. has come only 10½ months after. The workers have therefore demanded that the D.A. should be paid with retrospective effect from October last year.

The recommendations of the Wage Board are far from satisfactory. Despite the fact that the Board had to deal with only six plants, it failed to standardise the rates of various trades. The gratuity scheme, already in vogue at Tata and Burnpur, was not recommended for public sector steel plants. The Board failed to recommend on the question of promotional policy nor anything about the extension of production bonus scheme to non-production staff which is a major dispute in all the plants. And, above all, the Board went by an "improved diet" for the purpose of wage fixation and not a balanced diet or the diet recommended by the Nutrition Advisory Committee in their recent report on the nutritional requirements of working class families.

In the public sector plants, trade union rights and democratic rights are denied. Inside the plants, workers who do not belong to the INTUC are denied the right of even representing grievances to the authorities. Elected bodies like Works Committees are not allowed to function.

The housing scheme has been executed in such a way that even today, not more than 50 per cent of the employees have been provided with quarters. Educational facilities too are most unsatisfactory.

The ghastly practice of victimising workers on the basis of police verification reports is continuing in the public sector plants.

A very acute problem has been that of the thousands of workers, most of whom are technical personnel, who were employed in constructing the steel plants and who have now been threatened with mass retrenchment. Under the impact of struggles. Government had earlier assured to start a National Construction Corporation to absorb all the workers employed in construction and expansion of the plants, guaranteeing them security of service. But this assurance has not been implemented.

Apart from agitation and struggles on general issues affecting all steel plant workers as on wages, D.A., bonus etc., there have been several struggles departmentwise in the different steel plants over sectional demands.

While the TISCO has paid bonus over and above the available surplus formula of the Payment of Bonus Act, the bonus dispute in IISCO is still pending a final settlement and the HSL plants have as yet paid no bonus.

Durgapur plant workers participated in the two Bengal Bandh actions recently, on March 10 and April 6. In Bhilai and the BSP mines, the struggle is still continuing over the mass re-trenchment of expansion staff, bonus, D.A., etc.

The main demands of workers in the iron and steel industry are the following:

1. Revision of wages and fixation of need-based wages as per the norms laid down by the 15th Indian Labour Conference.
2. Standardisation of occupational nomenclature and rate structure.
3. Recognition of unions through ballot among workers.
4. Production bonus to all employees.
5. All the employees to be provided with quarters.
6. Free education, free transport.
7. Absorption of construction workers into the expanded works as regular cadre.
8. Abolition of the system of police verification.
9. Correction of Fraudulent consumer price indices.
10. Proper manning and line of promotion.
11. Proper allowance, lodging and education facilities for the trainees.
12. Scope for higher training through day and evening schools.
13. Unfettered trade union and democratic rights and removal of restrictions on holding meetings, etc., inside plant townships.
14. Proper safety devices.
15. Election of Committees as per statutory provisions and proper functioning of these committees.

Printed by V. R. Birodkar in the New Age Printing Press,
Khetwadi Main Road, Bombay-4 and published by him for the All
India Trade Union Congress, Dalvi Building, Parel, Bombay-12.