

File No. 6

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24, Canning Lane, NEW DELHI-110001

SUBJECT 6 ANDAMANS STATE COMMITTEE OF AITUC

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Gpn. Jai Narain Prasad Mishra
Gpn. Jai Narain Prasad Mishra

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Andaman + Nicobar

6/54

November 12, 1996,

Capt Jai Narain Nishad,
Minister for Environment & Forests,
Govt. of India,
Paryavaran Bhavan,
Scope Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi.

1

SUB: Freezing of Dearness Allowance and denial of Interim Relief to the workers
of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development
Corporation Ltd.

Dear Sir,

Our Central office as well as the Andaman & Nicobar State Committee has been representing to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. over the issue of payment of Dearness Allowance to its employees which stands frozen at 114% as on 31.12.94. The employees were awarded the same pay scales and Dearness Allowance as allowable to Central Govt. employees. Besides non-payment of DA the employees have been denied the benefit of three instalments of interim reliefs paid to other Govt. employees. The latest representation made to your goodself on the subject by our Andaman & Nicobar State Committee, which speaks for itself, is also enclosed for your kind perusal.

The Corporation has been earning profit but 2000 and odd employees are being given an unfair treatment inspite of their hard conditions of work.

We would, therefore, request you to direct the management of the Corporation to pay instalments of DA and IR to its employees.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(D.L.SACHDEV)
SECRETARY

Encl. Andaman & Nicobar State Committee of AITUC,
letter no. AITUC/2-1/96, dt. 4th November '96.

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS**ANDAMAN & NICOBAR STATE COMMITTEE.**

President : Swamy Omkaranand.

Office : SADIPIUR,

Genl. Secretary : T. Thangaswamy.

PORT BLAIR-744 106.

Ref : AITUC / 2-1/96

Dated 4th November, 1996

To

Capt. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad,
Minister for Environment & Forests,
Govt. of India,
New Delhi.

Sub:- Submission of Memorandum - regarding.

...

Sir,

I am to state that Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd., is a Govt. of India undertaking and it functions at Little Andaman, Mayabunder, Katchal with head office at Port Blair. Each unit is situated in different and distant islands. This is a public sector undertaking running in profit with potentialities for significant growth if placed in the hands of sincere and efficient management. About 2000 workers are working in the said Corporation.

2. I am to put forth the following demands for your kind information and immediate necessary action :-

a) Freezing of Dearness Allowance and denial of grant of Interim Relief to Workmen.

The management has frozen the Dearness Allowance on 31.12.1994 and the workmen are paid only 114% of Basic pay as Central DA after that date also. They are due at the rates of 125% with effect from 1.1.1995, 136% with effect from 1.7.1995, and 148% with effect from 1.1.1996 etc. as are paid to all the staff/employees of the Corporation. Similarly as all the employees are granted interim relief, the workmen brought under scale of pay with effect from 1.4.1994 are also entitled for grant of Interim Relief at the rate of Rs.100 per month w.e.f. 1.4.1994 and Rs.200/- per month w.e.f. 1.4.95. The employees are granted I.R. with effect from 16.9.1993 very promptly. This discrimination and denial are not signs of good management of a public sector undertaking which should behave

contd...2....

like model employer.

These are measures implemented all over the country under orders of the Govt. of India and these cannot be violated. This is not democratic diplomacy. How the management dare to violate fundamental rights and how all these go unnoticed by higher ups are peculiar mysteries ? However, this has to be viewed seriously and immediate remedial action taken.

b) Post of Managing Director & General Manager lying vacant.

The post of the Managing Director and of one General Manager (both IFS cadre) are lying vacant, the former for the last 6 months and the latter for 2 years. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Islands who is the ex-officio Chairman of the Corporation is holding the additional charge of the Managing Director of the Corporation, an exercise by paper tiger. There is no General Manager for the Little Andaman Project for the last two years. The Central Government should make appointment for these posts without any further delay. Serious importance should be paid in selection to see that men of merit and credit only are given cards to ensure that they do not become patients of Hawala cases when seated before ~~in the service of the~~ ^{Hawala involving Tables.}

c) Nomination of Non-official in the Board of Director or Nomination of Workers representative in the Board of Directors.

In order to have proper management of the Corporation, 1 or 2 non-official members are required to be nominated to the Board of Directors of the Corporation or in the alternate workers representative in the Board of Directors may please be nominated.

Yours faithfully,



(T. Thangaswamy)
General Secretary.

Dear Com.

Joshi

*File
6/96*

12 - 9 - 1996.

Since my forwarding to you the urgent request of Andaman Nicobar T.U.C. for Central Intervention in the bitter conflict between the Forest Corporation and its employees, AITUC has received several telegraphic requests for urgent assistance towards this purpose. We, on our part, have repeatedly urged Capt. Nishad to cause prompt measures to be taken to resolve the dispute which owes its origin to persistent negligence on the part of the Forest Corporation and the administration of the Island to look into several justified grievances and demands of the forest employees.

I wonder if it has been possible for you to do something in the matter. The Island being a centrally administered territory, it should in my opinion be possible for the Central Govt. to intervene in the dispute forthwith to avert highly undesirable developments sure to take place otherwise.

Yours Comradely,

o/c

(B. D. Joshi)
Deputy General Secretary.

File
8/94

August 5, 1996,

To

Capt. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad,
Minister for Environment & Forests,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Sir,

I am to invite your kind attention to Shri Kamal Nath's D.O. letter No.8-5/95-SU, dated 14.9.95 addressed to Shri Chaturanan Mishra, then a member of Parliament(R.S) now Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of India, regarding problems being faced by the workers of the Plantation Division in Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. It will be observed therefrom that the Minister had promised further action in the matter on receipt of a report from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. However, problems of the workers are still unresolved.

Meanwhile, anti-labour practices of the Management of the ANIFPDC have only increased, seriously disturbing industrial relations in the Islands.

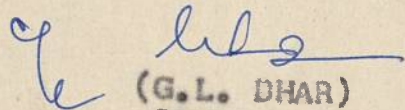
I am enclosing a copy of the Memorandum containing demands of the workmen for your kind consideration and acceptance. It will be observed from the enclosed Memorandum that the services of 9 workmen including Vice-President of the Union were terminated even without following prescribed procedure, more than 150 workmen were suspended from service and some were transferred to far-flung areas in order to disrupt union functioning. Senior officers are misusing the services of the workmen as domestic servants. On workmen's refusal to work as domestic servants, they were suspended.

Workers are being denied variable dearness allowance. Their dearness allowance has been frozen at 114% when they are entitled to dearness allowance @ 148%. Quite a number of workmen have not been paid Interim Relief. The work is being contractised. There is large scale and indiscriminate felling of trees in the Islands. These grievances and a number of other grievances have been explained in detail in the memorandum.

We shall be grateful if you kindly order an inquiry into the irregularities mentioned in the enclosed Memorandum and redress the grievances of the workmen. They are all low paid workmen. The United Front Govt. is committed to empowerment of the under-privileged and enhanced social justice. Kindly do the needful and keep AITUC informed of the steps taken in the matter.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


(G.L. DHAR)
SECRETARY

Copy to:

Com. T.Thanga Swamy,
General Secretary,
Andaman & Nicobar Island AITUC,

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS**ANDAMAN & NICOBAR STATE COMMITTEE.**

President : Swamy Omkaranand.

Office : SADIPIUR,

Genl. Secretary : T. Thangaswamy.

PORT BLAIR-744 106.

Ref : AITUC /2-1/96

Dated. 23.7.1996.....

To

1. Dr. S. D. Sharma,
President of India,
New Delhi.
2. Shri H. D. Deva Gowda,
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.
3. Com. Indrajit Gupta,
Union Home Minister,
New Delhi.
4. Com. Chathuranan Mishra,
Union Agriculture Minister,
New Delhi.

RECEIVED

For.on

30 JUL 1996

A. I. T. U. C.
24, Canning Lane, N. Delhi

Sub:- Mis-management and anti-labour activities of
Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation
Development Corporation Ltd., - regarding.

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Sir,

Please find enclosed herewith a Memorandum on the above subject. It is requested that a thorough enquiry into the irregularities - mismanagement and anti-labour activities of the management of the above said Corporation may be ordered to be carried out at the earliest and remedial action taken to save the sinking Public Sector undertaking of Govt. of India.

Yours faithfully,

(T. Thangaswamy)
General Secretary,

Copy to:-

1. Smti. Rajindra Kumari Bajpayee, Lt. Governor, A & N Islands, Port Blair for information and necessary action.
2. Com. A. B. Bardhan, General Secretary, AITUC, 24, Canning Lane, New Delhi-1 with 3 spare copies for information. It is requested to kindly take up the matter with concerned Ministry on top priority basis.

Meefomy
General Secretary.

*Com. G. D.
with the deal
with the
matter.
31/7*

M E M O R A N D U M

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd., is a Govt. of India Undertaking and its functions at Little Andaman, Mayabunder, Katchal with head office at Port Blair. Each unit is situated in different and distant islands. This is a public sector undertaking running in profit with potentialities for significant growth if placed in the hands of sincere and efficient management.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Corporation Workers Union is affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and has to its credit over ninety percent of the total workmen employed in the corporation numbering about 1500. The union had to face serious threats from its employer and to suffer calculated mis-deeds from the erstwhile central government machinery of this Union Territory during its life time of eight years. Yet we have survived and flourished gloriously that now it is a force to be reckoned with, with no trace of any other trade union in the field.

On the subject in hand, we may be privileged to report the following for speedy action at your end to enable us to overcome the shadows of agony wilfully perpetuated on us by the employer corporation :-

1. VICTIMISATION OF TRADE UNION WORKERS/OFFICE BEARERS.

The management has turned out grossly anti-labour by inflicting illegal punishments to the workers selected at random to diffuse the union. Nine workmen including the Vice President of the union were terminated from service without following correctly the procedural norms and as an ex-parte fancy. Two workmen were illegally reverted to lower category. Four workmen were ordered illegal transfer to a far flung island which they refused to obey and the case of the involved workmen is left floating in the air for the last two years to make them starve to die. About 150 workmen were placed under suspension for more than three months and to about six to seven months. But they were not paid subsistence allowance of 75% of their wages due to them after completion of 90 days under suspension. Although the suspension orders were revoked a year ago and the workers quietly work thereafter, the departmental enquiry has not been conducted or being

contd...2.....

conducted piecemeal illegally and irregularly to harass the workmen and to blast off the unity and strength of the Trade Union.

Many false criminal cases were registered with police in 1989, and after wards against a number of members of the union and the wives of such members of Little Andaman and all of them had to go down to Port Blair, a distant island, to attend the court at short intervals. Although almost all such accused persons were acquitted later on, they had to undergo extreme hardships physically and financially to face the trial. Still six such criminal cases are pending in the court of the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class-II, at Port Blair and the accused persons of the union are left to suffer a great deal on that account. The relevant cases are - (1)GR Case No.443/90, (2)GR Case No.1821/90, (3)GR Case No.1882/90, (4)GR Case No.148/93, (5)GR Case No.1147/93,&(6)GR Case No.801/94. As a result of registration of criminal cases, the relationship between workmen and employer have strained.

2. UNFAIR LABOUR PRACTICES AND LARGE SCALE MIS-APPROPRIATION OF WORKMEN.

A considerable number of regular manual workers are fraudulently engaged to work as Bhandaris and house servants of the staff/employees ranging from Camp Assistants to the General Manager, many of them under verbal orders of compulsion and also in writing. When in December, 1994 the workmen protested against this kind of mis-appropriation of labour force, all the workers of the Mill Division of Little Andaman Project numbering thirty seven were suddenly placed under suspension for about six months. The suspension orders were revoked a year ago, but disciplinary proceedings against those workers are being started now after twenty months of peace to kindle the flame of tension in workers and to lit the fire of disharmony and industrial peacelessness. The period of suspension are yet to be regularised and payment are yet to be paid to workers. Harvesters in the Plantation Division of Little Andaman Project are accredited skilled workers. But from the very beginning they are kept as unskilled workers and paid very low wages and thus they are cheated. A majority of labourers are allotted living accommodation and the state of the dwellings is horribly bad. Drinking water facilities are

contd...3.....

scarcely available and electricity for lighting purposes is not provided. Sanitary works in the living complexes are not attended to and no welfare measures exist at all. A well paid Labour Welfare Officer enjoys french leave and he is well protected by the Management for being totally anti-labour. There is no design in the offing to improve the living conditions of labourers, leave alone recreational facilities and the like.

3. CHEATING THE WORKMEN IN PAYMENT OF VARIABLE DEARNESS ALLOWANCE/WAGES.

The management cheated the workmen by not correctly calculating the Variable Dearness Allowance since 1984 and all the daily rated workers numbering 1000 were paid less VDA for the period from 1.1.1984 to 31.3.1994, thereby the entire daily rated workers were deprived of their dues to the extent of ten to fifteen thousand rupees. This cheating was very wisely done because the workers were mostly ignorant and illiterate and did not know the ~~xxxx~~ pain of the pricking thorns thrust upon them by the cunning management. Even after pointing out the mistake/cheating by the A & N Islands Forest Corporation Workers Union to management, the management is still trying to drag on the issue and the management is not coming forward to rectify the errors and to settle the genuine dues to the workers.

4. FREEZING OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE AND DENIAL OF GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF TO WORKMEN.

The management has freezed the Dearness Allowance on 31.12.1994 and the workmen are paid only 114% of Basic pay as Central DA after that date also. They are due at the rates of 125% w.e.f. 1.1.1995, 136% w.e.f. 1.7.1995, and 148% w.e.f. 1.1.1996 as are paid to all the staff/employees of the corporation. Similarly as all the employees are granted interim relief, the workmen brought under scale of pay with effect from 1.4.1994 are also entitled for grant of Interim Relief at the rate of Rs.100 per month w.e.f. 1.4.1994 and Rs.200 per month ~~by~~ w.e.f. 1.4.1995. The employees are granted I.R. with effect from 16.9.1993 very promptly. This discrimination and denial are not signs of good management of a public sector undertaking which should behave like model employer.

These are measures implemented all over the country under orders of the Govt. of India and these cannot be violated. This is not democratic diplomacy. How the management dare to violate fundamental rights and how all these go unnoticed by higher ups are peculiar mysteries? However, this has to be viewed seriously and immediate remedial action taken.

5. UNNECESSARY CONTRACT SYSTEM TO MINT BLACK MONEY.

Works in large scale are given to selected private contractors when all such works can effectively and conveniently executed with the available working force on strength. There is no dearth of workmen if not mis-appropriated. Motor vehicles, elephants and all sorts of machinery are held. Only that these are not properly utilised and maintained with care and responsibility. Foremen and mechanics loiter about and do private works of contractors as well as of their own. They are a care-free lot. Local purchase of mechanical, electrical and allied stores ~~is~~ is done regularly and promptly. But the functioning state of all equipments remains far from satisfactory. Hence the door of private contract open for all sorts of unfair deals. What the local contractors can get done with the old vehicles purchased in auction made by the corporation, cannot be got done by the corporations; vehicles which are provided with all facilities for repairs at hand and with well paid operators. The permanent contractors are offered all possible undue concessions to earn perks in cash and kind from them. The material earnings of the officers of the corporation dealing with transactions of timber, palm oil, rubber, local purchases, use of locally purchased goods of various kinds etc. will be able to tell of itself about the adventurous wits and wisdom deployed by its present owners to harbour them to safe positions where they are presently in existence. The dealers have been able to build paradises in hells at no own costs. There is no fraud-proof system in the accounting of forest trees and all facilities prevail to convert soft woods into hardwood and vice versa. All sorts of periodical stock taking and auditing exercises carried out by the management are ~~xxx~~ farcical and routine in nature and nobody takes serious note of the uninteresting drama.

The forests are ducks laying golden eggs. What the management has to do is to stock the golden eggs to render VAN VINASH activities in the name of VAN VIKAS. It is no where in sight that any Vanvikas work has been done. But every where it is seen that total Van Vinash works are carried out gracefully. All these tragic mis-deeds are solely attributable to bad management vested with supreme authority to do anything and everything without owning any accountability.

6. DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS.

Trees are felled indiscriminately by contractors from area allotted to them. The scientific methods to be followed when clearing area are not at all followed and clearance is done as desired by the contractors by destroying mother trees and plants growing at ease under natural regeneration process. Unscientific means of dragging logs by elephants causes heavy damage to the natural growth of forests. The contractors display cheap magic to pocket the supervising staff and all is ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ safe for them. Lops and tops of the huge trees felled for sale go fully unaccounted and no scheme for productive use of the same is ever planned. These could be collected and auctioned to the public for use as firewood or for wood based cottage industries.

7. Insane attitude of the management in solving labour problems.

Unfortunately the devil-minded autocratic management ill-advised by self interested subordinate officers cared little of the prosperous survival of the corporation. In the process, they kill baby in the washing tub. They did not handle sensibly the extremely sensitive and vital matters like wages and working condition of workers under the sun and inclement weather in difficult terrains. ~~xxxx~~ This concerns the entire manual workers who are the souls of the corporation and help caused to develop unbridgeable differences over major labour problems and as a result of having sky - high egos and overlordship designs, even the primary rights of the working class were denied totally and even cheated the poor labourers for years together taking undue advantage of their ignorance and illiteracy. The workers were made morally degenerated

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and physically damaged and the working human machinery dilapidated. The management and the white collar employees feasted with the sweat and blood of the toiling workers.

There are many instances that the ministerial and non-ministerial employees of the corporation have climbed up three or four advancement in the promotional channel. At the same time during all these years, not a single workman was elevated in their post. The workmen were were not even paid their due minimum wages. They have been cheated and further enslaved. Even the management has freezed the Dearness Allowance w.e.f. 31.12.1994 for all the workmen. This status of administration is continueing at ease.

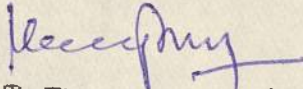
The attitude of the management towards the workmen can be expected to be for good if only those in managerial positions are even tempered and free from angularities. All those placed present at these levels in the corporation are men of the same poles of perversity and they cannot be expected to be tamed to suit the needs of the changing national scenario. They need only to be shunted out of office as ~~expeditiously~~ expeditiously as possible on whatever grounds to save the corporation from sinking deep.

8. POST OF MANAGING DIRECTOR & GENERAL MANAGER LYING VACANT.

The post of the Managing Director and of one General Manager (both IFS cadre) are lying vacant, the former for the last three months and the latter for twenty months. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Islands who is the ex-officio Chairman of the Corporation is holding the additional charge of the Managing Director of the Corporation, an exercise by paper tiger. There is no General Manager for the Little Andaman Project for the last twenty months. The Central Government should make appointment for these posts without any further delay. Serious importance should be paid in selection to see that men of merit and ~~reputed~~ credit ~~only~~ are given cards to ensure that they do not become patients of Hawala cases when seated before Malwa servicing tables.

In the light of the facts explained above, it is requested that a thorough enquiry into the irregularities - mismanagement and anti-labour activities of the management of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Forest Plantation & Development Corporation Ltd., may be ordered to be carried out at the earliest and remedial action taken to save the sinking Public Sector undertaking.

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(T. Thangaswamy)
General Secretary,
A.I.T.U.C.
Andaman & Nicobar State
Committee.

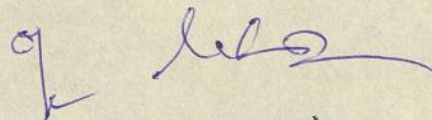
October 4, 1995,

Dear Com. Thangaswamy,

I am enclosing a copy of the letter dated 14.9.95 written by Shri Kamal Nath, former Minister for Environment and Forests to Com. Chaturanan Mishra, M.P., regarding problems being faced by the workers of Plantation Division in Andaman & Nicobad Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. The letter is in reply to the letter dt. 12.6.95 which Com. Mishra had written to the Minister, a copy of which was sent to you.

Greetings,

Yours fraternally,



(G.L. DHAR)
SECRETARY

Com. T. Thangaswamy,
General Secretary,
Andaman & Nicobar State
Committee of AITUC,
Sadipur,
Port Blair - 744106.

Air



सत्यमेव जयते

मंत्री
पर्यावरण एवं वन
भारत

MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
INDIA

14 SEP 1995

D.O.No.8-5/95-SU

Dear Mishra

I am in receipt of your letter dated 12.6.95 in connection with the problems being faced by the workers of Plantation Division in Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd.

A factual report has been called for from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Chairman of ANIFPDC Ltd. Further action in the matter would be taken after the receipt of the same.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(KAMAL NATH)

Shri Chaturanand Mishra,
Member of Parliament(RS),
11, Canning Lane,
NEW DELHI-110 001.

11

CHATURANAN MISHRA

Pilot
6/94

11, Canning Lane,
New Delhi - 110001.

Dear Shri Pilot,

I am to invite your kind attention to the D.O. letter no.8-5/95-U, dated 14.9.95 written by your predecessor to me regarding problems being faced by the workers of the Plantation Division in Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd.

This matter is pending since long and I shall be grateful if you kindly have it resolved amicably in consultation with union concerned at an very early date.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Shri Rajesh Pilot,
Minister for Environment
and Forests,
Pariyavaran Bhavan,
C.G.O. Complex,
Lodi Colony,
New Delhi.

^{4/}
(CHATURANAN MISHRA)
4/94



D.O.No.02(51)/LM/95

ATTN.

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1994

श्रम मंत्री
भारत
LABOUR MINISTER
INDIA

June 30, 1995.

Dear Shri Mishra,

I acknowledge the receipt of your D.O. letter dated the 20th June, 1995 enclosing therewith a copy of telegram from the forest workers leader of Port Blair regarding redressal of their grievances.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(PURNO A SANGMA)

Shri Chaturanan Mishra,
Member of Parliament,
11, Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110 001.

R/Flb
ABR
6/99

ANDAMAN TODAY

Fortnightly

Port Blair

Editor : T. Thangaswamy, M.A.

Vol. No. 7

15th June, 1995

Rs. 3.00

No. 156

Illegal extraction of timber at Diglipur commenced again.

It is well known to islanders that large scale illegal felling of forest trees in Reserved — Protected Forest area took place at Diglipur and other areas during 1994. Most of the Congress (I) leaders of this UT (Rao Group) became contractors for this business. Rich businessmen came from mainland and invested crores of rupees on this business through Congress (I) leaders of this

UT. The forest official who used to draw their monthly salary in four figures started getting bribe in six figures, and became Lakhopatis in Diglipur area. The forest official were offering lakhs of rupees to senior officers for getting their transfer from Port Blair to Diglipur which is situated in northern corner of this UT.

(Contd. to page 4)

Road repairing and widening in PB Town in full swing.

(Spl. Correspondent)

The condition of the roads of Port Blair town was so bad till 1993, as the then administrators who were from defence were shunned meeting people even their acknowledged leaders to hear the grievances of general public. The then Administrators were also not taking any steps to repair the damaged roads in Port Blair town. As a result, more road accidents took place and the drivers were facing difficulties to drive the vehicles. But this position was changed for the last two years. The expectation of a responsive administration has been amply justified by the present Lt. Governor by throwing his Durbar open to the general public who can go to Raj Niwas and

meet him, and represent their grievances and seek his intervention on general demands. The present Lt. Governor is personally visiting the entire area of Port Blair town and ordering for repair of all the damaged roads. No officer dare to say that there is "NO FUND" for undertaking the repair of roads particularly in Port Blair which is the capital of this UT. The present Lt. Governor knows how to get more fund from Central Government, and how to get supplementary grant, and also how to re-appropriate the fund from one sub-head to another sub-head under Financial Power Rules.

(Contd. to page 4)

Written test for Clerks not conducted properly.

The written test for the post of Lower Division Clerks in Amalgamated Clerical Cadre of the Administration was conducted by the Administration during last month. Few thousands candidates appeared for the said written test. The test was conducted in different centres at different islands. One centre was at Govt. Model School, Port Blair.

About 300 candidates appeared for the test at Model School centre. The centre Superintendent of Model School distributed the question papers to all the candidates, but no separate sheets/papers were given to any candidates for writing their answer. As a result, the candidates could not write their answer, and the candidates were also not allowed

Plea to clear drainage around MG Market PB.

During last week, there was heavy rain in Port Blair town. As a result 2-3 feet water was flowing on the M.G. Market area and Aberdeen Bus Stand. Two wheelers could not move on the road due to stagnation of water on the road.

(Contd. to page 4)

Defamation case filed by RS Dayal dismissed.

The former Lt. Governor of this UT Mr. RS Dayal filed a defamation case under section 500 IPC read with section 199 of Cr. P.C. against the Editor of our Newspaper (Andaman Today) in the court of Hon'ble Session Judge, A & N Islands, Port Blair vide C.R. Case No. 1 of 1992. The complaint was filed by the Public Prosecutor on behalf of RS Dayal. The trial of the case was commenced in 1992, and the said case was dismissed on 29th May, 1995 by the Hon'ble Session Judge, A & N Islands, Port Blair.

Forest Corporation Workers went on 1 day strike.

The Forest Corporation Worker's Union affiliated to A.I.T.U.C. called for a token strike on 5th June, 1995 to press the Management to implement the Hon'ble Court's order strictly by interpreting the same in a correct manner. According to Union leader Swamy Omkaranand, the Management started implementing the same in a wrong way just to pay less wages to all the workers of Little Andaman, Mayabunder and Port Blair. The strike was completely successful, as all the workers (100%) participated in the strike.

to bring papers from outside. This is a serious lapses on the part of the Centre Superintendent / Administration. In all other centres, the required answer sheets was given, but only in Model School Centre, answer sheets was not given.

The Administrator should take serious action against the erring official, and should order for a fresh test for the candidates who appeared at Model School Centre, so that they can prove their ability.

Well done Mr. Vakkom by resuming lease land of 300 acres from JTC.

ANDAMAN TODAY

VOL. NO. 7

15.6.1995

NO. 156

Creation of Additional post of Dist. Judge demanded.

At present the District and Session Judge, A & N Islands is also functioning as Presiding Officer for Labour Court and Tribunal under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. A good number of Industrial Disputes are pending in the said Labour Court/Tribunal. According to Section 10 (2-A) of the I.D. Act, all the disputes are required to be adjudicated within a period of three months. But none of the cases are decided within the period of three months, as the District & Session Judge is always busy with the criminal cases, as the number of criminal cases have increased in his court. Besides, the Dist. & Session Judge is also functioning as (1) Chairman of District Redressal Consumer Forum (2) Judge of Children court, and (3) Head of office for the Judicial department of this U.T. etc.

The representatives of the Trade Unions are facing much difficulties to handle the Industrial Disputes, as the Representatives are required to attend the court at 9.30 A.M. and they have to wait till afternoon for their turn. Some times it happened so, that the representatives are required to wait till evening, as the DSJ is busy in criminal cases.

It is the high time that the Government should take steps to create one more post in the rank of District and Session Judge, so that the work can be divided amongst the two District & Session Judge and the work load of the present DSJ can be reduced to a considerable extent.

It is also worth to mention here that in Pondichery which is also an Union Territory, there is a post of "CHIEF JUDGE" and the said Judge is the head of the organisation for subordinate Judicial Services and he is also functioning as Judge of the few courts. Therefore, similar post for this U.T. can also be created.

Pending creation of the post as indicated above, the District & Session Judge, Port Blair should fix the timing for the Industrial Disputes cases in the afternoon as done in the case of Consumer Forum.

The General Secretary of AITUC of this UT Mr. T. Thangaswamy also submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court and Lt. Governor, A & N Islands for creation of additional post of District Judge for the U.T.

Admn. allowed NK Sen to escape from Criminal cases.

We had published series of articles relating to Shri N. K. Sen, Ex-Managing Director of State Cooperative Bank, Port Blair and his involvement in large scale fraud — misappropriation in Cooperative Bank, & A & N State Cooperative Marketing Federation, and Beachdera Coop. Coconut Plantation etc., but he escaped from the criminal cases and he is now superannuated. He could manage this escape due to interference & influence of M. R. Bhakta, Member of Parliament and Saroop Lal, President of Congress (I) Party of this UT. At one stage, apprehending his arrest, he approached the Judicial Court at Port Blair for anticipatory bail. But on the influence of above said leaders, no formal FIR was registered in the Police Station and hence he escaped from the arrest and prosecution.

The major charges brought out against N.K. Sen which were published in our newspaper are :—

1. Large scale corruption, favouritism and illegal release of amount by Sen in the name of loan / over draft etc. (Andaman Today dated 15.11.1993).
2. Disproportionate assets created by Sen in Port Blair and other parts of our country (Andaman Today dated 15.10.1993).
3. Commission of 2% earned by Sen on all goods purchased from Calcutta. (Andaman Today dated 15.10.1993).
4. Misappropriation — fraud cheating in Copra business by Sen, MD who was also acting as Administrator of Cooperative Marketing Federation for about 3 years. (Andaman Today dated 15.11.1993).
5. Fraudulent activities and misappropriation in Beachdera plantation Society by Sen and his

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Gang. (Andaman Today dated 15.8.1993 & 1.9.1993).

6. Sen had tampered most of the records maintained in the Coop. Bank and he had also tampered his own service records and changed his date of birth with an intention to continue in Bank service for two more years. (Andaman Today dated 15.12.93).
7. Sen with the help of Saroop Lal and MR Bhakta influenced Reserve Bank of India and brought a letter from RBI not to supersede the Bank by exercising the powers vested in local Cooperative Rules and Regulation.

Though the above charges are very serious in nature, the Administration could not do anything against NK Sen due to frequent interference by MR Bhakta and Saroop Lal. Saroop Lal is now making propaganda claiming that this is his personal achievement in his political life. It is worth to mention here that there are quite number of serious charges of misappropriation and fraud etc. against Sarool Lal also and the whole matter is kept pending due to his interference in high level. Any how, these charges will take a new turn when the election for Municipal Board and Panchayat are announced. Saroop Lal and Bhakta have to give specific answer for the charges brought out against them from a public platforms. Local Opposition parties will be having plus point when local elections are announced. They will be making lot of propaganda on these charges from public platforms.

Katchal Rubber Project Dangerously ill.

The Katchal Rubber Project is one of the Projects of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Plantation & Development Corporation Ltd., which is a government of India undertaking. The Plantation has an area of 598.84 hectares and it was raised by the Rubber Board, Kottayam out of the Budget provision of Central Government. (Ministry of Rehabilitation) during the year 1968-78.

The Corporation has taken over the Rubber Project a decade ago for all purposes and has engaged its staff for management. Out of the present 49 Regular staff, forty are those who have been transferred from the Corporation's wings at Mayabunder, Port Blair and Little Andaman. In fact those employees who are not in the good books of the management and are not counted as personnel of integrity and ability are transferred to Katchal as a rule in public interest. As such one may well imagine the quality of public service that these officials in their penal settlement there at would render.

There are about 475 permanent and 175 casual workers both males and females, mostly rubber tappers. Katchal is a tribal area and anyone visiting the island has to be in possession of entry pass issued by the island Administration in which the purpose and the duration of visit are endorsed invariably. But many of the casual mazdoors employed in the Rubber Project are neither the declared and approved relatives of the Regular Labourers nor do they possess the required tribal area entry pass. Such personnel are employed on unfair terms of personnel convenience to the employer. This corrupt practice deprives the right of employment of the wives and children of the regular workers who are semi-settled there since long around thirty years which lot runs is hundreds.

The above said category of casual employees do not have the technical know how of tapping and they damage the trees extensively. A deep cut on the stem would endanger the life of the tree and yield less latex. Many trees have grown sick on this account and would not survive the expected life span. The trees planted during 68-70 in an area of 230.60 hectares and numbering about 69180 have got old prematurely due to bad maintenance and they need to be substituted by raising fresh plantation from now on to let the Project keep moving at least in the present speed. A nursery should be maintained for raising seedlings to be planted every year to replenish and enlarge the project. This should be a continuing process.

A worker is expected to collect

latex daily from 300 trees in one hectare and the tapping is done on alternate days. Continuous supervision is required to ascertain that all the trees are touched every day of tapping and to find out that the trees do not sustain injury due to carelessness or whatever reasons attributable. This primary factor of management is fully neglected and therefore the production suffers largely. The production can be more than doubled if the plantation is maintained properly and the workers fairly looked after. Even under the present chaotic condition of management, it is lucky to have produced the fixed target of 600 tonnes of rubber during 1994-95. It is learnt that periodical application of manure to plants has become a dead practice.

A considerable number of workers both male and female, are left scot free and no work is being extracted from them. Supervising staff are either afraid of or earning personal favours and gains of their liking from the left outs. Many workers are employed to work as private servants of the regular staff. Many workers have not been provided living accommodation and many others are living in dilapidated and self improvised cottages with no electricity connections. In the remote tribal area of Katchal the prices of essential commodities are sky-rocketing and vegetables and fish are sparsely available at three to four times the price at Port Blair. The workers find it very difficult to get on with the low rates of daily wages paid to them and they are compelled to seek part time job elsewhere after their daily work in the Project which starts before dawn and ends before noon to compensate for expenses of essential requisites. They are in a pathetic situation. Their miseries go unnoticed and uncared of by all concerned authorities. Their presence on this earth will be felt at the time of elections to Parliament.

There is report that a deficit of thirty four tonnes of rubber sheets has been detected in the stock balance account as on 31.3.1994. The amount of loss on this account is estimated at Rs. seven lakhs. Of late, more than six hundred bags of cement which was to be used for maintenance of living accommodation of workers was rendered unfit due to bad and long storage and having got wet in rains. Signatures from workers were obtained to show that each one of them had received two or three bages for maintenance of their houses.

The present Divisional Manager of the Katchal Rubber Project Shri Shujuddin is a JOKER and he was officially forbidden from assuming

independent charge of any office by a letter issued to the authorities during July, 1990 by the then Managing Director. This was necessitated as he was found grossly unfit to be officiating Divisional Manager of Katchal Rubber Project in which post he was put to work for a small duration in the first half of 1990. Subsequently he was transferred to Little Andaman Project where the authorities were directed to keep watch on his integrity and performances. At Little Andaman, he served as a neglected Dy. Divisional Manager for a considerable period and thereafter he was promoted as Divisional Manager and posted to Katchal in recognition of his "NAA-LAIK" services. It is high time that he should be removed from service and an experienced officer obtained from Kottayam Rubber Board on deputation to replace him. Unfortunately there is no suitable officer in the Forest Corporation to be selected for the post of Divisional Manager of Katchal Rubber Project.

Further, the management should call for volunteers from among the vast number of regular staff available at their disposal to serve in Katchal Rubber Project and make it really appear that the Katchal Rubber Project will no more be considered and used as a Kalapani area for punishment transfer. It should also be ensured that the regular staff at Katchal are subjected to turn over posting to other areas as soon as they complete the tenure three years at Katchal.

If proper action is not taken as suggested the much wanted rubber project will die out quietly and quickly and thereby render hundreds of workers jobless and homeless as none of the workers of the Katchal Rubber Project are settled permanently in Katchal although they are continuously residing there for the last thirty years under the sole shade of this Rubber Project. The Ceylon settlers who were brought to Katchal for rehabilitation have not been made the real owners of even a sq. inch of land, though they were allotted with half acre of agriculture land at the time of their settlement. The Revenue authorities at Nancowry are not collecting the land revenue since the date of allotment. The settlers are still floating as "Trisankus". Now these settlers have multiplied themselves manifold during their stay at Katchal for three decades. Their future is quite uncertain.

The administration should carefully go into the whole affair and sort out the problems on humanitarian grounds and that at the earliest. What cannot be swallowed must be eschewed and what cannot be eschewed must be swallowd.

Illegal extraction of timber at D/Pur ...

(Contd. from page 1)

It is worth to mention here that the timber business in this UT became like illicit liquor business of our country. In the illicit liquor business, the police used to extract money, but in the timber business at Diglipur, the entire Forest Official, Police and Revenue Official joined hands and extracted lakhs of rupees. The local Congress leaders (Rao Group) also joined hands with these officials. In fact, there was large scale looting of forest wealth by these gangs, and they were exporting the timber from Diglipur Harbour. It was also alleged that under the same number, quite number of logs were despatched by ship. It was also reported that there was no cash in the Banks of Diglipur for about one week, as about 2-3 crores of cash was withdrawn from Banks at a time by these businessmen.

In the name of Settlers, the contractors used to enter the Reserved forest and protected forest with hundreds of labourers/tree fellers and used to fell the forest trees, and they used to export the timber to mainland. The visitor's book maintained in the APWD Guest House at Diglipur will speak about the number of businessmen visited Diglipur and the name of persons who had managed the large scale illegal felling by staying in the guest house.


Andaman Today is the only newspaper which has exposed the large scale illegal felling and exporting of logs from Diglipur. The local leaders of Communist Party of India also criticised the looting of forest wealth through public meetings.

When the exporting of round logs was in full swing, the Lt. Governor called for a special report and after studying in detail, BAN on exporting of round logs was imposed, and hence the entire illegal export of round logs from Diglipur came to end. The decision of Lt. Governor was welcomed by all citizens and by all Political Party leaders of this UT/except Congress leaders (Rao Group). The Congress leaders (Rao Group) wanted to continue this illegal business for another 2-3 years, so that they can earn lakhs of rupees by

destroying in the entire reserved forest in North Andaman.


The settlers also started hue and cry on this matter, as they really fell down their trees which was standing in their holdings, and they could not sell the logs due to ban orders of Administration. The settlers also represented to the Administration that in case, they are not permitted to dispose their logs, and to export the same to mainland, they will sustain heavy financial losses, as the logs will be damaged completely due to long storage and rain.

There was also pressure on the Lt. Government from all leaders of Political Parties of this UT to lift the ban to enable the settlers to dispose the round logs lying their holdings. According to the reports, about 2000 cubic metres of round logs were lying in the holding of settlers and another 3000 cubic metres of logs were lying near Diglipur Harbour, and it was ready for despatch to mainland by ship through big contractors. Considering the situation, the Lt. Governor gave permission very recently to export the round logs to mainland by private Parties. On hearing the news, about lifting of ban orders, the mainland parties have again reached Diglipur with crores of rupees for this business.

According to our latest information received from Diglipur, the contractors have again started illegal felling of trees from Reserved-Protected Forest area, and in the name of round logs of settlers, they have started exporting round logs to Madras. The Administration should post a team of Forest Officers headed by a Senior officer who are honest and sincere to keep watch on the felling of trees at Diglipur Tahsil and also to keep watch on the export of round logs, so that the illegal felling of trees can be stopped, otherwised the entire reserved-protected forest will be destroyed by the contractors within a period of 2 years. If officer like Moitra, DFO is posted at Diglipur for one more year, he will perform over time work and he will allow the contractors to destroy the entire forest of Diglipur. 

Plea to clear ...

(Contd. from page 1)

All the drainage in and around MG Market and Aberdeen Bus Stand are not cleared for the last 2-3 years, and hence rain water could not pass through the drainage. The Lt. Governor should personally visit the area and should order for clearing the drainage around MG Market, and Aberdeen Bus Stand etc. If necessary such work should be given to private Party on contract basis, as departmental workers/sweepers will not come forward to attend such works. 

Road repairing ...

(Contd. from page 1)

Earlier days, Administrator used to surrender the fund allotted to this UT., but now the position is completely changed due to Vakkom's Regime. The present LG is not only spending the entire Budget allocation, but he is also demanding more and more fund for this UT from Central Government. According to our information, the L.G. has persuaded the Govt. of India to allocate 50 crores more than the last year allocation of fund.

Our correspondent made a round in Port Blair town and noticed that though the rainy season has already

Mis-management of Port Management Board


We had published a good number of articles about the mis-management, malpractices and corruption which are taking place in Port Management Board, in our news paper (Andaman Today). Recently, we received a copy of a complaint dated 14th May, 1995 submitted by Amalgamated Clerical Staff of Administration addressed to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands, Port Blair wherein the malpractices adopted in the Port Management Board was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor. We are publishing below the extract of the said complaint for the information of general public:—

Your excellency,

With utmost goodfaith, the staff members of the Amalgamated Clerical Establishment of the Administration seeking your personal intervention to protect the autonomous body of the Administration namely Port Management Board which is deteriorating day by day due to the malafide involvement and bad motive of a Stenographer namely "Krishnan Kutty" working for the past six years.

That sir, the said Krishnan Kutty who is posted in the organisation as a stenographer on deputation basis is in the habit of misleading the superiors coming from mainland to safeguard his personal gains. One Mrs. Padmavathy was posted to this establishment of PMB as Private Secretary and she is drawing salary from PMB, but attending the official duties at Director of Health Services, as the said Kutty has not allowed her to report for duty in the PMB.

The said Krishnan Kutty is also in the habit of fetching alcohol drinks from Private contractors and consuming the same in his office ignoring the official decorum, and further gambling in his room. He is further misusing the whole vehicles of the PMB for carrying beer and liquor in cases from Jetty to his residence. He is collecting the beer and liquor by threatening the liquor Vendor Mr. Mohan Das. The incident was brought to the notices of the Chief Port Administrator and Secretaries in time by the Duty staff present at Jetty, but no action has been taken till date. Further, he is taking tips from private companies for extending blessing to the tune of work orders and for berthing ships in the Haddo and Chatham Wharf, as he himself is acting as the Chief of the Port Admn. He is also enjoying the benefit of departmental VCP & VCR at his residence at Prem Nagar and he is also engaging departmental casual workers in his residence.

We, therefore, most humbly request you to direct the CPA and CS of the Administration to transfer him to any other subordinate office immediately. 

started, the road widening and road repairing in Port Blair town and also converting existing footpaths into roads are going on in full swing.

If such tempo is maintained at least for another 2-3 years, and the present LG continue here, the conditions of the roads of Port Blair town will be improved lot to a satisfactory level. If the roads are repaired and developed, it will be attractive for tourists who visits Port Blair town.

Middlemen Exploiting Copra Trade in Nancowry Group of Islands

(A Representative of the Andaman Today, visited the Nancowry and some other islands in the Central Group of tribal Nicobar Islands. This report is based on his observations during his tour : Editor).

The Manula Matai Ltd., the Central (Apex) Cooperative Society of the tribal people of Nancowry Group of Nicobar Islands, which was meant to control and canalise the entire trade in copra, betelnuts and consumer goods in those islands, has disintegrated and it is not functioning effectively. In fact, tribal people do not sell their local produce of copra and betelnuts to it. They sell copra and betelnuts to private traders who are acting as middlemen between them and the monopolist trader since 1945. One such middleman is one R.T. a tribal businessman who is purchasing copra in Katchal Island at the rate 13/- per Kg. But he deducts 7 kg. from each bag for alleged loss in drying and transit. The price of 7 kg. at his purchase price comes to Rs. 91/- and that is a clean sweep for him. All the copra that he purchases he delivers to the monopolist trader or his benami firm at Port Blair. Sometimes, even full payment for copra purchased by R.T. is made at Port Blair through slips which are encashed at Port Blair by hawking businessmen who go to

Nancowry, Katchal and other islands to do business with the local businessmen and shopkeepers there. The Manula Matai also purchases some quantities of copra, but their share is not much other hawking businessmen can purchase copra there at a higher price, but the police does not permit them to do so. Naturally the influence of the vested trade interests is working behind the scenes. So, the tribal people are being exploited by middlemen.

Apart from tribals, the Ceylonese settlers who were settled in Katchal Island, an important island in the Central Group, are also exploited and they resent such exploitation. They were all given land for raising coconut plantations. Their plantations have started yielding fruit and they are also making lot of copra these days. The settlers are capable of marketing their copra at Port Blair through the hawking businessmen and thus get a better price for their produce. But because they are living in a tribal island, they are also not allowed to sell or send their copra through these travelling tra-

ders. The result: They also have to forego 7 Kg. of copra in each bag and sell the remaining weight at the rate 13/- per Kg. This is a low price - much lower than what they can and should get considering the price in Calcutta market. But who will help them. There is no administrative officer to look into these malpractices going on in trade there. The Police is virtually controlling every thing and minting money in the process.

The Manula Matai Ltd. has a Fair Price Shop at Katchal. But it seems the Society does not have the where withal to lift rationed goods and take them to their shop at Katchal for sale to consumers. For instance, it was alleged by local habitants that the rations quota for April had not been supplied so far. The FPS there is one of the shops much advertised by the Administration. They are opened under the Public Distribution System on paper and for publicity only. The FPS at Katchal is also a part of that "development on paper".

NOTICE

Sealed quotations / tenders are invited from the Bonafide Suppliers for the supply of following stores F.O.R. Chatham, Port Blair. The Tender / Quotations should be deposited in the tender box kept for the purpose in the office of the undersigned on or before 22.6.95 (11.00 Hrs) and the same shall be opened immediately thereafter in presence of tenderers if any.

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(Part II) 1981 | Rate per M. Ton |
| 2. 4" Rubber Value Diaphragm | Rate per Each |

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| 3. Leather Bucket Washer for V-931
Reciprocating Pump | Rate per Each |
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The successful tenderers will have to deposit 5% value of the stores as deposit at call in any scheduled Bank at Port Blair in favour of the undersigned and the same shall be treated as security for a period of maximum of 6 months. The validity date of their offer should be for 60 days but supply has to be made within 10 days from the date of placement of order. While quoting rates necessary quantity of items alongwith unit should invariably be quoted. While delivering the stores by the successful tenderer, a certificate regarding inspection of stores obtained from one of the Govt. approved laboratories at Calcutta or otherwise be furnished alongwith the bill without fail.

Deputy Conservator Forests
(Utilisation)
Chatham.

Why Pre - 1961 encroachment cases not yet finalised ?

During July and August, 1993, the Lt. Governor of this U.T. made public announcement to the effect that all the pre-1961 encroachment cases will be regularised "AS IT IS" without any limit of area, without any premium and the provisional

records of 1961 which is being followed by the Tahsildar, Port Blair will be made as 'PERMANENT RECORD'. It was also announced that all the Pre - 1961 cases will be finalised before 2nd October, 1993 i.e. birth day of the father of the Nation. But

practically, nothing has been done till date. The Administrator Mr. Purushothaman should look into the matter and should publish a Press Statement for the information of general public indicating the actual reason for not taking any action on this matter.

Involvement of Saroop Lal in illegal sale of Engine Oil.

The People are watching whether the new Dy. S. P. (C.I.D.) would follow the path of the former Dy. S.P. (CID) Raghur Singh & Present Dy.S.P., S/A Viswanathan and facilitate this illegal trade of Shri Saroop Lal under the cover of political banner.

According to reliable sources Shri Saroop Lal has been supplying huge quantity of engine oil to various private firms in the passed many years in the name of "DURGA TRANSPORT". Shri Saroop Lal is known to the public as the congress chief and the Durga Transport has been known to be operating FEW Bus routes. He never imported a singal barrel of lubricant oil from any agencies from mainland or never purchased such bulk quantity from the local Depot of I.O.C. Preliminary ENQUIRY REVEALS that Shri Saroop Lal had supplied several lakhs rupees

worth of Engine Oil to a known leading private business firm on the rate of 20% less then the market rate. The funniest part of the deal is that Shri Saroop Lal has been receiving the payment towards the cost of the engine oil supplied through crossed cheques in the name of DURGA TRANSPORT being operated by his son-in-law Shri Devraj Anand (Lallu). Shri Saroop Lal is much worried on the transfer of one of the two Dy. S.P. who have been blindly supporting him in the above illegal trade. Shri Saroop Lal should know that no body in the earth can save him and his son-in-law from the cultches of C.B.I., as the entire transaction of this illegal trade are on records. The complete details of the quantity of oil supplied, the name of firms, the amount drawn through bank, the sources of engine oil, & the income tax returns of Durga Transport etc. are available with us.

Complaint against S.I. attached to B/Pur Police Out Post

Smti. S. Vasanthi, W/o Vijayan, Betapur No. 3, Middle Andaman submitted a written complaint to Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 7th June, 1995 wherein she has alleged that one Shri Rameswar Singh, Sub-Inspector of Police who is the incharge of Police Out Post of Betapur No. 3 which is under Rangat Police Station, is always found under influence of liquor and he is mis-behaving with the general public of Betapur, and he is also assaulting the public on public place under the influence of Liquor. Smti. Vasanthi also stated in her complaint that the said police personal assaulted her husband on the road in presence of general public on 3.6.1995. She also alleged that the said police personal assaulted general public on the road side on the same date.

Smti. Vasanthi requested the Lt. Governor for immediate transfer of the said Sub-Inspector of Police from Betapur No. 3 and she has also requested for immediate enquiry on the matter. Extract of the complaint of Smti Vasanthi is published below for the information of general public :-

Sub:- Complaint against Shri Rameswar Singh, Sub-Inspector of Police attached to Betapur Out Post under Rangat Police Station.

Sir,

I am to state that I am the wife of Shri Vijayan, Police Constable attached to Police Out Post, Betapur which is under Rangat Police Station, and we are residing near to the said Out Post. Shri Rameswar Singh, Sub-Inspector Police is the Incharge of the said Out Post at Betapur. The said Singh is always under the influence of the liquor and mis-behave with the police personal and also with the general public. He used to pick up quarells with the public and used to attack on public road/place.

2. Sir, on 3rd June, 1995 my husband was on duty and he was deputed to Billi ground for purchase of sweets for the said Rameswar Singh, S.I. When my husband was away from my house on duty, the said Rameswar Singh, SI came to my house and asked for a glass of water. Then he has started taking out a liquor bottle from his pocket and started to drink. I politely asked him to go out, but he abused me and finally, he left my house.

3. On the same day, at about 6.30 PM the said Shri Rameswar Singh, S.I. attacked my husband on the road in front of the shop of Shri Palani at Betapur, and then the said Shri Singh has taken my husband to Rangat and falsely involved my husband in a case and then, my husband was asked to report for duty at Police Line at Port Blair.

4. It is, therefore, requested to kindly order for an enquiry on this matter immediately, and order for immediate transfer of the said S.I. from Betapur so that the public can jive peacefully.

Yours faithfully,
(Smti Vasanthi)

Port Blair,
7.6.1995.

W/o Vijayan, Betapur
No.3, M/Andaman.

Why Admn. delaying to declare Saroop Lal as dis-qualified Director of Coop. Bank ?

The provisions laid down in sub-clause (a) of Rule 29 of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Cooperative Societies Rules, 1974 speaks that "No person shall be eligible for election as a member of the committee if : he is in default in any cooperative society in respect of any sum due from him to the cooperative society or owes to any cooperative society an amount exceeding maximum credit limit. Besides, the provisions laid down in rule 30 of the said Societies Rules, 1974 also speaks that "A member of the Committee of any Society shall cease to hold his office as such if he continuous to be in default in respect of any sum due from him to the cooperative society for such period as may be laid down in the bye-laws.

According to our information, Shri Saroop Lal who is the Vice Chairman of the A & N State Cooperative Bank, Fort Flair and who is now acting as Chairman of the said Bank, is a defaulter for huge amount and hence he cease to be member in the said Cooperative Bank. The Special enquiry conducted through the officers of Cooperativ Department on the orders of the Administration, also confirms about his default.

Though there is clear cut provisions in the Cooperative Societies Rules 1974 to remove him from the Chairmanship, the authorities of the Administration is adopting delay tactise in this matter and hence Saroop Lal is still continueing as Chairman of the Cooperative Bank.



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July 12, 1995,

Telegram/Express

COMRADE THANGASWAMY
GENERAL SECRETARY
AITUCONG
SADIPUR
PORT BLAIR

CHIEF LABOUR COMMISSIONER (CENTRAL) INTERVENING .
CONTACT LABOUR COMMISSIONER ADMINISTRATION
FOR NEXT ROUND OF CONCILIATION PROCEEDINGS .

A.S.B.
BARDHAN
AITUCONG

[Handwritten signature]

Handwritten signature/initials in purple ink.

O 1150 A8 HUTBAY 03 71
CHATURANAN MISRA PARLIAMENT
MEMBER
NEWDELHI



1899

EIGHTHUNDRED WORKERS OF FOREST CORPORATION WORKERS UNION LITTLE
ANDAMAN ON TOTAL STRIKE FROM SIXTEENTH JUNE STOP FAST UNTO
DEATH HUNGER STRIKE BY THREE WORKERS FROM NINETEENTH JUNE CONTINUING

NG

STOP STRIKING WORKERS IN LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE STOP ADMINISTRATIVE

OR

AND MANAGEMENT SILENT STOP REQUEST
IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION
GENERAL SECRETARY FCWU CAFFILIATED
AITUC SWAMY OMKARANAND

COL NNS====

Active please inform the latest position. please accompany me to labor minister

*Chaturanan Misra
(Union Secretary)
16/7*

WANPBA0203

WCAMSS3426

DNDDEF

3790447
Since Mr. Singh is busy for election work, we are contacting through Mr. Chaturanan Misra. He is not present in his room - admin to contact at 12:30 pm.
10/30/71
16/7

Telephone call set as per discussion with CFC 14/7

Discussed with CFC - Mr. Surendra Nath (along with A. Chaturanan Misra) decided to meet after on Monday after CFC has ascertained facts as also his conference & interview. 16/7

0500

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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47-95



229

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O 1450 A8 HUTBAY 03 71

GENERALSECYCPI

NEWDELHI=== 1913

EIGHTHUNDRED WORKERS OF FOREST CORPORATION WORKERS UNION LITTLE
ANDAMAN ON TOTAL STRIKE FROM SIXTEENTH JUNE STOP FAST UNTO
DEATH HUNGER STRIKE BY THREE WORKERS FROM NINETEENTH JUNE CONTINUI

NG
STOP STRIKING WORKERS IN LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE STOP ADMINISTRATI

ON
AND MANAGEMENT SILENT STOP REQUEST
IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION

GENERAL SECRETARY FCWU CAFFILIATED
AITUC SWAMY OMKARANAND

COL NNS===

*No mention of
demands!*

WANPBA0203

WCAMSS3426

DNDEDF0500

DNDEDB0687

NNNN

Copy

~~File~~

24th June, 1995.

Shri Kamal Nath
Environment & Forest Minister,
7 Tughlak Road,
New Delhi.

The Secretary,
Environment & Forest Ministry,
Paryavaran Bhavan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Colony,
New Delhi.

Indefinite Hunger Strike by workers
against the anti-labour attitude of Management of
Forest Corporation at Port Blair enters sixth day.
Condition of fasting leaders deteriorating. Kindly
intervene immediately. Direct management to resolve
dispute amicably.

AITUCONG

Not to be telegraph.

24 Canning Lane, New Delhi-1

Copy sent by post to
An. Shanganawamy, General
Secretary, AITUC, Andaman
& Nicobar Islands, Port Blair

[Signature]

अखिल - भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24, CANNING LANE NEW DELHI-110001

President : M. S. KRISHNAN
General Secretary : A. B. BARDHAN
Dy. General Secretary : B. D. JOSHI

24th June, 1995.

Shri Kamal Nath
Environment & Forest Minister,
7 Tughlak Road,
New Delhi.

The Secretary,
Environment & Forest Ministry,
Paryavaran Bhavan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Colony,
New Delhi.

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against the anti-labour attitude of Management of
Forest Corporation at Port Blair enters sixth day.
Condition of fasting leaders deteriorating. Kindly
intervene immediately. Direct management to resolve
dispute amicably.

AITUCONG

Not to be telegraph.

24 Canning Lane, New Delhi-1

Sub
20/5/95
24/6/95

has

ZCZC DNDCC00017 BBB DNDCCA

*Telegram
sent to
Minister
Secretary
File 6/99*

*4360721
4360471*

O 0900 A6 PORTBLAIR 24 THREEADDS 94



(R)
AITUCONG 489
NEW DELHI

AIN CONTINUATION OF OUR TELEGRAM OF NINETEENTH REGARDING STRIKE
IN FOREST CORPORATION WHICH IS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
UNDERTAKING STOPNO REPEAT NO ACTION TAKEN BY
MANAGEMENT STOP HEALTH CONDITION OF HUNGER STRIKE WORKERS
ETERIORATING AS SIX DAYS ALREADY PASSED STOP ALL WORKERS ON
COMPLETE STRIKE ANBD NONE ATTENDING #WORKS STOP
REQUEST DISMISS MANAGING DIRECTOR AND INTERVENE TO SORT OUT
DEMANDS
OF WORKERS IMMEDITELY AND SAVE LIFE OF WORKERS
WHO ARE ON HUNGER STRIKE

THANGASWAMY GA+ GENERAL SECRETARY
AITUC SADIPUR PORTBLAIR

*ck pto & SI
24/6/95*

COL O A6 NARASIMA RAO PA SANGMA AITUCONG===

WANPBA0091 WCAEDID193
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NNNN

DELHI TELECOMMUNICATION
दिल्ली दूरसंचार
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION
दूरसंचार विभाग

DELHI TELECOMMUNICATION
दूरसंचार विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION
दूरसंचार विभाग

0 25 A9 PORTBLAIR 19 85/86

AITUCONG
NEW DELHI

0119

6/94



EENTIRE WORKERS NUMBERING MORE THAN THOUSAND OF
FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION GO+ GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA UNDERTAKING ON STRIKE SINCE THIRTEENTH
JUNE STOP INDEFINITE HUNGER STRIKE ALSO COMMENCED
FROM NINETEENTH STOP MANAGEMENT FAILED TO SETTLE
LONG PENDING DEMANDS STOP COMPLETE MIS-MANAGEMENT
AND VICTIMISATION OF WORKERS TAKING PLACE STOP
REQUEST YOUR IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION AND DISMI?SS
MANAGING DIRECTOR SAID CORPORATION WHO IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR LABOUR UNREST

THANGASWAMY GENERAL SECRETARY
AITUC SADIPUR PORTBLAIR

COL A9===

CATION
दिल्ली दूरसंचार
TELECOMMUNICATION

9/55
R

ZCZC DNDCCA0074 PPP DNDCCA

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NNNN



6/9/47

Express

Comrade Thangaswamy
General Secretary AITUC
Sadipur
Port Blair

AITUC fully supports workers strike
and expresses solidarity with hunger
strike stop ~~to~~ Have Requested

Sangma to Intervene Also

Approaching Prime Minister

For
20/7/47
20/7/47

— Bandhan
General Secretary
AITUC OLG

CHATURANAN MISHRA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(RAJYA SABHA)

6/94



Phone : 3782621

11, CANNING LANE,
NEW DELHI-110 001

Date..... 12.6.1995

Dear Shri Kamalnath,

I am writing to you in connection with the problems being faced by the workers of Plantation Division in Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. which is a Government of India undertaking.

About 100 regular workmen of this Corporation were suspended more than six months back. They are not paid subsistence allowance at the rate of 75% of their wages as admissible under the rules.

More than 37 unskilled/semi-skilled workmen of the Mill Division of the said Corporation were also suspended for no fault of theirs and though six months have passed, they are not paid subsistence allowance at the rate of 75% of their wages as admissible under the rules.

More than six months back, four workmen of the Plantation Division of the said Corporation were transferred from Little Andaman Island to Mayabunder Island in violation of rules as there is no transfer liability in their appointments.

Further, services of the Vice President of the Forest Corporation Workers' Union, Little Andaman, namely, Shri V. Angan, were terminated illegally with effect from September '94 on account of trade union activity.

Similarly payment of the wages from October '94 to January '95 of 200 workmen of Little Andaman Project of the said Corporation have not been paid to them till date, although these workers have performed full time duty during the said period. The reason for not paying wages to these workers is that their out-put of work was reportedly below stipulated norms. Surely, you will appreciate that this is untenable ground.

contd....2

CHATURANAN MISHRA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(RAJYA SABHA)



Phone : 3782621

11, CANNING LANE,
NEW DELHI-110 001

Date.....

- 2 -

From the aforementioned facts you will notice that there is serious crisis in their Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Development Corporation due to anti worker attitude of the management. The matter was brought in your personnel notice by the AITUC vide their letter dated 2nd February'95. Apparantly, no action seems to have been taken on the representation made by AITUC to you as well as by the concerned trade union from Andaman.

As workers in Andaman are highly agitated due to non-payment of wages, illegal suspensions and illegal termination of services of the Vice President of the Union, I shall be grateful if you kindly look into this matter and issue appropriate instructions to the concerned authorities for the redressal of their grievances. The management may be requested to initiate dialogue with the union for an amicable settlement.

Yours faithfully,

sd/s
(CHATURANAN MISHRA)

Shri Kamal Nath,
Minister for Environment & Forests,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

*Copy sent to Com. Thanga Swamy
General Secretary, AITUC,
Andaman & Nicobar State
Committee, Port Blair*

Com. 421

Please go through the
queries raised by An. Chakravarthy
Mishra re. demands of Andaman &
Nicobar workers as represented by
them to various authorities including
the AITOC. The matter has to be
clarified as desired by the Com. Member.

24/5

Sadipur,
Port Blair - 744106.

May 23, 1995,

Dear Comrade,

I have received your letter dated 13.5.95.

I am sorry to hear that nothing has as yet happened. But is good you are continuing the struggle with patience and perseverance.

I agree with you that the matter has to be taken up at the Parliament level. I am requesting Com. Chaturanan Mishra to personally look into the matter, and to meet the Prime Minister and other concerned ministers. let us see what happens. We will inform you about it.

I hope you are registering new unions, and also expanding the membership of the existing ones.

Are you getting all our circulars etc? What about TRADE UNION RECORD ? Are you getting it regularly ?

With greetings,

Yours comradely,

AB
(A. B. BARDHAN)

o/c
Com. Thangaswamy,
General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress
Andaman & Nicobar State,
Sadipur,
Port Blair - 744106.

Copy to

Com. Chaturanan Mishra,
M.P.

राज्य सभा
RAJYA SABHA

23rd May

Dear Com. Bardhan / B.D. Joshi

Sub. Enclosed file received to-day

1. The time for question is over and if you so desire can be taken up in the next session.

2. What is the main issue on which I have to represent to the Govt. I can't do it for 50 demands.

Yes — 3. Whether our union is registered?

✓ 4. Against wage deduction file a case under Payment of wages Act.

5. List of the victimised workers with a short history of the case so that I can write to Labor Minister.

6. If labor Commissioner doesn't act the copy of our representations to him are required.

~~Send~~ Why to Andaman T.U.C.

Chaturaman Pishke

24/5

23rd May.

Dear Com. Bardhan / B.D. Joshi

Sub. enclosed file received to-day

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Copy to Andaman T.U.C.

Chakravarthy

24/5

अखिल - भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24, CANNING LANE NEW DELHI-110001

President : M. S. KRISHNAN
General Secretary : A. B. BARDHAN
Dy. General Secretary : B. D. JOSHI

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With greetings,

Yours comradely,

A. B. Bardhan
(A. B. BARDHAN)

Com. Thangaswamy,
General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress
Andaman & Nicobar State,
Sadipur,
Port Blair - 744106.

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS**ANDAMAN & NICOBAR STATE COMMITTEE.**

President : Swamy Omkaranand.

Office: SADIPUR,

Genl. Secretary : T. Thangaswamy.

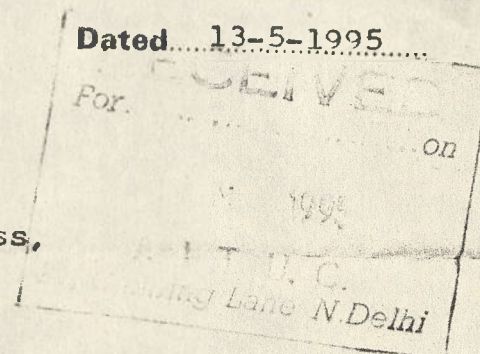
PORT BLAIR-744 106.

Ref: AITUC / 2-1/95

Dated 13-5-1995

To

Com. A.B. Bardhan,
General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110 001



Sir,

We are to remind you about our letters No. AITUC/2-1/94 dated 20.10.1994 and dated 31.12.1994 and your correspondances dated 8.11.1994 addressed to Shri S.B. Chavan, Union Home Minister and another dated 2.2.1995 to Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Environment and Forests, New Delhi, and to state regretfully that there has been no action at all on our representations. The entire matter hangs on unattended by the Management as if nothing has happened although the fact remains that about 140 regular workers remain under suspension for the past six months and are in great difficulties.

The Labour Commissioner of this Union Territory has no intention to conduct conciliation meeting on our charter of demands and he has become practically a tool in the hands of the Management of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Development Corporation to promote anti-labour activities.

The morality of all workers is at stake and it will hit a hard blow on the smooth and profitable existence of the grand Project with about a couple of thousand employees on its pay roll. It will be a great disaster to the nation and the employees, if immediate remedial action is not taken by the high ups in the capital.

Therefore, we would request you to kindly raise voice in the Parliament about the case and for that purpose we are enclosing the necessary questionnaire.

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)
(T. Thangaswamy)
General Secretary.

Encl: as above.

Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

Is it a fact -

1. that about one hundred regular workmen of the Plantation Division of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Development Corporation Ltd., (A Govt. of India undertaking) have been kept under suspension for more than six months and that they are not paid subsistence allowance @ Rs.75% of their wages on completion of three months under suspension which they are entitled and the work has been entrusted to private contractor ?
2. that thirty seven unskilled/semi-skilled workmen of the Mill Division of the said Corporation have been kept under suspension, for more than five months for refusing to work as house servants/Bhandaris of the regular employees of the Mill Division and that they are not paid eligible subsistence allowance @ Rs.75% of their wages from the date of completion of three months under suspension ?
3. that six months ago, four workmen of Plantation Division of the said Corporation have been ordered illegal transfer from Little Andaman island to Mayabunder island in violation of rules as they have no transfer liabilities out of Little Andaman island.
4. that the services of the Vice President of the Forest Corporation Workers' Union, Little Andaman, has been terminated illegally w.e.f. September, 1994 for performing trade union activities ?
5. that the payment of the wages for October '94 to January, 1995 of about two hundred workmen of Little Andaman Project of the said Corporation have not been paid to them upto this date although these workers have performed full time duty daily during the period on the ground that their output of work was below stipulated norms ?
6. that the Labour Commissioner, A & N Islands in collaboration with the Management of the said Corporation has denied to conduct conciliation meetings on the charter of demands of the union which was placed very long back?
7. What action the Minister for Environment and Forests and the Union Home Minister have taken on our letters dated 2.2.1995 and 8.11.1994 respectively ?

/ namely Shri
V. Angan

Speed Post

PHONE : 20793

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR STATE COMMITTEE.

President : Swamy Omkaranand.
Genl. Secretary : T. Thangaswamy.

Office : SADIPUR,
PORT BLAIR-744 106.

Ref : AITUC / 2-1/95

Dated 13-5-1995
RECEIVED
For on
4 1995
A. I. T. U. C.
24, Canning Lane N. Delhi

To

Com.A.B.Bardhan,
General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110 001

Sir,

We are to remind you about our letters No. AITUC/ 2-1/94 dated 20.10.1994 and dated 31.12.1994 and your correspondances dated 8.11.1994 addressed to Shri S.B. Chavan, Union Home Minister and another dated 2.2.1995 to Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Environment and Forests, New Delhi, and to state regretfully that there has been no action at all on our representations. The entire matter hangs on unattended by the Management as if nothing has happened although the fact remains that about 140 regular workers remain under suspension for the past six months and are in great difficulties.

The Labour Commissioner of this Union Territory has no intention to conduct conciliation meeting on our charter of demands and he has become practically a tool in the hands of the Management of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Development Corporation to promote anti-labour activities.

The morality of all workers is at stake and it will hit a hard blow on the smooth and profitable existence of the grand Project with about a couple of thousand employees on its pay roll. It will be a great disaster to the nation and the employees, if immediate remedial action is not taken by the high ups in the capital.

Therefore, we would request you to kindly raise voice in the Parliament about the case and for that purpose we are enclosing the necessary questionnaire.

Yours sincerely,

(T. Thangaswamy)
General Secretary.

Encl: as above.

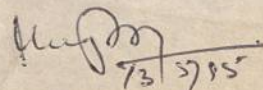
Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

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- 2.that thirty seven unskilled/semi-skilled workmen of the Mill Division of the said Corporation have been kept under suspension, for more than five months for refusing to ~~work~~ work as house servants/Bhandaris of the regular employees of the Mill Division and that they are not paid eligible subsistence allowance @ Rs.75% of their wages from the date of completion of three months under ~~suspension~~ suspension ?
- 3.that six months ago, four workmen of Plantation Division of the said Corporation have been ordered illegal transfer from Little Andaman island to Mayabunder island in violation of rules as they have no transfer liabilities out of Little Andaman island.
- 4.that the services of the Vice President of the Forest Corporation Workers' Union, Little Andaman/has been terminated illegally w.e.f. September, 1994 for performing trade union activities ?
- 5.that the payment of the wages for October '94 to January, 1995 of about two hundred workmen of Little Andaman Project of the said Corporation have not been paid to them upto this date although these workers have performed full time duty daily during the period on the ground that their output of work was below stipulated norms ?
- 6.that the Labour Commissioner, A & N Islands in collaboration with the Management of the said Corporation has denied to conduct conciliation meetings on the charter of demands of the union which was placed very long back?
7. What action the Minister for Environment and Forests and the Union Home Minister have taken on our letters dated ~~8.2.1995~~ 2.2.1995 and 8.11.1994 respectively ?

/ namely Shri
V. Angan

.....


73/5/95

file
6/94

2/2/95

February 2, 1995,

Shri Kamal Nath,
Minister for Environment and Forests,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Sir,

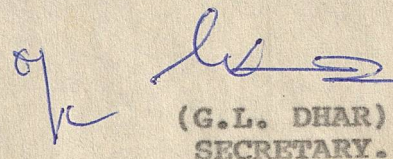
The management of Andaman and Nicobar Forest Plantation Development Corporation have illegally deducted wages of 150 workers for October, November and December 94 though they performed their duty during this period. These workers have also been suspended from service thereby precipitating a serious crisis. Since affected workers are not getting any wages they and their family members are starving.

There is serious agitation and tension among workers in the Corporation. I shall be grateful if you kindly direct the Corporation to immediately pay full wages to the affected workers for the period October, November and December '94, revoke their suspension and restore normalcy by holding discussion with the State Committee of AITUC. We also demand that stern action be taken against Managing Director and other officers of the Corporation for mismanagement.

We hope you will personally look into this matter and ensure an amicable settlement so that workers of the Corporation are not forced to march to Delhi to stage a Dharna at your office.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


(G.L. DHAR)
SECRETARY.

Copy to:
The President,
Andaman & Nicobar STUC,

ZCZC DNDCC00055 BBB DNDCCCK

0006

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AITUCONG
NEWDELHI

AITUCONG
ALL INDIA
24 CANNING
NO DELAY
26-1-75
NEW DELHI
ND

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR FOREST PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING MADE
ILLEGAL DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY

WORKERS FOR OCTOBER NOVEMBER

AND DECEMBER INSPITE

OF THEIR PRESENCE ON

FULL DUTY STOP ALL

THESE

WORKERS NOW PLACED UNDER SUSPENSION STOP AFFECTED

WORKERS AND FAMILIES STARVING SINCE THREE MONTHS

STOP REQUEST ACTION TO SUSPEND MANAGING DIRECTOR AND OTHERS

OFFICERS

IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MIS-MANAGEMENT AND TO

DISBURSE FULL WAGES TO AFFECTED WORKMEN AND ALSO

TO REINSTATE THEM TO WORK STOP IF MATTER NOT REPEAT

NOT SETTLED BEFORE TENTH FEBRUARY COMRADES HUNDREDS OF

WORKMEN ARE PLANNING TO COME TO DELHI TO STAGE A STAGE PROTEST

DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF PARLIAMENT DURING NEXT SESSION

SWAMY OMKARANAND

PRESIDENT AITUC ANDAMAN

COLL NARASIMA RAO UNION LABOUR AITUCONG SWAMY OMKARA

NAND===

WANPBA0118

WSFMSS0827

DNDEDF0093

DNDEDC0083

NNNN

DELHI TELECOMMUNICATION

no 6/94

January 5, 1995,

Dear Com. Omkaranand/Thangaswamy,

Allow me, first of all, to congratulate you on the successful agitation conducted by you, which has attracted public attention.

Naturally, securing all the justified demands would take time, persistent struggle and patience, but I think a very good beginning has been made.

I am really sorry, that I could not come at that time because I had gone abroad. But I think it would be possible and desirable to do so, in April, i.e. after the State elections are over.

Meanwhile, we have taken note of your memorandum, and shall take urgent steps here to see that the Government of India moves in the matter.

Please keep us regularly posted. We will print your report in our fortnightly journal-TUR. Do you get it regularly? Have you subscribed to it?

Greetings,

Yours comradely

AB

(A.B. BARDHAN)

etc.

Com. T. Thangaswamy,
General Secretary,
AITUC, A & N. Islands,
Office: Sadipur,
8666688666686666.

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS**ANDAMAN & NICOBAR STATE COMMITTEE.**

President : Swamy Omkaranand.

Genl. Secretary : T. Thangaswamy.

Office : SADIPUR,

PORT BLAIR-744 106.

no 6/94

Ref : AITUC / 2-1/94

Dated..... 31-12-1994

To

Com. A. B. Bardhan,
General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
24, Canning Lane,
New Delhi-110 001

Dear Comrade,

We are facing a tough time during the past few months with our Trade Union activities which remained confined mostly to the ante labour policies of the Forest Plantation & Development Corporation of A & N Islands which is Govt. of India undertaking. Total anarchy prevails in the Corporation with the autocratic and dictatorial management patronising the ante social and ante labour elements in the Corporation. We had placed a fifty point demand of the Union on which the management cared the least even to have conciliation meetings. There was no other way left than to go ahead with a token relay hunger strike detailing three workers each day to sit on fast. The strike continued from 23rd September, 1994 to 18th November, 1994 in front of the Oil Mill at Little Andaman. Finding that it produced no desired effect, we decided to change the venue of activities to Port Blair which is the capital for this Union Territory and to ventilate the grievances in public under the very nose of the big shots. We have been able to bring more than 500 labourers from Little Andaman to Port Blair and take processions on the main roads daily from 23rd to 27th Nov. 1994 and hold public meetings at different junctions. We could put up a grand show and everything went on well to the admixisk admiration of the administration and the general public. We wanted you to participate in the melee during that festival-like period which was arranged at a huge expenditure and tiresome work for many days. I had contacted your office at Delhi over phone and came to know that you were at Foreign country for attending labour

.....2.....

R/ file
AMB

RECEIVED
For.....on
- 4 JAN 1995
A. I. T. U. C.
24, Canning Lane, N. Delhi

conference. The President of AITUC, A & N State Committee Swamy Omkaranand was prevented from coming to Port Blair and you were let ~~kk~~ known about the affair by telegram and fax message. The event was also published in our Andaman Today newspaper dated 1.12.1994. A copy of which was also sent to you.

2. The main demand of the workers are grant of Scale of pay and the same matter is at closing/final stage and the judgement/award of the Tribunal is expected by 15th January, 1995. In the meantime many illegal transfers, suspensions and recovery from wages of the workers have ~~been~~ taken place and the issues are yet to be handled for settlement. The delay tactics of the management in handling the matter before the Tribunal have caused havoc and you know that it is a tough affair to keep the labourers united in good spirit for a long time when they are deprived of the wages. This is the main problem in hand. We are able to key up the workers with the solace given to them that we have our guardians at Delhi to look after our interests. It was to satisfy them that we wanted you at Port Blair to address few public meetings and conferences. Your simple presence would have been sufficient to give additional moral strength to the labour force at our command. The result of the peaceful agitation and demonstration and public meetings at Port Blair is that our Trade Unions and Party have established a sound footing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We have ~~to~~ to do lot of field work ~~to~~ to strengthen ourselves towards which we are contributing all our might.

3. In all, there are 50 demands. Out of which, only one demand i.e. grant of Scale of pay is before the Labour Tribunal and the remaining 49 demands to be settled suddenly. The details of the demands are enclosed herewith. The conciliation meetings with the Labour Commissioner are also being delayed as desired by the management. Corruptions in large scale has long ceased to be an issue of concern for the management and the permissive approach towards corruption of ~~is~~ odd nature has alienated the workers

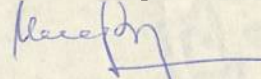
from the management.

We do not want to request you to come ~~to~~ over here at present. We shall chalk out a programme at a later date and will inform you well in advance.

I request you to kindly take up the matter in parliament during next session. I also request you to kindly take up the matter with the Prime Minister of India on top priority basis, so that the large scale victimisation and harassment can be stopped.

With regards and ~~NEWS~~ NEW YEAR greetings.

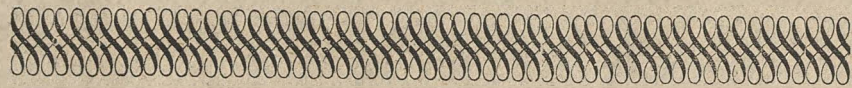
Yours fraternally,



(T.Thangaswamy)
General Secretary.

Encl: one.

Demands of Forest Corporation Workers' Union. (AFFILIATED TO AITUC.)



- 1 Immediate implementation of Scales of Pay for Workmen.
- 2 Withdrawal of Bhandaris and stoppage of misuse of Workmen.
- 3 Stoppage of misuse of vehicles.
- 4 Abolition of contract system for repair of vehicles.
- 5 Abolition of contract system for weeding, manuring and application of pesticides.
- 6 Abolition of contract system in transporting of logs
- 7 Grant of festival advance of Rs. 1,000/- to workmen
- 8 Grant of cycle advance of Rs. 1500/- to workers.
- 9 Grant of LIC premium as extended to regular employees.
- 10 Providing liveries viz., Jungle Boots, Gloves, Uniforms etc., to all workmen.
- 11 Providing cemented water-tanks in labour barracks
- 12 Providing water-tap connections to all labour barracks.
- 13 Providing Electricity connections to labour barracks
- 14 Providing firewood to all workmen as extended to regular staff.
- 15 Filling up of all vacant regular posts from amongst workers and dependent members of workmen.
- 16 Star TV provided at Hut Bay and Netajinagar by the Corporation must be removed.
- 17 Inter-transfer of Workers from one section to other
- 18 Withdrawal of all illegal transfer orders.
- 19 Withdrawal of all orders of suspension.
- 20 Construction of labour community halls at Balulevel, Didubhanji & Krishna Nalla.
- 21 Labour participation in management, to enhance out-put, to stop misuse of men machineries & misuse of funds.
- 22 Allowing union leaders/office bearers to act as Defence Assistants in departmental / domestic inquiries.
- 23 Reduction of superfluous strength of regular employees.
- 24 Posting of regular staff for weighing-machine at Mill Div.
- 25 Junior Engineers should extract work from workmen of their respective trades.
- 26 Allotment of family quarters should be done strictly according to seniority.
- 27 Inclusion of workmen's representatives in the quarter-allotment committee.
- 28 Workers owning houses should not be provided family quarters.
- 29 One van to be stationed at Balulevel with driver for emergency purposes.
- 30 Construction of children's park at 4 km, Balulevel, Krishna Nalla, Lal Tikri & Didu Banji.
- 31 Opening of check-posts at Sawmill Barrack area.
- 32 Checkposts should function round the clock.
- 33 Posting of cleaners in Mech Sections should be on seniority/experience basis.
- 34 Minibus must be placed under Labour Welfare Officer.
- 35 Construction of labour barracks at road-side only as constructed for all permanent staff.
- 36 Garbage pits should be made out at living complexes of workmen.
- 37 Proper repairs to all labour barracks.
- 38 Over-head water tank at Krishna Nalla, 4th Km.
- 39 Posting of all forest-guards for field work.
- 40 Construction of latrines in all living complexes.
- 41 Appointment of Doctor, Compounder & Midwife, Ayah for frequent visits to various labour camps.
- 42 Providing rain-coats every year to all workmen.
- 43 Re-imbusement of bus-fare to all school-going children of workmen.
- 44 Grant of special casual leave to the office-bearers of the Union for Union activities.
- 45 Recognition of Union based on the membership of the Union.
- 46 Providing office accommodation to recognised Trade Union.
- 47 Providing one metre wide foot-path in all labour camps connecting main-road.
- 48 Illegal recovery made from wages should be refunded.
- 49 Providing vehicles to workers on payment as extended to regular employees for their personal works.
- 50 Supplying logs to workmen for construction of their own residential house.

Swamy Omkaranand,
General Secretary,
Forest Corporation Workers' Union.
and President, AITUC.
A & N Islands

T. Thangaswamy,
General Secretary
AITUC, A & N Islands
Port Blair.

8th November, 1994,

Shri S.B. Chavan,
Union Minister for Home Affairs,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

SUB: Anti-labour policies and practices employed by the management of the Central Government undertaking, viz, Forest & Plantation Development Corporation, Port Blair - Andamans.

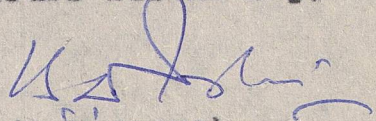
Dear Sir,

We have been receiving reports from the Andaman State Committee of our organisation complaining against totally unsympathetic and even hostile attitude of the management of the abovenamed undertaking of the Central Government towards their employees and their union. Persistent failure of the management of this undertaking has forced the employees to take to the path of peaceful agitation resulting in avoidable industrial unrest and strained relations.

I am desired to request the Government to issue necessary instructions to the concerned authority in Andamans to deal with the demands of the employees sympathetically and favourably.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



(B.D. JOSHI)
DY. GENERAL SECRETARY.

*Copy for information to
Com. T. Shengaswamy,
General Secretary,
Andaman & Nicobar State Councils,
All India Trade Union Congress,
Dadipur, PORT BLAIR - 744 106*

PHONE : 20793

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR STATE COMMITTEE.

President ; Swamy Omkaranand.

Office : SADIPUR,

Genl. Secretary : T. Thangaswamy.

PORT BLAIR-744 106.

Ref : AITUC / 2-1/94

Dated.....20-10-1994...

To

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

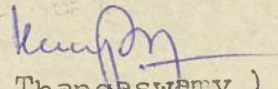
Dear Comrade,

This is to inform you that one of our Union viz Forest Corporation Workers' union, Hut Bay, Little Andaman is on Relay Hunger Strike since 23rd September, 1994 onwards and the strike is continuing. The management/employer issued transfer order transferring the Vice-President of the union and the management is also taking all attempts to brake our union, and to victimise the workers who are members of our union. We had published a news items in our newspaper (Andaman Today) dated 1.10.1994 and 15.10.1994 about the said strike. Copy of the said newspapers are sent herewith for your kind information.

We shall be grateful if you would kindly take up the matter with Prime Minister of India, New Delhi to sort out the demands immediately. The said Forest & Plantation Development Corporation, Port Blair is a Govt. of India's undertaking.

With regards,

Yours fraternally,


(T. Thangaswamy)
General Secretary.

Encl: as above.

6
5th November, 1994,

Dear Com. Thangaswamy,

Got your telegram. I am sorry you could not attend. You missed a lot, and we missed you.

I am enclosing our documents of the General Council.

You mention about a strike. Please FAX (Fax No.011-386427) details for our information and publication in our journal - FUR.

Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Com. Thangaswamy,
Port Blair,
(A & N.)

(A. B. BARDHAN)