

No.DESW-L 20/57.

Dibrugarh, Date 24.5.57.

To
The Manager,
D.E.S.Co.(P) Ltd.

Dear sir,
I have come to know that one of our employee
Sri Hemanta Kumar Chakraborty (Cashier) is missing from the
22nd morning 1957 after sending a letter to the Head-clerk
of the Company. The worker and his family members are very
much anxious to know his whereabouts. I shall be glad to know
what Sri Chakraborty has written in his letter. So that I
can console the workers as well as his family members.

Please treat this most urgent.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/ N.Ghose.
General Secretary.

Dibrugarh Electric Supply Workers' Union.

Copy for information & taking necessary action:-

- (1) The Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh.
- (2) The Labour Officer, Dibrugarh.

No. DESW-L 21/57.

Dibrugarh, Date 30.5.57.

The Manager,
Dibrugarh Electric Supply Co.(P) Ltd.
Dibrugarh.

Dear sir,

It is a matter of great regret that inspite of our request to the context of the letter written by Sri Hemanta Kumar Chakraborty (Cashier) who has been missed from the office after sending the letter to the Head-clerk on the 22nd May last. You did not feel it necessary to let the workers as well as his family members know about the letter.

This is to remind you again to let the workers as well as his family members know about the letter, so that we can console them.

I hope that you will treat this letter as most urgent.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/ N.Ghose.
General Secretary,
D.E.S.Workers' Union.

An Industrial Dispute Between:

1. Sri.H.K.ChakravartyEmployee(represented by the Union).
2. The Dibrugarh Electric Supply Co.(P)Ltd..... Employer.

The employee is a permanent workman appointed verbally by the Employer Company in 1942; first as a Bill Clerk for 1½ years and since then an Accounts Clerk in the Cash Branch till 1957. He has not availed any leave during his 15 years service. He has 90 days earned leave due on 1st April, 1957. He had availed only casual leave; 2 days in 1950, 2 days in 1952 and 9/10 days in 1951, all at a time.

The workman submitted an un-official application for 4 weeks leave to his Departmental Head on 22.5.57 and left the place. He was ill and did not inform the Company to extend his leave. After 47 days, he went to the office of the Company on 6.7.57 and applied formally for further leave for 2½ months in all from 22nd May, 57. He was asked to go back home and on the very day he was arrested by police on a criminal case instituted by the Employer Company after 45 days absence of the workman. The police case is pending in the Court of Law. The workman applied for his earned as well as leave salaries on 5.8.57.

On 31st July, 57, the Company discontinued electricity enjoyed free of cost by him without any prior notice.

The Company, on 7.8.57, acknowledged the receipt of the workman's petitions dated 6.7.57 & 5.8.57 only and stated that the workman had forfeited all lien to his job as well as ceased to be an employee of their concern. (copy of the letter enclosed).

Issue raised by the Union:-

Whether loss of lien to the workman's job justified—if not, whether the workman is entitled to get his arrear salaries up to date ——— whether cessation of employment of the workman regular and valid,——— if not, whether the workman is liable to get subsistence-allowance till the finalisation of the police case.

From the Company's letter enclosed herewith the Union invents the main charges against the workman as follows:-

1. That the workman absented without leave for more than a month.
2. That the workman did not make over charge of cash before leaving.
3. That the workman misappropriated a big amount of Co.'s money.

The Union's Stand:-

The workman was not given a chance for his self-defence against the allegations inspite of provisions in the Standing Order in force.

In reply to No.1 above:- The workman's first petition on 22.5.57 though lacks in general procedure and formalities, if not misplaced or suppressed, could come into consideration as it was the tradition in the Company. The workman's second leave petition is not irregular and should be entertained by the Company because of practice existing in the Concern. There are several instances in support of it in previous years and in the year of issue as well.

In reply to No.2 above:- In making over charge of cash, the workman bears no responsibility. He was neither the cashier nor the person entrusted with cash. He has no agreement or security required for such services. Prior to his leave in 1950, 1951 & 1952, making over charge of cash or taking over of same had no incidence. Since 1952 onwards the workman's service position did not alter. This shows that the workman has no responsibility of cash and he cannot be asked for making over charge of same.

In reply to No.3 above:- The Police case instituted against the workman after 45 days of his absence has reasons to suspicion. Again, as the case is pending in the Court of Law, the workman cannot be said as guilty beforehand.

The above explanations justify that the workman has not lost lien to his job and his ceasation of employment is irregular and wrongful; hence invalid.

Under the circumstances, the workman is entitled to get the benefit of all his arrear salaries up to date and considering the dismissal at best to suspension from duty, he is liable to have subsistence allowance till the finalisation of the Police Case.

The Industrial Dispute lodged by the Workers' Union to the Govt.

Labour Officer, Dibrugarh, where it stands now:-

The Union on behalf of the workman lodged the complaint on 16th Oct., 1957.

The Labour Officer fixed the date of conciliation proceedings to be held in his office on 18.10.57 and informed the parties to attend accordingly.

The Union applied for time on 17.10.57 due to their engagement outside the town on some urgent matters.

The Labour Officer re-fixed the parley date on 29.10.57. The Union and the Employer attended. Conciliation Proceedings went on; but ended incomplete^{ly} due to Company's failure in producing relevant Registers, documents, etc. in connexion with leave affairs and making over charges of cash question. The Labour Officer expressed his opinion to go to the office of the Company on 2.11.57 and enquire into the unfinished matter in presence of both parties.

On 1.11.57 the Company applied to the Labour Officer for a fortnights time to consult with their legal adviser whether the Labour Officer can enquire into the dispute of the workman against whom a criminal case is pending in the Court of Law.

The Labour Officer did not appear in the Company on 2.11.57 as proposed by him.

It is learnt that the Labour Officer held an enquiry in the Company, in camera, on 2.12.57

Some time past, the Labour Officer told the Union that he would call for another parley soon his enquiries were over. The Union has heard nothing on the subject.

On an interview with the Labour Officer a few days back, the Union comes to know that he is unable to decide anything and expresses that he can, so far, refer the case to the higher authorities who will also, nothing but, wait for decision of the Court Case against the workman.

'Confidential'

Brief History Of Sri H. K. Chakraborty's Case:-

On 22-5-57 Sri Chakraborty did not go to Office and an Office-Peon handed over a letter of Sri Chakraborty to Sri P.K.Dhar, the Head Clerk/cum Accountant of the Company. A few of the Office Staff asked Sri Dhar the reason of Sri Chakraborty's absence, i.,e. if he had stated anything in the said letter or application. Sri Dhar remain silent and seemed to be busy over Office Affairs. After an hour he informed the Staff that Sri Chakraborty would not come to Office that day and also asked them to manage the work themselves. At noon Sri N.C.Sanyal, Manager, found Sri Chakraborty absent and on his formal enquiry to the cause of latter's absence was reported by Sri Dhar in presence of the Office Staff that Sri Chakraborty was ill and might require some 10 to 12 days for recovery. After the close of Office hours many of the Staff learnt that Sri Chakraborty was not found anywhere. Sri Dhar had always been trying to avoid meeting any enquiry regarding Sri Chakraborty throughout the day. Suspicion was naturally aroused in the minds of many of the staff. Accidentally Sri Sanyal, the Manager, after Office hours noticed a feeling of uneasiness among a few employees moving impatiently and he atonce drove out his Car to residences of a few of Sri Chakraborty's colleagues and at last to that of Sri Dhar. Sri Dhar assured him not to be worried for the affair and advised him that he (The Manager) was only a New-Commer to this place and that Sri Dhar would manage everything about the situation and as Sri Chakraborty's absence without information was wel-known to the Managing Agents. But when Sri Sanyal wanted to learn definitely if any letter was sent by Sri Chakraborty as stated by the Office-Peon, Sri Dhar answered in the negative. Suspicion yet increased in many minds. On 24-5-57 the Manager was surprised to get the Union's letter regarding Sri Chakraborty (Annexure 1). He charged the Head Clerk/Accountant Sri Dhar why the latter had given him a mistaken notice of affairs and that Sri Chakraborty's application for

had only received a personal letter from Sri Chakraborty. On Union's repeated verbal insistence, the Manager dared not support the strange ~~Policy~~^{policy} of indifference and charged the Management through their tool Sri Dhar that he (the Manager) would be compelled to bring the affair to the notice of the Police, atleast to save his own skin . It was obvious that the Manager was suspecting something wrong. And yet as an Agent of the Company he had to do whatever the Management suggested.

On the other hand, the Union got no response of any of their verbal queries or of the letter of 24-5-57 regarding Sri Chakraborty, till then absenting, it sent another reminder to the Company on 30-5-57, (Annexure 2). Having heard nothing from the Company the Union had, no other way, but to report the matter to the Police and Authorities concerned on 1-6-57 (Annexure 3). The Union's contention was to unveil the mystry and to single out the wrong-doer whoever he might be .The Union had no intention and it has yet no intention to shield a wrong-doer irrespective of any creed . As a matter of fact, the Union was at first inclined to belive that the discrepancy in Accounting might have a link with disappearance of Sri Chakraborty; perhaps in collusion with the Accountant and not beyond the knowledge of the Management .At last on 2-6-57 the Union received an information from the Company that Sri Chakraborty had sent no letter to them and their remark as per second para of the letter was puzzling to the Union(Annexure 4) . It was also learnt that on 29-5-57 the Company sent an information to the Local Police that Sri Chakraborty was found missing since 22-5-57 . During the whole month of June/57 the Company declared that they had their Accounting in order and there was no discrepancy in fund and they were Financially Sound.

On 6-7-57 Sri Chakraborty went to the Office and approach^{ed} the Manager for further Extension of leave but he was simply advised by the Manager to go home and wait. Sri Chakraborty was rather surprised by the strange attitude of the Manager and as per his instruction, came home and awaited the Manager's Orders when to his surprise he was called by the Police to give a statement regarding some Company's

But in the Police Station he was informed

On the first week of August/57, a sudden investigation in the Company was made by Officers of the Chief Electrical Engineer & Electrical adviser to the Gov't of Assam and also the Assam Financial Corporation jointly. Suffice to say that they were so confident of the mis-representation of the defalcation that ~~they~~ made a Confidential interview with the General Secretary of the Union clearly stating that it was all a GOT-UP case, the charges against Sri Chakraborty could hardly be belived and proved, as he was mere clerk and that the Company's account was handled and shaped by one of the Directors, Sri K.L.Dhelia in collusion with Sri P.K.Dhar, the Accountant. The Officers had gone through the Accounts of the year 1955-56, 1956-57 and up to the day of their inspection and submitted their Reports to the Government. They declared the innocence of Sri Chakraborty which encouraged the Union to move forward for fighting a right cause.

It would not be out of place to refer here that the said C.E.E & A.F.C. investigation unveiled the unfair practice of the Management in manipulating huge sums of money every year. The Shillong enquiry detected many Falls Bills of Local Purchases by the Management even from non-existing parties. In the year of issue taking so-called genuine income and expenditure into account, the Company arrived at a Net Profit sufficiently below the limit of the REASONABLE RETURN and there was no question of EXCESS-PROFIT on which alone they ^{could} extract money by foul means. As that the Managing Agents found it impossible to adjust the huge sum of Company's money lying with them. They waited for more than a month and thought over some ill-plan and in the absence of Sri Chakraborty they got the fullest advantage and fell the brunt on his soulder.

Now, want of Funds and Provisions have stood in the way of the Union to go ahead. The Union has fairly find reasons to believe that the Authorities are somehow influenced and the Union stands resourceless against them. The Local Police similarly influenced are delaying the investigation and the Case remains yet pending. Sri Chakraborty has been in Bail and on his application to the Company for his salaries etc, he was served with a strange reply (Co's Letter sent with Dispute Case).

Unfortunately, the Labour Officer has been influenced and verbally advising the Union to wait up to the Finalisation of the Police-Case . Could we show you his own ^{writings} ~~writings~~ to the Company charging the Management of their un-just with-holding of Sri Chakraborty's Re-instatement in the Service, at least of his back salaries and subsistence allowance -s during the pendency of the case, we could ~~apprise~~ apprise you of the fact that the Labour Officer has recently changed his policy under cover of his inability to do anything in the matter at present.

Last, but not the least, Sri Sanyal, the then Manager who had been blindly following the dictation of the Management in regard to Sri Chakraborty's case and other affairs, got alarmed to read into the real intention and evil designs of Sri Dhar and Sri K.L.Dhelia, the Director. When he pointed out to the unjust and unfair practices, falsification of Office records and misappropriation of Employees Provident Fund Money by a few Officials, he was served with a sudden notice of dismissal and offered proper compensation thereto as his presence might weaken the company's cause . We are trying to find out Sri Sanyals address and would furnish you with the same for your direct enquiry of him, if possible. Sri Sanyal had no Power Of Attorney and had no touch with the Financial Affair with the Company; which was and is still with the Managing Agents .

With Greetings,

Yours Comradely,

Bhowmick

(Moni Bhowmick)

Joint: Secretary:

For: DIBRUGARH ELECTRIC SUPPLY WORKERS' UNION .

THE MADRAS ELECTRICITY WORKERS UNION
(Regd. No. 692 -- Recognised)

PRESIDENT: V.G. Row, Bar-at-law
General Secretary: S.C. Krishnan B.A.

No. 5 Ritchie St.,
Madras 2, Dt.27.5.1958

Com. Kedar Das M.L.A.,
General Secretary,
Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union,
Jamshedpur.

Dear Comrade,

We give below a copy of the resolution unanimously passed at a public meeting held under the auspices of the Madras Electricity Workers Union under the Chairmanship of Sri K. Gajapathy on 23.5.1958 at Pension Line Maidan, Madras.

"This meeting greets the heroic fight and solidarity shown by thousands of steel workers under the Tata Iron and Steel Co. in Jamshedpur for their just demands and trade union rights. This meeting urges on the Government of India and particularly the Minister for Labour to intervene and settle the dispute amicably.

This meeting further pays homage to the worker martyrs and urges on the Government to set up a Judicial enquiry into the police firings."

Assuring the solidarity of the electricity workers of Tamilnad in your just cause, and with greetings,

yours comradely,

S C Krishnan

(S.C. KRISHNAN)
GENERAL SECRETARY.

Copy to Com. S.A. Dange, General Secy.,
All-India Trade Union Congress, 4 Ashock Road, New Delhi

Copy to the President, Tamilnad Electric Workers Federation
Copy to Sri Krishna Sinha, Chief Minister ~~Govt~~ Government of Bihar with a request to 1. Conduct an enquiry into the police firings
2. Withdrawing the army from Jamshadpur and referring the dispute to an Industrial Tribunal

Copy to the Tata Iron and Steel Co. Jamshedpur. Copy to the Government of India, Copy to T.N.T.U.C.

(The G.P.)
OFFICE OF THE DIBRUGARH ELECTRIC SUPPLY WORKERS' UNION .
(Registered No. 359)
Po. Rehabari . Dibrugarh .

Ref:No: DESW-L22/57.

3
Dated 1st June 1957 .

To
The Officer-in-Charge,
Police Station,
Dibrugarh.

Sir,

Most humbly I beg to lodge a complaint to this effect that under a peculiar and mysterious circumstances one Sri Hemanta Kumar Chakravarty the Cashier of the Dibrugarh Electric Supply Co(Private)Ltd., has suddenly disappeared after attending his usual office duty on 22nd May 1957. After the matter came to the knowledge of the Union on information from the workers as well as his family members on the next day, the Union requested the Management of Dibrugarh Electric Supply Co,(P)Ltd, with a letter dated 24 th May/57 to intimate the Union the whereabouts of Sri Chakravarty and ~~at~~ also to supply a certified copy of the letter which informed to be addressed to the Head Clerk for the satisfaction of the workers and his family members. The copy of that letter ~~which informed to be~~ was forwarded to D.C., Lakhimpur; Labour Officer, Dibrugarh for their informations.

Again on receipt of no reply from the Company the Union further requested the Company with a reminder on 30.5.57. No reply to that effect also has yet been received by the Union.

Now it is doubted by the Union that there might have a great discrepancy in accounting and the Union presumes that this discrepancy might have a link with that mysterious disappearance of Sri Chakravarty .

Further there is every reason to believe that the Company has not yet submitted their accounts to the Government.as required.

This is also a mystery that the Company has not informed the Police Authority in due time after the incident of that mysterious disappearance -e of said Cashier and that they had opened the Cash in absence of any legal authorities.

More over, Sri Chakravarty was also a member of the Trustee - Board of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme and as such workers are interested for the whereabouts of Sri Chakravart.

Under the circumstances the Union requests you to make proper enquiry into the entire affairs and bring the mystery in to the light.

Yours faithfully,
For Dibrugarh Electric Supply Workers' Union .
sd/ M. Bhowmick
1.6.57.

* Copy forwarded for information:-

For General Secretary.

1. The Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh.
2. The Managing Director: Assam Industrial Finance Corporation, Shillong.
3. The Hon'ble Finance Minister, to the Gov't Of Assam, Shillong.
4. The Secretary to the Gov't Of Assam, Anti-Corruption Department, Shillong.
5. The Labour Commissioner, Assam, Shillong.
6. The Chief Electrical Adviser, Shillong.
7. Sri. Nilmoni Barthakur., M.L.A. Dibrugarh.
8. The Labour Officer, Dibrugarh.

sd/ M. Bhowmick.
sd/ 1.6.57.
For General Secretary:

4

From: The Dibrugarh Electric Supply Co.Private Ltd.
Dibrugarh(Assam).

To
The Secretary,
Dibrugarh Electric Supply Workers' Union,
Dibrugarh.

Ref. No.183/547-57.

Date 1st June, 1957.

Dear sir,
With reference to your letter No.DESW-121/57 dated
30-5-57, this is to inform you that this Company has not
received any letter from Sri Hemanta Kumar Chakraborty.

His family members are aware of that he left
Dibrugarh out of his own accord and they are in search
of him.

Yours faithfully,
For The Dibrugarh Electric Supply Co.(Private) Ltd.,

Sd/ N.C.Sanyal,
Engineer & Manager.

From

The General Secretary,
Hydro Electric Employees Union, U.P.
S a h a r a n p u r .

To

The Chief Engineer,
Hydro Electric Department,
Uttar Pradesh,
L U C K N O W .

Sir,

In inviting your kind attention to my letter Nos. 21/C.E.57 dated 18.8.1957, copies also sent to S.Es. and subsequent reminder No. 32/C.E.57 of 21-8-1957, I am to say that no reply has been received as yet. This action of yours as well as your subordinate S.Es clearly show that you people think it disgraceful to listen our reasonable demands and give reply thereof. As such great misunderstandings are being caused among the staff against you. It is, therefore, requested that our letters may kindly be replied within a week. Besides following may also be sent within a fortnight otherwise we shall be compelled to move the Government:-

1. List of Hydl. Employees (Permanent, Regular and Workcharge).
2. List of Power Houses and Substations.
3. Hydl. Manual Book.
4. A copy of G.O. Reg. Special Casual and Union Leave.
5. A copy of the case file of Raghbar Petrol man alongwith a copy of - decision.
6. A copy of the decision on our representation sent under our letter No. 32/C-E-57.

I am to add that all S.Es, Executive Engineers and S.D.Os may also be informed accordingly as there are many instances in which arrears pay have not been paid since 1950 and if they write to the office no reply is received.

In the end I may only mention that attention may kindly be drawn to this effect so that the staff can be satisfied.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- M.K. Agarwal.
General Secretary,
Hydro Electric Employees Union, U.P.
Hydro Electric, Saharanpur.

Copy to :- For information and necessary action.

- 1- The Secretary to Govt. U.P., Finance & Power 'A' Deptt. Lucknow.
2. President H.E.E. Union, U.P. Kasimpur (Aligarh).
3. Superintendent Engineer Hydl. Deptt. Roorkee.
4. " " " " " Moradabad.
5. " " " " " Baroilly.
6. " " " " " Lucknow.
7. " " " " " Rihand Div. Allahabad.
8. The Labour Commissioner, Kanpur.
9. The Inspector of Unions, Kanpur.
10. The Regional Conciliation Officer, Agra & Meerut.

Sd/- M.K. Agarwal.
General Secretary,
Hydro Electric Employees Union,
Hydro Electric Saharanpur.

From

The General Secretary,
Hydro Electric Employees Union, U.P.
S a h a r a n p u r .

To

The Chief Engineer,
Hydro Electric Department,
Uttar Pradesh,
L U C K N O W .

Sir,

In inviting your kind attention to my letter Nos. 21/C.E.57 dated 18.8.1957, copies also sent to S.Es. and subsequent reminder No. 32/C.E.57 of 21-8-1957, I am to say that no reply has been received as yet. This action of yours as well as your subordinate S,Es clearly show that you people think it disgraceful to listen our reasonable demands and give reply thereof. As such great misunderstandings are being caused among the staff against you. It is, therefore, requested that our letters may kindly be replied within a week. Besides following may also be sent within a fortnight otherwise we shall be compelled to move the Government:-

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 5. " " " " Bareilly.
 6. " " " " Lucknow.
 7. " " " " Rihand Div. Allahabad.
 8. The Labour Commissioner, Kanpur.
 9. The Inspector of Unions, Kanpur.
 10. The Regional Conciliation Officer, Agra & Meerut.

Sd/- M.K. Agarwal-1.
General Secretary,
Hydro Electric Employees Union,
Hydro Electric Saharanpur.

सत्य अहिंसा हमारा ध्येय है
 हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाईज यूनियन का वार्षिक अधिवेशन कासिमपुर
 पावर हाउस स्टाफ कालोनी में श्री सय्यद जलील अहमद की अध्यक्षता में
 १२ व १३ अगस्त सन् १९५७ में हुआ

✽ रिपोर्ट ✽

जलसे में सभी डिवीजनों के चुने हुये प्रतिनिधि आये थे । जनरल सैक्रेट्री ने यूनियन के सामान्य प्रश्नों के तथा पिछले अधिवेशन (जो कि मुजफ्फर नगर में हुआ था) से लेकर अब तक की कार्रवाहियों तथा उन के द्वारा पैदा हुये नतीजों पर भली प्रकार प्रकाश डाला । अपने यूनियन की माली हालत तथा यूनियन में मड़ी फूट पर दुख प्रगट करते हुये बताया कि यदि हमारी ऐसी ही दशा रही तो हमारी यूनियन के अस्तित्व को गहरी ठेस का कारण होगी । हमने इस महासभा की बैठक में अपने विधान में भी बहुत सी तब्दीलियां कर दी हैं जो कि आशा की जाती है कि बहुत जल्दी रजिस्टर्ड करा ली जायेंगी और अगली मिटिंग जो खटीमा पावर हाऊस में नवम्बर में होने जा रही है उस में हम एक बाहर का कानिल आदमी अपना प्रधान चुनने की सदस्यों से आशा करते हैं । अन्त में जनरल सैक्रेट्री ने सदस्यों से भाई चारा तथा सेवा की भावना जाग्रत करने की अपील की और यूनियन की वार्षिक आय पर प्रकाश डाला ।

आमदनी लगभग २०००) की हुई । खर्च लगभग १४००) के हुआ ।

इलाहाबाद बैंक में जमा धन लगभग ६००) ।

इसके अलावा बहुत कर्मचारियों का कोई हिस्सा नहीं मिला यदि सभी कर्मचारियों का चन्दा नियत समय पर आ गथा होता तो निश्चय ही यूनियन की बैंकिंग पावर १५००) से अधिक होती । यह माना कि इस वर्ष यूनियन गत वर्षों से उन्नति की और अग्रसर है फिर भी सभी से अनुरोध है कि शीघ्र अपना २ हिस्सा भेज कर यूनियन की आर्थिक स्थिति को दृढ़ बनाने की चेष्टा करें । निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव पास हुये

हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाईज यूनियन की निम्नलिखित मांगों जो श्री रघुनन्दन प्रसाद जी की अध्यक्षता में हमारे चीफ इन्जीनियर साहब के सम्मुख प्रस्तुत की गई परन्तु खूबी सान्त्वना के सिवाय कुछ न मिला । इस लिये संघ की यह आम सभा श्रीमान चीफ इन्जीनियर साहब बहादुर लखनऊ से प्रार्थना करती है कि हमारी निम्नलिखित मांगों को स्वीकार करने की कृपा करें ।

१—जितने कर्मचारी वर्कचार्ज पर हैं उन्हें एक वर्ष बाद रेगूलर किया जावे तथा रेगूलर को तीन वर्ष बाद परमानेंट कर दिया जावे ।

२—हमारी तन्खाहों में सन् १९४८ ई० में संशोधन किया गया था तब से आर्थिक तौर पर बहुत परिवर्तन हो चुका है ।

अप्रैल सन् १९५६ ई० से ही जीजों का मूल्य २५% बढ़ गया है और निरन्तर बढ़ रहा है । अतएव हमारे वेतन में संशोधन करने के लिये नया वेतन आयोग (Pay Commissson) बैठाया जाय और मंहगाई को देखते हुए वेतन बढ़ाया जाय । किसी भी कर्मचारी का ५०) से कम न हो ।

३—वर्तमान पूरा मंहगाई भत्ता वेतन में सम्मिलित कर दिया जाय और पूरे को हर तरह से असल वेतन समझा जाव ।

४—विद्युत विभाग के औप्रेटिंग स्टाफ को एवं जो कर्मचारी जनता के सम्पर्क में काम



सत्य अहिंसा हमारा ध्येय है
 हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाईज यूनियन का वार्षिक अधिवेशन कासिमपुर
 पावर हाउस स्टाफ कालोनी में श्री सय्यद जलील अहमद की अध्यक्षता में
 १२ व १३ अगस्त सन् १९५७ में हुआ

* रिपोर्ट *

जलसे में सभी दिग्गजों के चुने हुये प्रतिनिधि आये थे । जनरल सैक्रेट्री ने यूनियन के सामान्य प्रश्नों के तथा पिछले अधिवेशन (जो कि मुजफ्फर नगर में हुआ था) से लेकर अब तक की कार्रवाहियों तथा उन के द्वारा पैदा हुये नतीजों पर भली प्रकार प्रकाश डाला । अपने यूनियन की माली हालत तथा यूनियन में पड़ी फूट पर दुख प्रगट करते हुये बताया कि यदि हमारी ऐसी ही दशा रही तो हमारी यूनियन के अस्तित्व को गहरी ठेस का कारण होगी । हमने इस महासभा की बैठक में अपने विधान में भी बहुत सी तब्दीलियां कर दी हैं जो कि आशा की जाती है कि बहुत जल्दी रजिस्टर्ड करा ली जायेंगी और अगली मिटिंग जो खटीमा पावर हाउस में नवम्बर में होने जा रही है उस में हम एक बाहर का काबिल आदमी अपना प्रधान चुनने की सदस्यों से आशा करते हैं । अन्त में जनरल सैक्रेट्री ने सदस्यों से आई चारा तथा सेवा की भावना जाग्रत करने की अपील की और यूनियन की वार्षिक आय पर प्रकाश डाला ।

आमदनी लगभग २००० की हुई । खर्च लगभग १४०० के हुआ ।

इलाहाबाद बैंक में जमा धन लगभग ६०० ।

इसके अलावा बहुत कर्मचारियों का कोई हिसाब नहीं मिला यदि सभी कर्मचारियों का चन्द्रा नियत समय पर आ गया होता तो निश्चय ही यूनियन की बैंकिंग पावर १५०० से अधिक होती । यह माना कि इस वर्ष यूनियन रात वर्षों से उन्नति की और अगसर है फिर भी सभी से अनुरोध है कि शीघ्र अपना २ हिसाब भेज कर यूनियन की आर्थिक स्थिति को दृढ़ बनाने की चेष्टा करें । निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव पास हुये

हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाईज यूनियन की निम्नलिखित मांग जो श्री रघुनन्दन प्रसाद जी की अध्यक्षता में हमारे चीफ इन्जीनियर साहब के संमुख प्रस्तुत की गई परन्तु स्वली सान्त्वना के सिवाय कुछ न मिला । इस लिये सब की यह आम-समा श्रीमान चीफ इन्जीनियर साहब बहादुर लखनऊ से प्रार्थना करती है कि हमारी निम्नलिखित मांगों को स्वीकार करने की कृपा करें ।

१—जितने कर्मचारी वर्कचार्ज पर हैं उन्हें एक वर्ष बाद रेगूलर किया जावे तथा रेगूलर को तीन वर्ष बाद परमानैन्ट कर दिया जावे ।

२—हमारी तनखाहों में सन् १९४८ ई० में संशोधन किया गया था तब से आर्थिक तौर पर बहुत परिवर्तन हो चुका है ।

अप्रैल सन् १९५६ ई० से ही चीजों का मूल्य २५% बढ़ गया है और निरन्तर बढ़ रहा है । अतएव हमारे वेतन में संशोधन करने के लिये नया वेतन आयोग (Pay Commission) ब्रैठाया जाय और मंहगाई को देखते हुए वेतन बढ़ाया जाय । किसी भी कर्मचारी का ५० से कम न हो ।

३—वर्तमान पूरा मंहगाई भत्ता वेतन में सम्मिलित कर दिया जाय और पूरे को हर तरह से असल वेतन समझा जाय ।

४—विद्युत विभाग के औप्रेटिंग स्टाफ को एवं जो कर्मचारी जनता के सम्पर्क में काम



सत्य अहिंसा हमारा ध्येय है
 हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाइज यूनियन का वार्षिक अधिवेशन कासिमपुर
 पावर हाउस स्टाफ कालोनी में श्री सय्यद जलील अहमद की अध्यक्षता में
 १२ व १३ अगस्त सन् १९५७ में हुआ

❀ रिपोर्ट ❀

जलसे में सभी डिवीजनों के चुने हुये प्रतिनिधि आये थे । जनरल सैक्रेट्री ने यूनियन के सामान्य प्रश्नों के तथा पिछले अधिवेशन (जो कि मुजफ्फर नगर में हुआ था) से लेकर अब तक की कार्यवाहियों तथा उन के द्वारा पैदा हुये नतीजों पर भली प्रकार प्रकाश डाला । अपने यूनियन की माली हालत तथा यूनियन में पढ़ी फूट पर दुख प्रगट करते हुये बताया कि यदि हमारी ऐसी ही दशा रही तो हमारी यूनियन के अस्तित्व को गहरी ठेस का कारण होगी । हमने इस महासभा की बैठक में अपने विधान में भी बहुत सी तबदीलियां कर दी हैं जो कि आशा की जाती है कि बहुत जल्दी रजिस्टर्ड करा ली जायेगी और अगली मिटिंग जो खटीमा पावर हाउस में नवम्बर में होने जा रही है उस में हम एक बाहर का काबिल आदमी अपना प्रधान चुनने की सदस्यों से आशा करते हैं । अन्त में जनरल सैक्रेट्री ने सदस्यों से भाई चारा तथा सेवा की भावना जाग्रत करने की अपील की और यूनियन की वार्षिक आय पर प्रकाश डाला ।

आमदनी लगभग २००० की हुई । खर्च लगभग १४०० के हुआ ।

इलाहाबाद बैंक में जमा धन लगभग ६०० ।

इसके अलावा बहुत कर्मचारियों का कोई हिसाब नहीं मिला यदि सभी कर्मचारियों का चन्दा नियत समय पर आ गया होता तो निश्चय ही यूनियन की बैकिंग पावर १५०० से अधिक होती । यह माना कि इस वर्ष यूनियन गत वर्षों से उन्नति की और अग्रसर है फिर भी सभी से अनुरोध है कि शीघ्र अपना २ हिस्सा भेज कर यूनियन की आर्थिक स्थिति को दृढ़ बनाने की चेष्टा करें । निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव पास हुये

हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाइज यूनियन की निम्नलिखित मांगों जो श्री रघुनन्दन प्रसाद जी की अध्यक्षता में हमारे चीफ इन्जीनियर साहब के सम्मुख प्रस्तुत की गई परन्तु रुली सान्तवना के सिवाय कुछ न मिला । इस लिये संघ की यह आम सभा श्रीमान चीफ इन्जीनियर साहब बहादुर लखनऊ से प्रार्थना करती है कि हमारी निम्नलिखित मांगों को स्वीकार करने की कृपा करें ।

१—जितने कर्मचारी वर्कचार्ज पर हैं उन्हें एक वर्ष बाद रेगूलर किया जावे तथा रेगूलर को तीन वर्ष बाद परमानेंट कर दिया जावे ।

२—हमारी तन्ख्वाहों में सन् १९४८ ई० में संशोधन किया गया था तब से आर्थिक तौर पर बहुत परिवर्तन हो चुका है ।

अप्रैल सन् १९५६ ई० से ही चीजों का मूल्य २५% बढ़ गया है और निरन्तर बढ़ रहा है । अतएव हमारे वेतन में संशोधन करने के लिये नया वेतन आयोग (Pay Commission) बैठाया जाय और मंहगाई को देखते हुए वेतन बढ़ाया जाय । किसी भी कर्मचारी को ५० से कम न हो ।

३—वर्तमान पूरा मंहगाई भत्ता वेतन में सम्मिलित कर दिया जाय और पूरे को हर तरह से असल वेतन समझा जाय ।

४—विद्युत विभाग के औप्रेटिंग स्टाफ को एवं जो कर्मचारी जनता के सम्पर्क में काम



सत्य अहिंसा हमारा ध्येय है
 हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाईज यूनियन का वार्षिक अधिवेशन कासिमपुर
 पावर हाउस स्टाफ कालोनी में श्री सय्यद जलील अहमद की अध्यक्षता में
 १२ व १३ अगस्त सन् १९५७ में हुआ

❀ रिपोर्ट ❀

जलसे में सभी डिवीजनों के चुने हुये प्रतिनिधि आये थे । जनरल सैक्रेट्री ने यूनियन के सामान्य प्रश्नों के तथा पिछले अधिवेशन (जो कि मुजफ्फर नगर में हुआ था) से लेकर अब तक की कार्यवाहियों तथा उन के द्वारा पैदा हुये नतीजों पर भली प्रकार प्रकाश डाला । अपने यूनियन की माली हालत तथा यूनियन में पड़ी फूट पर दुख प्रगट करते हुये बताया कि यदि हमारी ऐसी ही दशा रही तो हमारी यूनियन के अस्तित्व को गहरी ठेस का कारण होगी । हमने इस महासभा की बैठक में अपने विधान में भी बहुत सी तब्दीलियाँ कर दी हैं जो कि आशा की जाती है कि बहुत जल्दी रजिस्टर्ड करा ली जायेंगी और अगली मिटिंग जो खटीमा पावर हाऊस में नवम्बर में होने जा रही है उस में हम एक बाहर का काबिल आदमी अपना प्रधान चुनने की सदस्यों से आशा करते हैं । अन्त में जनरल सैक्रेट्री ने सदस्यों से भाई चारा तथा सेवा की भावना जाग्रत करने की अपील की और यूनियन की वार्षिक आय पर प्रकाश डाला ।

आमदनी लगभग २००० की हुई । खर्च लगभग १४०० के हुआ ।

इलाहाबाद बैंक में जमा धन लगभग ६०० ।

इसके अलावा बहुत कर्मचारियों का कोई हिसाब नहीं मिला यदि सभी कर्मचारियों का चन्द। नियत समय पर आ गया होता तो निश्चय ही यूनियन की बैंकिंग पावर १५०० से अधिक होती । यह मानो कि इस वर्ष यूनियन गत वर्षों से उन्नति की और अपसर है फिर भी सभी से अनुरोध है कि शीघ्र अपना २ हिसाब भेज कर यूनियन की आर्थिक स्थिति को दृढ़ बनाने की चेष्टा करें । निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव पास हुये

हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाईज यूनियन की निम्नलिखित मांगों जो श्री रघुनन्दन प्रसाद जी की अध्यक्षता में हमारे चीफ इन्जीनियर साहब के सम्मुख प्रस्तुत की गईं परन्तु स्वामी सान्त्वना के सिवाय कुछ न मिला । इस लिये संघ की यह आम सभा श्रीमान चीफ इन्जीनियर साहब बहादुर लखनऊ से प्रार्थना करती है कि हमारी निम्नलिखित मांगों को स्वीकार करने की कृपा करें ।

१—जितने कर्मचारी वर्कचार्ज पर हैं उन्हें एक वर्ष बाद रेगूलर किया जावे तथा रेगूलर को तीन वर्ष बाद परमानेंट कर दिया जावे ।

२—हमारी तन्खाहों में सन् १९४८ ई० में संशोधन किया गया था तब से आर्थिक तौर पर बहुत परिवर्तन हो चुका है ।

अप्रैल सन् १९५६ ई० से ही जीजों का मूल्य २५% बढ़ गया है और निरन्तर बढ़ रहा है । अतएव हमारे वेतन में संशोधन करने के लिये नया वेतन आयोग (Pay Commission) बैठाया जाय और मंहगाई को देखते हुए वेतन बढ़ाया जाय । किसी भी कर्मचारी का ५० से कम न हो ।

३—वर्तमान पूरा मंहगाई भत्ता वेतन में सम्मिलित कर दिया जाय और पूरे को हर तरह से असल वेतन समझा जाय ।

४—विद्युत विभाग के औप्रेटिंग स्टाफ को एवं जो कर्मचारी जनता के सम्पर्क में काम



क सम्बन्ध में जाते हैं। (जैसे: लाइनमैन-पेट्रोलमैन-वाशिंग गैंग इत्यादि) उन को पूरी यूनिफार्म दी जाय।

५—सभी औप्रेटिंग स्टाफ एवं चौथे दर्जे के कर्मचारियों के परिवार के रहने लायक क्वार्टर दिया जाय और जहाँ पर क्वार्टर नहीं बने हैं वहाँ पर पूरा मकान भत्ता दिया तथा जो क्वार्टर खराब हालत में हैं उनकी मरम्मत करा दी जाय।

६—अशिक्षित कर्मचारियों तथा मजदूरों के बच्चों की शिक्षा का निःशुल्क प्रबन्ध किया जाय।

७—अफसरों द्वारा कर्मचारियों से छ्राठ घंटे से अधिक या प्राइवेट कार्य अर्थात् बेगार लेना बन्द कराया जावे।

८—कर्मचारियों का वेतन निश्चित तारीख पर दिया जावे और उनको टी-ए भी ठीक तरह से आईएम से दिया जाये। प्रतिवर्ष इन्कीजमेंट भी ठीक समय पर दिया जाय।

९—डिपार्टमेंटल उन्नति (तरककी) कर्मचारियों की जूनियरीटी तथा सीनियरीटी के आधार पर की जाय, और आउट साइडों के मुकाबले में हाईडल कर्मचारियों को योग्यता अनुसार (रिक्त स्थानों) उच्चपदों पर रखा जाय।

१०—पहाड़ी स्थानों में काम करने वालों को पहाड़ी भत्ता दिया जाय। जंगल-तराई-मांवर या अन्य खराब जलवायु के स्थानों पर कार्य करने वालों को विशेष भत्ते दिये जायें।

११—ट्रान्सफर होने पर चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों को भी उनके आश्रितों के साथ ट्रान्सफर टी, ए. व तीस भत्त सामान लेजाने का भाड़ा दिया जाय।

१२—कर्मचारियों के लड़कों को आउट साइडर के मुकाबले में नौकरी में प्राथमिकता दी जाय।

चुनाव

निम्नलिखित यूनियन के कार्य कर्ता चुने गये।

१—प्रधान—श्री सैय्यद जलील अहमद एस. बी. ए. कासिमपुर पावर हाउस पी. ओ. कासिमपुर जि० अलीगढ़।

२—उपप्रधान—श्री बद्रीनाथ आयल इन्जिन ड्राइवर खटीमा पावर हाउस पी. ओ. खटीमा जि० बरेली (लोहिया हैड)

३—जनरल सेक्रेट्री—श्री महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल एस. बी. ए. सहारनपुर पावर हाउस जि० सहारनपुर।

४—जाइन्ट जनरल सेक्रेट्री—श्री रघुनन्दन प्रसाद एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. दिवाई जि० बुलन्दशहर।

५—फाईनेन्स सेक्रेट्री—श्री मोहसनअली एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. हापुर जि० मेरठ।

६—कैशियर—श्री महेशचन्द्र गुप्ता एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. जमन जि० विजयनौर।

सभा के अन्त में यूनियन के नये प्रधान श्री सै० मु० जलील अहमद ने अपने छोटे भाषण में सब सदस्यों से प्रेम तथा हमदर्दी और भाई चारा कायम करने की नसीहत की। सभा की समाप्ति पर जनरल सेक्रेट्री श्री महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल ने सब सदस्यों को धन्यवाद दिया और आशा की कि हमेशा यूनियन को सभी सदस्यों का सहयोग मिलता रहेगा।

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जनरल सेक्रेटरी

जनता प्रिंटिंग प्रेस, सहारनपुर

हाईड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाइज यूनियन, सहारनपुर

क सम्बन्ध में जाते हैं। (जैसे: लाईनमैन-पेट्रोलमैन-वाशिंग गैंग इत्यादि) उन को पूरी यूनिफार्म दी जाय।

५—सभी औप्रेटिंग स्टाफ एवं चौथे दर्जे के कर्मचारियों के परिवार के रहने लायक क्वार्टर दिया जाय और जहाँ पर क्वार्टर नहीं बने हैं वहाँ पर पूरा मकान भत्ता दिया तथा जो क्वार्टर खराब हालत में हैं उनकी मरम्मत करा दी जाय।

६—अशिक्षित कर्मचारियों तथा मजदूरों के बच्चों की शिक्षा का निःशुल्क प्रबन्ध किया जाय।

७—अफसरों द्वारा कर्मचारियों से आठ घंटे से अधिक या प्राईवेट कार्य अर्थात् बेगार लेना बन्द कराया जावे।

८—कर्मचारियों का वेतन निश्चित तारीख पर दिया जावे और उनको टी.ए.पी. ठीक तरह से टाईम से दिया जाये। प्रतिवर्ष इन्क्रोजमेंट भी ठीक समय पर दिया जाय।

९—डिपार्टमेंटल उन्नति (तरककी) कर्मचारियों की जूनियरीटी तथा सीनियरीटी के आधार पर की जाय, और आउट साइडरों के मुकाबले में हाईडल कर्मचारियों को योग्यता-नुसार (रिक्त स्थानों) उच्चपदों पर रखा जाय।

१०—पहाड़ी स्थानों में काम करने वालों को पहाड़ी भत्ता दिया जाय। जंगल-तराई-भावर या अन्य खराब जलवायु के स्थानों पर कार्य करने वालों को विशेष भत्ते दिये जायें।

११—ट्रान्सफर होने पर चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों को भी उनके आश्रितों के साथ ट्रान्सफर टी. ए. व तीस भत्त सामान लेजाने का भाड़ा दिया जाय।

१२—कर्मचारियों के लड़कों को आउट साइडर के मुकाबले में नौकरी में प्राथमिकता दी जाय।

चुनाव

निम्नलिखित यूनिशन के कार्य कर्ता चुने गये।

१—प्रधान—श्री सैयद जलील अहमद एस. बी. ए. कासिमपुर पावर हाउस पी. ओ. कासिमपुर जि० अलीगढ़।

२—उपप्रधान—श्री बद्रीनाथ आयल इन्जिन ड्राईवर खटीमा पावर हाउस पी. ओ. खटीमा जि० बरेली (लोहिया हैड)

३—जनरल सेक्रेट्री—श्री महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल एस. बी. ए. सहारनपुर पावर हाउस जि० सहारनपुर।

४—जॉइन्ट जनरल सेक्रेट्री—श्री रघुनन्दन प्रसाद एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. दिवाई जि० बुलन्दशहर।

५—फाईनेन्स सेक्रेट्री—श्री मोहसनअली एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. हापुर जि० मेरठ।

६—कैशियर—श्री महेशचन्द्र गुप्ता एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. जमने जि० विजनौर।

समा के अन्त में यूनिशन के नये प्रधान श्री सै० मु० जलील अहमद ने अपने छोटे भाषण में सब सदस्यों से प्रेम तथा हमदर्दी और माई चारा कायम करने की नसीहत की। समा की समामि पर जनरल सेक्रेट्री श्री महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल ने सब सदस्यों को धन्यवाद दिया और आशा की कि हमेशा यूनिशन को सभी सदस्यों का सहयोग मिलता रहेगा।

महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल

जनरल सेक्रेटरी

जनता प्रिंटिंग प्रेस, सहारनपुर

हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाईज यूनिशन, सहारनपुर

क सम्बन्ध में जाते हैं। (जैसे: लाईनमैन-पेट्रोलमैन-वाशिंग गैंग इत्यादि) उन को पूरी यूनिफार्म दी जाय।

५—सभी प्रौद्योगिक स्टाफ एवं चौथे दर्जे के कर्मचारियों के परिवार के रहने लायक क्वार्टर दिया जाय और जहाँ पर क्वार्टर नहीं बने हैं वहाँ पर पूरा मकान भत्ता दिया तथा जो क्वार्टर खराब हालत में हैं उनकी मरम्मत करा दी जाय।

६—अशिक्षित कर्मचारियों तथा मजदूरों के बच्चों की शिक्षा का निःशुल्क प्रबन्ध किया जाय।

७—अफसरों द्वारा कर्मचारियों से छोट बूटे से अधिक या प्राइवेट कार्य अर्थात् वेगार लेना बन्द कराया जावे।

८—कर्मचारियों का वेतन निश्चित तारीख पर दिया जावे और उनकी टी.ए.भी ठीक तरह से टाईम से दिया जाये। प्रतिवर्ष इन्फ्लेक्शन भी ठीक समय पर दिया जाय।

९—डिपार्टमेंटल उन्नति (तरक्की) कर्मचारियों की जूनियरीटी तथा सीनियरीटी के आधार पर की जाय, और आउट साइडरों के मुकाबले में हाईडल कर्मचारियों की योग्यता-नुसार (रिक स्थानों) उच्चपदों पर रखा जाय।

१०—पहाड़ी स्थानों में काम करने वालों को पहाड़ी भत्ता दिया जाय। जंगल तराई-भाबर या अन्य खराब जलवायु के स्थानों पर कार्य करने वालों को विशेष भत्ते दिये जाये।

११—ट्रान्सफर होने पर चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों को भी उनके आश्रितों के साथ ट्रान्सफर टी. ए. व तीस मिन सामान लेजाने का भाड़ा दिया जाय।

१२—कर्मचारियों के लड़कों को आउट साइडर के मुकाबले में नौकरी में प्राथमिकता दी जाय।

चुनाव

निम्नलिखित यूनियन के कार्य कर्ता चुने गये।

१—प्रधान—श्री लैत्यद जलील अहमद एस. बी. ए. कासिमपुर पावर हाउस पी. ओ. कासिमपुर जि० अलीगढ़।

२—उपप्रधान—श्री बद्रीनाथ आयल इन्जिन ड्राइवर खटीमा पावर हाउस पी. ओ. खटीमा जि० बरेली (लोहिया हैड)।

३—जनरल सेक्रेटरी—श्री महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल एस. बी. ए. सहारनपुर पावर हाउस जि० सहारनपुर।

४—जॉइन्ट जनरल सेक्रेटरी—श्री रघुनन्दन प्रसाद एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. दिवाड़े जि० बुलन्दशहर।

५—फाईनैस सेक्रेटरी—श्री मोहसनअली एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. हापुर जि० मेरठ।

६—कैशियर—श्री महेशचन्द्र गुप्ता एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. जलन जि० विजनीर।

सभा के अन्त में यूनियन के नये प्रधान श्री से० सु० जलील अहमद ने अपने छोटे माध्यम में सब सदस्यों से प्रेम तथा हमददी और कई चारा कायम करने की नसीहत की। सभा की समाप्ति पर जनरल सेक्रेटरी श्री महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल ने सब सदस्यों को धन्यवाद दिया और आशा की कि हमेशा यूनियन को सभी सदस्यों का सहयोग मिलता रहेगा।

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जनरल सेक्रेटरी

जनता प्रिंटिंग प्रेस, सहारनपुर

हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाइज यूनियन, सहारनपुर

क सम्बन्ध में जाते हैं । (जैसे: लाइनमैन-पेट्रोलमैन-वाशिग गैंग इत्यादि) उन को पूरी यूनिफार्म दी जाय ।

५—सभी औप्रेटिंग स्टाफ एवं चौथे दर्जे के कर्मचारियों के परिवार के रहने लायक क्वार्टर दिया जाय और जहाँ पर क्वार्टर नहीं बने हैं वहाँ पर पूरा भूकान भत्ता दिया तथा जो क्वार्टर खराब हालत में हैं उनकी मरम्मत करा दी जाय ।

६—अशिक्षित कर्मचारियों तथा मजदूरों के बच्चों की शिक्षा का निःशुल्क प्रबन्ध किया जाय ।

७—अफसरों द्वारा कर्मचारियों से छूटा घटे से अधिक या प्राइवेट कार्य अर्थात् बेगार लेना बन्द कराया जावे ।

८—कर्मचारियों का वेतन निश्चित तारीख पर दिया जावे और उनको टी-ए भी ठीक तरह से टाइम से दिया जाये । प्रतिवर्ष इन्क्रीजमेंट भी ठीक समय पर दिया जाय ।

९—डिपार्टमेंटल उन्नति (तरक्की) कर्मचारियों की जूनियरिटी तथा सीनियरिटी के आधार पर की जाय, और आउट साइडरों के मुकाबले में हाईडल कर्मचारियों को योग्यता-नुसार (रिक्त स्थानों) उच्चपदों पर रखा जाय ।

१०—पहाड़ी स्थानों में काम करने वालों को पहाड़ी भत्ता दिया जाय । जंगल-तराई-मावर या अन्य खराब जलवायु के स्थानों पर कार्य करने वालों को विशेष भत्ते दिये जायें ।

११—ट्रान्सफर होने पर चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों को भी उनके आश्रितों के साथ ट्रान्सफर टी, ए. व तीस मनु सामान लेजाने का भाड़ा दिया जाय ।

१२—कर्मचारियों के लड़कों को आउट साइडर के मुकाबले में नौकरी में प्राथमिकता दी जाय ।

चुनाव

निम्नलिखित यूनियन के कार्य कर्ता चुने गये ।

१—प्रधान—श्री सैय्यद जलील अहमद एस. बी. ए. कासिमपुर पावर हाउस पी. ओ. कासिमपुर जि० अलीगढ़ ।

२—उपप्रधान—श्री बद्रीनाथ आयाल इन्जिन ड्राइवर खटोमा पावर हाउस पी. ओ. खटोमा जि० बरेली (लोहिया हैड) ।

३—जनरल सेक्रेटरी—श्री महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल एस. बी. ए. सहारनपुर पावर हाउस जि० सहारनपुर ।

४—जाइन्ट जनरल सेक्रेटरी—श्री रघुनन्दन प्रसाद एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. दिवाई जि० बुलन्दशहर ।

५—फाइनैन्स सेक्रेटरी—श्री मोहसनअली एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. हापुर जि० मेरठ ।

६—कैशियर—श्री महेशचन्द्र गुप्ता एस. एस. ए. हाईडल सब स्टेशन पी. ओ. जमने जि० विजनौर ।

समा के अन्त में यूनियन के नये प्रधान श्री सै० मु० जलील अहमद ने अपने छोटे भाषण में सब सदस्यों से प्रेम तथा हमदर्दी और भाई चारा कायम करने की नसीहत की । समा की समाप्ति पर जनरल सेक्रेटरी श्री महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल ने सब सदस्यों को धन्यवाद दिया और आशा की कि हमेशा यूनियन को सभी सदस्यों का सहयोग मिलता रहेगा ।

महेन्द्रकुमार अग्रवाल

जनरल सेक्रेटरी

जनता प्रिंटिंग प्रेस, सहारनपुर

हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक एम्प्लाईज यूनियन, सहारनपुर

(True Copy)

DIBRUGARH ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO. (PRIVATE) Ltd.

Gram: "ELECTRIC"
Phone.No:40.

P.O. REHABARI.
ASSAM.

Ref.No: 172/1033-57.

Dated 7th August 1957.

Shri H.K.Chakraborty,
Santipara,
Dibrugarh.

Dear Sir,

We are referring to your applications one dated 6-7-57 and another undated received on 6-7-57 and 5-8-57, respectively.

From the morning of 22nd May, '57, you became scarce from the office and absconded without making over any charge or any information to the undersigned. All enquiries at your home and in the town gave no clue to your whereabouts. You elected to remain absolutely silent and never cared to communicate your address. As you left the ^{Accounts} without closing and also made no arrangements to make over charge, we had to make an inventory of the Cash and call in an Auditor to check the Accounts. We regret to say that the Audit Report revealed mis-appropriation by you of a sum of Rs.55,949 . 24 NP (Rupees Fifty Five Thousand, Nine Hundred Fourty Nine & Twenty Four Naya-Paysa) only for which we had to refer the Case to the Local Police and they also failed to find you out for some time and treated you as absconder until you were arrested after more than a month.

By your conduct and actions and your absconding away without leave for such a length of time and without making over your charge, while holding the responsible position of a Cashier, you have already forfeited all lien to your job and you have already ceased to be an employee by your own conduct and action. In this context, your application for leave are out of place and cannot be entertained. As you have already been arrested, the Court of Law will run and we will also take such steps as may be advised .

Yours faithfully,
For THE DIBRUGARH ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO. (PRIVATE) LTD
Sd/ N. C. Sanyal .
Engineer & Manager .

C. S. Mukherjee

268
Burnpur, 17th December, 57.

**: VICTORIOUS CONCLUSION OF BURNPUR AND KULTI ~~WORKERS~~ STRIKE
: FIFTEEN THOUSAND CONTRACTORS' WORKERS OF BURNPUR AND KULTI
RESUME DUTY ON AND FROM ~~XXXX~~ 14TH DECEMBER, 1957**

~~The~~ The 5-day old strike of the workers of contractors engaged both in Expansion and Regular work at the Works of the Indian ~~XXXX~~ Iron & Steel Co. Ltd, Burnpur and Kultli and the Indian Standard Wagon Co. Ltd. Burnpur came to a victorious end on the 14th instant, when the Contractors, at the intervention of the Asst. Labour Commissioner, met the representatives of the workers in a tripartite meeting and conceded some of the demands with further undertaking that negotiation on the main charter of demands will be taken up after the resumption of work.

~~hru~~ - The terms of settlement are as follows:

- (a) Minimum wages of both male and female workers will be raised by two annas on the constructional side, and one anna on the regular side per diem.
- (b) For overtime work, workers will be paid 1.1/2 times their wages. (Previously, ~~maxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ there was no such provision)
- (c) No victimization for taking part in the strike
- (d) No curtailment of existing benefits.
- (e) The contractors will start negotiation on the main charter of demands after the resumption of work and will endeavour to bring about a reasonable settlement.

On the evening of 13th December, a mass meeting attended by about 18 thousand workers was held at Bari Maidan at Burnpur under the Presidentship of Sri Chandra Shekhor Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union, and the meeting was addressed by Sri Bama Pada Mukherjee and Janab Taher Hossain, M.L.A. of the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union and also by the representatives of the contractors' workers.

The terms of settlement were palced at the meeting and the workers ~~XXXX~~ accepted them with enthusiastic applause. It was also resolved at the meeting to withdraw the strike ~~XXXXXXXX~~ and from the 14th instant.

On the morning of the 14th instant, the workers collected at Bari Maidan, formed into a procession with red flags and festoons and marched to duty. As the procession moved on, it swelled in volume and when the procession reached the Factory Gate, the procession looked like a ocean of moving heads. With red flags fluttering and to the accompaniment of band music, the workers entered the Works, made a spin within the works premises and peacefully joined their respective duties.

The Victory of the contractors' workers has changed the entire atmosphere of Burnpur and Kultli, and a new phase in the T.U. movement is opening itself. They have decided for forming of an union of the contractors' workers of the whole district

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Branch Office : BURNPUR, BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated, 195 .

Dear Comrade Dange,

As assured by you, we have been awaiting your letter, intimating us the date of your arrival here.

As you know, certain preparations have got to be made regarding our programme, we would be glad if you write to us the date of your starting for Burnpur well in advance so that matter may be adjusted accordingly.

With our best wishes.

D/10/1/58.

Yours Comradely,

C. S. Mukherjee

Pl note that
Com: Dange will be
with you mentioned
→ 10-15 in W.D.
Exact date + things
to write without loss
from Bombay.

mmc
13/1

Ref: on 14/1
mmc
14/1

MADRAS ELECTRICITY WORKERS' UNION

சென்னை மின்சாரத் தொழிலாளர் சங்கம்

(REG. No 692 & RECOGNISED)

(Affiliated to All India Federation of Electricity Employees & All India Trade Union Congress)

President:

G. Row, Bar-at-Law, M.L.C.

Branch Offices:

157, Mount Road,
MADRAS-2

Head Office:

5, RITCHIE STREET,
MADRAS-2.

General Secretary:

S. C. Krishnan, B. A.

Basin Bridge Power House,
MADRAS-12

Ref:

News Letter

Dated, ~~4-1-1958~~ 1958.

LIGHTNING STRIKE BY ELECTRICITY MEN IN BASIN BRIDGE

1300 workmen of the Basin Bridge Power House demonstrated peacefully against the appointment of Mr. Gopal in the State Electricity Board consultative Council and for settling long pending 11 demands from 7 A.M. on 4-1-1958. The Superintending Engineer, Generation, addressed the workmen assuring to redress the demands. The workmen demanded the on behalf of the Board, the Chief Engineer for Electricity should give the assurance. As the Chief Engineer did not come, the workmen continued their demonstration till 12.30 noon when the Personal assistant to the Commissioner for Labour Sri Parthasarathy and the General Secretary of the Union Sri S.C. Krishnan advised the workmen to resume work. On behalf of the Commissioner for labour, the worker representatives were assured that conciliation proceedings will be commended urgently and that the status-qua will be maintained and also assured that wages for this half-a-day would not be cut. Then the workmen resumed duties in response to the assurance given by the Commissioner for Labour.

List of Demands:

1. Replace Gopal by a true representative of workmen of majority unions.
2. Grant of National and festival holidays to shift workmen
3. Payment of dust allowance to 297 workmen
4. Rs. 12/- rise to be given uniformly to 457 workmen also
5. Permanancy for serviced workmen in Civil and Electrical and Mechanical sub-divisions
6. Promotions to be based on principle of seniority also
7. Dearness allowance to be related to the cost of living index.
8. Basic pay to be fixed at Rs. 31/- instead of Rs. 18/-
9. Reinstatement of two workers unjustly dismissed
10. Advance of one month pay for Pongal and Deepavali
11. Night allowance to non-shift workmen as it is given to Junior Engineers.
12. Rent free quarters ~~for~~ and Electricity for Operation and Main enance workers.

S. C. Krishnan
Gen. Secy.

TAMILNAD ELECTRICITY WORKERS' FEDERATION

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
S.C.KRISHNAN, B.A.

TREASURER
S.R.NEELAKANTAN

SECRETARIES
P.E.EAPEN
MOHANDOSS
K.GAJAPATHI

5, Ritchie St,
Madras 2, 28.1.58

To
All TRADE UNIONS IN TAMILNAD

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Reception Committee of the Tamilnad Electricity Workers' Federation, I have great pleasure in extending this Cordial Invitation to you to attend the Inaugural Conference of the Federation to be held on ~~23rd~~ and ~~24th~~ Feb. 1958 at Madras. I must tellyou that the Electricity Employees in the Madras State numbering over 40,000 and organised under Nineteen different Unions have, after a decade of bitter experience of functioning as separate Unions, decided to form themselves into a strong and well knit Federation.

The lot of Electricity Employees for the past ten years have been kept in a ridiculously low level and all the declarations and aims of the Second Five Year Plan have only been a matter of public propaganda with no relation to the life of the Employees working in such a key public sector as this. Neither their working conditions have been improved nor the voice of the organised Unions given any weight either by the Board or by the Government.

You may be aware that the Madras Government have after a great deal of postponement constituted the Madras State Electricity Board as per the Indian Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The bulk of the employees who expected atleast some change after the formation of the Board from 1.7.1957 have only been disappointed by the continuance of the old attitude ~~by~~ the Board.

In this context we hope and trust that we will have your active sympathy, co-operation and solidarity in our efforts to better our lot. If you cannot grace the occasion with your presence, we will be very happy to receive your messages of greetings to the Conference ~~on which occasion~~.

CONSTITUENT UNIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Madras Elec. Workers Union | 2. Madras Elec. Board Empl. Union
Pykara System |
| 3. M.E.B.E. Union, Mettur System | 4. M.E.B.E. Union, Vellore System |
| 5. Govt. Elec. Employees Union,
Papanasam System. | 6. M.E.W. Workers Union, Mettur |
| 7. Civil Workers Union, Mettur. | 8. O.S. Workshop Emp. Union, Mettur |
| 10. Tamilnad E.B. Accounts Sub. Union | 9. Stores Staff Association |
| 12. T.N.E.B. Collection Staff Union | 11. Madras Elec. Empl. Union |
| 14. Madras State Elec. Board Emp.
Union, Cuddalore. | 13. Last Grade Empl. Union. |
| 17. Salem Erode. Elec. Emp. Union | 15. M.T.S. Labour Union, Madurai |
| 19. South Madras E.S.C. W. Union. | 16. Kundah Elec. Emp. Union, Emerald |
| | 18. Tin. Tuticorin Elec. S.W. Union |

Yours faithfully,
S.C. Krishnan
S.C. KRISHNAN
CHAIRMAN

TAMILNAD ELECTRICITY WORKERS' FEDERATION

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

S.C. KRISHNAN, B.A.

TREASURER

S.R. NEELAKANTAN

SECRETARIES

F.E. EAPPEN, MOHANDASS, K. GAJAPATHI

5, Ritchie Street, Madras 2,
28th January 1958.

To

ALL UNIONS OF ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES IN INDIA

Dear Comrade:

I have great pleasure in extending you my cordial invitation to attend the Inaugural Conference of the Tamilnad Electricity Workers' Federation on 15th and 16th Feb. 1958 at Madras. This is an occasion when the representatives of Nineteen Unions, representing over 40,000 Electricity Employees in the State come together. This has been made possible by the bitter and long experience gained by the Electricity Employees during their separate independent existence and also due to the coming into being of the State Electricity Board under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. We hope to have Sri Gulzarilal Nanda, Union Minister for Labour to inaugurate the Federation.

You may know that out of more than 40,000 employees less than 15,000 are permanent and more than 20,000 workers with over 3 to 5 years of service are kept as temporary N.M.R. Workers. The division of workmen into several categories doing the same nature of work still continues to mean difference in emoluments and this constitutes violation of the universally accepted principle of equal pay for equal work. It will be of interest to you to note that these employees spread over the length and breadth of Tamil Nad have been responsible for the pride of place offered to this State in leading the Country in Rural Electrification. But yet the lot of Electricity Employees are kept at the same pre-1947 level.

This is not a proper occasion to enumerate the innumerable injustices and unfair Labour practices that are continued even till today. As such we look forward to your brief enumeration of the main achievements won by your Members and the main demands for which you are fighting. Kindly see that you cover both question of demands and Trade Union rights, including how far the publicised slogan of Labour Participation in Management has been made real in your establishment.

With your active solidarity the Employees in Tamilnad hope to March forward. We look forward to have your message of Greetings to the Conference, in case you are not able to attend the Conference.

LONG LIVE TAMIL NAD FEDERATION !
LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES IN INDIA ! !
LONG LIVE TRADE UNION UNITY ! ! !

CONSTITUENT UNIONS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Madras Elec. Workers Union. | 2. Madras Elec. Board Empl. Union, Pykara |
| 3. M.E.B.E. Union, Mettur System | 4. M.E.B.E. Union, Vellore (System) |
| 5. Govt. Elec. Empl. Union, Papanasam | 6. M.H.E.W. Workers Union, Mettur |
| 7. Civil Workers Union, Mettur | 8. O.S. Workshop Empl. Union, Mettur |
| 9. Stores Staff Association | 10. Tamilnad E.B. Accounts Sub. Union |
| 11. Madras Elec. Empl. Union | 12. T.N.E. Collect. Staff Union. |
| 13. Last Grade Empl. Union. | 14. Madras State Elec. Board Empl. Union, Cuddalore. |
| 15. M.T.S. Labour Union, Madurai | 17. Salem Erode. Elec. Emp. Union. |
| 16. Kundah Elec. Emp. Union, Emerald | 19. South Madras E.S. W. Empl. Union. |
| 18. Tin. Tuticorin Elec. S.W. Union | |

Yours fraternally

S. C. KRISHNAN *S. C. Krishnan* CHAIRMAN

TAMILNAD
ELECTRICITY NEW WORKERS' FEDERATION

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

S.C.Krishnan, B.A.

TREASURER

S.R.Neelakantan

SECRETARIES

P.E.Eapen
Mohandoss
K.Gajapathy

5, Ritthie Street,
Madras 2. 28.1.58

To

All the Central National Trade Union Organisations

Dear Comrade:

I am happy to inform you that after more than a decade of struggles by Unions of Electricity Employees in the Madras State, the nineteen Unions listed below have unanimously taken concerted efforts since the past eight months and formed a single united Federation, namely the Tamilnad Electricity Workers Federation.

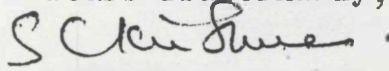
To chalk out a Charter of Demands for revision of wage scales, Dearness Allowance, gratuity, bonus etc. and to end the present innumerable unfair labour practice and to fight for Trade Union rights in consonance with the agreed policy declared by the Fifteenth Labour Conference, the Inaugural Conference of the above Federation is to be held at Madras by the 15th and 16th February 1958. We have invited the Union and States Ministers for Labour to inaugurate the Conference and hope they will come.

We hope and trust you will extend your fraternal support and guidance to build this Federation as an independent effective organisation for the betterment of the Electricity Employees numbering over 40,000 in Madras.

We look forward for your kind message of greetings solidarity and support on this occasion.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Madras Electricity Workers Union | 2. Madras Elec. Board Employees Union, Pykara System |
| 3. M.E.B.E. Union, Mettur System | 5. Govt. Elec. Employees Union, Papanasam System |
| 4. M.E.B.E. Union, Vellore System | 8. O.S.S. Workshop Emp. Union, Mettur. |
| 6. M.H.E.W. Workers Union, Mettur. | 11. Madras Elec. Employees Union |
| 7. Civil Workers Union, Mettur | 13. Last Grade Empl. Union. |
| 9. Stores Staff Association. | 15. M.T.S. Labour Union, Madurai |
| 10. Tamilnad E.B. Accounts Sub. Union | 16. Kundah Elec. Emp. Union, Emerald |
| 12. T.N.E.B. Collection Staff Union | 18. Tin. Tuticorin Elec. S.W. Union. |
| 14. Madras State Elec. Board. Empl. Union, Cuddalore. | |
| 17. Salem Erode Elec. Dis. Emp. Union. | |
| 19. South Madras E.S. ^W C. Empl. Union. | |

Yours fraternally,


CHAIRMAN

THE DIBRUGARH ELECTRIC SUPPLY WORKERS' UNION.

(Regd. No. 359.)

SANTIPARA (KABLIA BARRACK

P. O. REHABARI.
DIBRUGARH.

Date 14th February, 1958.

279
Ref. No. NIL.

To T. U.

The ~~Labour~~ Law Bureau,

A. I. T. U. C.,

R. L. Trust Building,

~~100/B, Khetwadi Main Road, 55, Girgaon Road,~~

BOMBAY .

Bombay-4.

Dear sir,

I beg to approach you for your kind co-operation and valued advice to move further in the Industrial Dispute enclosed herewith.

I request you to see into the Union's move and stand. I would be much obliged if you kindly detect the merits and demerits in the case and render me a correct guidance to move forward in order to come to a success, please treat all as MOST-CONFIDENTIAL.

With best regards,

Yours faithfully,

For the Dibrugarh Electric Supply Workers' Union.

Bhowmick.

(Moni Bhowmick) Jt. Secy:
For: General Secretary.

2/13/58. File
4ms
1872

----- S.S.Mirajkar

February 17, 1958

My dear Moni Bhowmick,

I have received your case of the Electric Supply Company.

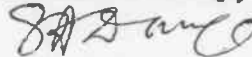
The Company alleges misappropriation on the part of the employee to the tune of Rs.59,000. Is it purely an invention or is there some basis for it, I should like to know.

If there is some basis for it and the police case is already pending, then it is rather awkward to take up the case as a trade dispute and one of conciliation.

The facts seem to be very doubtful to me and therefore I am not inclined to handle the case.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,



(S.A.DANGE)

General Secretary

THE DIBRUGARH ELECTRIC SUPPLY WORKERS' UNION.

(Regd. No. 359.)

**P. O. REHABARI.
DIBRUGARH.**

Ref. No. NIL/L.

Date 25th February / 1958.

To

The General Secretary:
All India Trade Union Congress,
4, Ashok Road .
New Delhi .

Ref: Your Letter dated the 17th February/58
regarding Electric Supply Company's Case .

Dear Comrade,

I am much glad to hear from you. The brief history of the case ~~of~~ is enclosed with relevent papers. I feel pain to disturb you. I would be much grateful to await your directions.

With greetings,

Yours ~~Comradely~~,

Bhowmick.

(Moni Bhowmick)

Joint:Secretary:

For; The Dibrugarh Electric Supply Worker
's Union .

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
ASANSOL REGIONAL COMMITTEE
G.T.ROAD. ASANSOL.

Dated, the 27th. February, 1958.

COM. S.A. DANGE, M.P.
GENERAL SECRETARY, AITUC. ✓
4, ASHOK ROAD. NEW DELHI.

Dear Comrade Dange,

I hope Com. Elias has informed you about the Burnpur situation, so far as the Contractors' Labourers are concerned.

As they had decided the 15000 Contractors' labourers have gone ~~on~~ on a general strike with effect from 24.2.58 including 4000 workers who are connected directly with the production. They are employed by the Contractors but work in such productive departments as Coke Oven, Blast Furnace etc.

The strike is as yet peaceful but determined inspite of the provocations from the police and the management. Women volunteers are picketing ~~at the gates~~ at the gates. The organisation though not hundred percent upto the mark, it is nevertheless good and can be said strong.

Production is now showing signs of being affected as a result of the strike.

Negotiations at high levels are ^{being} sought to be started. Com. Taher has made some attempts in Calcutta. Yet it has not started. We are trying to make it a short one but a victorious one.

Recieved information from Com. Indrajit about your summon to Dglhi. We will try to send at least two leading comrades including Taher. But, how far it will be possible for him to leave station at this juncture, is really difficult to ascertain beforehand, However, rest assure your summon will ^{be} given effect to.

If possible, I will also go.

Hope you are enjoying good and sound health.

Greetings.

P.S.

I am stay in Burnpur
and devote whole time
over there. B.

Yours fraternally,

Bejoy Lal
Secretary.

C-3



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No. 67

Received here at H. M.

* RH ASANSOL 4

S A DANGE MEMBER PARLIAMENT FOUR ASOKE RD ND.

... DESPITE PEACEFUL SITUATION 100 ARRESTED AT BURNPUR STOP IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION NEEDED ..

BIJOYPAL ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS ASANSOL.

"GST" AT 2358HRS.

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram. MGIFPAh.—121—30.4-57—91,370 Bks.

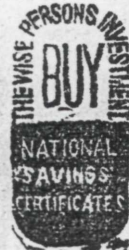
Handwritten notes: '573' and '268' in a circle.



C-3



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT



No.

Received here at

31/9

H. M.

2334

X 00 BURNPUR 28 32 S A DANGE M P NEW DELHI ==

700 VOLUNTEERS WITH FIVE LEADERS ARRESTED BURNPUR

JULTT 744 PROMULGATED. POLICE ACTING AS

PROVOCASTERS AND REPRESSION INTERVENE STRIKE CONTINUES

== UNITED CONTRACTORS WORKERS UNION BURNPUR

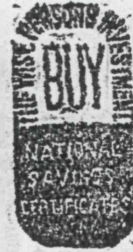
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This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.
MGIFPAh.—121—30-4-57—91,370 Bks.

C.-3



912



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No.

Received here at _____

X KF ASANSOL 28

S A DANGE M P PARLIAMENT HOUSE NEW DELHI.

.... 144 AMALGATED ARREST AND REPRESSION STARTED PLEASE INTERVENE FOR THE SAKE OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT

CONTRACTORS UNION BURNPUR.

GOPD AT 15/10.

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time banded in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.

MGLFPAh.—121—80-4-57—91,370 Bke.



C.-3



867



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No.

Received here at H. M.

-- X LB BURNPUR 26 24 S A DANGE M P NEW DELHI

--- POLICE GIVING PROVOCATION HARASSING PEACEFUL

PICKATEERS PRODUCTION DOWN STRIKE CONTINUES

PEACEFULLY - UNITED CONTRACTORS WORKERS UNION BURNPUR

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.
MGIFPAb.—121—30-4-57—91,370 Bks.

268

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.
BURNPUR-KULTI.

REGD.NO. 3389.

PHONE ASL.737.

To
The Editor,
New Age/ T.U.Record.
New-Delhi.

STATION ROAD.
P.O.BURNPUR.
DT.BURDWAN.

Dear Comrade,

We enclose herewith the news of
the historical demonstration of 16 th. Feb 58
by the Iron & steel workers of Burnpur-Kulti
for publication in your esteemed weekly.

With greetings,

Comradely Yours

Bama Jada Hookeya
Joint Secretary.

15 THOUSAND WORKERS OF BURNPUR AND KULTI

DEMONSTRATE ~~D~~ RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED IRON &
STEEL WORKERS' UNION, ~~DEMANDS~~ SETTING UP OF WAGE-B OARD
INCREASE IN ~~DEARNESS~~ DEARNESS ALLOWANCE ETC. DEMANDED.

Burnpur, 17th Feb.

Nearly 10 thousand workers of Burnpur and about 5 thousand workers of Kultı employed in the Indian Iron & Steel Co.Ltd. and the Indian Standard Wagon Co.Ltd. paraded the thoroughfares of the respective towns in colourful processions, with posters and festoons, red banners and demand boards and accompanied by musical parties.

The processions were organised by the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union on the demands of the workers, namely recognition of the Union, Wage Board, Increase in D.A., and ^{as minimum Rs 40 l.p.m.} 9 other issues.

These processions form a part of the joint action programme of the workers of Burnpur, Kultı and Jamshedpur, and according to the Union, this is a first step towards launching a token strike in these Steel Factories of Burnpur, Kultı and Tata.

At Burnpur, after the conclusion of the procession a big mass meeting was held at local Bari Maidan where Sri Chandra Shekhor Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of the Union addressed the gathering.

It was also resolved in the meeting that if our above main demands be not fulfilled we would launch token strike in the middle of March 1958.

This joint action and move on the part of the Iron and Steel Workers of the two main concern of India Tata and Burnpur have created new era in the history of the Trade Union of India. New energy has been created amongst the workers and they are resolute to achieve the demands by their struggle.

This is the first time after 1953 such a largely attended procession in Burnpur and Kultı. Several hundreds of workers including wo-men workers of Contractors also joined the procession. Hundreds of red ^{Flags} festoons and posters inscribed with demands made an unique scene in Burnpur and Kultı.

Sense of unity and united action has been strengthened in the mind of the workers in general.

— X —

Bama Jada Hoskings
Burnpur,
19/2/58.

264

February 19, 1958

Dear Com.Nitish,

I hope you have received the telegram sent from here.

As already requested, please arrange to send the news and details of the recent strike at Kulti as well as the previous strike of the construction workers at Kulti.

Please treat this as urgent.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Wms
19/2
(K.G.Srivastava)
Secretary

18/2/58

268

NITISH-SMTT

UNITED IRON AND STEEL WORKERS UNION

KENDWA ROAD

KULTI

SEND IMMEDIATELY TYPED COPY FULL PROCEEDINGS WHICH SETTLED
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STRIKE STOP I READ THEM IN KULTI BUT
HAVE NO COPY HERE FOR FURTHER STEPS STOP I REQUIRE THEM
URGENTLY

DANGE

Not to be telegraphed:-

S.A. Dange, M.P.
General Secretary, A.I.T.U.C?
4, Ashok Road, NEW DELHI.

18/2/58

Telegram

EX

Nitosh

RHEMDNA ROAD

Kulh.

send immediately
typed copy full text
of proceedings which
settled construction
workers strike. ~~to~~
As I read them
in Kulh but have
no copy here for
further steps. I
require them
urgently
Dange.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS UNION.

Head Office:—KULTI.

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD.)

Branch Office:—BURNPUR.

P. O. BURNPUR, (BURDWAN.)

REGD. No. 3389.

Ref No



Dated 195 .

Dear Mr. T.T.K / Gulabdas Nanda,

As you are aware, there is much ill blood between the Management of the Martin Burn Ltd at Burnpur & Kult. and their workmen over a large number of issues which date back as far as 1953. Of these, most burning is the problem of those workmen who were either discharged, dismissed or kept out of employment before, during and after the lock-out of 1953. While a number of these cases was or has been referred to an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication, there are others still uncovered by any order of Reference.

We have, on a number of occasions, approached the State Govt and the Govt at the Centre as well for the re-installment of these workmen, but it is regrettable to find that all our attempts in this regard have proved futile. Now that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has delivered its judgement on the Burnpur cases ordering re-installment of a chunk of 105 workmen with 'appropriate compensation', it has become palpably evident that the conduct of the Management of the Martin Burn Ltd is not above censure.

Here we do not want to go into the details or merits of each of these cases of discharged workmen as it will mean our being involved in a controversial tangle, nor do we need brief for these workmen. What we feel and believe is this that much of this ill blood now affecting the relation between the

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS UNION.

Head Office :—KULTI.

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD.)

Branch Office :—BURNPUR.

P. O. BURNPUR, (BURDWAN.)

REGD. No. 3389.

Ref. No.



Dated 195 .

The Management of the Martin Burn Ltd. and their workmen can be eliminated and a more healthy atmosphere introduced if the Govt. comes in and evolves a method to take ~~back~~ all the unemployed workmen back in service.

Believe as we do that industrial peace is a pre-condition for the successful implementation of the 2nd Plan, we are placing before you ~~a list of unemployed workmen~~ a category-wise list of unemployed workmen of Burnpur & Kultli, and hope you will use your good offices to get these workmen back their employment. We, in our turn, assure you of our best cooperation in the maintenance of industrial peace.

Category-wise list of unemployed workmen.

- (a) There are 27 workmen of Burnpur & a like number of workmen of Kultli whose cases are not covered by any order of Reference.
- (b) The cases of 43 workmen are pending adjudication before the Fifth Industrial Tribunal, Calcutta.
- (c) The cases of 17 workmen are pending adjudication before the 1st Labour Court, Calcutta.
- (d) In addition to above, there are 33 unemployed workmen who have been refused any relief by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

In short, the number of workmen still unemployed at Burnpur & Kultli comes to 147,

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :- BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :- ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated the 22nd Feb! 1958.

Com. K. G. Sriwastava,
Secy, A. I. T. U. C.
Ashok Road,
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Thanks for your letter of 19th instant.

Yes, all the papers have been sent already to Com. Dange. For your information, I may state that actually the strike started at Burnpur where there are more than ten thousand contractors workers. And the settlement covered only Burnpur though contractors workers of Kulti also joined in later. The strength in Kulti is over two thousand.

* * *
We are getting 'trade union record' regularly after its re-appearance since October 5, 1957. But a couple of issues are missing, may be due to postal irregularities. Please send them to keep the continuity of file. These are: issues No. 4 (Dec 5) and No. 6. By the way, why not maintain the serials of number of issues even if time-table may get upset. That helps the indexing of issues.

Thanking you,

Comradely Yours,

(N. Sett.)

M.B. Shall try to send a report on 16th Feb. Demonstration
to T. U. Record.

*Send
1/27/58
Ded.
1/3/58
712*

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:

Phone :- BARAKAR 133

KENDWA ROAD,

P. O. KULTI

DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:

Phone :- ASANSOL 737

P. O. BURNPUR

DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated the 22nd Feb '1958.

Com. S. A. Dange M. P.
4, Ashok Road,
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Received your telegram followed by a letter from Com. K. G. Sriwastava.

The necessary papers relating to contractors workers have already been sent to you as per your instruction. Hope, you have received them by now.

lnx You are perhaps also aware of the fact that all contractors workers, engaged in construction work and regular as well, both at Kulti-Burnpur, have served a general strike notice. The strike commences from Monday, the 24th instant.

Yes, I am sending a report on the 16th February demonstration and also on proposed closure of Kulti Blast Furnace and ~~Coke~~ oven Plants as early as possible.

Please advise on what lines to prepare the latter report.

With love and regards,

Yours affectionately,

Sett
(N. Sett)

268

KEDARDASS
33 Sarkar BUILDING
SAKCHI
JAMSHEDPUR

DO NOT GIVE STRIKE NOTICE UNTIL
WE MEET GOVERNMENT

DANGE

February 27, 1958

General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers Union,
KULTI.

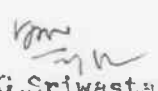
Dear Comrade,

We have received your telegrams on the strike at Kulti. Our MPs have, on the basis of your telegrams, tabled "calling attention" notices on the Government on the subject and you will know from the press on what the Government has to say. We are giving the matter the closest attention.

Meanwhile, please send us detailed reports on the strike position, from time to time.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,


(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary

February 14, 1958

Com.S.C.Krishnan,
5 Ritchie St.,
Madras-2.

Dear Comrade,

Further to our letter dated 10th inst.

2. Com.Dange is not visiting Golden Rock for the Conference. The question, therefore, of his giving time at Madras does not arise. He is still not fully well.

3. Message for the conference is enclosed.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

WMC.
14/2
(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary

299

S.S.Mirajkar

February 14, 1958

Chairman, Reception Committee,
Tamilnad Electricity Workers' Federation,
5 Ritchie St.,
Madras-2.

Dear Comrade,

On behalf of a million-strong membership united under the banner of the AITUC, we send you our fraternal greetings to the delegates who have come to attend the Inaugural Conference of the Tamilnad Electricity Workers' Federation.

We wish you all success in your effort and the commendable initiative to build a united organisation of the workers employed in electricity undertakings in the State, striving to defend the interests of the workers in the context of development under the Second Five Year Plan.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Wme
14/2
(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary



To
The Hon'ble Home Minister (Police)
Government of West Bengal,
Writer's Building, Calcutta.

6/3/58

Respected Sir,

**Re:- Contractor workers strike at Burapur
Multi Area- Arrest and subsequent
treatment to them.**

We very much regret to note that on 5.3.58 a batch of 72 Volunteers including some females arrested on 4.3.58 were taken in a Police Van from the Police station, Hirapur. The persons, so far, we know, have been arrested for alleged violation of Sec 144. Whatever may it may be, out of the Total 72, only 8 persons were kept under arrest and the rest as mentioned below were taken and deserted far away from the Hirapur P.S. in Jungle Area. The persons left had no clothing, no money and practically deserted in such a way that they had to walk on foot miles and miles to come back. They requested the U.C. Sansol, Undal, Raniganj etc to at least use their telephones to communicate for help and assistance i.e. food and ~~and~~ bus fare etc but they were bluntly refused.

While we do not want to argue, the justifiability of the arrest, but we must protest strongly for this unlawful and inhuman acts done to these arrested persons and this act on the part of the office concerned is bound to have tremendous effect on the workers and public in general. I hope to maintain peace and order such mean tactics are not necessary or to be allowed to continue. I would once again request you to intervene immediately otherwise, it will have serious repercussions throughout this whole industrial belt as you will no doubt agree no body with a slight sense will tolerate it. Please also take disciplinary action on the ^{officers} ~~officers~~ who have resorted to such mean and inhuman tactics to undermine the prestige of the Government and its fair name.

1) 11 person left at Undal P.S. 24 miles from Hirapur Police Station.

D. T. G.

- 2) 30 persons left at "aniganj P.S. 18 miles from Hirapur P.S.
- 3) 25 persons left at "asansol, 6 miles from Hirapur P.S.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

B.K. Roy

Vice-President

C.C. to Hon'ble Prime Minister, India,
New Delhi.

C.C. Hon'ble Chief Minister W.B. Calcutta

C.C. Dist Magistrate, Burdwan.

CC. S.D.O. Asansol.

C.C. Mr. Dange, S.P. New Delhi ✓

C.C. Mr. Jyoti Bose, S.L.A. Calcutta

For UNITED CONTRACTORS' WORKERS' UNION

1508



O-3



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No.

Received here at _____ H. _____ M.

X NI ASANSOL 10 S A DANGF M P 4 ASOKA ROAD NEW DELHI .

.... REPRFSSSION AND ARRESTS CONTINUE INSPITE OF PEACEFUL CONDITION PLEASE INTERVENE

TAHIR HUSSAIN M L A PRESIDENT UNITED CONTRACTORS WORKERS UNION

COPD AT 19/20

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed to, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

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MGISPAE.—1882—15-12-55—1,20,500 Eka.



C-8



1370



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No.

Received here at _____ H. _____ M.

X LI BURNPUR 12

SRI S A DANGE M P OPPOSITION LEADER NEW DELHI

.....FOURTEEN HUNDRED MELTING SHOP WORKERS OF BURNPUR WORKS ARE ON STRIKE SINCE MORNING ELEVENTH ON DEMAND OF RESTORATION OF OLD BONUS SCHEME STOP SITUATION GRAVE STOP IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SOLICITED..

GENERAL SECRETARY UNITED UNION

((CPD AT 17/40 HRS.))

The sequence of letters at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.
MGIFPAh.—121—30.4.57—91,370 Bks.

2.3.23
BEJOY PAUL

COLLIERY MAZDOOR SABHA

G.T.ROAD

ASANSOL.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY NATURE OF DEMAND AND STEPS TAKEN
TO NEGOTIATE THE STRIKE SETTLEMENT

DANGE

268
100
BURNPUR NEWS.

Burnpur 17 th. March:- 15000 contractors' workers' (Burnpur-Kulti) peaceful strike enters into fourth week to-day. The situation of Burnpur-Kulti is quite peaceful now. No untoward happening happened from the last five days. The volunteers are strongly posted in all gates. A shadow of sorrow covered the striking workers for the sad demise of Madhu Munda due to an accident on the last 15 th. March while he was being brought in prison van by the police for production before trying Magistrate at Asansol. The workers in general were deeply aggrieved and for the attitude of District authority for not handing over of the dead body of martyr Madhu Munda to his co-workers for evaution and mourning.

To protest against Police Zuloom and mourn the death of Madhu Munda a mass meeting of Burnpur workers was called on the last 16 th. March at the Maidan by the side of G.T. Road three miles away from Burnpur and free from Section 144. About 12000 workers attended ~~in~~ the meeting. The meeting was presided by Sri. Himangshu Chatteraj. At the beginning of the meeting 2 minutes' silence was observed by the gathering to show respect to the departed soul of Madhu Munda. The strike position was explained in details. The attitude of IISCO management was strongly condemned for posting of hired goondas inside the works. Goondalism and stray assault inside the Works was strongly condemned and the workers were called to be united and to strike work at a time without notice if anything such goondalism occurs inside the works. The Lathi Charge by Police indiscriminately by ~~the police~~ a few days ago on the works Gates was strongly protested. Withdrawal of Section 144 was demanded. An early settlement of the present Dispute was also demanded. The attitude of Contractor-Employers not coming for settlement was strongly criticized. Formation of citizen committee by some high officials of the Company and their recent resolutions regarding alarming situation of Burnpur was strongly condemned. Staff and workers of Melting Shop were congratulated in the meeting for their recent struggle and victory against cut of production bonus. A call to the Apprentices, Probationers, Second staff and workers who are forced to work overtime to work the job of contractors' workers, to refuse overtime was given in the mass meeting. A resolution was passed unanimously in the meeting copy of which is being enclosed herewith.

Sri. Bama Pada Mookerjee, Janab Taher Hossain M.L.A. Sri. Biswanath Tripathi and Sri. B.K. Roy addressed the meeting.

Forwarded to the editor T. V. Kew
for publication in his extended daily/weekly.

General Secretary.

Resolution passed unanimously in the mass meeting of Burnpur Kulti ~~Strikers~~ workers held on 16th. March 1958 at 6 P.M. at the ground by the side of G.T. Road under presidentship of Sri. Himangshu Chatteraj.

"This meeting of Burnpur Kulti workers are deeply in sorrow for the sad demise of Madhu Munda due to Truck accident on 15th. March on G.T. Road ^{while being brought in prison van to Woods Assam} and mourning his death. This meeting is showing ovation to the departed soul and send heartiest condolence to the bereaved family.

This meeting demands proper medical treatment and safety arrangements for the wounded persons.

This meeting strongly condemns the West-Bengal Government for the irresponsibility on their part to send under trial prisoners in the prison van without adopting any safety measure against accident.

This meeting condemns the District authority for denying to hand over the dead body of martyr to their fellow workers for cremation.

This meeting demands an immediate judicial enquiry in the matter to find out the cause of accident and to take proper steps against the Official concern who is responsible for for sending prisoners in this unsafe manner.

"This meeting demands compensation for the loss of life of Madhu Munda and of serious injury resulting disablement of Dharmoo Show."

H. Chatteraj

PRESIDENT.

16/3

Burnpur 17 th. March:- 15000 contractors' workers' (Burnpur-Kulti) peaceful strike enters into fourth week to-day. The situation of Burnpur-Kulti is quite peaceful now. No untoward happening happened from the last five days. The volunteers are strongly posted in all gates. A shadow of sorrow covered the striking workers for the sad demise of Madhu Munda due to an accident on the last 15 th. March while he was being brought in prison van by the police for production before trying Magistrate at Asansol. The workers in general were deeply aggrieved and for the attitude of District authority for not handing over of the dead body of martyr Madhu Munda to his co-workers for ovation and mourning.

To protest against police Zuloom and mourn the death of Madhu Munda a mass meeting of Burnpur workers was called on the last 15 th. March at the Maidan by the side of S.I. Road three miles away from Burnpur and free from Section 144. About 12000 workers attended in the meeting. The meeting was presided by Sri. Biswanath Chatteraj. At the beginning of the meeting 2 minutes' silence was observed by the gathering to show respect to the departed soul of Madhu Munda. The strike position was explained in details. The attitude of IISCO management was strongly condemned for posting of hired goondas inside the works. Goondaism and stray assault inside the works was strongly condemned and the workers were called to be united and to strike work at a time without notice if anything such goondaism occurs inside the works. The Lathi charge by police indiscriminately by the police a few days ago on the works gates was strongly protested. Withdrawal of Section 144 was demanded. An early settlement of the present dispute was also demanded. The attitude of Contractor-employers not coming for settlement was strongly criticized. Formation of citizen committee by some high officials of the Company and their recent resolutions regarding alarming situation of Burnpur was strongly condemned. Staff and workers of Melting Shop were congratulated in the meeting for their recent struggle and victory against cut of production bonus. A call to the Apprentices, Probationers, Second staff and workers who are forced to work overtime to work the job of contractors' workers, to refuse overtime was given in the mass meeting. A resolution was passed unanimously in the meeting copy of which is being enclosed herewith.

Sri. Bama Pada Mookerjee, Janab Taher Hossain M.L.A. Sri. Biswanath Tripathi and Sri. B. K. Roy addressed the meeting.

Forwarded to the editor New Age
for publication in his esteemed daily/weekly.

Bama Pada Mookerjee
General Secretary.

Resolution passed unanimously in the mass meeting of Burnpur Kulti ~~workers~~ workers held on 16th. March 1958 at 6 P.M. at the ground by the side of G.P. Road under presidentship of Sri. Himangshu Chatteraj.

"This meeting of Burnpur Kulti workers are deeply in sorrow for the sad demise of Madhu Munda due to Truck accident on 15th. March on G.P. Road, ^{while being brought in prison van towards (Ranpur)} and mourning his death. This meeting is showing ovation to the departed soul and send heartiest condolence to the bereaved family.

This meeting demands proper medical treatment and safety arrangements for the wounded persons.

This meeting strongly condemns the West-Bengal Government for the irresponsibility on their part to send under trial prisoners in the prison van without adopting any safety measure against accident.

This meeting condemns the District authority for denying to hand over the dead body of martyr to their fellow workers for cremation.

This meeting demands an immediate judicial enquiry in the matter to find out the cause of accident and to take proper steps against the Official concern who is responsible for for sending prisoners in this unsafe manner.

This meeting demands compensation for the loss of life of Madhu Munda and of serious injury resulting disablement of Sharmoo Chow.

H. Chatteraj

PRESIDENT.

14/3

UNITED IRON AND STEEL WORKERS UNION.

BURNPUR-KULTI.
REGD. NO. 3389.

STN. ROAD.
P. O. BURNPUR.
DT. BURDWAN.

DATED 18.3.'58.

To

Sri. S. A. Dange, M. P.
4 Ashok Road,
New-Delhi.

Sir,

We enclose herewith a copy of the resolution passed unanimously in the mass meeting of Burnpur workers held on 16 th. March 1958 for your information and necessary action thereto.

Yours faithfully

B. P. Hockay's
General Secretary.

Resolution passed unanimously in the mass meeting of Burnpur Kulti ~~Workers~~ Workers held on 16th March 1952 at 6 P.M. at the ground by the side of G.T. Road, under Presidentship of Sri. Himanghsu Chottaraj.

"This meeting of Burnpur Kulti workers are deeply in sorrow for the sad demise of Madhu Munda due to Truck accident on 15th. March on G.T. Road ^{while being brought in prison van towards Asansol} and mourning his death. This meeting is showing ovation to the departed ~~xxxix~~ soul and send heartiest condolence to the bereaved family.

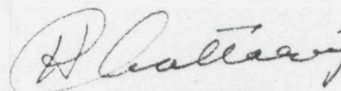
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This meeting strongly condemns the West-Bengal Government for the irresponsibility on their part to send under trial prisoners in the prison van without adopting any safety measure against accident.

This meeting condemns the District authority for denying to hand over the dead body of martyr to their fellow workers for cremation.

This meeting demands an immediate judicial enquiry in the matter to find out the cause of accident and to take proper steps against the Official concern who is responsible for sending prisoners in this unsafe manner.

This meeting demands compensation for the loss of life of Madhu Munda and serious injury resulting disablement of Dharmoo Shaw."


PRESIDENT.

16/3

EXPRESS 24/3/58

TAHIR HUSSAIN MLA

ACTION COMMITTEE

BURNPUR (W. Bengal)

IT IS GOOD YOU SUCCEEDED IN SETTLING STRIKE STOP BUT WE MUST STRENGTHEN

ORGANISATION TO GET GOVERNMENT ASSURANCE IMPLEMENTED STOP WE HERE

INTERVIEWED PRIME MINISTER FOR GENERAL DEMANDS JAMSHEDPUR AND BURNPUR

DANGE

268
Recd
20/3



C.-3



Burnapur
SAD



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No.

Received here at — H. — M.

X IH BURNAPUR 20

DANGE M P ND

... MILITARY POSTED MAKING MASS ARREST INDISCRIMINATELY CHARGING
VOLUNTEERS WITH BEYONETS STOP ARRESTED LATHI CHARGED IN SIDE
POLICE VAN REIGN TERROR PREVAILS STOP PUBLIC IRRITATED
SITUATION WORSENERD CLASH APPREHENDED MILITARY BE WITHDRAWN
STOP PLEASE INTERVENE IMMEDIATELY.

VICE PRESIDENT UNITED CONTRACTOR WORKERS UNION

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.
MADRAS 1941-30-457/41,570 BSAJ

3 APR 1958

475



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPTT.

X IE BARAKAR 3 B D JOSHI A I T U C 4 ASHOK ROAD NEW DELHI

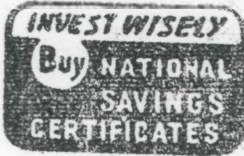
..... IISCO AUTHORITY ORDERED IMMEDIATE CLOSURE OF KULTI BLAST FURNACE AND COKE OVENS NATIONAL INTEREST DEMANDS CONTINUING PRODUCTION OF IRON AND STEEL THOUSAND WORKERS FARE RETRENCHMENT SERIOUS LABOUR UNREST APPREHENDED PRAY INTERVENE CALL TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE AS PER NAINITAL DECISION

TAHERHOSAIN M L A SECRETARY UNITED IRON AND STEEL WORKERS UNION BURNPUR AND KULTI

COPD AT 13/25.

Dr. D. J. Joshi
4.12

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

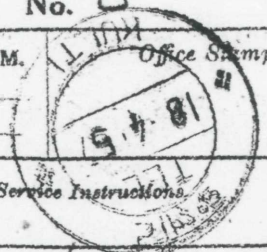


INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT



Class 0 RF Prefix CA 8 Code 16 No. 8 C.

Recd. from CA 8 Sent at _____ H. _____ M. Office Stamp
By 16 To _____ By _____



Handed in at (Office of Origin.) Bombay Date 17 Hour 12 Minute 30 Service Instructions _____ Words 78

TO Danges united Iron Steel workers union Station Road Kulti (Bon)
= Election accounts submitted Seventeenth -
Stop certifying accounts letter must reach
returning officer twentysecond copy election
accounts sent at Kulti fifteenth stop quoting
labour ministry telegram reference your

N. B.—The name of the sender, if telegraphed, should be written after, but separated from the text.



INDIAN POSTS AND



TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Class _____

Prefix Code _____ No. _____ C. _____

Recd. from _____ Sent at _____ H. _____ M. _____

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Office Stamp: *11/11/81*

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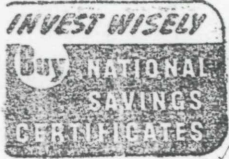
TO _____

Recd. here at _____ H. _____ M. _____

your telegram april tenth regarding participation may day celebrations in China stop other organisations unable to send delegates stop kindly nominate representative and intimate full particulars

N. B.—The name of the sender, if telegraphed, should be written after, but separated from the text.

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INDIAN POSTS AND



TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT



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M.

- TAATR ROSSATN -

1st Instance of Public Interest

1. V. R.

TAMILNAD ELECTRICITY WORKERS FEDERATION

PRESIDENT
V.G.Row, M.L.C.
Barrister-at-law.

3-30 PM.

5, Ritchie Street, Madras 2
18th March 1958

HIGH COURT: MADRAS
Writ Petition No. 224 of 1958
(C.M.P. No. 1764 of 1958)

The Madras Electricity Workers Union,
rep. the workmen of the Madras Elec.
System under the Madras State Elec. Board by its
President, V.G.ROW. }
} .. Petitioners
}

vs

1. The State of Madras, rep. by the Secretary to }
Government, Industries, Labour & Co-operation Dept... Respondents
2. The Madras State Electricity Board, represented }
by its Chairman. }

Sirs:

The above Writ Petition for the issue of a WRIT OF MANDAMUS against the 1st respondent to refer the disputes between the Workmen represented by the petitioner Union and the Second Respondent and covered by the Strike Notice to an Industrial Tribunal under Sec. 12(5) and the Second Proviso to Sec. 10(1) (d) of the Act, came up for hearing and admission before Hon'ble Mr. Justice P.N. Ramaswami today at 2-30 PM. His Lordship while admitting the Writ Petition Ordered the posting of the same on the 25th March 1958. The Government Pleader, Sri Veeraswami took notice on behalf of the first respondent herein. The necessary records in the case have also been ordered to be called for within two weeks.

The copy of the Writ Petition and the affidavit filed in support of the same are sent herewith.

Mr. A. RAMACHANDRAN of Messrs Row & Reddy, Advocates, appeared for the petitioner.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/. S.C. KRISHNAN
General Secretary.

S. C. Krishnan

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
Original Special Jurisdiction
Writ Petition No. 224 of 1958

The Madras Electricity Workers' Union, representing }
~~by~~ the Workmen of the Madras Electricity System } .. Petitioner
under the Madras State Electricity Board, by its }
President, V.G.ROW }
}

VS

1. The State of Madras, represented by the Secretary }
to Government, Industries, Labour & Co-operation Dept }
Fort St. George, Madras. } .. Respondents
2. The Madras State Electricity Board, represented }
by its Chairman, Fort St. George, Madras. }

PETITION UNDER ART. 226 OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE ISSUE OF WRIT OF
MANDAMUS

The petitioners are the Madras Electricity Workers' Union representing the Workmen of the Madras Electricity System, under the Madras State Electricity Board, and is represented by its President, Sri V.G. Row.

The address for the service of all notices and processes on the petitioners is that of their Counsel MESSRS. ROW & REDDY, Advocates No. 337, Thambu Chetti Street, Madras 1.

The first respondent is the State of Madras and is represented by the Secretary to Government, Industries, Labour & Co-operation Department, Fort St. George, Madras 9, which is also ~~xxx~~ their address for the service of all notices and processes herein.

The second respondent is the Madras State Electricity Board and it is represented by its Chairman having their offices at Fort St. George, Madras, which is also their address for the service of all notices and processes herein.

For the reasons mentioned in the accompanying affidavit of Sri V.G.ROW, the petitioner prays that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to issue such Writ, Order or Direction as is appropriate in the circumstances of this case and in particular:

(a) To issue a WRIT in the nature of MANDAMUS directing the first respondent to refer the disputes between the Workmen represented by the Petitioner Union and the second respondent and covered by the Strike Notice Exhibit "A" to an Industrial Tribunal under Sec.12(5) and the second proviso to Sec.10(1) (d) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(b) To pass further or other orders as are just and necessary in the circumstances of this case.

and

(c) To Order the respondents to pay the petitioner the costs of this Petition.

MADRAS DATED THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH 1958.

SD/- "ROW & REDDY: ADVOCATES"
COUNSEL FOR PETITIONERS.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
Original Special Jurisdiction
WRIT PETITION NO.224 of 1958.

The Madras Electricity Workers' Union, }
representing the Workmen of the Madras } .. Petitioners
Elec. System under the Madras State Elec. }
Board by its President, V.G.Row. }
}

VS

1. The State of Madras, rep. by the Secretary }
to Govt. Industries, Labour & Co-op. Dept. } .. Respondents
Madras. }
2. The Madras State Elec. Board, rep. by its }
Chairman. }
}

AFFIDAVIT OF V.G.ROW

I, V.G.ROW, son of V.Pandurang Row, aged about 50 years, and residing at No.25, Letangs Road, Madras 7, do hereby solemnly and sincerely affirm and state as follows:-

1. I am the President of the Madras Electricity Workers' Union petitioner abovenamed (hereinafter referred to as the Union) which is a Registered Trade Union under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and recognised by the Government of Madras, in G.O.MS.No.961 dated 6th March 1953.

2. I am also the Chairman of the Co-Ordination Committee of Unions of Electricity Workmen in the State of Madras. The Co-ordination Committee is a Committee of representatives of the following Unions:

1. The Petitioner Union. 2. The Madras Electricity Board Employees' Union, Pykara System, Coimbatore 3. Operation & Constructions Subordinate Service Association, Mettur System, Mettur Dam. 4. Government Electricity Employees' Union, Papanasam System, Papanasam Project and 5. Madras Electricity Board Employees' Union, Vellore Circle, Vellore.

I am also the President of the Tamilnad Electricity Workers' Federation consisting of 18 Unions of Electricity Workmen out of which 14 of the Unions are of Workmen under the Madras State Elec.Board. The Federation is the only representative Body of tens of thousands of electricity workmen in the Madras State.

3. Until 1.7.1957 the Electricity Workmen were employed by the Electricity Department of the Government of Madras and on 1.7.1957 the State ~~of~~ Electricity Board (hereinafter called the Board) was constituted under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The Board is a separate, corporate body constituted under the Act having perpetual succession and a common seal and the Board has been made the 2nd respondent in this Writ Petition. Under the said Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 all workmen under the Electricity Department of the State Government became employees under the Board from and on 1.7.1957, and ceased to be Government Servants on and from the said date.

4. There are over 40,000 workmen employed by the Board out of whom nearly 10,000 are classified as casual labour who have no security of service whatever or any other amenity or rights and the total emoluments of a casual workman are Rs.32.8.0 per month. On the basis of Rs.1.4.0 per day for 26 days. Another 20,000 or more workmen are classified as temporary nominal Muster Roll Workmen who also have no security of service and whose starting basic wage is annas twelve per day plus Rs.30/- as Dearness Allowance. About 8,000 workmen are classified as Operation Subordinate Service (hereinafter called OSS) whose starting lowest wage is Rs.18/- per month and dearness allowance of Rs.30/- per month. These O.S.S. workmen though supposed to be in a permanent service are not confirmed for years together and more than 50% of these O.S.S. workmen are still not confirmed in their posts.

5. The petitioner union as well as other Unions of workmen under the Board have been making repeated representations, to the government, and after 1.7.19.57 to the Board for improving their wages, dearness allowance and other conditions of service from time to time extending over a period of more than 5 years. Though the Electricity Department was making good profits all these years and particularly from 1952, the workmen's conditions of service have basically remained the same.

6. The petitioner Union was compelled to issue a notice of strike in the middle of March 1956 for redressal of their demands for improved wages, dearness allowance and other conditions of service. On 16th March 1956, the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works who was then the Minister in charge of the Electricity Department on the floor of the Legislative Assembly declared that the workmen were justifiably discontented and that he would use his efforts to see that his other colleagues in the cabinet agree to settle the reasonable demands or refer the dispute for adjudication. There upon on the joint advice of the Public Works Minister and the Minister for Labour, the strike notice was withdrawn. Subsequently even though three Secretaries to Government sat as a Committee and heard the representatives of the Petitioner union, and the Department on or about the 23rd of April 1956, basically the conditions of service and the emoluments of the electricity workmen as a whole did not improve.

7. Even on the formation of the Board, on 1st July 1957 the petitioner union submitted a Memorandum to the Electricity Board containing the basic ~~grievances~~ grievances of the workmen and requested the Board to redress them as early as possible. This was done consequent on the Minister for Electricity having assured the representatives of the workmen in May 1957 that as the Board was going to be constituted in July the Government recommend and see that the Board takes up the demands of the workmen and resolves the dispute within three months.

8. The representatives of the Union approached the Minister for Electricity, The Chairman of the Board, the Chief Engineer for Electricity and the Secretary to the Board several times, but the demands of the workmen remained unredressed and finally the Board by its letter dt. 5th Oct. 1957 addressed to the Union rejected all the demands made by the Union upon the Board.

9. In spite of the rejection by the Board of all the demands by the workmen, the petitioner Union, as well as the other Unions of the Co-ordination Committee sought and obtained a joint interview with the Board on 10-12-1957 and once again represented the grievances of the workmen and requested the Board to reconsider their earlier rejection of the demands of the workmen. The Chairman of the Board promised to send a reply to the Unions after the Board had considered our representations. Soon after the interview on 10.12.1957 the Co-ordination Committee decided to seek the verdict of the workmen by a ballot as to whether the Unions of the Co-ordination Committee should serve notices of strike in the event of no favourable reply from the Board being received before 15th Jan.1958. Immediately after coming to this decision the Co-ordination Committee sent a copy of this resolution regarding this decision to the Chairman of the Board, as well as the Minister for Electricity (letter dt. 11.12.1957). The Unions also conducted a ballot as decided upon, as to whether a strike notice should be issued under Sec.22 of the Industrial Disputes Act, (hereinafter called the Act if no favourable reply was received from the Board. No reply has been received upto date from the Board and the ballot taken showed that a large majority of the workmen were in favour of issuing the strike notice. Therefore the petitioner Union as well as the other Unions of the Co-ordination Committee issued a notice of strike under Sec.22 of the Act. I am filing herewith a copy of the strike notice served by the petitioner Union on 18.2.1958 marked as EXHIBIT "A". The other Unions also served similar strike notices in which the first eleven and last demand were identical with the demands made in Ex."A"

10. On the 26th Feb.1958 the Labour Commissioner as Conciliation Officer under Sec.12 of the Act, held joint conciliation proceedings relating to the strike notices issued by the five Unions of the Co-ordination Committee. As the Conciliation Officer could not effect a settlement of the dispute or even on any item of the dispute between the representatives of the Unions and of the Board, he submitted his report of failure of conciliation to the Government dt. 3.3.1958, which the petitioner Union understands was received by the 1st respondent not later than 6.3.1958. I am filing herewith a copy of the said report of the Conciliation Officer, made under Sec.12 of the Act, marked as EXHIBIT "B".

11. The main demands made by the workmen in the notice of Strike Ex."A" were:

- (1) For increased wages with a minimum basic wage of Rs.31/- per month to the lowest category of the workmen and also for different grades and scales of pay for different categories other than the lowest grade..
- (2) For increased dearness allowance linked to the cost of living index at 0-3-6 per point and for 75% of the basic wages for the first 100 and 45% for the subsequent hundred for clerical, technical and supervisory staff subject to a minimum of Rs.75/-.
- (3) All workmen of whatever classification to be made permanent who have put in more than 1 year's service.
- (4) Rent free quarters and supply of free electricity.
- (5) Free Uniform.
- (6) Gratuity scheme at the rate of one month's wages for every year of service.
- (7) superannuation age to be raised to 60 years.
- (8) provident fund at 8 1/3% calculated on wages and dearness allowance for all workmen.

- (9) Uniform leave and travelling allowance facilities.
(10) Extension of uniform national and festival holidays.
and
(11) Risk allowance of 20% of wages to all workmen whose duties involve risk etc.

12. It is submitted that whereas the total emoluments of an electricity workman as stated above is Rs.48/- per month and 10,000 casual workmen are even getting much less than this, namely Rs.32/8/0 per month at the same time lowest paid electricity workman under private licensees like the Salem-Erode Elec.Distribution Co.Ltd. is getting Rs.30/- as basic wage, Rs.40/- as dearness allowance, and Rs.4/- as house rent allowance, making total of Rs.74/- . Similarly even an unskilled workman in the Textile Industry is getting inclusive of dearness allowance over Rs.85/- per month. Even the lowest paid of the clerical staff under the Board is being paid only Rs.45/- basic wage, Rs.34/- dearness allowance and a very low house rent allowance in cities and towns and panchayaths. The total of the emoluments of the lowest paid clerical staff is less than what is being earned by an unskilled workman in the textile industry. Thus it will be seen that the electricity workmen have been long suffering by being paid only semi-starvation wages and not even the minimum wages as decided by Industrial Tribunals and Labour Appellate Tribunal.

13. As regards the demands of the workmen neither the Government nor the Board have till now stated that they are unreasonable but have been repeatedly promising to settle the dispute but for one reason or other even basic issues have been postponed from time to time. Even at the time of conciliation proceedings the representatives of the Board while not being able to say that the demands are unreasonable were not even prepared to concede or to come to a settlement on any of the demands contained in the strike notice.

14. ONE OF THE DEMANDS made by all the five Unions was that the demands should be referred to an INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL FOR ADJUDICATION. This demand was made with the object of obtaining a final resolution of the dispute in case of failure of settlement, without the consequences of an actual strike. I submit that it is only because of the Unions' and the workmens' sense of responsibility to the Public, knowing that a strike would result in dislocation not merely of the industries in the State but also to the Ordinary life of the people, that the workmen have for a long time been patient and not utilised this ultimate weapon of strike. The Unions have therefore been pursuing all other modes of collective bargaining and by representation to the Board and the Government, and through rallying support of the public, even though the workmen have been for a long time living on semi-starvation wages and other rigorous work conditions including, risk to life.

15. On the other hand, the Board ever since it came to know that the Unions were taking a strike ballot has been adopting a hostile attitude to the Unions and the workmen and active members have been transferred from their normal places of work suddenly, and the service of several workmen have been terminated even though they have put in more than one year of service. Further many of the existing trade Unions rights and privileges have been arbitrarily and summarily withdrawn and representations to the Board on these matters have not been looked into. Soon after the strike notice was served many workmen are being harassed and compelled to sign statements that they would not go on strike.

16. Even though the first respondent received the conciliation report not later than 6th March 1958, the Unions have not till this day received any communication as to the decision of the Government either under Sec.10(1) or Sec.12 of the Act. However, even though according to the notice of strike, the strike was to take place on 11th and 12th of March 1958, the petitioner Union and other Unions

responded to the request of the Leaders of the Opposition Parties in the Madras Legislative Assembly, who offered to intervene to find an amicable way of settling the disputes by using their good offices with the Government and deferred the strike for another nine days. In spite of these Leaders of Opposition parties meeting the Ministers for Labour and for Electricity on the 11th and 13th March 1958 the Government refused to refer the dispute for Adjudication or even to a sole Arbitrator or to have the dispute resolved peacefully by any of the modes provided in the Act.

17. Even to this date the first respondent has not performed the mandatory duty cast upon it, either under Sec.12 or the last proviso to Sec.10(1) (d) of the Act. It is submitted that the failure on the part of the first respondent either to make a reference or to record and communicate to the Unions its reason for not referring the disputes within one week from the 6th of March 1958, the date of receipt of the Conciliation Report, constitute a violation of Sec.12(5) of the Act. It is apparent that no reason has been recorded and communicated only because there can be valid reason in the circumstances of this case for not referring this long pending dispute, and there is a good case for reference to a Tribunal. Under Sec.22 of the Act workmen are prohibited from going on strike in this public utility service during the pendency of Conciliation Proceedings and 7 days after the conclusion of such proceedings. It is submitted that these 7 days during which the workmen are prohibited from going on strike are intended to give the Government time to consider the conciliation report and act under Sec.12(5) and the last proviso to Sec.10(1) (d).

18. I submit that in the circumstances mentioned above the 1st respondent has a duty under the last proviso to Sec.10(1) (d) as well as under Sec.12(5) of the Act to refer the dispute to a Tribunal, and the petitioner is entitled to a Writ in the nature of Mandamus, directing the first respondent to refer the dispute covered by the strike notice Exhibit "A", to a Tribunal both under Sec.12(5) and Sec.10 for the following xxx among other grounds:-

(a) The circumstances set out in this affidavit and the failure on the part of the 1st respondent to act under Sec.12(5) as well as the proviso to Sec.10(1) (d) clearly shows that there are no valid reasons for the first respondent not to refer the dispute for adjudication. Further in the circumstances, it is not only expedient but essential in the interests of the Electricity Industry, Industrial Peace and in the interests of the other industries and the General Public that the 1st respondent should exercise immediately, the power conferred on it, under the last proviso to Sec.10(1) (d) of the Act and refer the dispute to an Industrial Tribunal.

(b) Further it is submitted that the failure to act under Sec.12(5) and the last proviso to Sec.10(1) (d) of the Act on the part of the Government is not bonafide in the circumstances.

19. I submit that the petitioner Union has exhausted all means of resolving this genuine dispute for the reasonable demands of the workmen and have for a number of years patiently ~~xxx~~ attempted to resolve the dispute amicably and also through adjudication, but has so far failed to have the dispute amicably settled or resolved by any of the different modes provided by the Act, without recourse to direct action. The Unions submit that this Writ Petition is filed solely for the purpose of getting the dispute resolved peacefully and the demands of the workmen redressed through one of the modes provided under the Act. The first respondent however by his failure to act in accordance with the Law, and specifically and under Sec.12(5) and Sec.10 of the Act is acting in a manner prejudicial to Industrial Peace and to the interests of the General Public.

20. It is further submitted that since the strike has been deferred to the 20th March 1958, or any other day after that date and as under Sec.22 of the Act the workmen cannot commence the strike after 31st of March 1958, it is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to treat this Writ Petition as urgent and dispose of the same very expeditiously.

21. Under all these circumstances, I pray that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to issue such Writ, Order or Direction as is appropriate in the circumstances of this case and in particular:

(a) Issue a Writ in the Nature of Mandamus directing the first respondent to refer the dispute between the workmen represented by the petitioner Union and the second respondent and covered by the strike notice Exhibit "A" to an Industrial Tribunal under the second Proviso to Sec.10(1) (d) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(b) To pass such further or other orders as are just and necessary in the circumstances;

and

(c) To Order the respondents to pay the petitioners costs of this petition.

Solemnly affirmed at Madras on this
17th day of March 1958 and signed his
name in my presence.

||
||
||
||

SD. V.G.ROW
BEFORE ME

Advocate: Madras.

BOOK-POST



To The Editor.
Trade Union Reporter
4. Ashok Road
New Delhi.

TAMILNAD ELECTRICITY
WORKERS FEDERATION,
5, RITCHIE ST. MADRAS-2.





INDIAN POSTS AND



TELEGRAMS DEPARTMENT

952

No.

Code

l. from

Sent at M/10 H. 10 M.

Office-stamp

To

By

Handed in at (Office of Origin)

Date | Hour | Minute

Service Instructions

Words

0 MD MADRAS 0

18 32

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS 4 ASHOK ROAD

M.

NEW DELHI ==

ELECTRICITY WORKERS UNION CONDEMNES FIRING
PEACEFUL WORKERS URGES EARLY REDRESSAL AND

REASONABLE SETTLEMENT ALL INDIA DOCKERS DEMANDS ==

S C KRISHNAN ==

8
20
2.63
UNITED CONTRACTORS WORKERS UNION, BURNPUR.

DATE - 22.4.58.

To
All Managements
of Contractors Firms
at Burnpur Kulti Area.

Dear Sirs,

In accordance with the provisions contained in sub-section (I) of Section 22 of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, I hereby give you notice that I propose to call a token strike on any day within 6 weeks and on the expiry of 14 days from date of this notice, for the reasons explained in the annexe. This notice being final no further notice will be given to you specifying the date of strike.

Yours faithfully,

V. P. Tripathi

Date - 22.4.58.

(GENERAL SECRETARY)

- c.c. to Hon'ble Prime Minister, New Delhi.
- c.c. to " Chief Minister, West Bengal, Calcutta.
- c.c. to " Labour Minister, West Bengal, Calcutta.
- ✓ c.c. to Shri. S.A.Dange, M.P. New Delhi.
- c.c. to Shri. Jyoti Bose, M.L.A., Leader of Opposition.
- c.c. to Chief Labour Commissioner, New Delhi.
- c.c. to Labour Commissioner, West Bengal, Calcutta.
- c.c. to Assistant Labour Commissioner, Asansol.
- c.c. to S.D.O., Asansol.
- c.c. to D.M., Burdwan.
- c.c. to General Manager, Indian Iron & Steel Co.Ltd. Burnpur.
- c.c. to General Manager, Indian Standard Wagon Co.Ltd. "
- c.c. to M/s. Martin Burn, 12, Mission Row, Calcutta (Const.Dept)

A N N E X E.

1. In protest of Non-Implementation of the assurance contained in the letters of the Hon'ble Chief Minister West Bengal on basis of which the Strike was withdrawn.
2. In Protest of Anti-Social Activities of the Local Police who in collusion with the Managements are harassing the poor workers in various ways by making false cases and on the other hand taking no steps on the januir-complaints made against the Managements and their officers. The Local police have become hand.maid of the Managements and giving help to them to make the assurance of the Honourable Chief Minister, in-operative in this area. We demand that the O.C.Hirapur be removed immediately and be replaced by a more tactful and honest officer.
3. In sympathy and support of the grivances of the workmen of the M/s. Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. & M/s. Indian Standard Wagon Co.Ltd. contained in their charter of demands a copy of which was forwarded to us through the United Iron & Steel Workers Union, Burnpur.

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,

P. O. Burnpur.

(Burdwan)



Phone No. Asl. 737

Ref. No.

Dated 25.4.58. 195

Dear Comrade Dage,

I believe you have seen from the news papers that we have served strike Notices on The Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. And Indian Standard Wagon Co. Ltd. on 22.4.58. The date of strike has not yet been fixed. It will be fixed after taking stock of the situation of a few days.

Regarding our propoganda, we are greatly hadicapped due to the clamping of order U/S, 144 Cr. P.C. Anyhow we want to carry it through.

Your presence here is absolutely necessary. Workers want to hear from you. Please do try your best to come down to Burnpu early first week of May. The matter being absolutely pressing, we have been compelled to seek your presence without fail.

Trust you are in health.

With our greetings,

Comradely Yours,

C. S. Dujice

Express.
26/4/58.

TAHIR HUSSAIN MLA
ACTION COMMITTEE
BURNPUR

REGRET WORK HERE DOES NOT PERMIT MY COMING THERE

STOP HOPE THE ONE DAY PROTEST STRIKE WILL BE UNITED

AND SUCCESSFUL

DANCE

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—K U L T I

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

tation Road,
O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)



Phone No. Asl. 737

No.....

Dated 25.4.58. 195

Dear Comrade ~~Wang~~,

I believe you have seen from the news papers that we have served strike Notices on The Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., and Indian Standard Wagon Co. Ltd. on 22.4.58. The date of strike has not yet been fixed. It will be fixed after taking stock of the situation of a few days.

Regarding ~~our~~ propaganda, we are greatly handicapped due to the clamping of order U/S, 144 Cr. P.C. Anyhow we want to carry it through.

Your presence here is absolutely necessary. Workers want to hear from you. Please do try your best to come down to Burnpur early first week of May. The matter being absolutely pressing, we have been compelled to seek your presence without fail.

Trust you are in health.

With our greetings,

Comradely Yours,

C. S. Inyangie

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,
O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)



Phone No. Asl. 737

No.

Dated 28.4.58 195

Dear Com. Dange,

Your telegrams intimating your inability to come down to Burnpur has come to us rather like a shock. You know the sentiment of our Burnpur workers who pin much of their faith on an outstanding personality. After the service of strike notice, the general sentiment of the workers including the intelligentsia, so far we have assessed, is this that they want to hear the Strike announcement from you. The dread of 1953 strike still haunts the minds of our workers, and they reasonably expect that you will give them assurance of fullest cooperation.

For your information, the strike psychosis that we were able to work up before the contractors' workers' strike, has greatly toned down at the present moment and even if we can successfully undertake elaborate campaigns, we feel, it would be extremely difficult on our part to make the strike a success. On top of that, there is the question of retaliation by the companies after the success or otherwise of the token strike. If the companies go so far as to declare a lockout or if there are any other reprisals from their side, we must have to fight back. That will involve us naturally in a protected strike, and we are not yet prepared for that.

Everything boils down to this that with your presence at Burnpur for a couple of days, we can, we are definite, whip up the morale of our workers to such a pitch as would provide against all manner of untoward predicaments.

We, of course, appreciate your difficulties, but we would impress upon you that Burnpur strike requires serious attention. We are just on the brink of a precipice - if we win, we go ahead; if we fail we go down, stock and barrel.

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union

We have also written to B. B. Round to come down to Birmingham, but we have received no reply from him as yet.

By the way, Takechai is greatly perturbed and rather short of you present at Birmingham in the first place. I am sure you will give him a good time.

With our regards,

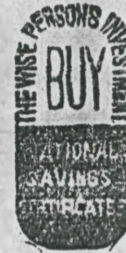
Yours sincerely,

C. S. Murray

Office:
Station Road
Birmingham

269

C-3



4841

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No.

Received here at _____ H. _____ M.



- X LE BURNPUR 25 23 S ADANGE 55 GIRGAONROAD BOMBAY 4 -

STRIKE NOTICE SERVED YOUR PRESENCE HERE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY DO COME

EARLY FIRST WEEK MAY - CHANDRASHEKHAR

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.

MGIFPAh.—597—20.8.56—84,083 Bks.

22nd April, 1958

The General Manager,
The Indian Iron & Steel Co.Ltd.,
The Indian Standard Wagon Co.Ltd.,
Burnpur, Burdwan,
West Bengal.

Dear sir,

In accordance with the provision contained in sub-section (1) of section 22 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, I hereby give you notice that I propose to call a strike on any day within 6 weeks and on the expiry of 14 days from the date of this notice, for the reasons explained in the annexe.

Yours faithfully,
For United Iron & Steel Workers' Union
Sd/- Taher Hossain
General Secretary.

Enclo; above

Copy to:

1. The Conciliation Officer, Labour Dept., Govt. of West Bengal, 1, Hastings Street, Calcutta 1.
2. The Regional Asst. Labour Commissioner, Labour Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Young Road, Asansol, Burdwan.
3. The Labour Commissioner, Govt. of West Bengal, 1, Hastings Street, Calcutta - 1.
4. The Prime Minister, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
5. The Minister for Labour and Employment, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
6. The Chief Minister, Govt. of West Bengal, Calcutta.
7. The Labour Minister, Govt. of West Bengal, Calcutta.

:ANNEXE:

The Indian Iron & Steel Co.Ltd and the Indian Standard Wagon Co.Ltd did neither accord recognition to the United Iron & Steel Workers Union - the only representative Union of the workmen employed by the Indian Iron & Steel Co.Ltd and the Indian Standard Wagon Co.Ltd nor did they settle the legitimate grievances of the workmen put forward by the said Union. Efforts have been made by the United Iron & Steel Workers Union many a time to reach an amicable settlement with the Companies with regard to the grievances of the workmen, but no results have so far been achieved. Finding no other alternative, the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union serves this strike notice for the following reasons:

- (a) For the recognition of the United Iron & Steel Workers Union.
- (b) For the setting up of an appropriate machinery for the re-orientation of the grades of the workmen,
- (c) For 25% increase in wages with immediate effect pending setting up of such grade-reorienting machinery.
- (d) For fixing up the Dearness Allowance commensurate with the cost of living indices and margin of the same with basic pay,
- (e) For due modification of the Production Bonus Scheme for various Department.
- (f) For granting of three month's Profit sharing bonus pending Modification of the Profit sharing Bonus Scheme.
- (g) For an increase in existing quarter allowance and construction of sufficient number of Quarters for the workmen,
- (h) For grant of gratuity on the basis of one Month's wages for each completed year of service.
- (i) For reinstatement of all unemployed workmen who were victimised during the period from 1953 upto the date of notice.
- (j) For laying down of line of promotion and acting strictly on the basis of seniority in service.
- (k) For filling up all permanent vacancies with immediate effect.
- (l) For fixing up temporary workmen in permanent post immediately.
- (m) For the abolition of Contract System.
- (n) For immediate election of the Canteen Managing Committee in accordance with the Factories rules.
- (o) For immediate election of the Canteen Managing Committee in accordance with the Factories rules.
- (p) For Modification of Standing Orders, Specially order No.9 and
- (q) For the introduction of double payment on overtime work in respect of Dearness Allowance where such system does not exist, strictly in accordance with the factories act.

For United Iron & Steel Workers Union

बर्नपुर और कुलटी के मजदूर साथियों से अपील।

- १। यूनाइटेड यूनियन को मान्यता देना होगा
- २। नया ग्रेड पुनः बनाना होगा
- ३। पच्चीस रुपया सैकड़े वेतनवृद्धि करना होगा
- ४। बढ़ते हुए बाजार भाव के अनुसार मँहगी मत्ता बढ़ा कर मूल वेतन में शामिल करना होगा
- ५। प्रोडक्शन एवं प्रॉफिट सेयरिंग बोनस स्कीम को बदलना होगा
- ६। क्वाटर मत्ता बढ़ाना होगा तथा जल्द से जल्द प्रत्येक श्रमिक कर्मचारी को क्वाटर देना होगा
- ७। प्रति वर्ष काम के अनुसार एक माह का प्रोचुटी देना होगा
- ८। तमाम छँटाई माइनों को काम पर वापस लेना होगा
- ९। सर्विस के मुताबिक प्रमोशन तथा एकटींग देना होगा
- १०। तमाम स्थायी जगहों पर आदमी भर्ती करना होगा
- ११। अस्थाई मजदूरों को स्थाई बनाना होगा
- १२। ठीकेदारी प्रथा को समाप्त करना होगा
- १३। कैण्टीन मैनेजिंग कमेटी चुनाव द्वारा बनाना होगा
- १४। वर्क्स कमेटी का चुनाव कराना होगा
- १५। स्टैण्डिंग आर्डर को सुधारना होगा
- १६। ओवर टाइम का भी मँहगी मत्ता देना होगा

उपर्युक्त माँगों को प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रस्तावित हड़ताल को सफल बनाइए।

साथियों,

उपर्युक्त माँगों को प्राप्त करने के लिए यूनाइटेड यूनियन के तरफ से इण्डियन आयरन कम्पनी तथा इण्डियन स्टैण्डर्ड वागन कम्पनी के जनरल मैनेजर को गत २२ अप्रैल को १४ दिन की हड़ताल की नोटिस दे दी गई है। नोटिस का नकल प्रान्तीय तथा केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास भेज दिया गया है।

उपर्युक्त माँगों कितना न्याय संगत है यह किसी से भी छिपा नहीं है। एक तरफ देश में मँहगी बढ़ रही है, मजदूरों का खर्च बढ़ रहा है और आमदनी घट रही है दूसरी तरफ कारखाने का उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है। मालिकों का मुताफा दूना से चौगुना होगया है। हमारा ग्रेड आज से प्रायः चार वर्ष पहले ही करीब करीब पूरा हो गया फिर भी आज तक उसमें कुछ भी संशोधन नहीं हुआ। कम्पनी द्वारा प्रोडक्शन का नया स्कीम चालू करने के कारण यद्यपि कारखाने का प्रोडक्शन (उत्पादन) बढ़ा परन्तु मजदूरों की आय कम हो गई। सरकार दिन प्रतिदिन टैक्स बढ़ा रही है, देश के नाम पर उत्पादन बढ़ाने के बहाने काम का बोझ बढ़ा रही है परन्तु आज मजदूरी बढ़ाने के

आज से करीब दस वर्ष पूर्व इंजिनियरिंग ट्राइब्युनल उस वक्त के मँहगाई के अनुसार एक फैसला दिया था। यद्यपि देश की बहुत सी कम्पनियों ने उक्त फैसला को अपने अपने कारखानों में लागू किया परन्तु यह मार्टिन बर्न कम्पनी उक्त फैसले को बर्नपुर और कुल्टी में आज तक लागू नहीं किया। बर्नपुर और कुल्टी में यद्यपि अधिकांश मजदूर युनाइटेड यूनियन को मानते हैं परन्तु आज तक यह कम्पनी युनाइटेड यूनियन को मान्यता नहीं प्रदान की है।

दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना की सफलता के लिए जब लोहे और इस्पात कारखाने के मजदूर, लोहे और इस्पात का उत्पादन बढ़ाने का प्रतिज्ञा कर चुके हैं वहीं वर्तमान सरकार मजदूरों के माँगों पर हमारे समापति कामरेड डांगे तथा अन्य साथियों के साथ एक सफल बार्ता भी न चला सकी। आज कम्पनी के अंग्रेज और देशी मालिकों के मनमानी जुल्म तथा सरकार की गैर जिम्मेदार हरकतों से लाचार होकर ५५ हजार इस्पात मजदूरों को हड़ताल का निश्चय करना पड़ा है। यह हड़ताल एक दिन और एक ही समय बर्नपुर कुल्टी तथा टाटा में होगी।

आज आपलोग अकेले नहीं हैं वरन् साथ में देश के प्रमुख तीन इस्पात कारखाने के मजदूर हैं। आज का इस्पात मजदूरों का हड़ताल देश में एक अपना विशेष महत्व रखता है। इस हड़ताल को सफल बनाना प्रत्येक मजदूर का कर्तव्य है।

परन्तु भाइयों इतने बड़े संग्राम को सफल बनाने के लिए जरूरी है कि आपलोग अपने पुराने अनुभवों को बराबर याद रखें। आपके रोजी रोटी की लड़ाई को नाकामयाब बनाने के लिए मालिकों द्वारा विभेद डालने की नीति तथा सरकार का जुल्म और हमला वर नीति आपके सामने आयगी। अतः जरूरी है कि विगत संग्रामों के अनुभव के आधार पर आप अपने संगठन को इस्पात जैसा दृढ़ बना दें ताकि दुश्मनों के सभी दौंव पंच नाकामयाब होकर चकनाचूर हो जाँय।

अतः आपलोगों से निवेदन है कि आपलोग आपसी समी भेद भाव भूलकर अपने स्वार्थों की रक्षा के लिए एक हो जाँय। आप डिपार्ट डिपार्ट से वालेण्टीयर बन कर मजदूरों के स्वार्थ रक्षा के लिए आइए, प्रतिज्ञा करें और इस महत्वपूर्ण संग्राम को सफल बनावे। आप के समापति साथी डांगे इतिहास का पन्ना आप के सामने खोल कर यह कटु सत्य बतला गए हैं कि दुनियाँ के किसी भी कोने में बिना संग्राम आज तक कोई भी माँग नहीं मिली है। अतः अपने भाग्य का निर्णय के लिए आज बर्नपुर कुल्टी के इस्पात मजदूर अपने संग्राम (हड़ताल) को सफल बनाने का दृढ़ प्रतिज्ञा करें।

प्रो० बारी — जिन्दावाद।

युनाइटेड यूनियन — जिन्दावाद।

बर्नपुर कुल्टी की श्रमिक एकाई — जिन्दावाद।

इन्कलाब — जिन्दावाद।

जनरल सेक्रेटरी

युनाइटेड आयरन एण्ड स्टील वर्क्स' यूनियन
बर्नपुर कुल्टी

1st leaflet

বাণপুত্র-কুলটির শ্রমিক কর্মচারীদের প্রতি

- * ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়নের স্বীকৃতি
- * গ্রেড পুনর্নির্ধারণ
- * শতকরা ২৫% বেতন বৃদ্ধি
- * জীবনের মূল্যমানের সহিত সমতা রাখিয়া মাগগীভাতা বৃদ্ধি ও মূল-বেতনের সহিত সংযুক্তি করন
- * উপাদান ও প্রফিট-শেয়ারিং বোনাসের পুনর্নির্ধারণ
- * কোয়াটারভাতা বৃদ্ধি ও উপযুক্ত কোয়াটার তৈয়ারী
- * প্রতি বছর চাকুরীর জন্ম এক মাসের গ্রাচুইটি
- * সমস্ত ছাটাই শ্রমিকের পুনর্নিয়োগ
- * চাকুরীর দীর্ঘতার ভিত্তিতে প্রমোশান ও একটিং প্রদান
- * সমস্ত স্থায়ী পদে লোক নিয়োগ
- * সমস্ত অস্থায়ী শ্রমিকের স্থায়ীকরণ
- * ঠিকেনারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ
- * ক্যানটিন ম্যানেজিং কমিটি নির্বাচন
- * ওয়ার্কস কমিটি নির্বাচন
- * ষ্টাণ্ডিং অর্ডারের সংশোধন
- * মাগগীভাতার উপর ওভার টাইম দান

দাবীগুলি আদায়ের জন্ম ধর্মঘট সফল করুন!

বন্ধুগণ,

উপরোক্ত দাবীগুলি আদায়ের জন্ম ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়নের পক্ষ হইতে ইন্স্ফো ও ওয়াগান কোম্পানীর কর্তৃপক্ষকে গত ২২শে তারিখে ১৪ দিনের ধর্মঘটের নোটিশ দেওয়া হইয়াছে। নোটিশের প্রতিলিপি রাজ্য-সরকার ও কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের নিকট পাঠান হইয়াছে।

দাবীগুলি যে কত ছায়া তাহা আজ আর নতুন করিয়া বলিয়া দিতে হইবে না। সমস্ত শ্রমিক-কর্মচারী নিজেদের দৈনন্দিন জীবনের অভিজ্ঞতা হইতে তাহা উপলব্ধি করিতেছেন। একদিকে বাজার দর ক্রমেই উর্দ্ধে উঠিতেছে অপর দিকে মালিকের মুনাফা বাড়িয়াই চলিয়াছে। গত ৪ বৎসর পূর্বেই গ্রেড শেব হওয়ায় সমস্ত শ্রমিক কর্মচারীর মজুরী একই অবস্থায় দণ্ডায়মান, উপরন্তু নতুন প্রথায় বোনাস-স্কীম চালু করার জন্ম আয় কমিয়া গিয়াছে। সরকারের টাক্স বাড়িয়াছে, কাজের বোঝা বাড়িয়াছে কিন্তু শ্রমিক কর্মচারীদের মজুরী একপয়সাও বাড়ে নাই। প্রথম ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ট্রাইবুনাল প্রায় দশ বৎসর পূর্বেই বাজার দর অনুসারে মাগগীভাতার হার স্থাপ্তি করিয়াছে; কিন্তু ছোট বড় সমস্ত কারখানায় মাগগীভাতা বাড়াইলেও এই মার্চিন বার্ণেরা একপয়সাও মাগগীভাতা বাড়ায় নাই উপরন্তু জুলুমের মাত্রা বাড়িয়াই চলিয়াছে। অধিকাংশ শ্রমিক-কর্মচারী ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়নকে মানিলেও এই মালিক ইহাকে স্বীকার করিতে রাজী নয়। সমস্ত দাবীগুলি লইয়া ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়ন রাজ্য-

আগেও ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়নের সভাপতি শ্রীডাঙ্গ প্রমুখ প্রধান মন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে সাক্ষাৎ করিয়া সমস্ত দাবীগুলি তাঁহার সামনে রাখেন ; কিন্তু আজও কোন ফল হয় নাই । তাই বাধা হইয়াই জামসেদপুর, বার্ণপুর ও কুলটির প্রায় ৫৫ হাজার লৌহ ও ইস্পাত শ্রমিক একই সঙ্গে এই ধর্মঘটের পথ গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন ।

দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চ-বার্ষিক পরিকল্পনার রূপায়নের জন্ম যখন লৌহ ও ইস্পাত শিল্পে নিযুক্ত শ্রমিক-কর্মচারীগণ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করিতে বন্ধপরিষ্কার তখন ইংরেজ এবং দেশী মালিকের লুণ্ঠনের দেশদ্রোহী নীতি শ্রমিককর্মচারীদের অনিবার্য ধর্মঘটের পথে ঠেলিয়া দিতেছেন । সুখী, তৃপ্ত ও স্বাস্থ্য সম্পন্ন শ্রমিক কর্মচারী ছাড়া কোন পরিকল্পনাই সফল হয় না । জাতীয় সমৃদ্ধি বলিতে দেশের মেহনতী মানুষের সমৃদ্ধির প্রশ্ন যে সর্বপ্রথমে আসে এ কথা আর প্রশ্নের অপেক্ষা রাখে না । তাই আজ রুজি, ছুটি ও সমাজিক নিরাপত্তা বজায় রাখিবার জন্ম মানুষ হিসাবে বাঁচিয়া থাকার জন্ম এই সংগ্রাম ।

আজ আপনারা এই সংগ্রামে বিচ্ছিন্ন ও একক নহেন । ভারতবর্ষের সর্ববৃহৎ তিনটি ইস্পাত শিল্পের শ্রমিক কর্মচারীরা একাবদ্ধ জাতীয় সংগ্রামে সজ্জবদ্ধ । ইহার গুরুত্ব পূর্বের যে কোন ধর্মঘট অপেক্ষা বেশী । আজ ইস্পাত শ্রমিক কর্মচারীদের এই এক্য তাই জয় সুনিশ্চিত করিয়া তুলিয়াছে ।

কিন্তু বন্ধুগণ আপনারাদের লব্ধ অভিজ্ঞতা তুলিলে চলিবেনা । আপনারাদের রুজি, রুটীর সংগ্রামে মালিকের বিভেদ নীতি ও জুলুম সরকারের চণ্ডনীতি ও আক্রমণ আসিবে । কিন্তু আমাদের লৌহ-দৃঢ় এক্যই সমস্ত আক্রমণকে ব্যর্থ করিবে । আজ এই ধর্মঘটকে সাফল্য মণ্ডিত করিবার জন্য এক্যবদ্ধ-ভাবে সংগঠিত হউন । সমস্ত শ্রমিক কর্মচারী দলে দলে স্বেচ্ছা-সেবকে নাম লিখান । এই ধর্মঘটকে সফল করা ছাড়া দাবী আদায়ের আর কোনও শাস্তিপূর্ণ রাস্তা নাই ।

তাই পরিশেষে আবেদন আপনারা সমস্ত দুর্বলতা, সমস্ত সঙ্কীর্ণতা পরিহার করিয়া একাবদ্ধ হ'ন এবং শপথ গ্রহণ করুন । এই ধর্মঘট সফল করিয়া নিজেদের দাবীগুলি আদায় সুনিশ্চিত করুন । দীর্ঘ ছয় বৎসর ধরিয়া আপনারা যে জুলুম সহ্য করিয়া আসিতেছেন আজ সেই জুলুমের অবসান লগ্ন সমাগত । এই ধর্মঘটের সফলতার উপরেই বার্ণপুর, কুলটির শ্রমিক কর্মচারীদের ভাগ্য নির্ভর করিতেছে । ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়ান ধর্মঘটের যে ডাক দিয়াছে তাহাকে সর্বপ্রকার আত্মত্যাগের মধ্যদিয়া সফল করিয়া তুলিতেই হইবে । দাবী ও অভিযোগের প্রতিকারের ইহা ছাড়া আর অন্য পথ নাই ।

- বারী সাহেব জিন্দাবাদ
- ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়ান জিন্দাবাদ
- ইস্পাত শিল্পে নিযুক্ত শ্রমিক-কর্মচারীর এক্য জিন্দাবাদ
- ইনকিলাব জিন্দাবাদ ।

সম্পাদক—

ইউনাইটেড আয়রণ এণ্ড স্টীল ওয়ার্কস
ইউনিয়ান
বার্ণপুর - কুলটি ।

KRISHNAN, B.A., 21 OCT 1958

Secy, General Council,
INDIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

299

1, Nancy Street,
MADRAS-7.

20/10/1958

Dear Com Srinestana,

Herewith sending a brief report of the
Electricity movement in Tamilnad and I hope
You will publish it in full or to the extent possible
in the next T.V. Record.

As I saw the 7th issue of T.V. Record
which has reached us only three days back, I thought
I should send you immediately so that you can
~~send~~ do the needful ^{by} the next issue itself.

I will send a copy of the exact
report by the first week of November.

Perhaps you remember that this is
the ~~basic~~ result of United movement
since one year back and the Federation
(Tamilnad Electricity workers Federation) has
in its fold all the registered Trade Unions (16).
Of these 16 Unions ~~14 are~~ & ~~2 are~~ ~~not~~ ~~only~~
one is affiliated to AITUC and the rest are unaffiliated
Unions. The two Unions in which Congressmen are
Presidents, are also affiliated to this Federation.
As the coming two months are likely to be
decisive months for these 16 Unions to fight
to ~~the~~ ~~benefit~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~report~~, please arrange
to ~~send~~ ~~it~~ ~~at~~ ~~an~~ ~~early~~ ~~date~~ ~~and~~ ~~send~~ ~~it~~ ~~internally~~,
S. Krishnan.

25 leaflet

वर्नापुर कुल्टी के मजदुरों के प्रति--

दश रुपैया मँहगाई भत्ता और आयरन सेकसन के सैकड़ा १५ भाग बढ़ती
वोनस लेकर तथा दुसरी माँग हाशील करने के लिये एक दिन के
हड़ताल को कामयाब बनाये ।

माइयो,

उपरलीखे मँहगाई भत्ता और उत्पादन वोनस में थोड़ा बढ़ती होने से भी १७
दफा माँगों के सनद कितना जायज है यह प्रमाण हो गया तथा आपके अगले जीतका
मविष्य वाणी है । आज जो कुछ भी हाशील हुआ है कम्पनी के अनिन्ता के बावजूद
भी वह आपके एकतावद्ध आन्दोलन आत्मत्याग तथा एक दिन के हड़ताल के तैयारी
के वजह से । युनाइटेड युनियन के सही नेतृत्व के वजह से ही यह सब हुआ है ।
अभी भी प्रेड में बदली, युनाइटेड युनियन की मान्यता, छटाई मजदुर को काम
में वापस लेना, सैकड़ा २५ भाग तनखा में बढ़ौती, उत्पादन वोनस में कटौती,
वन्द करना कवाटर माड़ा में बढ़ौती वगैरह माँगें लेना बाकी है । मँहगाई भत्ता
हमारी माँग के मुताबिक कम से कम ४० रुपैया हाशील नहीं हुआ है । इनसवों
को ख्याल रख कर एकदिन के हड़ताल को कामयाब बनाना ही होगा ।

कम्पनी अपने गुलाम नेता के जरिये कम और आंशिक माँगों को स्विकार
कर आपके सभी माँगों के लड़ाई को खतम करने के लिये भुल प्रचार करने की
कोशिश करेगी । लेकिन उस ओर ध्यान न देकर एक दिन के हड़ताल कामयाब
बनाने के लिये तैयारी करें । और भी एकाई बनाये । इस जीत को प्रहण कर
१७ दफा माँगें हाशील करने के लिये एक होकर आगे बढ़ें ।

टाटा—वर्नापुर—कुल्टी के मजदुर एकाई जीन्दावाद ।

वारी साहेव जीन्दावाद ।

युनाइटेड युनियन जीन्दावाद ।

जेनरल सेक्रेट्री—

युनाइटेड आयरण एन्ड स्टील वर्क्स युनियन

वर्नापुर—कुल्टी ।

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,

P. O. Burnpur.

(Burdwan)

BARI

Phone No. Asl. 737

f. No.

Dated 30. 4. 1958

Dear Comrade Dange,

Just received your letter dated the 27th instant, enclosing a copy of the letter you wrote to Kedar Babu.

The purpose of the trunk calls we booked has been communicated to you in my letter sent a few days back. A copy of the notice along with charter of demands is enclosed herewith for your ready reference. From the notice which have been served on the companies with copies to the Govt. authorities you will find that the notice was ~~xxxxx~~ couched in a bit vague term, i.e. no clear indication was given whether we intend to strike for a day or for any indefinite period. The purpose is obvious. In fact we wanted to add to the seriousness and gravity of the notice by couching it in vague terms. Of course from the statement in the papers as well as from the notice, some confusion arose, but that confusion has been cleared in a mass meeting we held on 28.4.58. Actually we want to strike for a day, and we have put the matter before the workers in this way; We will strike for a day, but if there are any reprisals from the companies' side, our intention should be in favour of a continued strike, but we ourselves do not believe that in the stage we are now, it would be possible to strike indefinitely. Therefore it is certain we are going in for one day's strike.

Regarding contractors' workers' settlement, we are facing a lot of difficulties, since the assurance given by Dr. Roy is ²⁰ being implemented ^{in Feb}. The Labour Directorate has been contacted without any tangible results. Almost every day there is trouble, and the assurance is being implemented by the workers themselves under our guidance by their actions. Today, Stewart Lyods, a contractors' firm has declared a lock-out, and we are watching the situation. Regarding adjudication, the Govt. says that they are fastly moving

with our best regards
Comradely

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union

Regd. No. 3388

Head Office - K U I T I

(PROT. BARI SINDHABAD)

P.S.

100

Phone No. A.S. 737

Michael John who also held a strike on 28.4.82
and announced a flat increase of 1.5%
and also an increase of 15% per month for food

The workers have taken their increase in the
of our strike notice and are going to say that up to
the strike is cancelled, no money will be forthcoming.
We are also trying to utilize the strike in our favor
by picking it as our victory.

C.S. D. J. J. J.
30/4/82

communicated to you in my letter sent a few days ago. A copy of
notice along with chapter of demands is enclosed herewith for your
reference. From the notice which have been served on the
with copies to the Govt. authorities you will find that the
was cancelled after discussion. I.e. no claim indicated
given whether we intend to strike tomorrow or for any other
period. The purpose is obvious. In fact we were told that
at moment and gravity of the notice by covering it in
of copies from the government in the papers as well as
some confusion arose, but that confusion has been cleared
and we have put the matter before the workers in the way
application a day, but if there are any replies from the company
side, our intention should be in favour of a general strike.
we ourselves do not believe that in the state we are now, it would
be possible to strike indefinitely. Therefore it is essential
going in for one day's strike.
The existing contractors' workers' association
are facing a lot of difficulties, since the management
has been implemented. The Labour Directorate has been
without any single reply. Almost every day there is
the amount is being implemented by the workers' association
by their action. Today, Seward Dada, a

বাণপুর কুলটীর শ্রমিক কর্মচারীদের প্রতি—

১০৮ টাকা মাগগী ভাতা এবং আয়রণ সেকশনের শতকরা ১৫ ভাগ বোনাস বৃদ্ধি গ্রহণ করণ এবং আরও অন্যান্য দাবী আদায়ের জন্ত ঘোষিত এক দিনের প্রতীক ধর্মঘট সফল করুন।

বন্ধুগণ,

উপরোক্ত মাগগী ভাতা বৃদ্ধি এবং উৎপাদন বোনাস বৃদ্ধি সামান্য হইলেও ১৭ দফা দাবীর যৌক্তিকতা আর একবার প্রমাণিত হইল এবং ইহা আপনাদের আগামী বিরাট জয়ের সূচনা ঘোষণা করিল। আজ যাহা কিছু কোম্পানীর অনিচ্ছুক হাত হইতে আপনারা আদায় করিতে সক্ষম হইয়াছেন, তাহা সম্পন্ন হইয়াছে— আপনাদের ঐক্যবদ্ধ আন্দোলন, আত্মত্যাগ এবং প্রতীক ধর্মঘট সংগ্রামের প্রস্তুতির জন্তই। ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়নের সঠিক সংগ্রামী নেতৃত্বের জন্তই। এখনও গ্রেড পরিবর্তন, ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়নের স্বীকৃতি, ছাঁটাই শ্রমিকদের পুনর্বহাল, শতকরা ২৫ ভাগ বেতন বৃদ্ধি, উৎপাদন বোনাস কাটা বন্ধ করা, কোয়ার্টার ভাড়া বৃদ্ধি প্রভৃতি দাবীগুলি আদায় বাকী আছে। মাগগীভাতা আমাদের দাবী অনুযায়ী ন্যূনতম ৪০৮ টাকা এখনও হয় নাই। এগুলি নজরে রাখিয়া প্রতীক ধর্মঘট সফল করিতেই হইবে।

কোম্পানী তার দাসানুদাস নেতার মারফত স্বল্প এবং আংশিক দাবী স্বীকার করিয়া আপনাদের আসল দাবীগুলি আদায়ের সংগ্রামকে বানচাল করিতে, আপনাদের মধ্যে ভ্রান্তি সৃষ্টির অপচেষ্টা করিবে। কিন্তু সে দিকে দৃকপাত না করিয়া প্রতীক ধর্মঘট সফল করার জন্ত প্রস্তুত হোন। আরও ঐক্যবদ্ধ হোন। এই জয়কে আরও প্রসারিত করিয়া ১৭ দফা দাবী আদায় সুনিশ্চিত করিয়া তুলুন।

টাটা-বাণপুর-কুলটা শ্রমিক ঐক্য জিন্দাবাদ।

বারি সাহেব জিন্দাবাদ।

• ইউনাইটেড ইউনিয়ন জিন্দাবাদ।

সাধারণ সম্পাদক—

ইউনাইটেড আয়রণ এণ্ড স্টীল ওয়ার্কস ইউনিয়ন

বাণপুর—কুলটা

40,000 ELECTRICITY WORKERS OF TAMILNAD
TO GET INCREASED WAGES

RESULT OF YEAR LONG STRUGGLE

MAJORITY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE SET UP BY THE
GOVERNMENT

By

S. S. SUNDARARAJAN.

....

The Negotiating Committee appointed by the Government of Madras to go into the dispute between the Madras State Electricity Board and its workmen submitted its report to the Government on the 15th October, 1958 marking a milestone in the struggle of the electricity workers of Tamilnad for the betterment of their living conditions under the able leadership of Sri V.G. Row, President of the Tamilnad Electricity Workers Federation.

THE INDUSTRY.

Starting from the small beginnings of 1909 when power supply was confined to Madras city and some tiny plantations in the Nilgiris, Madras State ~~today~~ to-day stands third in India in the Generation and utilisation of power, Bombay and West Bengal leading. With an installed capacity of 286,500 K.W. and serving about 5,38,692 consumers, the grid extends throughout the length and breadth of Tamilnad with a net-work of 10,465 miles of H.T. lines and 13,867 miles of L.T. lines. The first adventure to produce electricity by water power was made in 1929 and to-day the Grid is supplied with power by five Hydro Stations and two Thermal Stations i.e., Pykara, Mettur, Papanasam, Moyar, Periyar and Madras & Samayanellur at Madurai. With the prospect of Kundah, one of the biggest state undertakings, with a capital outlay of 35 crores and the Neiveli Lignite Power Plant being completed by the end of the second plan, the state would really have made a big leap. But even to-day, the state stands foremost in the matter of rural electrification with more than 7,000 villages electrified.

THE POSITION OF THE WORKMEN

But the position of the electricity workmen is a sharp contrast to the prosperous nature of the industry. The phenomenal development that has taken place during the post-independence decade speaks volumes of the work done by the electricity workmen and according to the Chairman of the Committee "the first observation that falls to be made is that in the generation and distribution of electricity, huge manpower, intellectual and physical have been brought into play in tapping this phenomenal source and inexhaustible resource of human comfort and happiness".

The history of the struggle of the electricity workmen in the last ten years has been a history of broken promises. It is a monumental example of exploited labour, since it is out of the blood, sweat and toil of the thousands of electricity workmen, the huge reservoirs of power have been built up and the live wires have been stretched across the length and breadth of Tamilnad in the plains of the East, in the hills of the west and the forest laden plateau in-between. That these workmen were paid a mere pittance of Rs. 12/- till 1947 and that till to-day they are continued to be paid only Rs. 18/- as minimum basic wages will go a long way to show the generosity and large-heartedness of the Congress bosses who rule the roost in Tamilnad. Tracing the history of the bitter struggle and the final denial of the demands by the Board in October, 1957, the Chairman of the Committee comes to the conclusion that "what amount of satisfaction, the workers would have enjoyed and what will be their reaction to the same can ~~well~~ more ~~be~~ easily be imagined than described."

K

FORMATION OF THE BOARD.

In 1957, the Government of Madras after more than four years of dilli-dallying formed the Madras State Electricity Board as an autonomous statutory corporation as per the provisions of the Electricity Sussply Act 1948. But the autonomy was only in name, since even after the formation of the Board, the "old happy family of beurocrats" like the Secretary for Public Works, the Secretary for Finance and the Chief E Engineer for Electricity continued to dominate the show.

GATHERING STRENGTH OF THE MOVEMENT AND THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

It was at this juncture, after a decade of petition and Memoranda, after a decade of devided existance, the Electricity workmen rose as one man to get together, from the white-coloured Accountants down to the Daily Paid Casual Labourer, throw away their shackles and began the fight for their rights. This led to the formation of the Tamil Nad Electricity Workers Federation, a well-knit organisation of 40000 workers uniting under its fold 15 Unions of workers, clerks and others under the staunch leadership of Com.V.G. Row, Bar-at-Law. The Federation was inaugurated in February 1958 by Sri Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi, Former Minister for Electricity in the Kamaraj Cabinet, who became persona-non-grata with Congress elite and was thrown out of the Ministerial gady for so many internal squabbles/daring to support the cause of the Electricity workmen. ^{besides} One can ~~not~~ of course sympathise with the Congressmen for Mr. Sethupathy went beyond his limits when he said in the Legislative Assembly on 17th March, 1958 " I have considered their demands and I have myself drawn up certain minimum concessions which I felt ought to be given to them and I have passed it on to my colleagues. With regard to "imum wages, they said that the other departments also will have to give them and so it will affect the financial position. But I did really insist that we ourselves have laid down rules of conduct and standards to be observed by other employees in respect of labour and working classes and if our Government institutions do not act in an exemplary way, for others to follow, people will simply laugh at us (cheers). We can preach morals to others, but we must practice them ourselves. It is a very powerful argument which anybody cannot answer. I concede that the demands of the workers are reasonable"

On the wake of the formation of the Federation, the worker Unions gave a notice of strike to get the redressal of their long pending demands in March 1958. The entire people of Tamil Nad and the opposition parties rose in support of the electricity workers. Consequent on the powerful mass movement, threatening to stop the wheels of industry in Tamil na, the Government made a climb down and appointed a negotiating Committee with Sri M. V. Harihara Iyer, Labour Court Coimbatore as Charman and Messrs. V. G. Row, Bresident, Sri S. C. Arishnan, General Secretary, M. K. Manickam, Vice President of the Federation as members representing the workmen.

Now after almost six months of hectic discussions, the Committee has submitted a 135 page report to the Government .

THE REPORT.

Out of the 27 issues referred to it, the representatives of workmen have agreed on ten major issues like wage scales, dearness allowance, permanency, provident fund, gratuity, age of superannuation etc. Thus the report on the ten main issues is an agreed report of the majority of the Committee.

The report has stated that the recommendations will come into force with retrospective effect from 1st January, 1958 and that the recommendations are over and above the existing benefits.

As per the report, the minimum wages of the workmen would be raised from Rs.18/- to Rs.29/- i.e. the unskilled category of workmen and the last grade staff will be getting a rise of Rs.11/- in basic wages. With regard to minimum wages of the middle class employees like the Lower Division clerks who were hitherto paid on a par with the Government Servants, the minimum will be raised from Rs.45/- to Rs.58/- an increase of Rs.13/-.

The recommendations would mean that the workmen will be divided into the well accepted classifications like Unskilled, semi-skilled, Skilled and Highly skilled, instead of the numerous divisions ranging over 150 that exist now.

The report would also mean that for the first time the Electricity workmen would come under the purview of the Industrial regulations and the Industrial Disputes Act which the representatives of the Board did their best to scuttle.

Another significant achievement is that the Dearness Allowance which is at present paid on a slab system like 30, 31, 34 etc. will hereafter be paid to the workmen according to the Cost of Living Index at the rate of 2½ annas per point, which at the present index point of 411 at Madras will work out to ~~Rx~~ about Rs.48/- thus increasing the dearness allowance of the lowest paid workmen by Rs.18/-

About 22,000 workmen called N.M.R. who were treated as beasts of burden, will now be entitled, after two years of service, all the benefits of permanency like Provident Fund, gratuity, leave facilities etc.

The Employees Provident fund is to be extended to all the workmen and gratuity is to be paid at the rate of half-a months wages subject to a maximum of 15 months. The report provides for 22 days of National and Festival holidays for the workmen.

As regard Trade Union rights, the report makes it clear, that the office bearers of Unions cannot be transferred without sufficient cause, that labour officers should be appointed in all systems and that accommodations should be provided for unions in the administrative offices itself.

The representatives of workmen, while agreeing on the above issues, have also submitted a dissenting note of 22 pages on 17 other issues on which the workmen do not agree with the contention of the Chairman.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE BOARD.

Enraged by the momentum gained by the workers movement by the appointment of the Committee, the representatives of the Board did their best to scuttle the efforts of the workmen in peacefully resolving the dispute. They repeatedly tried to bring the red-herring across the Committee and called the representatives of workmen as "out-siders" and even refused to discuss many of the issues. Seeing that an ordinary unskilled workmen will stand to benefit Rs.29/- by way of wages and dearness allowance, apart from other benefits, they are now trying their best to reduce the commitments by throwing out thousands of workmen out of job. They are also

trying to reduc~~ax~~ the bargaining capacity of the Unions by transferring the office bearers and denying the Unions, the fundamental right of holding meetings, etc.

The attitude of the Board will be clear from the note they have appended to the report stating that as the report is likely to have far reaching consequences, it will be for the Board to consider seriously and come to a decision on the same and that hence they refrain from giving their veivs on any of the issues.

But inspite of all these provocations the workers stand ~~united~~ like rock, determined to achieve their demands.
~~ixx~~

It would be fitting to conclude the article with the call of Com. B. T. Ranadive made to Electricity workmen on the 17th inst. while he was at Madras.

"The working class is a part of the people. So long as the electricity workmen close up their ranks and get the support of the people, no honest Government can dare refuse the implementation of this report"

:::: S. C. Krishnan

S. C. KRISHNAN.
GENERAL SECRETARY.
TAMIL NAD ELECTRICITY WORKERS FEDERATION
and
MEMBER, GENERAL COUNCIL, A. I. T. U. C.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :- BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

268

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :- ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated the 2nd May, 1958

Kulti.

Com. S.A. Dange, M.P.
New Delhi.

SAD

Dear Comrade,

Please accept my May Day Greetings!

Your are certainly aware of the fact that our Union had served strike notice on 22nd April, last. This is for one-day token strike.

We have started our campaign which was handicapped due to imposition of sec. 144 Cr.P.C. which Sec. 144 has been lifted from with effect from 28.4.58. This has helped a lot and we set the ball rolling but the tempo is not up to the mark as yet. Hope, it will get momentum in no time. There will be a demonstration at Burnpur and a mass meeting at Kulti on Sunday next.

You have certainly seen in the Press that the Management has declared a flat rate increase of Rs10/- (Rupees Ten) in the Dearness Allowance of all categories of employees, thus bringing the minimum to Rs35/- and maximum to Rs60/-. This has given a spur to the whole campaign and added confidence to the workers.

But the workers feel your absence very keenly at this juncture. We would urge upon you to please give a couple of days time at any cost so that the workers may get on to the final stride. Please let us know when you are coming.

With my love and best regards,

Affectionately,

Nidhi

EXPRESS

4/5/58

TAHIR HUSSAIN MLA
UNITED IRON AND STEEL WORKERS UNION
KENDWA ROAD
KULTI

I THINK IN VIEW OF THE INCREASE IN DEARNESS ALLOWANCE AND PRODUCTION
BONUS THOUGH INADEQUATE WE SHALL BE JUSTIFIED IN CALLING OFF THE
NOTICE OF STRIKE AND GIVE A TRIAL TO THE CONCESSIONS ~~AGREEMENT~~
ANNOUNCED STOP CONSULT COMRADES AND LET ME KNOW YOUR DECISION

DANGE

Express

H / 5 / 58

TAHIR HUSSAIN MLA
ACTION COMMITTEE
BURNPUR

I THINK IN VIEW OF THE INCREASE IN DEARNESS ALLOWANCE AND
PRODUCTION BONUS THOUGH INADEQUATE WE SHALL BE JUSTIFIED IN CALLING
OFF THE NOTICE OF STRIKE AND GIVE A TRIAL TO THE CONCESSIONS ANNOUNCED
STOP CONSULT COMRADES AND LET ME KNOW YOUR DECISION

DANGE

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,

O. Burnpur.

(Burdwan)

BARI

Phone No. Asl. 737

No.

Dated 6.5. 1958

Dear Com. Dange,

We are receipt of your tele. requesting us to consider the possibility of withdrawal of strike notice ~~already~~ already served.

For your information, we ^{had} held a meeting with Com. Ranen Sen on the night of 4th, and also we held a meeting at Jamsedpur with our Jamsedpur comrades on the 5th instant where Com. Indrajit Gupta was present. It was agreed that with the tempo which is just on the rise, it will not be possible for the Burnpur and Kulti workers to strike on the 12th with the workers of Jamsedpur, but if the campaigns we, the workers of Burnpur and Kulti ~~are~~ have been conducting, can be continued for a few more days, it would be possible for us to make the token strike a success. Therefore, we have decided to continue our intensive campaigns during these days, and our intention is to call the strike sometime in the 3rd week of may. Of course, everything depends on how we can manage it, and we assure you that no strike will be called until and unless we are confident of its success.

The raise in D.A. and bonus has come to us as ^a boon, and almost all the workers take them as an outcome of our strike notice. The sentiment of the workers is this that if the strike can be launched successfully, more demands would be conceded. Therefore, the raise has created a situation most favourable to us.

The genral tone of John's meetings is snubbing, threatening, invoking Govt. help for crushing our strike move, and also an attempt to instil the dread of 53 lockout into the minds of the workers. It has its effect, no doubt, but not so much as to warrant a retreat.

The position can be summed thus:

(P.T.O.)

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—K U L T I

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,
P. O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)



Phone No. Asl. 737

Ref. No.

-2-

Dated 195

(Cont)

The majority of workers think that strike is the only course left for the ~~achieve~~ achievement of their demands. The fever of strike has not yet looked up, but we feel that it will ~~come~~ come ~~withing~~ in a few days, if we carry on our campaigns.

We also feel that in the present situation, if we give a call for the withdrawal of strike, it must prove fatal to the workers as well as to their organisation, i.e. the Action Committee.

~~xxxxxxxx~~

In the present context of things, it would be only advisable if you come down to Burnpur to study the situation and give your directive after ~~ascertaining~~ ascertaining the situation yourself.

Lastly we assure you that we will not press our decision so much if we see that the tempo and ancillary factors essential for a strike do not present themselves even after our campaigns.

With our best wishes,

Yours ~~comradely~~

C. S. Danyal

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Copy of letter from
COM.INDRAJIT GUPTA
dated 6th May 1958

Dear Dange,

As Nikhil is just leaving for Delhi, I am scribbling of a few lines through him re. the latest situation in Jamshedpur and Burnpur. I have returned just an hour ago after 2 days in Jamshedpur, where I addressed the rally of about 20,000 on the 4th and also a good meeting of the Ministerial Staff. Burnpur leaders were brought to Tata yesterday and we had a joint discussion also.

We have decided that for the present, i.e., before the Tata strike of 12th, Burnpur will continue preparations for one-day strike but not announce any date and publicly state that the Rs.10/- increase is not satisfactory because it is not being given with retrospective effect. However, this is for only tactical reasons to keep up the pressure in favour of Tata workers. Burnpur, in any case, can't go on strike on the 12th.

After the 12th, my advice was that Burnpur should manoeuvre, press for further clarifications re. D.A. etc., but avoid strike, as it would be an unnecessary risk. Taher seems to agree and Bejoy Pal also. Only Chandrasekhar was of the view that a strike is necessary on the 19th or so, because workers (according to him) have become more confident as the result of the 10/- increase and the 15% production bonus increase means actually no gain in practice. However, no hasty decision will be taken and we can review the Burnpur position again after seeing what happens on 12th at TISCO. You write to them also.

There has been some confusion over dates, due to lack of elementary coordination between the two centres. Tata people have been giving their workers to understand that Burnpur would strike simultaneously, while Taher says he had told Kedar that Burnpur could not be ready by 12th and he was expecting that Jamshedpur would defer their strike date by a week or so to coincide it with Burnpur. However, that is all in the past now.

Now, re. Jamshedpur position. Mass tempo and morale are very high. Organisation is weak and not properly planned out yet. There are wild rumours being spread, of course, about dangers of all-out repression, mass discharges, etc., but it is not cutting much ice. My own view is that direct repression may be less than is generally expected, and the main attempt will be to take selected batches to work under escort and then let loose a press barrage to the effect that the strike has failed. Kedar's estimate (sober enough) is that 70 to 75 per cent minimum will strike.

Decisions I took along with them yesterday were briefly:

(1) The Union is replying to the Bihar Government's "illegal" strike proclamation by stating that the 12th strike will be limited to issues not covered by Tata-John agreement and hence, is perfectly legal. This was my idea and I think it is a tactical move which will not prejudice the wages question. I put it across in both the mass meetings and it went down well. Of course, whether the Government accepts this "technically" correct or not is another matter, but it gives us an argument to hurk back.

I found that it was only this "illegal" question which was really troubling the majority of workers and putting us on the defensive; hence, I suggested this, the comrades have accepted it, and a letter is going to the Government stating explicitly that on 12th, we are confining our demands to the uncovered issues, i.e., D.A., recognition and some minor ones.

(2) A press conference will be held tomorrow to explain our stand and also to reply, point by point, to the lengthy and tendentious statement of the Co. - have you seen it? The full text was in INDIAN NATION yesterday.

(3) A broad organisational plan was worked out re. volunteer arrangements, picketing, security measures, etc. etc. The whole of this part hinges on Naresh Dutt, and if he is picked up, they will be in a mess. I have tried to impress the need of simple precautions against arrest on all the leaders, without hampering their normal mobility, but don't know how far they will observe them. They are all out to become "martyrs" at the first opportunity!

This is all for the present, except that the UNANIMOUS view and demand is that you must go there just once before the 12th. Will you please try? It would give the workers just the finishing boost to their morale and guarantee success. Please do try to come on the 9th or even 10th.

Your telegrams are all received and approved.

In haste,

Indrajit

P.S. Please note I have missed the FC meeting in order to go to Jamshedpur!! What about that workers' education business? Do you really insist on my visiting Delhi just now?

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

No.

Dated, the 7th May 1958.

To
Com. S. A. Dange, M. P.
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Hope, you have received my letter by now.

Seen your telegram which we received yesterday.

Today's press gives the news that the Govt. of West Bengal has declared our proposed strike "illegal".

As I am writing this, the police van is announcing the imposition of Sec-144 cr.P.C. at Kultu, Burnpur and Asansol area for an indefinite period, from today.

I fully agree with you that the whole position has got to be reviewed under the changed situation.

Announcement of a general increase of Rs 10/- in the D. A., the illegalisation of the strike, imposition of Sec - 144 cr.P.C. etc. will naturally bring about a big change in the thinking of the mass of workers. And we must take note of that while charting our future programme, and deciding the question of strike.

At this critical juncture, for a correct assessment of the concrete situation, your presence is essential. Your guidance and advice will be a deciding factor.

In view of this, we would urge upon you to please come for a day at least. Yes, fly to Burnpur, while I can anticipate what your advice would be, yet I feel that your presence is essential. Whatever the advice, the workers want to hear it straight from your lips. Otherwise, it will, I am afraid, have its adverse effect as well on the organisation.

With my love and regards,

Yours affectionately,

Kish

Cable : "AITUCONG"

T. U. LAW BUREAU :
R. L. TRUST BUILDING,
55, GIRGAON ROAD,
BOMBAY 4 (INDIA)

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Telephones : 48771
43414

4, ASHOK ROAD,
NEW DELHI.

268
President : ~~V. CHAKKARAI CHETTIAR, M.L.C. (Madras)~~ S.S. Mirajkar
General Secretary : S. A. DANGE, M.P.

May 8, 1958

Dear Comrades,

I have received all your requests and calls to go over to Jamshedpur for a day at least. But I am sorry, it physically impossible for me to travel at present and address rallies.

Part of the demands of the Burnpur workers has been conceded by the IISCO though not adequately. The same sense is not dawning on the Tatas. They are defiant because the Bihar Government and the INTUC are backing them. But, if all the workers unite and act, and act only for one day to defend their stand, even the Tatas will have to climb down, for our demands are just.

Declarations of illegality need not frighten us. We are fighting for implementation of the 15th Indian Labour Conference decisions. Even Government of India admits the serious rise in cost of living in Jamshedpur. So what is wrong, if we ask for more D.A.? And, moreover, whatever the workers do, however legal and right, the Bihar Government which is nothing if not a handmaid of the Tatas is bound to do their bidding.

Do not get provoked. Let us keep united and we will win.

Yours fraternally,

S.A. Dange

(S.A. DANGE), M.P.
General Secretary

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

May 8, 1958

PRESS RELEASE

Shri S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary, AITUC, has issued the following statement:

"The workers in the steel works of Jamshedpur of the Tatas and of Burnpur belonging to Martin-Burns, have long been agitating for increase in the dearness allowance and basic wages. It was admitted by the Government that the cost of living in these places, particularly in Jamshedpur, has been rising sharply. Wage rates in these industries also have not undergone any revision for years nor has any Wage Board been appointed despite the promises of the Tripartite 15th Indian Labour Conference.

"Representations by the unions affiliated to the AITUC have been made to the employers and also to the Government. I myself went to the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister with a delegation of the Unions to impress upon them the need for their intervention in favour of the workers, since the Government gives crores of rupees to these companies from public funds with which they reap huge profits. But our representation had no effect. Hence the workers had to give the notice of strike.

"It is then that the Martin-Burn Co. announced an increase of Rs.10/- in the dearness allowance and some increase in the rate of production bonus.

"But the Tatas have remained adamant and have only threatened reprissals with the help of the Government.

"It is surprising that the Bihar Government has hastened to help the Company by declaring even a one-day protest strike against rising living costs as illegal.

"The AITUC fully supports the resolution of the workers of Jamshedpur to carry out a one-day protest strike. It hopes the Tata Iron & Steel Company will see reason and meet the just demands of the workers and not allow police measures to harass the workers.

"The strike is perfectly legal. It is called mainly on demands not covered by any agreement. The agreements made by the INTUC have long ago been repudiated by the workers, in a memorandum signed by the overwhelming majority of the workers and hence are not binding on them."

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :- BARAKAR 133
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P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

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DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated the 15th May, 1955

Gen. S. A. Datta, M.P.
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

I understand that the 2nd. Indian Labour Conf. is going to be held on May 17 and 20.

I also learn from the reports that the agenda includes, amongst others, -Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme.

Now, I would request you to please draw the attention of the Union Labour Minister to the assurance given by Sardar Suran Singh, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, on the floors of the Parliament to the effect that the 2nd. Five year Plan of the State Govt. (West Bengal) included also construction of a number of tenements for workers of Kulti Area. He made the above statement in reply to a question by Mrs. Renu Chakravarty, M.P. in Dec, 1955.

For your ready reference I enclose herewith copy of Questions and Answers mentioned above.

Hope, you, as the President of our Union will take up this issue with the Centre and State Govt. as well. I believe Mr. Satter, Labour Minister, West Bengal, will attend the Conference.

As to the deplorable Housing conditions of Kulti workers I need not emphasise as you have personal knowledge of the same.

With love and regards,

Affectionately yours,

Kid's
(Mitic)

P.T.O.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

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page two

200 P.S. I understand from Govt. sources that preliminary survey has been completed of the area, about quarter of a mile from the Kulti works, adjacent to the G.T. Road and the same has been recommended by officials at the Lower level but nothing has been so far. The survey has been made at the instance of the Govt. of India.

hid's

May 19, 1958

Dear Com.Nitis,

Your letter of the 15th inst. addressed to Com.Dange reached us just today. The Nainital Conference begins today and will be over by tomorrow and as you will realise, the problem of housing in Kulti could not possibly be raised at this juncture at the Labour Conference.

We shall however raise the question with the concerned Ministries by other means.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

me
19.5
(K.G.Sriwastava)

देश के खातीर

- कुल्टी के ब्लास्ट फारनेस और कोकोमेन चालु रखो
- * छँटाई और ले ऑफ करना नहीं चलेगा
- * हर डिपार्टमेंट में मीलाजुला कमीटी तैयार करो

जवर्दस्त मुकावले के लिये वर्नापुर कुल्टी के मजदूर कर्मचारियों के पास अपील—

माइयो,

कुल्टी के ब्लास्ट फारनेस और कोकोमेन वगेरह डिपार्टमेंट के मजदूरों को वर्नापुर में मर्ची के लिये दरखास्त करने के पिछे कम्पनी की जवर्दस्त शाजीष है इसके वारे में हमलोग आगे ही आपलोगों को चेतावनी दिये थे। हमलोगों को यह भी संदेह हुआ था कि कुल्टी के फारनेस और कोकोमेन हमेशा के लिये बन्द करने के लिये ही कम्पनी की यह शाजीष है। आज यह बात सच साबित हो गया है। आइ० एन० टी० यु० सी० के युनियन के पास कम्पनी यह खबर कर दिया है कि इस डिपार्टमेंट को हमेशा के लिये बन्द कर दिया जाएगा और ज्यादातर मजदूरों को छँटाई कर दिया जाएगा और कुछही मजदूरों को वर्नापुर में नौकरी दिया जाएगा।

पूँजीपति अपने मुनाफा के लिये देश और जाति के खिलाफ चलने, हजारों मजदूर कर्मचारियों को बेकारी और मुखमरी के पैंजे में टकेल देने में जरा भी नहीं हिचकते है यह बात आपलोग अच्छी तरह जानते है। फारनेस बन्द करने के समर्थन में कम्पनी दो दलील पेश कर रही है। १) वर्नापुर में नया स्लान्ट चालु हो जाने से जो ज्यादा लोहा पैदा होगा उसी से काम चल जाएगा। २) कुल्टी के फारनेस पुराना होने के कारण पैदावार में ज्यादा खर्च पड़ जाता है इसलिये मुनाफा कम होता है। (१९५७ साल के शेयर होल्डरों के मीटिंग में चेयरमैन के रिपोर्ट के पहला पन्ना में देख सकते है)

आश्चर्य की बात है कि कम्पनी मुनाफा कम होने के बहाना कर कुल्टी के फारनेस बन्द कर देना चाहती है। इसके अलावा ज्यादा लोहा पैदा होने के वारे में कम्पनी की यह दलील एकदम वाहियात है। आज जब कि लोहा (पीग आयरन) और स्टील के कमी के कारण पुरे देश के खास तौर पर पश्चिम बंगाल के इंजीनियरींग कारखाना एक गहरे संकट में गुजर रहा है जब कि इसतरह के अत्यन्त जरूरी चीजों के कमी के कारण दूसरा पाँचसाला योजना को पुरा करने में भी रुकावट पड़ रहा है। जब कि उसी कमी को पुरा करने के लिये नयी फारनेस और कोकोमेन खोली जा रही है तब ज्यादा पैदावार के बहाने कुल्टी के चालु स्लान्ट बन्द करना सिर्फ नाजायज ही नहीं बल्कि देशद्रोहीता भी है।

ज्यादा से ज्यादा मुनाफा लुटना ही कम्पनी का एक मात्र ध्येय है। लोहा और स्टील के कमी से संकट दूर करने के लिये ही केन्द्रिय सरकार कुल्टी के फारनेस और चार वर्ष चालु रखने के लिये सिफारीश किया है। उसी मौकेपर कम्पनी यह माँग करती है कि (क) फारनेस मरम्मत के लिये सब तरह की जरूरी खर्च अगर सरकार दे तभी कुल्टी के पैदावार को चालु रखा जा सकता है। (ख) और लोहा के रिटेनसन किमत में भी वृद्धि कर-देना होगा। एक बात में यह कहा जा सकता है कि सरकारी खर्च से मौशीन की मरम्मत और लोहे के दर वृद्धा कर ज्यादा मुनाफा लुटने के लिये सरकार पर दवाव डालना ही कम्पनी का मकशद है। सिर्फ कुल्टी के फारनेस मरम्मत करने के लिये ३५ लाख रुपयों का एक रिजर्व फन्ड कम्पनी अलग से खोल रखी है। (पिछले साल के रिपोर्ट एन्ड एकाउन्टस सिड्युल "वी" के देखनेसे पता चलता है) लेकिन आज तक उस फन्ड से एक पैसा भी कर्मचारी लिये गया है। इसे सिर्फ सरकारी दबाव पौकी देने के लिये

विशेशज्ञानों के राय के मुताबीक सिर्फ कइ एक लाख रुपया खर्च कर रिलाइनींग (Relining), कराने से कमसे कम चार वर्ष तक फारनेस चल सकता है।

इन सब कारणों से सरकार के मालीक-परस्त नीति में आज समी समझ गये हैं पुँजीपतियों को खुस रखने के लिये सरकार इस्को के मालीक को आज तक नोवार स्टील के रिटेंसनस मुख्य बढ़ाने की अनुमति दिया है। पहले जहाँ कि रिटेंसनस मुख्य था पी टन २७३ रु० आज वह ४०५ रु० हो गया है। और भी बढ़ाने के लिये कोशीश हो रहा है। इस्को के मालीक आज तक सिर्फ रिटेंसनस मुख्य में बढ़ाती होने से आजतक कुल दश करोड़ तेरह लाख रुपया कमाया है। सिर्फ पिछले वर्ष इसी वावद कम्पनी की अग्रमदनी हुयी है ७०, ४३, ६६० रुपैया एक और मजदूर कर्मचारियों के जायज माँगों की दमन नीति के जरिये खुन में डुबा दिया जाता है और दुसरी ओर उनके ही मेहनत से कमाये गये ऐसे मालीक को उपहार दिया जाता है।

इसलिये मालीकों के हर तरह के शाजीष को खतम कर हजारों मजदूरों के छुँटाई रोकना होगा। सरकार के जनस्वाथ विरोधी नीति में भी परीवर्तन लाना होगा। इस्को के मालीक सिर्फ कुल्टी के कोकोमेन और फारनेस को ही सिर्फ बन्द करना नहीं चाहती है वल्कि बर्नपुर के वेगन कम्पनी और कुल्टी के जी० सी० शॉप ले ऑफ कर मजदुर छुँटाई करने का भी शाजीष बनाया है। पुरे देश के माँग के मुताबीक लोहा और इस्पात के कमी के अन्दर अतिउत्पादन के बढ़ाने चालु सान्ट बन्द कर सैकड़ों मजदुर छुँटाई और ले ऑफ के पुँजीवादी समाधान धनवादी व्यवस्था में समाज के जरूरत से ज्यादा व्यक्तिगत मुनाफा ही बढ़ा है यह एक बार और साफ होगया।

हमारी माँग देश के अर्थनैतिक वृन्ध्याद मजबूत करने के लिये है। दुसरा पाँचशाला योजना के कामयाबी के लिये है। छुँटाई और ले ऑफ बन्द कर बेकारी रोकने के लिये कुल्टी के फारनेस और कोकोमेन का पैदावार बालु रखना पड़ेगा। सरकार के पास हमलोगों की अपील है कि—फारनेस मरन्मत के लिये मजुर रुपये खर्च कर नयी मशीन ला कर उन्नति करने के लिये कम्पनी को मजबूर करे। जरूरत होने से सरकार जम्मेवारी खुद ले। मजदुर देश के लिये पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिये तैयार है। कम्पनी को हमलोग साफ्तार से वता देना चाहते है कि उस डिपार्ट को बन्द कर मजदुर छुँटाई करने से इसतरह के गुरुत्वपूर्ण शीलप में अशान्ति होने से उसकी पुरी जम्मेवारी मालीक को ही लेना पड़ेगा। सरकार भी दलिय ब्रेठक के जरिये इस समस्या को समाधान करे।

माइयो उपर नीखे माँग हाशील करने का एकमात्र रास्ता है एकताबद्ध और व्यापक आन्दोलन। खुशी की बात है कि हमारी एकता क पुकार पर ही आइ० एन० टी० यु० सी क नेता भी एक होकर मुकाबला करने के लिये मजदुरों के पास अपील किया है। इसके लिये हमलोग उन्हें धन्यवाद देते हैं। ऐकशन कमीटी की अपील है कि—अपना स प्राप्ती इतिहास को सामने रख कलकत्ता के वीर ट्राम मजदुरों अमृतपुर्व एकता का दृष्टान्त लेकर हर हीपाट में संयुक्त कमीटी तैयार करे। कंधे से कंधा मीलाकर रोटी रोजी के लड़ाई के लिये आगे बढ़े। हर तरह के हमला के खिलाफ कुल्टी के ब्लास्ट फारनेस और कोकोमेन के माइयों के पास बन पुर कुल्टी के २५ हजार मजदुर बर्नचारी जवदस्त मोर्चा तैयार करे। जीत हमारी होकर रहेगी।

✽ इनकलाव—जीन्दावाद। हर दल और मत के मजदुर एक हो

✽ मजदुर एकाई जीन्दावाद। वारी साहेब जीन्दावाद।

জাতির স্বার্থে

- * কুলটীর ব্লাষ্ট ফারনেস ও কোক-ওভেন চালু রাখ !
- * ছাঁটাই ও লে-অফ করা চলবে না !
- * ডিপার্টে ডিপার্টে যুক্ত কর্মি ট গঠন করুন !

ঐক্যবদ্ধ প্রতিরোধের জগ্য বার্ণপুর-কুলটীর শ্রমিক
কর্মচারীদের প্রতি আবেদন—

বন্ধুগণ,

কুলটির ব্লাষ্ট-ফারনেস ও কোক ওভেন প্রভৃতি ডিপার্টের শ্রমিকদের বার্ণপুরে নিয়োগের জগ্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বানের পিছনে কোম্পানীর গভীর ষড়যন্ত্র রহিয়াছে বলিয়া আমরা আপনাদের সতর্ক করিয়াছিলাম। আমরা সন্দেহ প্রকাশ করিয়াছিলাম যে কুলটীর ফারনেস ও কোক-ওভেন চিরতরে বন্ধ করার জগ্যই মালিকের এই চক্রান্ত। আজ আমাদের সন্দেহ সত্য বলিয়া প্রমাণিত হইয়াছে। আই, এন, টি, ইউ, সি পরিচালিত ইউনিয়নের নিকট একপত্রে কোম্পানী জানাইয়াছে যে, উক্ত ডিপার্ট সম্পূর্ণ বন্ধ করিয়া বেশীর ভাগ শ্রমিক কর্মচারীকে ছাঁটাই করিবে এবং কিছু শ্রমিককে বার্ণপুরে চাকুরী দিবে।

মুনাফার লালসায় পূঁজিপতিরা যে দেশ ও জাতির স্বার্থ বিসর্জন দিতে, হাজার হাজার শ্রমিক কর্মচারীকে বেকারী ও অনাহারের মুখে ঠেলিয়া দিতে দ্বিধা করে না, তাহা আজ দিবালোকের মত স্পষ্ট। ফারনেস বন্ধ করিবার কারণ হিসাবে কোম্পানী দুইটি যুক্তি উপস্থিত করিয়াছে—(১) বার্ণপুরের নতুন প্লান্ট চালু হইলে যে ‘অতিরিক্ত’ লোহা উৎপন্ন হইবে তাহাতেই চাহিদা পূরণ হইবে, (২) কুলটীর ফারনেস পুরাতন হওয়ার দরুন উৎপাদন খরচ অপেক্ষাকৃত বেশী, তাই কম লাভজনক। (১৯৫৭ সালে শেয়ার হোল্ডারদের নিকট প্রদত্ত চেয়ারম্যানের বক্তৃতা, পৃঃ ১ দ্রষ্টব্য)।

অর্থাৎ মুনাফা কম হওয়ার অজুহাতেই কোম্পানী কুলটির ফারনেস প্রভৃতি বন্ধ করিতে চায়। তাছাড়া “অতিরিক্ত” লোহা উৎপাদনের যুক্তি নিতান্ত হাস্যকর। আজ যখন লোহা (পিগ আয়রণ) ও ইস্পাতের অভাবে সারা দেশের বিশেষ করিয়া পশ্চিম বঙ্গের ইন্ডিনিয়ারিং শিল্প এক তীব্র সংকটের সম্মুখীন, যখন এই সমস্ত অতি প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষের অভাবে দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চ-বার্ষিকী পরিকল্পনার রূপায়ণ ব্যাহত হইতেছে, যখন সেই অভাব পূরণের জগ্য নতুন ফারনেস ও কোক-ওভেন খোলা হইতেছে, তখন “অতিরিক্ত” উৎপাদনের অজুহাতে কুলটির চালু প্লান্ট বন্ধ করা শুধু নিল্লজ্জ, ক্ষুদ্র-স্বার্থপ্রানোদিতই নহে, ইহা দেশ-দ্রোহীতার সামিল।

লোহা ও ইস্পাতের অভাব জনিত সংকট এড়াইবার জগ্য কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার কুলটীর ফারনেস আরও চারি বৎসর চালু রাখিবার জগ্য সুপারিশ করেন। সেই সুযোগে কোম্পানী দাবী করে যে [১] ফারনেস সংস্কারের সমস্ত জরুরী খরচ যদি সরকার বহন করেন, এবং [২] যদি লোহার রিটেনশান মূল্যও বাড়াইয়া দেওয়া হয়— তাহা হইলেই কুলটির উৎপাদন চালু রাখা হইবে। যদিও এদিকে কুলটীর ফারনেস পুনঃ সংস্কারের জগ্য কোম্পানী ৩৫ লক্ষ টাকার এক তহবিল আলাদা করিয়া রাখিয়াছে। কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত সেই তহবিল হইতে এক পয়সাও খরচ করা হয় নাই। উক্ত তহবিলের লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার কি হইল তাহার কৈফিয়ৎ আমরা দাবী করি। সরকারী টাকায় কুলটির উৎপাদন হইবে কি ইহা

এই প্রসঙ্গে সরকারের মালিক তোষণ নীতির চেহারাও নগ্নভাবে প্রকট হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। পূঁজিপতিদের আবদার মানিয়া লইয়া সরকার ইন্স্ফোর মালিককে আজ পর্যাস্ত নয়বার ইম্পাতের রিটেনশান মূল্য বাড়াইবার অনুমতি দিয়াছেন। পূর্বে যেখানে রিটেনশান মূল্য ছিল টনপ্রতি ২৭৩ টাকা, বর্তমানে তাহা টনপ্রতি ৪০৫ টাকায় দাঁড়াইয়াছে এবং আরও বাড়াইবার দাবী উঠিয়াছে। ইন্স্ফো কর্তৃপক্ষ শুধুমাত্র রিটেনশান মূল্য বৃদ্ধি বাবদ আজ পর্যাস্ত পাইয়াছে মোট ১০ কোটি ১৪ লক্ষ টাকা [লোক সভার প্রদত্ত রিপোর্ট]। একদিকে শ্রমিক ও কর্মচারীদের ঘায়া দাবী দমননীতির সাহায্যে রক্তের বহায়ে ডুবাইয়া দেওয়া হয়, অপর দিকে তাদেরই রক্ত জ্বল করা শ্রম লব্ধ ফল মালিককে 'উপহার' দেওয়া হয়।

তাই আজ মালিকের চক্রান্ত বার্থ করিয়া হাজার হাজার মানুষের ছাঁটাই বন্ধ করিতে হইবে; সরকারের জন-স্বার্থ বিবোধী নীতির পরিবর্তন করিতে হইবে, ইন্স্ফোর মালিক শুধু যে কুলটার ফারনেস ও কোক-ওভেন বন্ধ করিতে চায় তাহাই নহে, বার্নগুর ওয়াগান কোম্পানী এবং কুলটার জি, সি, শপে 'লে-অফ' করিয়া শ্রমিক ছাঁটাই এর চক্রান্তও তাহাদের রহিয়াছে। গোটা দেশের চাণী অনুযায়ী লোহা ও ইম্পাতের অভাবের মধ্যে "অতি উৎপাদনের" অজুহাতে চালু প্লান্ট বন্ধ করিয়া শতশত শ্রমিক-ছাঁটাই ও লে-অফের পূঁজিকাণ্ডী সমাধান, ধনতান্ত্রিক ব্যবস্থায় সমাজের প্রয়োজনের চেয়ে ব্যক্তিগত মুনাফাই যে বড় তাহা আরার প্রমাণ হইল।

আমাদের দাবী, দেশের অর্থনৈতিক বনিয়াদ শক্তিশালী করিবার জন্ত, দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবার্ষিকী পরিকল্পনার সাফল্যের জন্ত, বেকার-সংকট রোধ করিবার জন্ত, কুলটার ফারনেস ও কোক-ওভেন এর উৎপাদন চালু রাখিতে হইবে। সরকারের নিকট আমাদের আবেদন— ফারনেস সংস্কারের রবাদ টাকা খরচ করিয়া ফারনেস ও কোক ওভেন চালু রাখিতে মালিককে বাধ্য করুন। শ্রমিকেরা দেশের স্বার্থে উৎপাদন বাড়াইতে প্রস্তুত। কোম্পানীকে আমরা সুস্পষ্ট ভাবে জানাইয়া দিতে চাই যে, উক্ত ডিপার্ট সমূহ বন্ধ করিয়া শ্রমিক ছাঁটাই করিলে এই গুরুত্ব পূর্ণ শিল্পে অশান্তি সৃষ্টি হইবে— আর তার জন্ত সম্পূর্ণ দায়ী হইবে মালিক। সরকার ত্রি-দলীয় সম্মেলনের মারফৎ সমস্যার সমাধান করুন।

বন্ধুগণ, উপরিউক্ত দাবী আদায়ের একমাত্র পথ হইল ঐক্যবদ্ধ ও ব্যাপক আন্দোলন। খুব আনন্দের কথা, আমাদের ঐক্যের আস্থানে সাড়া দিয়া স্থায়ী আই, এন, টি, ইউ, সি নেতৃত্বও ঐক্যবদ্ধ প্রতিরোধের জন্ত শ্রমিকদের ডাক দিয়াছেন। তাঁদের আমরা অভিনন্দন জানাই। গ্র্যাকশান কমিটির আবেদন— আপনাদের সংগ্রামী ঐতিহ্য সম্মুখে রাখিয়া, কলিকাতার বীর ট্রাম-শ্রমিকদের অভূতপূর্ব ঐক্যের সাম্প্রতিক দৃষ্টান্ত অনুসরণ করিয়া ডিপার্টে ডিপার্টে যুক্ত কমিটি গঠন করুন, কাঁধে কাঁধ মিলাইয়া রুটরুজির লড়াই এ অগ্রসর হউন। যে কোন হামলার বিরুদ্ধে কুলটার রাষ্ট্র-ফারনেস ও কোক-ওভেনের ভাইদের পাশে বার্নপুর কুলটার ২৫ হাজার শ্রমিক কর্মচারী চুৰ্ভেগ প্রতিরোধ গড়িয়া তুলুন। জয় আমাদের অনিবার্য।

* ইনকিলাব জিন্দাবাদ!

* সমস্ত দল ও মতের শ্রমিক এক হও!

* শ্রমিক ঐক্য জিন্দাবাদ!

* বারী সাহেব জিন্দাবাদ!

৪ঠা অক্টোবর '৫৮

নিবেদক—

তাহের হোসেন, এম,এল,এ—সাধারণ সম্পাদক

ইউনাইটেড আয়রণ এণ্ড স্টীল ওয়াকার্স ইউনিয়ন।

অজন্তা প্রেস, আসানসোল

[বার্নপুর—কুলটা]

Very Urgent

From:- Prakash Ray, Gen.Secy., Lal Zhanda Bidi
Mazdur Sabha Durg (Regd.No. 332) Rajnandgaon M.P.

To

Com. S.A.Dange,
General Secy. A.I.T.U.C.
4- Asoka Road, New-Delhi-1.

Dear Com.

The Bidi Factory Managers of Rajnandgaon Distt. Durg M.P. have served notices that they are going to close their factories permanently from 10th July, 1958. This closer notice will affect nearly 2000 workers during this rainy season when securing jobs for them is impossible. And if once the managements became successful at Rajnandgaon they will definitely close all the factories of Chhattisgarh involving 20000 workers into unemployed state.

The managements upto this date tried their best to deprive the workers from the advantages of factories Act which was applied in these factories from 1954. Now due to the result of ~~the~~ strong T.U. movement and legal steps taken by the Union, when the factory owners realised that there is no way to ~~x~~ escape they have taken this step to push the workers towards permant unemployment and starvation and aftersome- time these unemployed workers will be forced to accept contract system when apart from the benifites of factories Act the workers will have no garantee to earn the minium wage even.

We have represented before the Labour Commissioner etc. . But nothing hopeful attitude is marked. The local Asstt. Labour Commissioner of Raipur Mr.Subba Rao is taking interest to tactfully allow the managements to complete their game.

The I.N.T.U.C. (recognised Union) is doing nothing but helping the management. They are trying to make an agreement with the management on the ground that the workers should not demand factory Act benifits and the factories should run in that savage condition.

Please do what ever you can with the Labour -
Commissioner Central or Labour Minister Central.

With greetings.

Courteously yours

Prakash Ray
29/6

(Prakash Ray)

Rajnandgaon.
Dt. 29.6.58.

लालझंडा,
बीड़ी मजदूर सभा दुर्ग,
रजिस्टर्ड नं० ३३२,
प्र. का. राजनांदगांव, (म प्र)

Copy of the Memorandum Submitted
to the Managers

To

The Manager,
.....
Bidi Factory, Rajnandgaon M.P.

Subject:- Permanent closer Notice of your factory from 10.7.58

Sir,

We the undersigned workers of your factory beg to forward this application before you on the above subject requesting you to withdraw your closer notice on the following grounds:-

- 1- The notice posted on 1.6.58 to close your factory permanently from 10.7.58 is illegal and gross injustice to the workers because it does not fulfill the prescribed period required for serving such notices.
- 2- Your notice intends to impress upon that that due to the losses suffered by your company, you are going to close your factory from 10.7.58.
3. The question of suffering losses does not arise at all because according to your notice you are going to close your factory only at a particular place, Rajnandgaon obviously when your factories or manufacturing process in other places will definitely continue even after 10.7.58.
4. The argument of suffering losses is vague and hypocritical because, in the year 1950 the selling price of finished bides at the local and surrounding markets was Rs. 5/12/- per thousand and at present you have increased upto Rs. 5/- and even more. This proves that not a single pice you have suffered from your own pocket and you have very nicely drained out everything from people's pocket in order to compensate the new taxation or other expenses. During the last taxation by the Govt. of India on Tobacco, when @ 0.13 N.P. was imposed you increased selling price @ 0.50 N.P. per thousand. Does it substantiate your argument regarding losses?
5. Your closer notice is to disobey the sanctity of the Court of justice, because in the past you intentionally violated the provisions of factories Act to deprive the workers from the legitimate right of 15 days annual leave with wages and atleast when we took the help of Industrial Court under the Payment of Wages Act, to recover arrears since 1955, which amounts several thousand ruppees in each factory, you have taken further illegal step to deprive workers even from the protection of Court.
6. Such will be the fate of applications, filed under section 16 of the I.D.S. Act., on behalf of dismissed workers which are still pending before the Asstt. Labour Commissioner, Raipur. If the factories are being liquidated who will compensate the losses suffered by the dismissed workers?
7. The decision of the Minium Wage Advisory Board set up the Govt. of M.P. is yet to be gasetted soon. Untill it is published, declaring the date of enforcement of the new wage rates, the managements have no legal right to deprive the mass of the workers of their legitimate dues.
8. Here, at Rajnandgaon, the closer notice was served by you simply to start contract system for which all arrangements have been made and you have started giving all illegal pressure to force us to accept the new system since a long time- which clearly proves that you notice is simply to start the malafide

practice of changing the terms and conditions of our services.

9. Your notice is served at a time when the rainy season has approached, when getting jobs for thousands of unemployed workers is something impossible and thereby ~~through~~ by ^{your} concerted action, developing a grim crisis, you ^{will} to give a hard blow to our normal national economy. For all these reasons stated above ~~we~~ hope you too will agree that it will be sheer injustice to push us towards unemployments and starvation.

We, therefore, earnestly hope that you will judge all these points to consider further and withdraw the closer notice and help us to promote sweet relation between the management and the workers.

We the workers of

.....

Bidi Factory, Rajnandgaon.

Rajnandgaon
Dt/- 24.6.58.

C/O. Prakash Ray,
Lal Zanda Bidi Mazdur Sabha
Regd. No. 332.

- Copy to :-
1. Labour Commissioner, Indore
 2. Asstt. Labour Commissioner, Raipur
 3. Hon'ble Labour Minister, M.P. Bhopal
 4. Collector, Durg.
 5. Commissioner, Raipur
 6. Sub-Divisional Officer, Rajnandgaon
 7. Sub-Divisional Officer (Police) Rajnandgaon
 8. Chief Labour Commissioner, New Delhi
 9. Hon'ble Labour Minister Govt. of India New Delhi

Press Statement

All the Bidi Factory owners of Raimanigaon posted notice in their factories that they are going to close their factories permanently from 10th July, 1958. No doubt it is a very cunning tactic for the bidi factory owners who earn mountain profit in their industries and now they are determined to get free hands for further exploitation. It is very clear that after closing down their factories these managements want to start contract system for manufacturing bidis, obviously when the workers shall have to face double exploitation, firstly by the industry concerned and then by the agents or contractors. For the protection of the employment and service condition of the workers, their minimum wage and other facilities under the Factories Act, there will be no law to save their interest at that stage and the managements will get full freedom to enforce jungle law against which the workers had fought a lot under the leadership of their Trade Unions and made remarkable progress.

Factories Act was imposed in these Bidi Factories in the year, 1954. It was the duty of the Labour department to keep watch on these managements whether they obeyed the Act or not. It is pitiable to note that these managements willfully disobeyed the provisions of Act by favour of the workers interest and enforced those provisions which they could very easily utilize to cursethe workers. After a long battle under the leadership of 'lal Zhanda Bidi Mazdur Sabha' - when the managements realised that in future, there will be no way for them to escape, they came out with the permanent closer notices in order to threaten the 2000 workers of continuous unemployment and starvation.

The notices posted by the managements are vague and illegal because-

i)- It does not fulfill the prescribed period required for serving such notices.

ii)- Nearly six hundred workers of these factories have gone under the payment of wages Act to realise their 1955-56 and 1956-57 have with wages (approximately 40,000 rupees) which the managements refused to pay and along with that 1957-58 annual leave with wage dues will be not less than 15000 rupees. Until these amounts are fully realised and the applications are decided by the court the managements are not legally authorised to close their factories and change the terms and condition of services by compelling the workers to accept contract system.

iii)- In the notice there is not a word about paying closer compensation to the unemployed workers as the workers are entitled to get according to the recent Act enforced by the Govt. of India.

iv)- The decision of the minimum wage Advisory board ~~set~~ set up by the Govt. of M.P. is yet to be Gasetted soon. Until it is published, declaring the date of enforcement, the managements are not authorised to deprive the mass of the workers of their legitimate dues.

It is very clear that the attitude of the managements is most unfair and detrimental to the cause of National economic development. So it should be the responsibility of the Govt. to stop such foul game which has ventured to play with the lives of thousands of workers and their families.

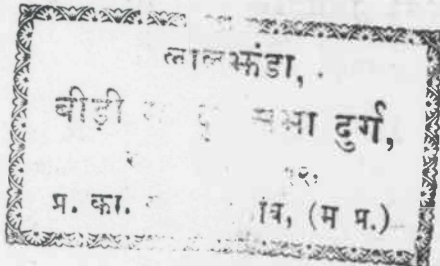
The Union has taken decision to move the authorities, take the advantage of all legal course and lastly to launch wider peoples movement with the labourers at its first rank in the shape of mass satyagraha to protect the interest of the workers and they will be ready to undergo all types of

hardship and will unhesitatingly offer maximum sacrifice.

The economy of Rajnandgaon town mainly dependable on the income of workers. If the B.M.C. Mills and Bidi factories are closed from 1st and 10th July, 58 respectively as the managements have declared it will be a challenge to all section of people including the petty and big businessmen.

I therefore earnestly call upon the non-working class people of Rajnandgaon to come forward at this critical stage and to exert maximum pressure on these managements to withdraw the closure notices.

Prakash Ray
17.6.58



(Prakash Ray)
General Secretary,
Lal Zanda Bidi Mazdur Sabha, Durg
Joint Secy.,
M.P. Bidi Kamgar Federation.

कार्यालय, मैनेजर - मेसर्स पुरजोतमदास घरीभाई एंड कंपनी,
लीफरमाईश बीडी कारखाना: राजनांदगांव-म.प्र.।

राजनांदगांव-म.प्र.
दिनांक:- ५ जून १९५८

True Copy
of the notices
putted in all the
factories.

सूचना:-

सब संबंधित लोगों को यह सूचना दी जाती है कि प्रत्येक
आर्थिक एवं व्यवसायिक, अनुविधाओं, प्रइचनों तथा प्रलाभपद
स्थितियों को सबब से, जिन पर हमारा कोई बरा नहीं है,
जब कारखाना चलाने में हमें अत्यधिक कठिनाई ~~हो~~ ^{हो} हो
रही है तथा यह अनुभव हो रहा है कि स्थाई रूप से
कारखाना बंद करने के सिवाय कोई दूसरा रास्ता नहीं है।

2. इसी परिस्थितियों में, स्नेदपूर्वक हमने यह निश्चय
किया है कि हम अपना कारखाना दिनांक १० जुलाई १९५८
से, हमेशा के लिये बंद कर देंगे।

3. अतः कारखाने के सम्बन्धित कर्मचारियों तथा कामगारों
हमारी उपरोक्त निश्चय एवं निर्णय से इसलाजाने तथा
कारखाने में लागू स्थाई-आदेश एवं कानून के अन्तर्गत
विनिहित, इसे, कारखाना बंद करने बाबत, एक माह की
आवश्यक पूर्व सूचना जामें।

प्रतिलिपि सूचनायें एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही

द: लक्ष्मिंदरमा
मैनेजर

हेतु प्रेषित:-

लीफरमाईश बीडी कारखाना
राजनांदगांव

1. श्रीमान अमायुक महोदय, मध्यप्रदेश, इन्दौर।
2. श्रीमान मुख्य निर्माणी निरीक्षक महोदय, मध्यप्रदेश, इन्दौर।
3. श्रीमान सहायक अमायुक महोदय, म.प्र.; रायपुर विभाग, रायपुर।
4. श्रीमान अमायुकारी महोदय, रायपुर विभाग, रायपुर।
5. श्रीमान निर्माणी निरीक्षक महोदय, रायपुर विभाग, रायपुर।
6. श्रीमान कलेक्टर महोदय, दुर्ग।
7. श्रीमान मंडल आरक्षी अधीक्षक महोदय, दुर्ग।
8. श्रीमान अनुविभागीय आरक्षी अधिकारी महोदय राजनांदगांव।
9. श्रीमान अनुविभागीय आरक्षी अधिकारी महोदय, राजनांदगांव।
10. श्रीमान आरक्षी निरीक्षक महोदय, आरक्षी दौत्र, राजनांदगांव

11. ज्ञानान सचिव महोदय, राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान मजदूर संघ, राजतांदगांव
12. श्रीमान सचिव महोदय, मध्य प्रदेश विज्ञान निर्मिता क्षेत्रीय संघ, जंबल
13. श्रीमान सचिव महोदय, राजतांदगांव - विज्ञान निर्मिता संघ, राजतांदगांव

To

The Manager, *Ghoda Chhap*,
.....
Sidi Factory, Rajnandgaon M.P.

Subject:- ~~XXXX~~ Permanent closer Notice of your factory from 10.7.58

Sir,

We the undersigned workers of your factory beg to forward this application before you on the above subject requesting you to withdraw your closer notice on the following grounds:-

1. The notice posted on 1.0.58 to close your factory permanently from 10.7.58 is illegal and gross injustice to the workers because it does not fulfill the prescribed period required for serving such notices.
2. Your notice intends to impress upon that due to the losses suffered by your company, you are going to close your factory from 10.7.58.
3. The question of suffering losses does not arise at all because according to your notice you are going to close your factory only at a particular place, Rajnandgaon obviously when your factories or manufacturing process in other places will definitely continue even after 10.7.58.
4. The argument of suffering losses is vague and hypocritical because, in the year 1950 the selling price of finished bidies at the local and surrounding markets was Rs. 3/12/- per thousand and at present you have increased upto Rs. 5/- and even more. This proves that not a single pice you have suffered from your own pocket and you have very nicely drained out everything from people's pocket in order to compensate the new taxation or other expenses. During the last taxation by the Govt. of India on Tobacco, when 30.13 M.P. was imposed you increased selling price @ 0.50 M.P. per thousand. Does it substantiate your argument regarding losses.
5. Your closer notice is to disobey the sanctity of the Court of justice, because in the past you intentionally violated the provisions of factories Act to deprive the workers from the legitimate right of 15 days annual leave with wages and atleast when we took the help of Industrial Court under the Payment of Wages Act., to recover arrears since 1955, which amounts several thousand Rupees in each factory, you have taken further illegal step to deprive workers even from the protection of court.
6. Such will be the fate of applications, filed under section 16 of the I.D.S. Act., on behalf of dismissed workers which are still pending before the Asstt. Labour Commissioner, Raipur. If the factories are liquidated who will compensate the losses suffered by the dismissed workers.
7. The decision of the Minium Wage Advisory Board set up the Govt. of M.P. is yet to be gazetted soon. Untill it is published, declaring the date of enforcement of the new wage rates, the managements have no legal right to deprive the mass of the workers of their legitimate dues.

P.T.O.

6. Here, at Rajnandgaon, the closer notice was served by you simply to start contract system for which all arrangements have been made and you have started giving all illegal pressure to force us to accept the new system since a long time which clearly proves that your notice is simply a pretext the malafide practice of changing the terms and conditions of our services.

7. Your notice is served at a time when the rainy season has approached, when getting jobs for thousands of unemployed workers is something ~~im~~ impossible and thereby by your concerted action, developing a grim crisis, you want to give a hard blow to our normal national economy. For all these reasons stated above we hope you too will agree that it will be sheer injustice to push us towards unemployment and starvation.

We, therefore, earnestly hope that you will judge all these points to consider further and withdraw the closer notice and help us to promote a sweet relation between the management and the workers.

Copy to: Hon'ble Labour Minister
Govt. of India
New Delhi

We the workers of
.....
Bidi Factory, Rajnandgaon.

Rajnandgaon.
Dt/- 27.6.58.
C/O. Prakash Ray,
Lal Bndu Bidi Mazdur Sabha,
Regd. No. 332. Rajn.

रजेंद्र कुमारी
द. वि. शर्मा

11/08/58

- Copy to :-
1. The Labour Commissioner, Indore.
 2. The Asstt. Labour Commissioner, Raipur.
 3. Hon'ble Labour Minister, M.P. Bhopal.
 4. The Collector, Durg
 5. The Commissioner, Raipur
 6. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Rajnandgaon
 7. The Sub-Divisional Officer (Police) Rajnandgaon.
 8. The Chief Labour Commissioner, New Delhi
 - ✓ 9. Hon'ble Labour Minister Govt. of India New Delhi.

and
Original was signed by the
workers as attested to the Labour Commission
Indore.

From:—

General Secretary,
Calcutta Bidi Makdoor Union,
249, Bowbazar, Calcutta-12

To

The Hon'ble Chief Minister,
WEST BENGAL.

Sir,

On behalf of the workers engaged in Bidi manufacturing industry in Calcutta we beg to draw your attention to the vital problems facing the workers. We hope you would kindly intervene in the matter and would take appropriate steps. The workers numbering a few thousands are faced with grave problem arising out of the crisis in the industry and also due to lack of implement of the provisions of the labour legislations. We in this situation, solicit your kind intervention.

1. The widespread prevalence of commission agency and contract system adopted by the big employers have resulted in depriving the workers of any security of service and also the benefits that the workers should legitimately get in terms of various legislations.

The Bidi workers already widely affected by the harmful effects of this system. It happens that the Commission Agents cease to work or go away putting the workers out of employment and depriving the workers of their dues & claims. This system is therefore, urgently required to be abolished and system of direct employment introduced.

2. The Minimum Wages Committee for Bidi Industry has already made its recommendations in respect of Wages of the Bidi workers for each District of West Bengal and Calcutta. But those recommendations are in very cases being flouted by the employers. For Calcutta the Committee has recommended a minimum daily wage of Rs.2.25 for unskilled workers and has further recommended that the existing level of wages shall not be reduced. But the employers are already reducing the level. The Labour Department has not taken steps or are required to be taken to enforce the recommendations of the Committee. In order to give the benefits of the recommendations of the said Committee, it is necessary that the same is enforced in the industry. Apart from such violation of the recommendations in respect of wages, the recommendations of the said Committee in respect of weekly leave are also not being followed by the employers.

3. The big employers in Calcutta generally imports a substantial quantity of bidis from outside and arbitrarily close down their factory in Calcutta in order to deprive the bidi workers of Calcutta full employment and of the benefits. In order to ensure full employment in Bidi Industry in Calcutta 1) imports of bidi from outside should be stopped and 2) guarantee of six days' work and one rest day in a week which is not in prevalence now should be introduced and strictly enforced.

4. Whimsical and arbitrary retrenchment of workers is one other scourge of which the bidi workers are easy and fragment victims. Workers going on sanctioned leave are not generally allowed to resume duty and dismissal workers are not generally preceded by any notice or showing any reason thereof. It is ~~urgently~~ needed that such illegal and arbitrary acts on the part of employers are stopped and the Government should step in to enforce legal provisions.

5. The abnormal rise in excise duty on bidi tobacco has indirectly hited the bidi workers also as a result of the crisis that such extraordinary rise in duty has entided. It has particularly affected the small businessmen and manufacturers resulting in closing down of their concern and throwing out of employment a considerable number of workers. Following this rise in excise duty, the price of bidi tobacco has been increased by those monopolists in the trade in an abnormal proportion thereby knocking out of business the small .

In the interest of the business and of the workers in the matter of ensuring employment it is urgently necessary that the West Bengal Govt. takes initiative to recommend to the Union Government for reducing the duty and for controlling the prices of bidi tobacco and leaves.

If you would kindly grant an interview, we would explain all the aforementioned points in all their details.

Thanking you,

Dated 1st July '58

Copy to

1. The Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Gov't of India. New-Delhi.
2. The Hon'ble Labour Minister,
Gov't of India. New-Delhi.

3. The General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress.

Yours faithfully,



Basant Hossain
General Secretary

TRUE Copy.

LOK SABHA.

Starred Question No.1186.

To be answered on the 23rd, December, 1955.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME.

*1186. Shrinat Renu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount that has been sanctioned to West Bengal in 1953-54 and 1954-55 under the Subsidised Housing Scheme for Industrial Workers;
- (b) whether any part of this amount has been used for constructing houses for the Steel Workers at the Kulti (Asansol) workshops of Messrs. Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited;
- (c) whether Government have any knowledge of the deplorable living conditions of these workers; and
- (d) whether there is any scheme for improving them under the Scheme?

ANSWER.

Sardar Swaran Singh.

- (a) A statement is placed on the table of the Sabha.
- (b) No.
- (c) and (d). The State Governments programme of the Industrial housing during the 2nd. five-Year Plan includes proposals for the construction of a number of tenements in this area to meet the housing requirements of the workers.

*ACS/12

Statement referred to in reply to starred
Question.No.1186.

statement giving figures of financial assistance sanctioned under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme to West Bengal during 1953-54 and 1954-55.

Agency.	No. of tenement sanctioned.	1953-54		
		Loan	Subsidy	Total.
1. State Govt..	232	Rs. 88,000	5,22,000	8,10,000.
2. Private employers..	---	---	---	---
3. Co-operative societies...	---	---	---	---
Total...	232	Rs. 88,000	5,22,000	8,10,000

Agency:	No. of tenement sanctioned.	1954-55.		
		Loan	Subsidy	Total
1. State Govt...	556	---	Rs. 12,51,000	Rs. 12,51,000.
2. Private employers...	1128	Rs. 14,81,274	9,87,516	24,68,790
3. Co-operative societies....	---	---	---	---
Total...	1684	Rs. 14,81,274	22,38,516	37,19,790.

268

I.I.L. S.CO. & I.S.W. WORKERS' DEMANDS.

(BURNPUR-KULHI)

Name of Department... *Accounts - Kulhi*.....

1. Immediate setting up of Wage-Board for Iron & Steel Industry.
2. Interim increase of 25% wages with immediate effect pending constitution of such wage board.
3. Fixing up of Dearness Allowance commensurate with the living indices and merger of D.A. with the basic wage.
4. Modification of Production Bonus Scheme. *W*
5. Three months' wages as Profit Sharing Bonus pending modification of the Profit Sharing Bonus scheme. *m*
6. Reinstatement of all victimised workers.
7. Increase in existing quarter allowance and construction of sufficient quarters.
8. Gratuity on the basis of one month's wages for each years completed service.
9. Promotion and acting strictly on basis of seniority.
10. Filling up of permanent vacancies within a short period.
11. Fixing up temporary workers in permanent posts shortly.
12. Immediate constitution of the Works Committees.
13. Modification of the Standing Orders especially clause '9 thereof.
14. Election of the Canteen Managing Comm.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:--KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,
P. O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)

BARI

Phone No. ASI. 787,

Ref. No.

Dated 14th July. 195

Sri.K.G.Sriwastava,
4.Ashok Road,
New -Delhi.

Dear Sir,

Very much glad to receive your letter dated 18 th. June. We are going to held our Annual Conference sometimes in the month of August. The date has not been yet fixed. In the Annual Conference we will take final decision of affiliation. We wish our Annual conference with presence of Com. Dange.

Kindly send us copies of proceedings and resolutions of 16 th. Labour Conference ~~etc~~ and also reports & resolutions of Working Committee of AITUC held at Darjeeling at an early date.

We are trying our best to collect Funds for Jamshedpur and already some amount we sent to them.

Workers here are very eager for Com Dange. When he may come?

With greetings,

Brotherly yours.

Hussain.

(Taher Hossain.)

*Please State correct date
of Conference. At present we
know is about 1st week
in next Aug.
Proceedings of 16th IUC, has
been printed & are available
in all our bookstalls*

14/7/51

268

July 16, 1958

Janab Taher Hossain, MLA
General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers Union,
KULTI.

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your letter of 14th July. We are glad to know that the union is holding its annual conference sometime in August. Please let us know the exact dates so that we could find out if Com.Dange could find it suitable. At present, Com.Dange is in Europe and will be back here early August.

Decisions and documents relating to the 16th Indian Labour Conference are being brought out as a booklet and the same is in the press. When ready, copies will be available with the People's Publishing House, Delhi or National Book Agency, Calcutta. However, on the 16th ILC and the Darjeeling meeting of AITUC Working Committee, reports have been published in the TRADE UNION RECORD which we hope you are getting regularly.

With greetings, Fraternally yours,

K.G.
16/7/58
(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary



5 AUG 1958

504

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INDIA COMMUNIST PARTY NEWDEHRA

BOVARDHAN GOPA PRESIDENT TAPINDU KANGAR UNION YESTERDAY
 MORNING BABAN HUNGER STRIKE AGAINST MILL CLOSURE NOTICE
 = VICE PRESIDENT DAWOOD

P.O.Kulti
Dt. Burdwan.
15.6.58.

Com. Sriwastava,

Hope you are all keeping well.

I am writing this letter to you for an urgent piece of business.

You are perhaps aware that in West Bengal the Annual Returns of the Trade Unions have to be submitted by 30th. June latest as per law obtaining here.

~~Now~~ When Com.Dange came to our place in January, '58, I gave him a statement of accounts of the Kulti Branch of our Union. And along with that I also handed over to him the rough copy of the audited accounts of Kulti unit, for the year 1956-57.

Now, in preparing the 'return' for 1957-58, we need that copy prepared in cyclostyled form, H.

I shall deem it a great privilege if you kindly go through the file of Com. Dange, find out the same and send by registered post. I am sending requisite stamps to cover the postage. I met Com. Dange later on in Calcutta when he said that he/unloaded all papers at Delhi office.

By the way, please communicate any instructions that might prove helpful in the context of Nainital Conf.

Please inform when com. Dange is expected to be back from Europe. We want to hold our Annual Conference at a time when he would be available.

Yes, will you please send me a copy of Fair Wages Committee report? Where to write to get it? Is it available or out of print? Let me know the position.

With my best regards,

Yours comradely,

Nitis Sett

(Nitis Sett.)

*See attached
Form of 5-6-58
+ Hrs. Dange
re: 1 -
He has response
due to H. Dange
15/6/58*

*Billings
Calcutta Unit
ag. Boarding
with Post. Ind. Union
or with the Kilas Madal
of the Party (Atan
New Delhi! It has not been
reported but some
might be having old stock.*

Nitis

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र

इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न रखिये



Com. K.G. Sriwastava,

Secy, A.I.T.U.C.

4, Ashok Road,

NEW DELHI.

भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :-



यहाँ बाहर न रखिये

पहला मोड़

नीसला मोड़

दूसरा मोड़

June 20, 1958

Dear Com.Nitis Sett,

Yours of the 15th inst.

I am sorry to inform you that the Form H for your annual returns is not found in Com.Dange's papers *has. It may be in Bombay with him.*

As for the decisions of the Nainital Conference, most important of them have been covered in the TRADE UNION RECORD of June 5 and June 20. The June 20 issue of the TUR contains certain organisational tasks following from the Working Committee's review of Nainital decisions.

Com.Dange is in Bombay and could not go abroad so far, due to the strikes currently going on.~~xxxx~~

The report of the Fair Wages Committee has not been reprinted but old stocks might be available in Calcutta bookshops or write to Kitab Mahal, Janpath, New Delhi.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Uma
(K.G.Sriwastava)

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—K U L T I

(PROF. BARI ZINDARAD)

Office:-

Station Road,
P. O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)

BARI

Phone No. ASI 737.

Ref. No. 11 OCT 1958 Dated 8.8.58. 195

To

Sri.K.G.Srivastava,
4 Ashok Road,
New-Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Received your letter in time; but excuse us for late answer. We had intention to held our Annual Conference in Aug. But we could not fix it up as yet. Com Dange's presence in the said conference is essential. As such it would be better when Com. Dange will be available we would held the same. Now Com. Dange is in Delhi for Parliament. Kindly arrange with him for the date and inform us immediately.

With greetings,

Fraternally yours.

Taher
(Taher Hossain)

*Com: Saye was the
visiting Burnpur & Jamshedpur
in the last week of his month
or so. It is not yet possible to
indicate exact date. We will
try to will make you know as
soon as possible as possible in
the near future.*

*Mme
15/10/58*

19/8/88

1588

0.

Achari Committee

(268)

Burpur

Dance Naachini Asanoli

- In Jamshodpur by car Twenty five
- Afternoon leaving Twenty seven
- Night Kalna maie Tour Programme
- sent Bijoy Babu.

SRIWASTAVA



C.-3

Handwritten mark



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RPPPEXP-SPITASSAD PODR ASHOK RR NEW DELHI

PLEASE INFORM US IN DETAIL'S PROGRAMME OF CON TANGE FOR ASANSOL

- PAMA PATA -

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.

MCHFAh.—121—30-4-57—91,370 Bks.

268

August 16, 1958

Janab Taher Hossain,
General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union,
Station Road,
BURNPUR, Burdwan, W.Bengal.

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your letter of
8th August.

Comrade Dange has now planned
a tour of Calcutta, Asansol, Kulti
and Burnpur and Jamshedpur in the
third and fourth week of this month.
He would be in Asansol, as per
present programme on 25th August
and he hopes to be in that area
till 27th August.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G. Sriwastava
(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,
O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)



Phone No. Asl. 737

No.

Dated 27-8-58. 195

Sri.K.G.Sribastava,
Secy.A.I.T.U.C.
4 Ashok Road,
New-Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Re:Com.Dange's Tour Programme of
Asansol-Burnpur-Kulti area.

The workers were enthused on hearing the visit of Com.Dange in our area as per your letter dated 16.8.58. But we came to know that Com.Dange is not coming as per telegram sent by Com.Chitnis from Bombay.The telegram reads as follows:

"Dange indisposed.Undergoing small operation.Hence unable to travel to-day.Will intimate later date.Regret inconvenience.Dt.21 st.Aug."

It appears to us that Com.Dange may come very soon. Kindly let us know how Com.Dange's health is going on and when he is coming to our area ?

Further we received a copy of AITUC's Circular regarding verification of membership of Unions as settled in the last 16 th.Labour Conference.As we are not still affiliated officially with the AITUC kindly advise us in the matter how we have to proceed on.However we are preparing our Registers as advised in the above circular.

With greetings,

Comly Yours

Bama Jadh

For Genl. Secretary

*Sayd. 15 one
to which you refer
is not. When is
it going to be
made*

*It is done
and with me
a little as
said in cal.
keep action*

1.11.58

1. Tamilnad Elec.Board Accounts Subordinate Union (Sri Mohan Doss)
Rs.100/- before 25th Jan.'58, 100 rupees before 5.2.58 and Rs.50/-
before 10th Feb. 1958; Total to be paid Rs.250/-
2. Madras State Elec.Board Employees Union, Coimbatore (Sri C.K.Subramanian)
Rs.250/- on or before 25.1.58. Total: Rs.250/-
3. Madras State Elec.Board Employees Union, Mettur: Rs.150/- before
25.1.58, Rs.50/- before 3.2.58 and total to be paid Rs.200/-
4. Madras State Elec.Board Employees: Papanasam: Rs.100/- before 25.1.58
Rs.50/- before 30.1.58 and total to be paid Rs.150/-.
5. Madras State Elec.Board Employees Union, Vellore (Sri Selvarajan)
Rs.50/- on or before 25.1.57; Total Rs.50/-
6. Madras Elec.Workers Union, Madras: Rs.150/- before 25.1.58 and Rs.100/-
before 5.2.1958 and total Rs.200/-
7. Madras Elec. Employees Union, Madras: Rs.75/- before 25.1.58 and
Rs.25/- before 5.2.58. Total Rs.100/-
8. Tamilnad Collection Staff Association: CBE: Rs.50/- total before 25.1.58.
9. Tamilnad ~~Shikhar~~ Elec.Board Last Grade Staff Union: Total Rs.50/- do
10. Civil Workers Union, Mettur. Rs.50/- before 25.1.58.
11. Workshop N.M.R.Union, Mettur: Rs.50/- do
12. Stores Staff Assn.CBE. Rs.50/- do
13. Mettur OSS.Elec.Supply Corpn
Employees Union Rs.50/- do
14. Salem Erode Elec.Supply Corpn
Employees Union Rs.50/- do

Sri S.B.Neelakantan, No.5, Ritchie Street, Madras: TREASURER- T.N.N.W.F.
Reception Committee.

6. It was resolved to conduct the Inaugural Conference of the Federation at Madras by the 15th and 16th February 1958. The Members of the Secretariat of the Reception Committee were requested to keep themselves in readiness to go to Madras, wherever necessary ten days prior to the Conference.

7. It was also resolved to invite Sri Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister for Labour Government of India to inaugurate the Conference and to invite Mr. Jaisuklal Hathi, Dy. Minister for Power, Govt. of India, Mr.R.Venkataraman, Minister for Labour, Govt. of Madras. It was also decided that any two members of Parliament and Legislature in the opposition should be invited to speak on the occasion the following names were agreed upon. Mr.K.T.K.Thangamani or Mrs.Parvathi Krishnan or Mr.Kalyanasundaram and E.V.K.Sampath or Sri Anbazhagan.

3. It was also decided that efforts should be taken to get messages from all National and International Trade Unions. It was also decided that invitations should be sent to all Members of Parliament in Tamilnad and Members of the Legislature at Madras. It was also decided that the speech delivered by Sri V.V.Giri in the Foundation Conference of the All India Electricity Employees Federation, Bangalore should be printed in the Sovernir.

9. The Meeting terminated with vote of thanks by Sri C.A.Ganapathi.

On the basis of the resolutions at the Meeting of the Reception Committee, Member Unions and Members of the Committee are requested to:

1. To send in their acceptance of joining the Federation to the Chairman Reception Committee before 25th.
2. Member Unions for whom no contributions have been fixed due to their absence are requested to send in atleast their affiliation of Rs.5/- and donation of Rs.25/- to the Chairman before 25.1.1958.
3. Members of the Reception Committee who were not present are requested to send in their kind acceptance before 20th.
4. Members of the Sovernir Committee are requested to send in their acceptance to the Chairman of the Committee Sri M.A.Mallick before 20th. Member Unions are kindly requested to contact the Chairman for the advertisement tariff and to contact business people in their locality for getting advertisements. The Members are also requested to send the articles on the themes of the Federation our demands and peculiarities of the Industry and Trade Union rights to the Chairman of the Sovernir Committee.

5. Member Unions are requested to intimate their requirements for demands day badges, notices and wall poster so that they can be printed and sent to them.

6. Member Unions are requested to send in their contributions without fail by the dates specified.

MEMBERS OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE:

1. Sri S.C.Krishna, Chairman.
 2. " Eappan)
 3. " Mohandas.) Secretaries.
 4. " Gajapathy)
 5. " S.R.Neelakantan, Reasurer.
 6. " M.A.Mallick, T.E.B.A.SubUnion.
 7. " Gopalram, Collec.Staff Assn.CBE.
 8. " Syed Mohideen, Stores Staff Association.
 9. " V.G.Row, Bar-at-law M.L.C.
 10. " S.Belasundaram, T.Elc.B.A.S.Union, CBE.
 11. " T.P.Srinivasan, Convenor. F.C.C.
 12. " C.K.Subramaniam, B.A. B.Sc. M.E.B.F.Union, CBE.
 13. " Sourirajan, M.E.B.E.Union, Mettur.
 14. " Balakrishnan do Papanasam.
 15. " C.A.Ganapathi do do
 16. " Ponniah T.N.E.B.L.G.S.Union.
 17. " Tulasiram, S.S.Association.
 18. " Manickam, NMR. Civil Workers Union, Mettur.
 19. " Servai NMR. Workers Union, Mettur.
 20. " R.Gopal M.F.W.Union.
 21. " G.Lingam do
 22. " Murugesan, MEE.Union, Madras.
 23. " Devarajan, Kundah EE.Union, Emerald.
 24. " Varadarajan, T.T.E.S.C.Corp. Employees Union.
 25. " P.S.Krishnamurthy, Vellore Elec.Corporation EmplUnion, CBE *delore*
 26. " Azees, T.N.F.B.L.S.Union, Vellore.
 27. " Selvarajan, MS. E.B.E.Union, Vellore.
 28. " Janakiram M.E.E.Union.
 29. " M.Kalyanasundaram, Salem Erode E.S.C.Union.
 30. " Ramaswami S.M.E.S.E.Union.
 31. " S.M.Alangaram, M.T.S.Labour Union, Madurai.
- It was also decided to co-opt three more members from Madras.

MEMBERS OF THE SOUVENIR COMMITTEE

1. Sri M.A.Mullick, Chairman.
2. Sri C.K.Subramaniam, Coimbatore.
3. " R.Ramanathan, Mettur.
4. " Gopalan, Coimbatore.
5. " Rajendran, ~~do~~ do
6. " V.J.Krishnamurthy, Vellore.
7. " M.Kalyanasundaram, Salem.
8. " Gopalakrishnan, Tinneveli.
9. " T.R.Ganesan, Madras.
10. One representative from the Madras. Elec.Employees Union.

S C Krishnan
S.C.Krishnan,
Chairman, Reception Committee.
T.N.F.W.F.

TAMILNAD Electricity Workers' Federation

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Constituent Unions :

1. Madras Electricity Workers' Union
2. Madras Electricity Board Employees Union, Pykara System
3. M. E. B. E. Union, Mettur System
4. M. E. B. E. Union, Vellore System
5. Government Electricity Employees Union Papanasam System
6. ~~N. M. R.~~ ^{MHEW} Workers Union, Mettur
7. Civil Workers Union, Mettur
8. O. S. S. Workshop Emp. Union, Mettur
9. Stores Staff Association

Chairman :
S. C. KRISHNAN, B.A.

Secretaries :
**P. E. EAPEN
MOHANDOSS
K. GAJAPATHY**

Treasurer :
S. R. NEELAKANTAN

**5, RITCHIE ST.,
MADRAS-2**

10. Tamilnad E.B. Accounts Subordinate Union
11. Madras Electricity Employees' Union
12. T.N.E.B. Collection Staff Union
13. Last Grade Employees Union
14. Madras State Elec. Board Emp. Union, Cuddalore
15. M T. S. Labour Union, Madurai
16. Kundah Elec. Emp. Union, Emerald
17. Salem Erode Elec. Dis. Emp. Union
18. Tin. Tuticorin Elec. S.W. Union
19. South Madras E. ~~S.W.~~ Emp. Union

Dated 6th Feb. '58.

Ref:

PERSONAL.

Dear Com: Dange,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the appeals we have sent to all Trade Unions and Central Trade Union organisations. You will see that this is the first attempt through belated, to form a united and strong Federation of all Unions in the State. Excepting for one Union which is affiliated to the Labour wing of the Tamil Nad Congress and two Unions affiliated to AITUC and two Unions where some of our comrades are connected with, practically rest of all the 14 Unions have till now been run by the employees themselves, some of them on the lines of Service Associations. The present major influence over all these Unions that have been rallied for this Federation is, of-course, that of the AITUC and particularly Com. V. G. Rao, the President of the Madras Electricity Workers' Union, affiliated to the AITUC, since its inception in 1947. But the possible threat to the unity of the employees is that of the D.M.K. because of the strong sympathies gained by them among the State Govt. N.G.Os, a section of which are now organised in two staff Unions - (1) The Madras Electricity Employees Union and (2) The Tamil Nad Electricity Board Accounts Subordinate Union. As such in the Reception Committee we have tried to confine ourselves the list of speakers to the Trade Union leaders connected with the Electricity Unions, Ministers, M.Ps. and M.L.As of the opposition parties. You might have noted from the last issue of Trade Union Record that a continuous agitation, united agitation is being carried on against the action of the State Government in having included their "yes-man" of the Labour Minister who is alleged to be connected with one of the minor Unions with a membership of 450, for State Electricity Consultative Council overlooking the panel of names submitted by six major Unions with a membership of more than 1500 each. Hope Com K.T.K. and Parvathi will give you greater details. As such it is my earnest desire and request that you should send a fairly detailed message of greetings to the Conference, without fail.

Secondly either on your way to Trichy or your way back from Trichy if you can spare two hours on one evening we can arrange to ~~put~~ hold meeting in the city on behalf of the Madras Electricity Workers' Union so that the staff and the other cadre who have recently decided on organising themselves on Trade Union lines, can be effectively influenced on correct lines. Kindly let me know if you can spare the time

MEMBERS

1. V. G. Row, Bar-at-law, M.L.C.
2. T. R. Ganesan, B.E.
3. C. K. Subramaniam, B.A., B.Sc.
4. G. Lingam
5. R. Gopal
6. U. Ponniah
7. M. A. Mallick
8. S. Balasundaram
9. T. P. Srinivasan
10. P. Gopalram
11. Murugesan
12. Syed Mohideen
13. S. V. Tulasiram
14. Azeez
15. R. Sowrirajan
16. C. A. Ganapathy
17. A. C. Balakrishnan
18. Selvaraj
19. S. M. Alangaram
20. Devarajan
21. P. S. Krishnamurthy
22. M. Kalyanasundaram
23. T. Varadarajan
24. T. S. Ramasamy
25. M. K. Manickam
26. Janakiram
27. A. Servai
28. P. Parthasarathy
- 29.
- 30.

Page.2.

and the date convenient to you before 10th if possible so that we can make necessary arrangements.

fn Lastly I urge on you that in case you are unable to spare as requested above for a public meeting atleast spare one hour to address on the AITUC approach to public sector problems to a meeting of about 50 active militants of the City Electricity Unions. (3) workers, clerics + store staff

Awaiting your considered reply.

With greetings.

Yours comradely,

S C Krishna

S. C. Krishnan.
(General Council Member).
AITUC.

The National Project
Workers Union

Regd; No 2227.

KUNDHA. (Nilgiris)

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

தேசிய அணைக்கட்டு தொழிலாளர்
சங்கம், குந்தா. (நீலகிரி.)
பிடிவட்டி எண். 2227

கிளை Coonoor.R.S.
(Nilgiris)
தேதி 4-7-58

Dear Comrade,

I have already sent you the Resolutions passed by the Annual General body of the National Project Workers' Union - 26 demands. On 18-6-58 the Executive decided on 'One day token strike' to be had on 3/7 on the following demands :-

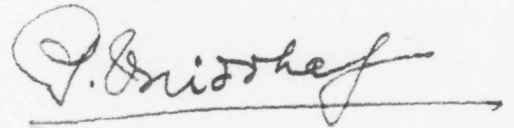
1. Payment of interim wage increase to all workers as recommended by the Negotiating Committee.
2. Protection for the rainy season.
3. Contract labour to be put on par with Board labour.
4. Stop victimisation.

On 3/7 there was token strike, participated by 90% of the workers. Enclosed is the resolution passed on 3/7. Police have filed a case on 9 of us under Sec 107 Cr P.C. giving all the T.U. activities as charges, in connection with the token strike.

This is for your information and publication in the T.U.R.

I would like you to send me materials on wages, working conditions of project workers.

Creetings.



SECRETARY
(P. VRIDDHAGIRI)

Note

The union is affiliated to only Tamilnad Electricity workers Federation, Madras with V. Govindarajan as the President not to AITUC.

The Accounts Subordinates' Union.

Kundah Bridge I.C.
The Kilgiris, 4/7/1958.

The Chairman,
Electricity Board, Madras.

The Chief Engineer,
Electricity Board, Madras.


The Labour Commissioner,
Chennai, Madras.

Sir,
Sub: Token strike on the 3rd July, 1958.

We are forwarding the resolution passed in the workers' meeting held on the 3rd July, 1958, both at Emerald and Kundah, Sri J. Bala Gowder, presiding, after the token strike.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


S. Srinivasan,
Secretary.

R E S O L U T I O N.

" This meeting warmly greets the workers for having conducted the Token strike on 3-7-58 successfully and peacefully, and shown to the authorities concerned their determination to win their just rights.

This meeting expresses gratitude for the solidarity and support given by the Accounts Subordinates' Union, who have passed a resolution in their meeting on the 27th June, 1958, when Sri V. G. Row, the President of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Workers' Federation was present and also the Kundah Kundal Congress Committee in the presence of Sri B.K. Linga Gowder, M.L.A. and N.K. Lingam, M.P.

This meeting strongly condemns the attitude of the authorities for their wilful indifference towards workers' grievances.

This meeting authorises the executive of the Union to take necessary steps towards the winning of the demands. "

Copy to:-

1. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Workers' Federation, Madras.
2. The Hon: Minister for Electricity, Madras.
3. The Hon: Minister for Labour, Madras.
4. The President, Kundal Congress Committee, Kundah.
5. The President, Accounts Subordinates Union.
6. The District Collector, Coimbatore.
7. The District Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore.
8. The Superintending Engineer, Kundah & Emerald.
9. The Manager, U. E. C., Kundah.
10. The Manager, M. C. Kundah.

The Policy Committee of the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti and the Municipal Mazdoor Union entered into negotiations with a view to settle the strike. The following agreement was arrived at which the Policy Committee recommends to the Samiti Bloc in the Corporation for giving effect to:

The employees of the Bombay Municipal Corporation will be given the following increase in wages:

- 1) Employees whose basic wage is
Rs.50 and below ... Rs.5
- 2) Employees whose basic wage is
Rs.51 to Rs.100 ... Rs.4
- 3) Employees whose basic wage is
Rs.101 to Rs.150 ... Rs.3

This increase will be given effect from 1st of June 1958.

This increase will be integrated into the wage-structure settlement on which the Wage-Structure Committee has already been working and which will be finalised later.

The Policy Committee holds that the wage-structure settlement covered by this agreement has to be adjusted within a sum of Rs.31 lakhs, the extreme limit to which the Corporation can go. The Union does not accept this contention.

In case of difference of opinion on the final settlement of the wage-structure under negotiation, the question will be referred to an arbitrator or arbitrators mutually agreed upon. In case no agreed arbitration is possible, the question will be referred to adjudication.

This grant of interim wage increase will be considered as having settled the dispute, which the Union had raised, by demanding Rs.5 as D.A. and its link up with the D.A. rates of the Central Government. The Union had raised the dispute on the basis of the Agreement of June 24, 1957 and September 19, 1957, the Corporation Resolution No.478 of 2nd August 1957 and the interim relief granted by the Second Pay Commission in December 1957.

In view of this, the dispute on D.A. now in adjudication does not survive.

But in case it survives for any reason and the adjudicator makes an award of further D.A., its incidence will be adjusted in this interim and will not be an additional charge.

In view of the fact that the cost of living is likely to fluctuate and if it does to the detriment of the workers' wage or the position of the Corporation, the Corporation and the Union agree to negotiate a fresh basis for payment of D.A., taking in view the wage increase given and the subsequent rise in cost of living. If any dispute arises, on this, it shall be referred to arbitration or adjudication.

The Municipal Mazdoor Union, which is sponsoring the strike calls off the strike with immediate effect.

The Wage Structure Committee will complete its report by end of October 1958.

The Union asks for the strike period pay. The Policy Committee held it could not be conceded.

There should be no victimisation of any employee for the strike.

Any difference of opinion on the interpretation of this agreement will be referred to mutually agreed arbitration or adjudication.

Bombay,
22nd June, 1958
3.30 A.M.

*

Signed by: GEORGE FERNANDES and N.G.KHARAT
on behalf of the Union

S.A.DANGE, S.M.JOSHI, DATTA DESHMUKH
and R.D.BHANDARE on behalf of
the Samiti.

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S.A.DANGE, S.M.JOSHI, DATTA DESHMUKH
and R.D.BHANDARE on behalf of
the Samiti.

268

September 2, 1958

General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union,
KULTI, Buddwan, W.Bengal.

Dear Comrade,

We have your letter of 27th August,
and note contents.

Under the present circumstances,
Com.Dange is not expected to visit
Kulti-Burnpur before the 22nd of this
month. When his programme is finalised,
we shall inform you immediately.

Regarding verification of member-
ship, the undersigned had a talk with
Com.Bejoy Paul while at Calcutta. We
hope you will take necessary action
as agreed: *as usual.*

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G.Sriwastava
(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary

- 5 SEP 1958

299
To,

Shri U. N. Mahida,
Chairman,
Bombay State Electricity Board,
BOMBAY.

NOTICE OF HUNGER STRIKE.

Sir,

In view of the fact that both the District Industrial Court and the State Industrial Court at Nagpur have failed to give me justice, even though my case against the Bombay State Electricity Board, has not even crossed the preliminary stage, I hereby, am compelled to give notice to the Chairman, Bombay State Electricity Board, Bombay that I shall be resorting to hunger-strike to settle my longstanding and legitimate claims for confirmation in service etc., and as a protest against the illegal, mischievous and victimising attitude of the Superintending Engineer, Nagpur (Sri K. S. Ramu) under whom I am ordered to work, if the Chairman does not amicably settle my claims within a month from today.

Nagpur.

Date 30-8-1958.

Yours faithfully,

Copy to:—

(K. R. Venkatasubramanian)

- 1) The Superintending Engineer, Nagpur.
- 2) Sri G. W. Chiplonkar, State Industrial Court, Nagpur, with ref. to his end. No. nil d / nil recd by me on 30-8-58.
- 3) Shri T. L. Jambekar, Dist. Industrial Court,
- 4) Justice Chagla, Bombay,
with reference to my letters addressed to him on 16-8-58 and 19-8-58 and with a copy of the order sheet recd. by me on 30-8-58 from the State Industrial Court, Nagpur.
- 5) Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, with reference to my letter dated the 29-8-58.
- 6) Shri Y. B. Chavan, Chief Minister, Bombay State, Bombay, with reference to my letter dated 25-8-58.

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Asansol Regional Committee

G. T. ROAD, ASANSOL

Ref. No. _____

Date 9.9. 1958.

To.

Com. K.G. Srivastava.

New-Delhi.

Dear comrade,

Acknowledged your letter dt. 6.9.58, I am to inform you that already perhaps, you are in receipt of the necessary papers and application forms filled up, submitted by Burnpur, including the number of membership.

But a problem had arisen because of the sickness of Com. Taher Hussen and financial difficulties, when the workers union is not able to send the ~~the~~ amount of affiliation fees just at present but they require immediately the Fee-receipts for affiliation in AITUC for the coming scrutinisation.

So, you can please send the said receipts. The amount will be paid later on for which I am taking the responsibilities.

Moreover, you will please send the Moscow address of Com. Dange so that we can contact him there for some ~~comrades~~

Learning that Com. Dange is progressing we are a bit assured and expect his sound health.

With greetings.

Comradely yours.

Bejoy Lal
Secretary.

*Hotel Ukraine
Moscow*

*Pl. advise the amount
in your book. We shall
send the sum thru
Com Dange when he visits
Burnpur (likely to be in the
end of this month).*

*Mmo
Bfix*

268
Sept 16, 1958

Com. Bejoy Paul,
Secretary,
Asansol Regional Committee, AITUC,
G.T. Road, Asansol.

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for yours of 9th inst. We note that the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union is not immediately able to make the remittance. You may however adjust your accounts as having made the remittance of affiliation fees. We shall send you our receipt through Com. Dange when he visits there towards the end of this month.

Com. Dange's Moscow address is:
C/o Hotel Ukraina, Moscow, USSR.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

mno
Sept 16
(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS,

Ref.No. WK/PER/7639

Kulti, 16th September, 1958.

N O T I C E .

The Company invites applications from Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens employees of the Kulti Works for consideration by the Management for employment in the Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens of the Company's Burnpur Works.

Applications should be addressed to the Deputy Labour & Welfare Superintendent, Kulti Works, and must be submitted not later than 12 Noon of Thursday, the 25th September, 1958.

G.

S. N. GUPTA
WORKS MANAGER.

268

How the Closure of No. 4 Blast Furnace at Kulti took place.

4th Oct 58

16th Sept '58 Company issues a notice inviting applications for employment in Blast Furnace & Coke Ovens at Burnpur.

- This is the first indication of Coy's Plan but no clear announcement as to closing down of plants.
- The same evening in a mass meeting United Union expresses apprehension and warns as to the conspiracy behind it.

18th Sept - Telephoned to Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol, seeking clarification of the notice.

A.L.C. told that as worker Manager Mr. Gupta is reported to be out, he would let know afterwards.

22nd Sept - Union addresses a letter formally to the A.L.C.

24th Sept - Union address a letter to the Works Manager seeking clarification of the Notice of 16th Sept.

29th Sept - Union addresses a letter to the Union Labour Minister, G. L. Nanda

30th Sept - Copies of letter to G. L. Nanda sent to Dr. Roy, Chief Minister and also to Labour Minister, West Bengal.

2nd Oct - Coy's issues Notice - which indirectly proves that Company withdraw supervisory Staff and stopped supplies to Plants preparatory to closure.
- But no formal notice given as yet to close down plants.

3rd Oct - For the first time, formal notice of closure given by Company.
- Same day. Telegram sent to Nanda for intervention.
- Same day Asst. Lab. Commissioner, replies to our letter of 22.9.58 and informs of Coy's Plan.

A.L.C.'S letter reveals that Govt. of West Bengal was informed of the proposed closure on 1.10.58, for the first time.

- 4th Oct '58 - Company signs an agreement with I.W.T.U.C. Union.
- 5th Oct' - Letter to O/C, Kulti P.S. as to goonda attack on workers who maintained production.
- 6th Oct - Another letter addressed to G. L. Nanda with copies to Chief Minister etc.
- 7th Oct - Dr. Roy gives written assurance as to alternative employment of 750 workers rendered surplus.
- 8th Oct - Telegram sent to G. L. Nanda for assurance to keep in rolls till alternative employment given.
- Letter to A. L. C.
- Same day A. L. C. replies that Company would keep the 140 workers on rolls of Company till alternative employment.
- Copies of letter to G. L. Nanda and also to Chief Minister and also to Bengal.
- Company withdraws supervisory staff and stop supplies to plants prepared for closure.
- But no formal notice given to these plants.
- For the first time, formal notice of closure given by Company.
- Same day. Telegram sent to G. L. Nanda for intervention.
- Same day Asst. Lab. Comm. replies to our letter of 22.9.58 and also to Goy's Plan.
- As informed of the proposed closure on 1.10.58 for the first time.

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS.

Ref. No. WK/PER/7639

Kulti, 16th September, 1958.

N O T I C E .

The Company invites applications from Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens employees of the Kulti Works for consideration by the Management for employment in the Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens of the Company's Burnpur Works.

Applications should be addressed to the Deputy Labour & Welfare Superintendent, Kulti Works, and must be submitted not later than 12 Noon of Thursday, the 25th September, 1958.

S. N. GUPTA
WORKS MANAGER.

G.

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

Ref. No. ASL/ALC/9/58-4Dated the 22nd Sept 1958.

To
The Asst. Labour Commissioner,
ASANSOL.

Sub: Proposed closure of Kulti Blast
Furnaces and Coke Oven Plants.

Sir,

Please find attached herewith a copy of notice issued by the Management, Kulti Works, inviting applications from employees 'for employmen in the Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens of the Company's Burnpur Works!

We apprehend that this is a step towards the proposed closure of the Depts. at Kulti Works, publicly announced by no less a person than Sir Biren Mukherjee, one of the directors of the IISCO. (Vide Statesman of 7.8.58)

If the Management is allowed to have its own way, then it will entail retrenchment of 1000 (one thousand) workers. Needless to say, we shall resist this unwarranted retrenchment or lay off of such a large number of workers resulting in sure starvation of several thousand people including their families.

More. There is no assurance by the Management as to the status and service conditions of those who might opt for transfer to Burnpur. The question of grade, promotion etc will pose complex problems when these men will be included in the muster roll of Burnpur Works. But it seems that the Management is oblivious to these complex issues which are bound to crop up at a later stage.

In view of the above, we would request you to please intervene immediately so that a serious labour unrest may be avoided in the interest of all concerned.

Hope, you would be good enough to take up this issue in all seriousness and call for a Tripartite Conference for a happy solution of the problem.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
General Secretary .

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UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

No. COY/9/58-1

Dated, the 24th Sept 1958.

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

To
The Works Manager,
The Indian Iron & Steel Co., Ltd.,
Kulti Works,
Kulti.

Sub: Transfer from Kulti Blast Furnaces and
Coke Oven Plants to Burnpur Works.

Sir,

Our attention has been drawn to a notice issued by the Management, IISCO, under your signature inviting applications from Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens employees of the Kulti Works for consideration by the Management for employment in the Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens of the Company's Burnpur Works" (Ref: your notice No. WK/PER/7639, dated, Kulti, the 16th Sept; 1958).

We quite appreciate that if a New Plant comes into operation old and skilled hands are necessary to run the same being conversant with the technical 'know how'. And this usually comes in the form of promotion. But your said notice does not clarify anything, it does not say what will be the status quo of the worker concerned after he goes to Burnpur. A worker who is senior here at Kulti, may turn to be a junior at Burnpur in the added muster roll. As to grade seniority, service record and other benefits, the notice is silent and everything has been kept beautifully vague. Besides, there is the question of Quarters to be provided at Burnpur for those who might choose to opt. Also those who are staying back what will be their futures?— because it appears the Company is planning to close down the said plants,—sooner or later. One question is inter-related with the other.

In view of the above, we would request you to please clarify these question and issues and notify the same for general information. Unless this is done, there will be, we apprehend, serious misunderstanding and confusion will be worse confounded.

In the interest of industrial peace in this vital industry, I would request you to please do the needful on lines suggested above and oblige.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

No. GOI/LAB/S/58-1

Dated, the 29th Sept 1958.

To
Shri G. L. Nanda,
Union Labour Minister,
Govt. of India,
New Delhi.

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

Sub: Proposed closure of Kulti Blast Furnaces
& Coke Oven Plants of I I S C O.

Sir,

We beg to draw your urgent attention to a matter of grave import for immediate **intervention** and necessary action.

That you are perhaps aware that the Management, IISCO, has been contemplating to close down the Kulti Blast Furnaces for the last two years. This was first officially indicated last year by Sir Biren in his speech delivered to the share-holders in the Annual General Meeting, held in Sept, 1958. But in the same speech it was also admitted that Govt. wanted the Blast Furnaces continue operation for a further period of four years. And it is this **intervention** by the Govt. of India that has kept the Kulti furnaces running till today.

That in August last, Sir Biren, while opening the New Coke Oven Plant at Burnpur, had reiterated the intention of the Management to close down not only the Kulti Blast Furnaces but also the Coke Ovens at Kulti. And very cleverly he shifted the responsibility for absorbing the would-be surplus men (resulting from retrenchment due to closure) onto the shoulders of the West Bengal Govt. Not only that. He made a crude attempt at provincialism by pitting Bengali Chauvinism (?) of W. B. Govt. against his Indian nationalism (Vide the Statesman of 7.8.58.)

That the threats of closure, inspite of recommendation by the Govt. to the contrary were made in all seriousness, have been proved by recent notices by the IISCO authorities inviting applications from employees of Kulti Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens for employment in the Blast Furnaces & Coke Ovens of Company's Burnpur Works. (emphasis ours.) These have been followed by notices served in Power Dept. (Turbo & Electric Sections) which are directly connected with Furnace and Coke Ovens. Though the notices are apparently innocuous, they portend very ominous signs. This allurements of employment is nothing but a step towards paving the way for total closure of Kulti Furnaces & Coke Ovens. This device has been taken recourse to only to dupe the workers as to the real designs of the Company.

That this proposed closure if given effect to, will throw out into

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UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

No.

-: Page two :-

Dated, 195 .

Now, is this inevitable? Our answer to this question is an emphatic 'No! Why? Let us examine the facts.

It is admitted on all hands that Iron & Steel industry is the 'king-pin' of the Second Five Year Plan. When there is an over-all shortage of pig Iron & Steel in the country, when the Engineering Industry in West Bengal is undergoing an acute crisis due to this shortage, when new Plants are being built in the Public Sector to meet this shortage, is it no a paradox that the Plants in operation and producing these important ingredients are to be closed down?

What are the arguments advanced for closing down the Kulti Blast Furnaces? That they are 'old' and 'uneconomical! The capital expenditure necessary for their modernisation and rehabilitation (already sanctioned) "would not now be warranted", according to the Management, "having regard (a) to the surplus pig iron that would be available from the new Blast Furnaces at Burnpur and (b) to the inevitable higher cost of production at Kulti" (Vide Chairman's speech at the Annual General Meeting, 1957.)

Do these arguments stand scrutiny? We are afraid, they do not. It is incredible to say that the pig iron from new Blast furnaces at Burnpur would be "surplus" to the requirements of the Nation or the Engineering industry as a whole, It is the need of the country and not of any private or any individual concern that should weigh with us. The sang reveals itself in familiar phrases like 'higher cost of production', 'uneconomical' etc. It is the PROFIT-MOTIVE alone that weighs supreme with these private capitalists. The needs of the Nation are no concern of these people. And the IISCO authorities do not make much effort to hide the same. In the same speech already referred to, Sir Biren, without mincing matters, categorically states, "In the meantime it has been indicated to the Government that the Company would expect all such emergent expenditure to be met by Government and the retention price of iron to be adjusted in relation to the actual cost of production!" (Chairman's speech, page 2.).

So, at last the cat is out of bag! Profit must not be touched, rather it is to be increased by increasing the retention price. And Govt. must foot the bill of 'emergent expenditure! Thus pressure is brought to bear upon the Govt. That is why a Reserve of Rs 35 lakhs set apart for Kulti Blast Furnace plant Rehabilitation has not been touched till 1957 (Vide Schedule 'B', - Reports and Accounts for the year ended 31st. March '57) But according to expert opinion several lakhs of rupees only are needed for Relining purpose, after which the Furnaces will get a new lease of life for at least 4 years. And no foreign exchange will be necessary for the same, the requisit materials being available from Kumardubhi Works or Howrah Burn.

Page three :-

Contd....

From what has been stated above, it would be clear that the proposed closure is wholly unwarranted by the situation obtaining at present. National interest demands that the IISCO authorities must not be allowed to have their own way, to close down the Kulti Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens, - to mint profits at the cost of country's interest. Rather, it will be criminal to deny the country of this much needed ingredients viz, pig iron & Coke by products by allowing them to be closed at this critical juncture.

In view of the above, we urge upon you immediately intervene in the larger interest of the country and for maintaining industrial peace which is sure to be disturbed if the Company takes any unilateral action. The closure of two Batteries of Coke Oven Plant at Kulti in 1954, led to serious labour unrest. Let no precipitate action be taken by the Company.

We propose that a Tripartite Conference be held immediately to explore ways and means so that the Plants in question may be maintained in production.

Awaiting an early reply from your good self.

Yours Sincerely,

(sd) T. Hussain

General Secretary.

Copy to S. A. Dange, M. P; President, U.I. & S. W. Union, Kulti- Burnpur
Mrs. Renu Chakravartty, M. P; Vice-President, Do.

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS.

Ref. No. WK/PER/7639

Kulti, 16th September, 1958.

N O T I C E

The Company invites applications from Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens employees of the Kulti Works for consideration by the Management for employment in the Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens of the Company's Burnpur Works.

Applications should be addressed to the Deputy Labour & Welfare Superintendent, Kulti Works, and must be submitted not later than 12 Noon of Thursday, the 25th September, 1958.

S. N. GUPTA
WORKS MANAGER.

G.

S. A. DANGE,

4 Ashok Road,
New Delhi

218
Sept 24, 1958

Com. Nitish Sett,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union,
Kendwa Road,
KULTI, Burdwan.

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd inst.
to Comrade Dange.

Comrade Dange is now in Moscow. He has
been admitted to the hospital there for treat-
ment and it is not as yet certain as to when
he is returning back.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

hmv
sep 24.
(K.G.Sriwastava)

24 SEP 1958

PHONE : BARAKAR 133

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

Dated, the 23rd Sept 1958.

To
Sri S. A. Dange M. P.
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Please find attached herewith a copy of the notice issued by the authorities, IISCO, Kulti Works. This shows that the Management is bent upon closing down the Blast Furnaces and Coke Oven Plants at Kulti resulting in retrenchment of about 1000 workers. This is the first step towards that. In this connection I would request you to please refer our letter of 30.8.58 addressed to you for other points.

From the news papers we learn that a Tripartite Conference on lay off is going to be held soon at all-India level. We believe that both Com. Renu and yourself will be participating in the said Tripartite talks.

I would request you to please bring this matter to the immediate notice of Sri Nanda, Union Labour Minister, in the capacity of the President of our Union and urge him to take necessary steps to stop this uncalled for retrenchment which might lead to serious labour unrest in this vital industry.

For your ready reference I quote below what sir Biren told in his chairman's speech, delivered at the annual general meeting of the Shareholders held on 11th Sept, 1957, regarding the closure of Kulti Furnaces.

" ... Govt. have recently requested that the Company should examine the possibility of the Kulti Blast Furnaces being maintained in production for a period of about four years. This position would be capable of achievement only by the incurring of considerable expenditure on the plant and our consulting Engineers are now examining the matter. In the meantime it has been indicated to Government that the Company would expect all such emergent expenditure to be met by Government and the retention price of iron to be adjusted in relation to the actual cost of production".
(P.2 - of printed speech)

Not only that. In the "Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1957" of IISCO, it is stated that Rs 35,00,000/- ~~Lakhs~~ (Thirty five lakhs) has been set apart for Kulti Blast Furnace Plant Rehabilitation.

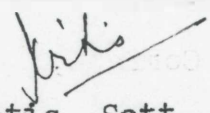
RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA

For your information we may state that no foreign exchange is now necessary for Relining purposes of Furnaces, the necessary materials being available from Kumardhubi Engineering Works or Howrah Burn Co.

Please do the needful and also instruct us as to what steps we should take in this regard apart from general agitation.

With love and best regards,

Yours affectionately,



(Nitis Sett.)

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like 'letter', 'connection', and 'other points' are faintly visible.]

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

18 SEP 1958

Head Office:

Phone :- BARAKAR 133

KENDWA ROAD,

P. O. KULTI

DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:

Phone :- ASANSOL 737

P. O. BURNPUR

DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

268

Dated the 16th Sept 1958.

Com. K. G. Sriwastava
Secy, A. I. T. U. C,
4, Ashok Road,
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Yesterday I had been to com. Bijoy Paul and ^{Com} the letter addressed to you by him re: Affiliation matters. So, I hasten to write this letter to you.

Please defer any action on the same till you hear from us again. We have discussed the matter and shall write to you soon as to steps taken or to be taken.

'T. U. record' for our Kulti Office is not coming since 5th August '58 issue. If subscriptions are to be renewed then we should be informed before stopping the same. Hope, you would enquire into the matter and do the needful.

Yes, two issues are missing from our File. They are nos. 12 (April 20) and 13 (June 20),- may be due to postal irregularities. Please send these back numbers and oblige.

I sent you postage stamps with /12/= for sending the Audit report which you could not find in Delhi Files of Com. Dange. Will you mind sending the following publications against the same?

✓ - Constitution of A.I.T.U.C. 12 N.P.
(latest)

Contd... ..

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone:— BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone — ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated 195

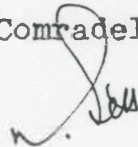
--: Page two :-

✓
- Earnings of Factory workers
during 1956 25 N.P.
x x x

Please inform us when Com. Dange's arrives back in India.

With regards

Comradely yours



(Nitis Sett)

P.S. Just now while sealing the envelop I got the issue no. 21, dated Sept 5. I am writing to the postal authorities as to the irregularity. But send the missing copies.

Dear the two booklets.
Sorry, no spare copy of the
magazine. We are sending
regularly. with love
Post Office
1/1/57

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :- BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :- ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No. CM/WB/9/58-1

Dated the 30th Sept 1958.

To
Dr. B. C. Roy,
Chief Minister,
Govt. of West Bengal,
Writer's Buildings,
Calcutta.

Dear Sir,

Please find attached herewith a copy of letter originally addressed to Shri G. L. Nanda, Union Labour Minister, which will speak for itself.

Hope, you would be good enough to take immediate action on the same in the interest of peace in this vital industry and in the larger interests of the country as well.

Yours sincerely,

(Taher Hussain)
General Secretary.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :— BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :— ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No. LM/WB/9/58 - 2

Dated the 30th Sept 1958.

To
The Labour Minister,
Govt. of West Bengal,
Writers' Buildings,
Calcutta - 1.

Dear Sir,

Please find attached herewith a copy of letter addressed to Sri G. L. Nanda, Union Labour Minister, New Delhi, which will speak for itself.

Hope, you would immediately intervene and take necessary steps so that peace in this important industry may not be disturbed.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Taher Hussain M. L. A.)
General Secretary.

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS.

Ref. No. WK/PER/7639

Kulti, 16th September, 1958.

N O T I C E .

The Company invites applications from Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens employees of the Kulti Works for consideration by the Management for employment in the Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens of the Company's Burnpur Works.

Applications should be addressed to the Deputy Labour & Welfare Superintendent, Kulti Works, and must be submitted not later than 12 Noon of Thursday, the 25th September, 1958.

S. N. GUPTA
WORKS MANAGER.

G.

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS.

Ref. No. WK/PER/7916

D/- 2nd October 1958.

N O T I C E .

To

All the workers of Blast Furnace
&
Coke Ovens Departments

It has been reported to us that workers in the Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens Departments are deliberately neglecting their duties and refusing to carry out instructions. Men concerned are hereby warned that those found responsible of endangering the property of the Company will be summarily dismissed. The Company will not accept any liability for loss of lives in case of accidents. The men dismissed will not receive retrenchment benefits and will not be considered for employment either at Burnpur or Government Plants.

Sd/- S. N. GUPTA.
WORKS MANAGER.

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS.

Ref. No. WK/PER/7952

Kulti, 3.10.58.

N O T I C E .

For the information of all concerned we give below a summary of the discussions which took place yesterday, the 2nd October between the Management and the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union in presence of the Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

1) No. 4 Blast Furnace and the Coke Oven Batteries would be closed down by the week ending 5.10.58. This inevitable factor could not be altered and the Union was requested to ensure smooth working to this end. No. 5 Blast Furnace would be shut down by the end of the current year.

2) The service of staff and workers of Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments would be retained for a period of one month from 6th October 1958 during which period efforts would be made to absorb as many as possible in Burnpur Works and Kulti Works. The Management would also arrange for the Hindusthan Limited to recruit their requirements of labour at Kulti.

3) It was impressed on the Union that all surplus staff and labour could not be absorbed at Kulti and Burnpur and they must be prepared to accept posts in the Government Steel Factories.

4) According to a rough estimate, Burnpur would be able to appoint approximately 350 men in No. 3 Blast Furnace and No. 9 Coke Oven Battery. These posts must be filled in immediately and unless the workers at Kulti apply for transfer, the posts would have to be filled in with new men.

5) The workers absorbed in Burnpur would retain continuity of service and terms & conditions would be similar to those at Kulti.

6) The Management would give full compensation benefits as laid down in the Industrial Disputes Act to those staff and workers who would ultimately have to be retrenched or who may voluntarily resign.

7) All future requirements inside the Kulti Works would be confined to the retrenched staff and workers from the Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments provided the men made themselves available and were found suitable.

The workers of the Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments are strongly advised to assist in the closing down of the plants and permit the Management to bring this major crisis to a satisfactory conclusion in due course.

Sd/- S. N. GUPTA
WORKS MANAGER.

SNG/G.

Telegram to
G. L. Nanda
Union Labour Minister,
New Delhi.

3/10/58.

IISCO authorities ordered immediate closure of Kulti Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens. National Interest demands continuing production of Iron-Steel. Thousand workers face Retrenchment. Serious Labour unrest apprehended. Pray intervene. Call Tripartite Conference as per Nainital decisions.

Tahir Hussain M. L. A.
Secretary United Iron & Steel
Workers' Union
Burnpur - Kulti.

Copy to

B. D. Joshi
Care A. I. T. U. C.
4 Ashok Road,
New Delhi.

Dr. Roy
Chief Minister,
West Bengal.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ASSISTANT LABOUR COMMISSIONER,
ASANSOL.

To
The General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union
Kendwa Road, Po. Kulti Dt. Burdwan.

Subject: Closure of Kulti Blast Furnaces
and Coke Ovens Plants.

No. 1684, dated 3rd October, 1958.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed herewith is a copy of letter No. WK/PER/7890, dated 1.10.58 from the Company. This is in reply to your letter No. ASL/ALC/9/58-4, dt. 22.9.58 and this explains the situation.

In confirmation to the telephonic talks with Sri Tahir Hossain, M.L.A. this morning I may further inform you that I had a detailed discussion with the management yesterday and also with the representatives of the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union. It appears that about 590 workmen would immediately be affected due to shut down of the Coke Ovens and the No. 4 Blast Furnaces and that about 450 workmen are likely to be affected in the course of next 3 months or so.

The management are agreeable to the following :-

(1) The services of the workmen to be immediately affected would be retained for one month from the date of shut down. In the meantime the workers who have already volunteered or would volunteer (altogether about 336) would be transferred to Burnpur and every possible attempt would be made to absorb as many as possible in the Kulti Works. Attempts would also be made for selection of as many as possible for employment in Govt. Steel Plants. The residue, if any, will have to be retrenched.

P. T. O.

(2) The workers who will voluntarily resign or are employed in the Govt. Steel Plants or retrenched, would be paid full retrenchment benefits as per the I.D.Act. In cases of recruitments after retrenchment the retrenched workers would be given preference provided they are available and suitable for the jobs.

(3) The workers transferred to Burnpur would be guaranteed the continuity of their services and their present wages. But there might be change in their designations. The management would also consider for providing transport to and from Burnpur till they can be provided with quarters at Burnpur.

It seems clear that the shut down of the Blast Furnaces and the Coke Ovens at Kulti are inevitable and can under no circumstances be avoided. It also appears that the Management are agreeable to help the workers in every possible way and are actually doing so. In these circumstances it is considered desirable that the workers and their unions should accept the positions as stated above and details of which are being worked out.

Yours faithfully,

(N. Bhattacharjee)
Assistant Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

Copy of a letter No. WK/PER/7890 dt. 1st Oct'58 from the Works Manager, Kulti Works to the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

We have for acknowledgement your letter No. 1665 ASL of the 26th Sept.

It has been decided to close down No. 4 Furnace and the Coke Ovens during the current week. We consider No.5 Furnace will be closed down by the end of the current year. The closing down of these plants has the approval of the Government of India.

We are attempting to absorb as many men as possible at Burnpur and the balance will have to be retrenched. We have discussed the subject with the Chairman of the Hindustan Steel Ltd., who has agreed to recruit suitable men from our retrenched labour for the Government plants at Durgapur and Villai. The Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union has been advised accordingly and a copy of our letter has been endorsed to you.

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

No.

Dated, the 4th Oct' 1958.

To
 Dr. B. C. Roy
 Chief Minister of West Bengal,
 Writer's Building
Calcutta.

Dear Dr. Roy,

A serious situation has arisen at the Kulti Works of the Indian Iron & Steel Company on 3rd Oct'58 when 750 workers of the Coke Oven and Blast Furnace have been served termination of service notices.

Of these men only 325 men have been offered jobs at Burnpur while the remaining 425 are to be retrenched with one months notice. Further more it has been notified that Blast Furnace No. 5 is to close down from January 1958 affecting another 1500 men.

All this has very much agitated the entire working staff and workers at Kulti.

We are of the opinion all these men can be absorbed in the new steel mills at Burnpur Kulti, where fresh recruitment is going on. It is only fair that the workers who have been serving the Company for so many years should be first guaranteed employment before fresh people are taken in. A second shift is also to be started at the Kulti Spun Pipe Dept. and with all these developments none of the staff who have been or are about to be declared surplus need to become unemployed.

As the retrenchment is to start from 5th Oct, we are approaching you to seek as weeks postponement, to discuss out matters and try to reach an amicable settlement which we think is easily possible. Any precipitate action at this stage will lead to untoward incidents, which you will agree we should all try to avoid.

We should be much obliged if you will meet us for a few minutes, so that we may explain to you our view point, we request you to treat this as urgent .

Awaiting an early reply.

Yours sincerely,

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
AND
THE ASANSOL IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION - KULTI.

Agreed between the Management and the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union at a meeting held in Kulti on 4.10.58 :-

1) No. 4 Furnace and C & D Coke Oven Batteries will be closed down immediately. The workers who will be rendered surplus by this shut down will be retained in employment on the following terms :-

a) Approximately 350 men of Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments will be transferred to Burnpur by next Monday.

b) Approximately 20 Nos. will be retained in the Coke Oven Department to operate the Tar Dehydrating Plant and handling of boiler ashes.

c) The balance approx. 140 Nos. will be retained in Kulti Roll and absorbed in Burnpur, Kulti or the Government Plants.

d) The men retained in Kulti Roll must be prepared to undertake to do work wherever they will be considered suitable by the Management and such work will have relation with their previous nature of job as far as practicable.

e) So long they remain surplus, they will get their present wages and D. A., and will be entitled to existing benefits and amenities except the production bonus.

f) When they are employed in any vacancy temporary or permanent, they will get their present wages and D. A. or wages and D. A. of the job whichever are higher and will be entitled to all benefits and amenities including production bonus as existent in the department during the period they are employed there.

The workers who will voluntarily resign or are employed in the Government Steel Plants will be paid full retrenchment benefits as per the Industrial disputes Act.

The workers transferred to Burnpur Works will be guaranteed continuity of their services and their present wages but there might be change in their designations.

The Management will provide transport to and from Burnpur or bachelor accommodation at Burnpur or daily bus fare between Kulti and Burnpur and back.

No. 5 Furnaces will be closed down by the end of the current year and the surplus labour will be dealt with under a separate agreement.

(K. C. PROSAD) 4/10/58
ON BEHALF OF THE
ASANSOL IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

(S. N. GUPTA) 4/10/58.
ON BEHALF OF THE
INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :- BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :- ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No. P.S./Kulti/10/58-2

Dated the 5th Oct' 1958.

To
The Officer-in-charge,
Kulti P.S.
Kulti.

Time 5-30 P.M.

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

Sub: Attack on the Workers of Blast
Furnaces

Dear Sir,

In confirmation to my telephonic message to you just now, I beg to state that information has been received some ten minutes back that some goonda elements, armed with lathis etc; attacked the workers on duty at the Blast Furnace at the instance of the Management, presumably to shut down the Furnace by force. They also pelted stones at the workers some of whom were injured, as well.

You are perhaps aware that a dispute has been going on re: the proposed closure of the Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens and only yesterday a deputation of ours waited on the Chief Minister, Dr. Roy. We have placed some concrete proposals to him for consideration and talks are still going on. Another negotiation will take place with the Labour Minister, on the 7th. instant.

Now, we want to make it clear that this industrial dispute should be settled through negotiations across the table and certainly not by coercion or goonda-attack. This is the worst provocation by the Management, only to prepare ground to call in police & military on some pretext. We urge upon you to immediately intervene in the interest of peace and persuade the Management not to resort to such underhand means. We assure you of our fullest co-operation in maintaining peace.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


General Secretary.

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

NITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Under Certificate of Posting.

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

CEIC/10/58-53

Dated the 5th Oct 1958.

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

To
The Chairman,
Central Evaluation & Implementation Committee,
C/O Union Labour Ministry,
New Delhi.

Sub: Violation of decisions of the 16th.
I. L. C. in closing down No. 4 Blast
Furnace and Coke Ovens at Kulti
Works of I I S C O.

Dear Sir,

Please find attached herewith the copy of letter addressed to Shri G. L. Nanda, Union Labour Minister, which will speak for itself.

A telegram was also sent to him subsequently, a copy of which is also attached.

We are also sending herewith copies of notices issued by the Management and of subsequent agreement with I N T U C Union etc.

Today, with the help of some black-legs and under police protection, the Management was able to shut down No. 4 Blast Furnace inspite of still opposition by workers, who demanded postponement of shut-down till an amicable settlement was reached guaranteeing alternative employment etc.

Now, we think it is fit case for intervention by you on the ground of violation of decisions of the 16th I.L.C. The Management is guilty of violation of the said decisions with impunity because it has been clearly stated, "... no total closure shut take place without three months' notice to the workers as well as to the Government." (emphasisours).

From a perusal of the documents sent herewith you will find that the Management issued notice to the workers only on the 3rd, instant informing them that, "... No. 4 Blast Furnace and the Coke Oven Batteries would be closed down by the week ending 5.10.58." The workers were faced with a fait accompli.

Not only that. The recognise Union belonging to INTUC was consulted only on 2.10.58. But that the decision was taken long ago is proved by the fact that the applications for employment at Burnpur were invited as per notice dated 16.9.58. Thus the Management took unilateral action for all practical purposes and to cover up the same they made an

4.10.58.

been reached was rejected unanimously in a mass meeting of workers, held on 5.10.58, where some ten thousand workers mustered strong. A resolution was passed unanimously rejecting the said agreement because it had no prior sanction and the terms of settlement were unacceptable to the workers.

In view of the above, we urge upon you to move your committee to intervene and do the needful in the interest of peace in this vital industry.

Yours sincerely,

Hussain

General Secretary.

Copy to Evaluation Committee, West Bengal.

to Sri B. D. Joshi, member Central Evaluation Committee.

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

No.

Dated, 6. 10. 1958.

To
The Hon'ble Labour Minister,
The Govt. of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

Ref. Our No. GOI/Lab/9/58-1 dated the 29th
September, 1958; Shut-down of Plants
at Kulti.

A reference is being invited to our letter quoted above, in which we had expressed our apprehension about the shut-down of Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens at the Kulti Works of the Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. Since our writing the above letter, serious developments have followed in quick succession, giving a fillip to an industrial turmoil in the 2nd biggest Steel Industry of India.

On our representation to the State Govt. and after our discussion with the Govt. representatives, it became evident that the Management the I I S C O Ltd. had been trying to close down the above units of the plants in calendestine manner, so much so that they have refrained even from disclosing the details of the plan, let alone the question of discussing the same with the representatives of the workmen. It also transpired during our discussion with the State Govt. that the Management had managed to secure the approval of the Union Govt. on the shut-down. It was a shocking surprise to us, no doubt, since we had an impression from the speech of Sir Biren delivered last year at the Shareholders' meeting that the Govt. had not given the Management permission to close down the plant for four years to come. Besides, the reason for closure as given out by Sir Biren could not be logically sustained. What was more shocking is this the Govt. which envisages socialist pattern of society, and cash in largely upon steel industry for the materialization of the 2nd Plan, should be so liberal in permitting a close-down of plants when extension, addition and establishment of plants are of primary concern to the Govt. Besides, even if it is taken for granted that the shut-down was inevitable it was the duty of the Govt. to see to the fate of the workmen employed in the instant plants. We are painfully constrained to say that the Govt. which has taken socialist pattern of society for the ultimate goal of the country, should so unconcernedly sacrifice the workmen at the altar of greed of one of the biggest moneybags of the country.

You will appreciate that our Union could not and can never accept

Incidentally, it may be pointed out that the Management of the Company had not complied with the principle laid down in the Labour conference in the matter of closure, and its decision in this respect, is to all intents and purposes, unilateral. This had given serious provocation to the workmen who are determined to fight this clandestine move of the Management, tooth and nail.

We find that, being baffled in their attempts, the Company took to some ruse, and hastily concluded an agreement on closure with the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union. The agreement in question is replete with more than one lacunae, and has not been accepted by the workmen whose approval was never sought before concluding the agreement. A meeting was held on 5.10.58 at Kulti under the auspices of the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union where a resolution was passed un voce rejecting the said agreement, and asking the Govt. to attempt conclusion of a fresh one on a tripartite basis, the view point of our union being duly taken into account.

We further point out that the Company has, meanwhile, started gangsterism on our workers with aid of the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union, and on the evening of 5th a number of goondas entered the Works by police help and attacked our workmen on duty with lathis and other lethal weapons. It has also come to our notice that the local police are helping the goondas and the Management in all possible ways to bring about a reign of chaos in the Works, and we apprehend that unless due steps are immediately taken, an uneviable situation may crop up.

We would, therefore, request your to kindly intervene immediately and take in hand the issue so that industrial peace obtaining in this area is not unnecessarily disturbed.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd) T. Hussain

General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Copy to the Hon'ble Labour Minister, Govt. of West Bengal for information

- Do Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of West Bengal. This has ref. to our discussion dated 4.10.58.
- Do Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol for information and necessary action.
- Do S. D. O. Asansol for necessary action.

CHIEF MINISTER
Government of West Bengal
C a l c u t t a

The 7th October, 1958.

To
Shri Tahir Hossain,
B u r n p u r .

This is to inform you that I heard from the Central Labour Minister, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, last night that of the 750 people employed in No. 4 furnace, and C & D Battery which has been closed down, 610 will find employment either in Burnpur or in Kulti and that the Central Government undertakes to put the balance of the employees, viz 140, in Rourkella or in some of the Central Government Steel Plant within a period of one month & stipulated in the letter of the Assistant Labour Commissioner or as early as possible.

Sd/- B. C. Roy

H/-

Copy of Telegram

7. 10. 58

Gulzari Lall Nanda
Union Labour Minister,
New Delhi.

Ref your telephone talk with Doctor Roy today in our presence regarding Kulti affairs doubts still exist as to the time of absorption of redundant personal in Govt. plant. Workers want positive assurance that they must get all emoluments till their employment in Govt Plant either from the Company or the Govt. Also they want assurance that their selection for employment in Burnpur shall be made on seniority basis and not arbitrary.

Your immediate confirmation on the above points should reach me at Burnpur.

Incidentally, workers extremely agitated. Untoward situation may crop up. As a responsible citizen of India I bring this to your notice.

Tahir Hussain M. L. A.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :- BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :- ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated the 8th Oct' 1958.

To
The Asst. Labour Commissioner,
ASANSOL.

Re: Shutdown of Plants at Kulti.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter No.1684 Asl of 3rd Oct, '58, and in reference to the talk we had with the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Labour Minister of West Bengal yesterday, we would request you to kindly obtain clarification from the Company immediately on the following points.

- (a) Whether the Company is agreeable to transfer the workmen to Burnpur in the basis of seniority.
- (b) Whether the Company will continue to keep the balance 140 workmen on the roll of the Company and pay them their emoluments till they are duly employed.

The matter may kindly be treated as most urgent, and the results of your query be intimated to us at an early date.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(sd) T. Hussain
General Secretary.

(P)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ASSISTANT LABOUR COMMISSIONER,
ASANSOL.

To
The General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union
Kendwa Road, Po. Kulti Dt. Burdwan.

Subject: Closure of Kulti Blast Furnaces
and Coke Ovens Plants.

No. 1684, dated 3rd October, 1958.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed herewith is a copy of letter No. WK/PER/7890, dated 1.10.58 from the Company. This is in reply to your letter No. ASL/ALC/9/58-4, dt. 22.9.58 and this explains the situation.

In confirmation to the telephonic talks with Sri Tahir Hossain, M.L.A. this morning I may further inform you that I had a detailed discussion with the management yesterday and also with the representatives of the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union. It appears that about 590 workmen would immediately be affected due to shut down of the Coke Ovens and the No. 4 Blast Furnaces and that about 450 workmen are likely to be affected in the course of next 3 months or so.

The management are agreeable to the following :-

(1) The services of the workmen to be immediately affected would be retained for one month from the date of shut down. In the meantime the workers who have already volunteered or would volunteer (altogether about 336) would be transferred to Burnpur and every possible attempt would be made to absorb as many as possible in the Kulti Works. Attempts would also be made for selection of as many as possible for employment in Govt. Steel Plants. The residue, if any, will have to be retrenched.

P. T. O.

(2) The workers who will voluntarily resign or are employed in the Govt. Steel Plants or retrenched, would be paid full retrenchment benefits as per the I.D.Act. In cases of recruitments after retrenchment the retrenched workers would be given preference provided they are available and suitable for the jobs.

(3) The workers transferred to Burnpur would be guaranteed the continuity of their services and their present wages. But there might be change in their designations. The management would also consider for providing transport to and from Burnpur till they can be provided with quarters at Burnpur.

It seems clear that the shut down of the Blast Furnaces & the Coke Ovens at Kulti are inevitable and can under no circumstances be avoided. It also appears that the Management are agreeable to help the workers in every possible way and are actually doing so. In these circumstances it is considered desirable that the workers and their unions should accept the positions as stated above and details of which are being worked out.

Yours faithfully,

(N. Bhattacharjee)
Assistant Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS.

Ref.No. WK/PER/7916

D/- 2nd October, 1958.

N O T I C E .

To
All the workers of Blast Furnace
&
Coke Ovens Departments.

It has been reported to us that workers in the Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens Departments are deliberately neglecting their duties and refusing to carry out instructions. Men concerned are hereby warned that those found responsible of endangering the property of the Company will be summarily dismissed. The Company will not accept any liability for loss of lives in case of accidents. The men dismissed will not receive retrenchment benefits and will not be considered for employment either at Burnpur or Government Plants.

Sd/- S. N. GUPTA.
WORKS MANAGER.

Telegram to
G. L. Nanda
Union Labour Minister,
New Delhi.

3/10/58.

IISCO authorities ordered immediate closure of Kulti Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens. National Interest demands continuing production of Iron-Steel. Thousand workers face Retrenchment. Serious Labour unrest apprehended. Pray intervene. Call Tripartite Conference as per Nainital decisions.

Tahir Hussain M. L. A.
Secretary United Iron & Steel Workers'
Union Burnpur-Kulti.

Copy to

B. D. Joshi
Care A. I. T.U. C.
4 Ashok Road,
New Delhi.

Dr. Roy
Chief Minister,
West Bengal.

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS.

Ref.No. WK/PER/7916

D/- 2nd October, 1958.

N O T I C E .

To

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&
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Sd/- S. N. GUPTA.
WORKS MANAGER.

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS.

Ref. No. WK/PER/7952

Kulti, 3. 10. 58.

N O T I C E .

For the information of all concerned we give below a summary of the discussions which took place yesterday, the 2nd October between the Management and the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union in presence of the Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

1) No. 4 Blast Furnace and the Coke Oven Batteries would be closed down by the week ending 5.10.58. This inevitable factor could not be altered and the Union was requested to ensure smooth working to this end. No. 5 Blast Furnace would be shut down by the end of the current year.

2) The services of staff and workers of Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments would be retained for a period of one month from 6th October 1958 during which period efforts would be made to absorb as many as possible in Burnpur Works and Kulti Works. The Management would also arrange for the Hindusthan Limited to recruit their requirements of labour at Kulti.

3) It was impressed on the Union that all surplus staff and labour could not be absorbed at Kulti and Burnpur and they must be prepared to accept posts in the Government Steel Factories.

4) According to a rough estimate, Burnpur would be able to appoint approximately 350 men in No. 3 Blast Furnace and No. 9 Coke Oven Battery. These posts must be filled in immediately and unless the workers at Kulti apply for transfer, the posts would have to be filled in with new men.

5) The workers absorbed in Burnpur would retain continuity of service and terms & conditions would be similar to those at Kulti.

6) The Management would give full compensation benefits as laid down in the Industrial Disputes Act to those staff and workers who would ultimately have to be retrenched or who may voluntarily resign.

7) All future requirements inside the Kulti Works would be confined to the retrenched staff and workers from the Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments provided the men made themselves available and were found suitable.

The workers of the Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments are strongly advised to assist in the closing down of the plants and permit the Management to bring this major crisis to a satisfactory conclusion in due course.

Sd/- S. N. GUPTA.
WORKS MANAGER.

(B)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

OFFICE OF The Regional Assistant Labour Commissioner,
Asansol

To
The General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union,
Kendwa Road, P.O. Kulti.
Dt. Burdwan.

Sub: Closure of Kulti Blast Furnaces
and Coke Ovens Plants.

No. 1684 ASL, dated 3rd October, 1958.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed herewith is a copy of letter No. WK/PER/7890, dated 1.10.58 from the Company, This is in reply to your letter No. ASL/ALC/9/58-4, 22.9.58 and this explains the situation.

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The management are agreeable to the following :-

- (1) The services of the workmen to be immediately affected would be retained for one month from the date of shutdown. In the meantime the workers who have already volunteered or would volunteer (altogether about 336) would be transferred to Burnpur and every possible attempt would be made to absorb as many as possible in the Kulti Works. Attempts would also be made for selection of as many as possible for employment in Govt. Steel Plants. The residue, if any, will have to be retrenched.
- (2) The workers who will voluntarily resign or are employed in the Govt. Steel Plants or retrenched, would be paid full retrenchment benefits as per the I.D. Act. In cases of recruitments after retrenchment the retrenched workers would be given preference provided they are available and suitable for the jobs.
- (3) The workers transferred to Burnpur would be guaranteed the continuity of their services and their present wages. But there might be change in their designations. The Management would also consider for providing transport to and from Burnpur till they can be provided with quarters at Burnpur.

It seems clear that the shut down of the Blast Furnaces and the Coke Ovens at Kulti are inevitable and can under no circumstances be avoided. It also appears that the Management are agreeable to help the workers in every possible way and are actually doing so. In these circumstances it is considered desirable that the workers



and their unions should accept the position as stated above and details of which are being worked out.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd/- N. Bhattacharjee)
Assistant Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

Dear Sir,

In continuation to the letter dated 1.10.54 from the Company, this is to inform you that the management has decided to shut down the Coke Oven at Asansol about 500 men would be affected next month or so.

- The management has requested the following:
- (1) The services of the workers to be affected would be retained for a date of shutdown. The management have already volunteered to work together about 800 would be absorbed as many as possible at Asansol and every possible attempt would also be made for as possible for employment in Govt. residue, if any, will have to be retained.
 - (2) The workers who will voluntarily opted in the Govt. steel plant and did full retirement benefits in cases of retrenchments since retrenched workers would be given they are available and suitable.
 - (3) The workers transferred to other the continuity of their services. The management would also consider transport to and from Burdwan provided with quarters at Burdwan.

It seems clear that the shut down of the Coke Oven at Asansol is inevitable and the management has also expressed its willingness to accept the position as stated above and details of which are being worked out.

Copy of a letters No.WK/PER/7890 dated 1st Oct'58 from the Works Manager, I. I. S. CO Ltd.Kulti Works to the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

We have for acknowledgement your letter No. 1665 ASL.of the 26th September,

It has been decided to close down No. 4 Furnace and the Coke Ovens during the current week. We consider No. 5 Furnace will be closed down by the end of the current year. The closing down of these plants has the approval of the Government of India.

We are attempting to absorb as many men as possible at Burnpur and the balance will have to be retrenched. We have discussed the subject with the Chairman of the Hindusthan Steel Ltd., who has agreed to recruit suitable men from our retrenched labour for the Government plants at Durgapur and Villai. The Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union has been advised accordingly and a copy of our letter has been endorsed to you.

-----*****-----

HSD/-

3.10.58.

(8)

United Iron & Steel Workers Union.

Head Office :— KULTI.
(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD.)

Office :—
KULTI STATION ROAD,
P. O. KULTI,
(Burdwan)



Ref. No.....

Dated: ~~the~~ 4th Oct 1958.

To
Dr. B. C. Roy,
Chief Minister of West Bengal,
Writer's Building
Calcutta.

Dear Dr. Roy,

A serious situation has arisen at the Kulti Works of the Indian Iron & Steel Company on 3rd Oct '58 when 750 workers of the Coke Oven and Blast Furnace have been served termination of service notices.

Of these men only 325 men have been offered jobs at Burnpur while the remaining 425 are to be retrenched with one months notice. Further more it has been notified that Blast Furnace No.5 is to close down from January 1958 affecting another 1500 men.

All this has very much agitated the entire working staff and workers at Kulti.

We are of the opinion all these men can be absorbed in the new steel mills at Burnpur Kulti, where fresh recruitment is going on. It is only fair that the workers who have been serving the Company for so many years should be first guaranteed employment before fresh people are taken in. A second shift is also to be started at the Kulti Iron Pipe Dept. and with all these developments none of the staff who have been or are about to be declared surplus need to become unemployed.

As the retrenchment is to start from 5th Oct, we are approaching you to seek as weeks postponement, to discuss our matters and try to reach an amicable settlement which we think is easily possible. Any precipitate action at this stage will lead to untoward incidents, which you will agree we should all try to avoid.

We should be much obliged if you will meet us for a few minutes, so that we may explain to you our view point, we request you to treat this as urgent.

awaiting an early reply.

Yours faithfully,

Baru Chandra Roy,
Vice-President.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
AND
THE ASANSOL IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION - KULTI.

Agreed between the Management and the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union at a meeting held in Kulti on 4.10.58:-

1) No. 4 Furnace and C & D Coke Oven Batteries will be closed down immediately. The workers who will be rendered surplus by this shut down will be retained in employment on the following terms :-

a) Approximately 350 men of Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments will be transferred to Burnpur by next Monday.

b) Approximately 20 Nos. will be retained in the Coke Oven Department to operate the Tar Dehydrating Plant and handling of boiler ashes.

c) The balance approx. 140 Nos. will be retained in Kulti Roll and absorbed in Burnpur, Kulti or the Government Plants.

d) The men retained in Kulti Roll must be prepared to undertake to do work wherever they will be considered suitable by the Management and such work will have relation with their previous nature of job as far as practicable.

e) So long they remain surplus, they will get their present wages and D. A., and will be entitled to existing benefits and amenities except the production bonus.

f) When they are employed in any vacancy temporary or permanent, they will get their present wages and D. A. or wages and D.A. of the job whichever are higher and will be entitled to all benefits and amenities including production bonus as existent in the department during the period they are employed there.

The workers who will voluntarily resign or are employed in the Government Steel Plants will be paid full retrenchment benefits as per the Industrial Disputes Act.

The workers transferred to Burnpur Works will be guaranteed continuity of their services and their present wages but there might be change in their designations.

The Management will provide transport to and from Burnpur or bachelor accommodation at Burnpur or daily bus fare between Kulti and Burnpur and back.

No. 5 Furnaces will be closed down by the end of the current year and the surplus labour will be dealt with under a separate agreement.

(K. C. PROSAD) 4/10/58
ON BEHALF OF THE
ASANSOL IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

(S. N. GUPTA) 4/10/58.
ON BEHALF OF THE
INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone — BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone — ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No. P.S./Kulti/10/58-2

Dated the 5th Oct. 1958.

To
The Officer-in-charge,
Kulti P. S.
Kulti.

Time 5-30 P. M.

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

Sub: Attack on the workers of Blast
Furnace.

Dear Sir,

In confirmation to my telephonic message to you just now, I beg to state that information has been received some ten minutes back that some goonda elements, armed with lathis etc; attacked the workers on duty at the Blast Furnace at the instance of the Management, presumably to shut down the Furnace by force. They also pelted stones at the workers some of whom were injured, as well.

You are perhaps aware that a dispute has been going on re: the proposed closure of the Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens and only yesterday a deputation of ours waited on the Chief Minister, Dr. Roy. We have placed some concrete proposals to him for consideration and talks are still going on. Another negotiation will take place with the Labour Minister, on the 7th. instant.

Now, we want to make it clear that this industrial dispute should be settled through negotiations across the table and certainly not by coercion or goonda-attack. This is that worst provocation by the Management, only to prepare ground to call in police & military on some pretext. We urge upon you to immediately intervene in the interest of peace and persuade the Management not to resort to such underhand means. We assure you of our fullest co-operation in maintaining peace.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :- BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :- ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No. P. S. /Kulti/10/58-8

Dated the 5th Oct. 1958.

To
The Officer-in-charge,
Kulti P. S.
Kulti.

Time 5-30 P. M.

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

Sub: Attack on the workers of Blast
Furnace.

Dear Sir,

In confirmation to my telephonic message to you just now, I beg to state that information has been received some ten minutes back that some goonda elements, armed with lathis etc; attacked the workers on duty at the Blast Furnace at the instance of the Management, presumably to shut down the Furnace by force. They also pelted stones at the workers some of whom were injured, as well.

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Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(N. Sett)
For General Secretary.

United Iron & Steel Workers Union.

Head Office :— KULTI.
(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD.)

Office :—
KULTI STATION ROAD,
P. O. KULTI,
(Burdwan)



Under Certificate of Posting.

f. No. CBIC/10/58-58

Dated the 5th Oct. 1958.

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

To
The Chairman,
Central Evaluation & Implementation Committee,
C/O Union Labour Ministry,
New Delhi.

Sub: Violation of decisions of the 16th. I.L.C.
in closing down No.4 Blast Furnace and
Coke Ovens at Kulti Works I I S C O .

Dear Sir,

Please find attached herewith the copy of letter addressed to Shri G. L. Nanda, Union Labour Minister, which will speak for itself.

A telegram was also sent to him subsequently, a copy of which is also attached.

We are also sending herewith copies of notices issued by the Management and of subsequent agreement with I N T U C Union etc.

Today, with the help of some black-legs and under police protection, the Management was able to shut down No.4 Blast Furnace in spite of still opposition by workers, who demanded postponement of shut-down till an amicable settlement was reached guaranteeing alternative employment etc.

Now, we think it is fit case for intervention by you on the ground of violation of decisions of the 16th I.L.C. The Management is guilty of violation of the said decisions with impunity because it has been clearly stated, "..... no total closure shut take place without three months! to the workers as well as to the Government ! (emphasis ours).

From a perusal of the documents sent herewith you will find that the Management issued notice to the workers only on the 3rd, instant informing them that, " ...No.4 Blast Furnace and the Coke Oven Batteries would be closed down by the week ending 5.10.58! The workers were faced with a fait accompli.

Not only that. The recognise Union belonging to INTUC was consulted only on 2.10.58. But that the decision was taken long ago is proved by the fact that the applications for employment at Burnpur were invited as per notice dated 16.8.58 Thus the Management took 'unilateral action' for all practical purposes and to cover up the same they made an agreement with the INTUC Union only on 4.10.58.

Here again there has been violation of "Constitutional Functions of trade Unions" by the INTUC Union because no sanction of the mass of workers was taken before signing of the agreement. Rather, the agreement that has been reached was rejected unanimously by the workers.

In view of the above, we urge upon you to move your committee to intervene and do the needful in the interest of peace in this vital industry.

Yours sincerely,

(T. Hussain)

Copy to Evaluation Committee, West Bengal.

Sri. B. D. Joshi, member Central Evaluation Committee.

United Iron & Steel Workers Union.

Head Office :— KULTI.
(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD.)

Office :—
KULTI STATION ROAD,
P. O. KULTI,
(Burdwan)



Ref. No.....

Dated 6.10.1958.

To
The Hon'ble Labour Minister,
The Govt. of India,
New Delhi.

Ref: Our No. GOI/Lab/S/58-1 dated the 29th
September, 1958: Shut-down of Plants
at Kulti.

Dear Sir,

A reference is being invited to our letter quoted above, in which we had expressed our apprehension about the shut-down of Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens at the Kulti Works of the Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. Since our writing the above letter, serious developments have followed in quick succession, giving a fillip to an industrial turmoil in the 2nd biggest Steel Industry of India.

On our representation to the State Govt. and after our discussion with the Govt. representatives, it became evident that the Management of the IISCO Ltd. had been trying to close down the above units of the plants in a calamitous manner, so much so that they refrained even from disclosing the details of the plan, let alone the question of discussing the same with the representatives of the workmen. It is also transpired during our discussion with the State Govt. that the Management had managed to secure the approval of the Union Govt. on the shut-down. It was a shocking surprise to us, no doubt, since we had an impression from the speech of Sir Biren delivered last year at the Shareholders' meeting that the Govt. had not given the Management permission to close down the plant for four years to come. Besides, the reason for closure as given out by Sir Biren could not be logically sustained. What was more shocking is that the Govt. which envisages a socialist pattern of society, and cashes largely upon the Steel Industry for the materialization of the 2nd Plan, should be so liberal in permitting a close-down of plants when extension, addition and establishment of plants are of primary concern to the Govt. Besides, even if it is taken for granted that the shut-down was inevitable it was the duty of the Govt. to see to the fate of the workmen employed in the instant plants. We are painfully constrained to say that the Govt. which has taken a socialist pattern of society for the ultimate goal of the country, should so unconcernedly sacrifice the workmen at the altar of greed of one of the biggest money bags of the country.

You will appreciate that our Union could not and can never accept this position and will be striving its utmost to secure the absorption of all the workmen affected by the close-down.

We find that, being baffled in their attempts, the Company took to some ruse, and hastily concluded an agreement on closure with the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union. The agreement in question is replete with more than one lacunae, and has not been accepted by the workmen whose approval was never sought before concluding the agreement. A meeting was held on 5.10.58 at Kulti under the auspices of the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union where a resolution was passed un voce rejecting the said agreement, and asking the Govt. to attempt conclusion of a fresh one on a tripartite basis, the view point of our union being duly taken into account.

We further point out that the Company has, meanwhile, started gangsterism on our workers with aid of the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union, and on the evening of 5th a number of goondas entered the Works by police help and attacked our workmen on duty with lathis and other lethal weapons. It has also come to our notice that the local police are helping the goondas and the Management in all possible ways to bring about a reign of chaos in the Works, and we apprehend that unless due steps are immediately taken, an uneviable situation may crop up.

We would, therefore, request your to kindly intervene immediately and take in hand the issue so that industrial peace obtaining in this area is not unnecessarily disturbed.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd/- T.Hussain)
General Secretary.

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Copy to the Hon'ble Labour Minister, Govt. of West Bengal for information

- Do Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of West Bengal. This has ref. to our discussion dated 4.10.58.
- Do Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol for information and necessary action.
- Do S. D. O. Asansol for necessary action.

C H I E F M I N I S T E R
Government of West Bengal
C a l c u t t a

The 7th October, 1958.

To
Shri Tahir Hossain,
Burnpur.

This is to inform you that I heard from the Central Labour Minister, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, last night that of the 750 people employed in No.4 Furnace, and C & D Battery which has been closed-down, 610 will find employment either in Burnpur or in Kulti and that the Central Government undertakes to put the balance of the employees, viz 140, in Rourkella or in some of the Central Government Steel Plant within a period of one month & stipulated in the letter of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, or as early as possible

Sa/- B. C. Roy

H/-

C O P Y O F T E L E G R A M.

7. 10. 58.

Gulzari Lali Nanda,
Union Labour Minister,
New Delhi.

Ref your telephone talk with Doctor Roy today in our presence regarding Kulti affairs doubts still exist as to the time of absorption of redundant personal in Govt. Plant. Workers want positive assurance that they must get all emolument till their employment in Govt. Plant either from the Company or the Govt. Also they want assurance that their selection for employment in Burnpur shall be made on seniority basis and not arbitrary.

Your immediate confirmation on the above points should reach me at Burnpur.

Incidentally, workers extremely agitated. Untoward situation may crop up. As a responsible citizen of India I bring this to your notice.

Tahir Hussain, M. L. A.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :— BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :— ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated the 8th Oct. 1958.

To
The Asst. Labour Commissioner,
Asansol.

Re: Shut-down of Plants at Kulti.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter No.1684 ASL of 3rd Oct, '58, and in reference to the talk we had with the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Labour Minister of West Bengal yesterday, we would request you to kindly obtain clarification from the Company immediately on the following points.

- (a) Whether the Company is agreeable to transfer the workmen to Burnpur in the basis of seniority.
- (b) Whether the Company will continue to keep the balance 140 workmen on the roll of the Company and pay them their emoluments till they are duly employed.

The matter may kindly be treated as most urgent, and the result of your query be intimated to us at an early date.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

General Secretary.

10 OCT 1958

PHONE : BARAKAR 133

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Under certificate of posting.

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

EIG/10/58-2

Dated, the 5th. Oct., 1958.

To
The Chairman,

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

Central Evaluation & Implementation Committee,
c/o Union Labour Ministry,
New Delhi.

Sub: Violation of decisions of the 16th. I.L.C. in closing
down No.4 Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens at Kulti Works
of IISCo.

Dear Sir,

Please find attached herewith the copy of letter addressed to Shri G.L.Nanda,
Union Labour Minister, which will speak for itself.

A telegram was also sent to him subsequently, a copy of which is also attached.

We are also sending herewith copies of notices issued by the Management and
of subsequent agreement with INTUC Union etc.

Today, with the help of some black-legs and under police protection, the Management
was able to shut down No.4 Blast Furnace inspite of stiff opposition by workers, ~~xxx~~
who demanded postponement of shut-down till an amicable settlement was reached
guaranteeing alternative employment etc.

Now, we think it is fit case for intervention by you on the ground of violation
of decisions of the 16th. I.L.C. The Management is guilty of violation of the said
decisions with impunity because it has been clearly stated, ".... no total closure
should take place without three months' notice to the workers as well as to the
Government." (emphasis ours).

From a perusal of the documents sent herewith you will find that the Management
issued notice to the workers only on the 3rd, instant informing them that, "...No.4 Blast
Furnace and the Coke Oven Batteries would be closed down by the week ending 5.10.58."
The workers were faced with a fait accompli.

Not only that. The recognised Union belonging to INTUC was consulted only on
2.10.58. But the decision was taken long ago is proved by the fact that the applications
for employment at Burnpur were invited as per notice dated 16.9.58. Thus the Management
took 'unilateral action' for all practical purposes and to cover up the same they made
an agreement with the INTUC Union only on 4.10.58.

unanimously in a mass meeting of workers, held on 5.10.58, where some ten thousand workers

and no prior sanction and the terms of settlement were unacceptable to the workers.

In view of the above, we urge upon you to move your committee to intervene and be needful in the interest of peace in this vital industry.

Yours sincerely,

Hussain
General Secretary.

- ✓ to Evaluation committee, West Bengal.
- ✓ to Sri B.D.Joshi, members Central Evaluation committee.

Joshi, Other relevant papers have already been sent to you.

*File
12/13*

October 6, 1958

General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers Union,
KULTI, Burdwan, W.Bengal

Dear Comrade,

We have received your telegram
addressed to Com.B.D.Joshi.

We were expecting a detailed memo-
randum on the subject from you,
further to the telegram, which would
help us to move the authorities
concerned. But we have not received
any such details so far.

Please therefore arrange to send
us details of the proposed closure
at your earliest.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

mm
6/8
(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

8 OCT 1958

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,
P. O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)



Phone No. Asl. 737

Ref. No.

Dated 6.10.58. 195

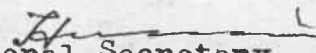
To
Com.K.G.Srivastava,
New-Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

We are sending herewith papers relating to shut-down of Kulti Plants. Kindly hand over these papers to the representative on our behalf (A.I.T.U.C) at the Evaluation Committee to discuss the matter with the proper representative of the Govt without delay.

With greetings,

Comly Yours


General Secretary.

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

tation Road,
O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)



Phone No. Asl. 737

No.

Dated 6-10-1958

The Hon'ble Labour Minister,
The Govt. of India,
New Delhi.

Dear sir,

Ref. our No. COI/Lab/9/58-1 dated the 29th September,
1958 ; Shut-down of plants at Kulti.

A reference is being invited to our letter quoted above, in which we had expressed our apprehension about the shut-down of Blast Furnace and cokeovens at the Kulti Works of the Indian Iron & Steel Co.Ltd., since our writing the above letter, serious developments have followed in quick succession, giving a fillip to an industrial turmoil in the ~~the~~ biggest Steel Industry of India.

On our representation to the State Govt. and after our discussion with the Govt. representatives, it became evident that the Management of the I.I.S.Co.Ltd. had been ~~trying to close down the~~ trying to close down the above units of the plants in a Calandestine manner, so much so that they had ~~refrained even from~~ refrained even from ~~discussing the details of the plan, let alone the question of~~ disclosing the details of the plan, let alone the question of discussing the same with the representatives of the workmen. It also transpired during our discussion with the State Govt. that the Management had managed to secure the approval of the Union Govt. on the shut-down. It was a shocking surprise to us, no doubt, since we had an impression from the speech of Sri Biren delivered last year at the Shareholders' meeting that the Govt. had not given the Management permission to close down the plant for four years to come. Besides, the reason for closure as given out by Sir Biren could not be logically sustained. What was more shocking is this the Govt. which envisages socialist pattern of society, and cash in largely

Steel Industry for the materialization of the 2nd Plan, should be so establishment of plants are of primary concern, to the Govt.

Besides, Even if it is taken for granted that the shut-down was inevitable it was the duty of the Govt. to see to the fate of the workmen employed in the instant plants. We are painfully constrained to say that the Govt. has taken socialist pattern of society for the ultimate goal of the country should ~~some~~ unconcernedly sacrifice the workmen at the altar of greed of one of the biggest moneybags of the country.

You will appreciate that our Union could no and can never accept this position and will be striving its utmost to secure the absorption of all the workmen affected by the close-down.

Incidentally, it may be pointed out that the Management of the Company had not complied with the principle laid down in the Labour conference in the matter of closure, and its decision in this respect is, to all intents and purposes, unilateral. This has given serious provocation to the workmen who are determined to fight this clandestine move of the Management tooth and nail.

We find that being baffled in their attempts, the Company took to some ruse, and hastily concluded an agreement on closure with the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union. The agreement in question is replete with more than one lacunae, and has not been accepted by the workmen whose approval was never sought before concluding the agreement. A meeting was held on 5.10.58 at Kulti under the auspices of the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union where a resolution was passed un voce rejecting the said agreement, and asking the Govt. to attempt ~~an~~ conclusion of a fresh one on a tripartite basis, the viewpoint of our union being duly taken into account.

We further point out that the Company has, meanwhile, started gangsterism on our workers with aid of the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union, and on the evening of 5th a number of goondas entered the Works by police help and attacked our workmen on duty with lathis and other lethal weapons. It has also come to our notice that the local police are helping the goondas and the Management in all possible ways to bring about a reign of chaos in the Works, and we apprehend that unless due steps are immediately taken, an unenviable situation may crop up.

We would, therefore, request your to kindly intervene immediately and take in hand the issue so that industrial peace obtaining in this area is not unnecessarily disturbed.

Thanking you,

Yours Faithfully,

[Signature]
General Secretary,

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

- Copy to the Hon 'ble Labour Minister, Govt. of West Bengal for information
- do- the Hon 'ble Chief Minister, Govt. West Bengal. This has ref. to our discusssion dated 4.10.58
 - do- the Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol for information and necessar: action
 - do- the S.D.O., Asansol for necessary action.

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Thanking you,

Yours Faithfully,


General Secretary,

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

- Copy to the Hon'ble Labour Minister, Govt. of West Bengal for information
- do- the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. West Bengal. This has ref. to our discussion dated 4.10.58
 - do- the Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol for information and necessary action
 - do- the S.D.O., Asansol for necessary action.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
AND
THE ASANSOL IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION - KULTI.

Agreed between the Management and the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union at a meeting held in Kultli on 4.10.58:-

1) No.4 Furnace and C&D Coke Oven Batteries will be closed down immediately. The workers who will be rendered surplus by this shut down will be retained in employment on the following terms :-

a) Approximately 350 men of Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments will be transferred to Burnpur by next Monday.

b) Approximately 20 Nos. will be retained in the Coke Oven Department to operate the Tar Dehydrating Plant and handling of boiler ashes.

c) The balance approx. 140 Nos. will be retained in Kultli Roll and absorbed in Burnpur, Kultli or the Government Plants.

d) The men retained in Kultli Roll must be prepared to undertake to do work wherever they will be considered suitable by the Management and such work will have relation with their previous nature of job as far as practicable.

e) So long they remain surplus, they will get their present wages and D.A., and will be entitled to existing benefits and amenities except the production bonus.

f) When they are employed in any vacancy temporary or permanent, they will get their present wages and D.A. or wages and D.A. of the job whichever are higher and will be entitled to all benefits and amenities including production bonus as existent in the department during the period they are employed there.

The workers who will voluntarily resign or are employed in the Government Steel Plants will be paid full retrenchment benefits as per the Industrial Disputes Act.

The workers transferred to Burnpur Works will be guaranteed continuity of their services and their present wages but there might be change in their designations.

The Management will provide transport to and from Burnpur or bachelor accomodation at Burnpur or daily bus fare between Kultli and Burnpur and back.

No. 5 Furnaces will be closed down by the end of the current year and the surplus labour will be dealt with under a separate agreement.

(K. C. PROSAD) 4/10/58
ON BEHALF OF THE
ASANSOL IRON & STEEL WORKERS'
UNION.

(S. N. GUPTA) 4/10/58.
ON BEHALF OF THE
INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ASSISTANT LABOUR COMMISSIONER,
ASANSOL.

To
The General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union
Kendwa Road, Po. Kulti Dt. Burdwan.

Subject: Closure of Kulti Blast Furnaces
and Coke Ovens Plants.

No. 1684, dated 3rd October, 1958.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed herewith is a copy of letter No. WK/PER/7890, dated 1.10.58 from the Company. This is in reply to your letter No. ASL/ALC/9/58-4, dt. 22.9.58 and this explains the situation.

In confirmation to the telephonic talks with Sri Tahir Hossain, M.L.A. this morning I may further inform you that I had a detailed discussion with the management yesterday and also with the representatives of the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union. It appears that about 590 workmen would immediately be affected due to shut down of the Coke Ovens and the No. 4 Blast Furnaces and that about 450 workmen are likely to be affected in the course of next 3 months or so.

The management are agreeable to the following :-

(1) The services of the workmen to be immediately affected would be retained for one month from the date of shut down. In the meantime the workers who have already volunteered or would volunteer (altogether about 336) would be transferred to Burnpur and every possible attempt would be made to absorb as many as possible in the Kulti Works. Attempts would also be made for selection of as many as possible for employment in Govt. Steel Plants. The residue, if any, will have to be retrenched.

P. T. O.

(2) The workers who will voluntarily resign or are employed in the Govt. Steel Plants or retrenched, would be paid full retrenchment benefits as per the I.D.Act. In cases of recruitments after retrenchment the retrenched workers would be given preference provided they are available and suitable for the jobs.

(3) The workers transferred to Burnpur would be guaranteed the continuity of their services and their present wages. But there might be change in their designations. The management would also consider for providing transport to and from Burnpur till they can be provided with quarters at Burnpur.

It seems clear that the shut down of the Blast Furnaces and the Coke Ovens at Kulti are inevitable and can under no circumstances be avoided. It also appears that the Management are agreeable to help the workers in every possible way and are actually doing so. In these circumstances it is considered desirable that the workers and their unions should accept the positions as stated above and details of which are being worked out.

Yours faithfully,

(N. Bhattacharjee)
Assistant Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

Copy of a letter No. WK/PER/7890 dt. 1st Oct'58 from the Works Manager, Kulti Works to the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

We have for acknowledgement your letter No. 1635 ISL of the 26th Sept.

It has been decided to close down No. 4 Furnace and the Coke Ovens during the current week. We consider No. 5 Furnace will be closed down by the end of the current year. The closing down of these plants has the approval of the Government of India.

We are attempting to absorb as many men as possible at Burnpur and the balance will have to be retrenched. We have discussed the subject with the Chairman of the Hindustan Steel Ltd., who has agreed to recruit suitable men from our retrenched labour for the Government plants at Durgapur and Villai. The Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union has been advised accordingly and a copy of our letter has been endorsed to you.

THE INDIAN IRON & STEEL CO. LTD.
KULTI WORKS.

Ref. No. WK/PER/7952

Kulti, 3.10.58.

N O T I C E .

For the information of all concerned we give below a summary of the discussions which took place yesterday, the 2nd October between the Management and the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union in presence of the Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

- 1) No. 4 Blast Furnace and the Coke Oven Batteries would be closed down by the week ending 5.10.58. This inevitable factor could not be altered and the Union was requested to ensure smooth working to this end. No. 5 Blast Furnace would be shut down by the end of the current year.
- 2) The services of staff and workers of Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments would be retained for a period of one month from 6th October 1958 during which period efforts would be made to absorb as many as possible in Burnpur Works and Kulti Works. The Management would also arrange for the Hindusthan Limited to recruit their requirements of labour at Kulti.
- 3) It was impressed on the Union that all surplus staff and labour could not be absorbed at Kulti and Burnpur and they must be prepared to accept posts in the Government Steel Factories.
- 4) According to a rough estimate, Burnpur would be able to appoint approximately 350 men in No. 3 Blast Furnace and No. 9 Coke Oven Battery. These posts must be filled in immediately and unless the workers at Kulti apply for transfer, the posts would have to be filled in with new men.
- 5) The workers absorbed in Burnpur would retain continuity of service and terms & conditions would be similar to those at Kulti.
- 6) The Management would give full compensation benefits as laid down in the Industrial Disputes Act to those staff and workers who would ultimately have to be retrenched or who may voluntarily resign.
- 7) All future requirements inside the Kulti Works would be confined to the retrenched staff and workers from the Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments provided the men made themselves available and were found suitable.

The workers of the Blast Furnace and Coke Oven Departments are strongly advised to assist in the closing down of the plants and permit the Management to bring this major crisis to a satisfactory conclusion in due course.

Sd/- S. N. GUPTA
WORKS MANAGER.

SNG/G.

268

October 8, 1958

General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union,
Kendwa Road,
P.O.KULTI, Dt.Burdwan, W.Bengal

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your letter of 6th Oct.

On the basis of the papers sent by you, we have represented the matter to the Union Ministries of Labour (Evaluation & Implementation Division) and ~~to~~ the Steel, Mines & Fuel.

Com.B.D.Joshi represents the AITUC on meetings of the Central Evaluation Committee when these are convened. The cases of non-implementation are referred to and dealt with by us directly with the E & I Division.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Yme
8/8
(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary

Encl:

268

October 13, 1958

Janab Taher Hussain,
General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union,
Station Road,
P.O. BURNPUR, Burdwan, W. Bengal.

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your letter of 11th Oct.

It is not clear from your letter as to what you are in need of - a generator for production of electricity to run the projector OR a transformer to step down the voltage of line supply to 110 volts if the projector is so designed. Our doubt arises from the fact that according to you the Company will not be able to supply electricity for your needs, and hence alternate source of electric supply has to be found.

Therefore, if you need a "generator", we do not think it will be possible to take it from Betul since this is being used there to provide lighting in the sanitorium.

But if you need only a "step-down transformer", you could have it from Betul provided the thing is still there and in good condition. The equipment has been lying unused for quite some months. However, if you choose to send somebody to Betul and get the transformer, we enclose an introduction letter for the purpose.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Kme
13/10
(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary

Tahir Hossain

MEMBER

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Hirapur Constituency.

Phone No. ASL 787

Calcutta Office :-

128A, Dharamtalla Street

Calcutta-13

Burnpur Office :-

Station Road, P. O. BURNPUR

BURDWAN

Ref. No.

Dated 11/10/58. 195

To -

Sri.K.G.Srivastava,
Secretary.A.I.T.U.C.
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

You are aware of the fact that we celebrate Durga Poojah under the auspices of Action Committee every year and this year also we have arranged everything.

It will be very difficult this year as the Company will not be able to supply us electricity due to some major breakdown of electricity at the Town and it was not repaired as yet due to burning out of the transmission ~~station~~ equipments.

It will be very convenient to us if we get the transformer of our Cinema Projector. The said Transformer was sent to Betul by advice of Com.Dange and the same is still lying there.

As Com.Dange is abroad if you kindly arrange to send an introductory letter to us advising the Betul comrade who is in charge there to hand over the said transformer to our own man who will be sent direct from Burnpur after receiving your letter.

Kindly treat this urgent and send the letter instantly as Poojah will commence from 18 th.Oct.

With greetings,
Comly Yours

Tahir Hossain
Taher Hossain.

October 13, 1958

Dear Shankar,

The comrade who is coming to you with this letter, and authorised by Janab Taher Hussain, MLA, Burnpur, is coming to Betul to collect the "transformer" attached to the cinema projector lying in the Sanitorium.

I hope this transformer is still in Betul. It was brought there from Burnpur some-time back. You may hand it over to this comrade.

With greetings

Yours fraternally,

K.G.
13/10

(K.G.Sriwastava)

Com.Ravi Shankar Babu,
Betul Sanitorium,
Betul.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:

Phone :- BARAKAR 1332

KENDWA ROAD,

P. O. KULTI

DT. BURDWAN

Branch Office:

Phone :- ASANSOL 737

P. O. BURNPUR

DT. BURDWAN.

BARI

Ref. No.

Dated the 15th Oct 1958

To
Com. K. G. Srinastava,
Secretary A. I. T. U. C;
New Delhi

Dear Com-rade,

Attached herewith please find the papers and documents in connection with closure of Kulti Blast Furnace No. 4 and the last two Coke Oven Batteries.

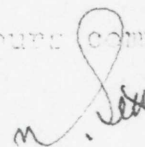
This is for Com. Dange's File and for use by the A. I. T. U. C. Further correspondences as and when they take place would be forwarded to you.

I learn that the figures submitted by AITUC to the Central Govt. regarding the membership of our union does not corresponded with the actual figures as per our annual returns.

Please advise whether copy of our annual return should be sent to you by registered post or ordinary Dak.

Awaiting an early reply,

Yours comradely,



(M. S. Datta)

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :— BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :— ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated the 15th Oct 1950.

To
Gen. S. C. Banerjee, M. P.
New Delhi

Dear Comrade,

Please find attached herewith copies of letters, telegrams etc. that passed between the Union and the Government, at various levels. And the same will speak for themselves.

Please do the needful especially regarding continuance of No. 5 Blast Furnace. Please advise as to the next steps to be taken. It is essential that you come to Burnpur-Kulti for a couple of days atleast.

Hope, you have come round fully by now.

With my love and respects,

Yours affectionately,

Nitis

(Nitis)

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:

Phone :- BARAKAR 133

KENDWA ROAD,

P. O. KULTI

DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:

Phone :- ASANSOL 737

P. O. BURNPUR

DT. BURDWAN.

Ref. No.

Dated the 15th Oct 1953

Com. K.G. Sriwastava.

New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Please find attached herewith a sort of reportage on the closure of Kulti Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens about which news have ^{already} come out in the Swadhinata.

Incidentally, this is my first attempt at such things. I have penned down the facts as I saw them and understood them. I had no time to revise and improve upon the same. Naturally, there is scope for much improvement.

Please brush up the whole matter as you deem fit and make it presentable for your organ. The issue, I think, deserves all-India attention. Hence this attempt on my part.

after it comes out in your organ, I shall also learn as to how to prepare a write-up for the Press.

Your criticism and suggestions will be heartily welcome.

Hope to hear from you,

With kind regards,

COMRADE NITIS,

Nitis Saha
(Nitis.)

* India's Oldest Blast Furnace Closed down !

** Surrender to the dictates of the World Bank !

- From Nitis Sett, Kulti.
(United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.)

Fifth October, 1958, will go down in the history of our country's Industrial construction as "Black Sunday", - the day on which one of the two blast Furnaces of Kulti Works, the oldest iron-smelting Blast Furnace in the country, was blown out to satisfy the insatiable lust for Profit of the Indo-British steel monopolists, ^{the Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd./} Also the last two Coke Oven Batteries were shut down along with the furnace. The IISCO authorities have also notified that the other ^{and last/} (No.5) Blast Furnace will be closed down by the end of the current year.

Surrender to World Bank:

It will ^{also} be remembered as a day of National shame because the Blast Furnaces of the Kulti Works which are the pride of the Nation, being the oldest in the country, perhaps in the whole of Asia, where iron was first smelted in the Seventies of the last century. were closed down at the dictates of the Dollar Imperialists under the cover of World Bank and our National Govt. meekly surrendered to the same. This is the price of fifty million dollar loan sanctioned for IISCO by the World Bank and for which the Govt. of India stood the guarantor. This closure just on the eve of Annual Conferences of World Bank and International Monetary Fund to start in our Capital, (on 6th. Oct) is perhaps symbolic of ~~the~~ Reaction's effort to change our Economic policy/ ^{with its accent on public sector/} about which Shri Morarji Desai assured his distinguished American audiences during his recent tour of USA. This portends an ill omen and underlines the danger of American interference in shaping our path of Industrial progress. This at once exposes the myth of "humanitarian interest" which our Prime Minister believed to have prompted the Industrialised countries of the West to give economic aid to the underdeveloped countries, especially India.

National Loss in production: What it means in terms of loss in National

Production will be evident from the following: - The country stands to lose/ ^{per month/} some ten thousand tons of best quality pig Iron by this closure of a single furnace.

- And the total shut-down of the Coke Oven Batteries at Kulti has resulted in Annual Loss of:- Coke.....1,20,000 tons (approx)

contd...2.

contd...

- Coke 1,20,000 tons (approx.)
- Tar 3,500 ,, ,,
- Sulphate of Ammonia 1,000 ,, ,,
- Crude Benzol...1,70500 Gallons,,

(figures for year ended 31st.March,1958)

And the total closure of ^{the} Blast Furnaces at Kulti alone will mean an annual loss of over TWO lakhs tons of Pig Iron, especially meant for Foundry uses.

Company's arguments for closure: Now, what are the arguments ~~for~~ advanced by the IISCO authorities to deny the country of one its most precious wealth? In his speech as Chairman, delivered at the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, ~~in~~ last year Sir Biren stated, "... the conclusion was reached with the concurrence of both of Govt. of India and the World Bank that such expenditure (capital expenditure already sanctioned to the tune of 35 lakhs of Rupees ~~-writer~~) for Kulti Blast Furnace Rehabilitation, ~~-writer.~~) would not now be warranted having regard ~~to~~ (a) to the surplus pig iron that would be available from the new Blast Furnaces at Burnpur ...and (b) to the inevitable higher cost of production at Kulti owing to inherent operational difficulties", these furnaces being ^{any} 'old'. (page 1)

Do these arguments stand scrutiny? Let us examine the facts. As to the argument of 'surplus' this can be dismissed outright because it is common knowledge that the Engineering Industries of West Bengal are passing through an acute ~~shortage~~ crisis for want of Foundry Iron. Moreover, it is a half-truth which is worse than a lie. Because the New Blast Furnaces at Burnpur cannot supplant the 'graded Iron' which is a speciality of Kulti. Here Foundry Iron ~~are~~ produced according to various specifications and it is this 'Graded Iron' that the Small Engineering Industries of Howrah etc, need most. It is well known that the ~~new~~ Furnaces at Burnpur are not ~~generally~~ normally meant for Fdy. iron, ^{(cast iron) but for steel:} Kulti Pipes which are most famous are produced from the graded iron. Besides, increasing demand for raw materials meant for Durgapur Steel Projects etc. shall have to be supplied by the new and expanded Plants. So, the question of 'surplus' does not arise at all. A

As to the 'higher cost of Production' suffice it to say that ~~Indian~~ Iron & Steel, ^{produced in India} are "the cheapest in the world". And cost per ton of pig Iron of the particular variety produced at Kulti is one of the lowest in the country. That "inherent operational Difficulties" are

Contd...

are mere ~~some~~ excuses to mislead public opinion can be proved from the Company's own assessment of the Annual progress at Kulti Works, which reads as follows:

" In the Kulti Works, the most substantial gains have been achieved in the Foundries where an over-all increase of over 3000 tons was registered in the Production side while the gain in the despatches in Foundry products over the year rose practically phenomenally by as much ^{as over 8000 tons.}" (emphasis mine, Production trends during 1957-58, Burnpur Kulti News, No.18, April, 1958.)

The pig iron of Kulti mainly feeds the small engineering industries in addition to supplying its own needs of Large and small Pipes. And with the ~~erection~~ ^{erection} of ~~the~~ ^{the} Second Spun Pipes Plant at Kulti Works, the requirements have increased manifold. The production of Spun Pipes will increase from 60,000 to 1,50,000 tons per year. So, not to speak of 'surplus', more Blast Furnaces are needed to produce this Foundry Iron in order to meet the increasing demand. So, the real reason for closure has to be sought elsewhere.

Real motive-Profit:-

That Maximum Profit ~~had~~ ^{was} been the only concern of these Steel Barons behind this move ~~was~~ ^{was} admitted by Sir Biren/himself/ in a roundabout way. When Govt. of India at first withheld permission to close down the Furnaces in view of National shortage of Iron & steel and asked the Company ^{last year/} for " the Kulti Blast Furnaces being maintained in production for a period of about FOUR years" more, the IISCO authorities put pressure on the Govt. and ~~blatantly~~ ^{plainly} told, that "... ~~the~~ ^{the} position would be capable of achievement only

by the incurring of considerable expenditure on the Plant" and "the Company would expect all such emergent expenditure to be met by Govt. and the retention price of ~~the~~ iron to be adjusted in relation to the actual cost of production." (Sir Biren's speech at the Annual General Meeting, 1957, page 2.)

In other words, Govt must foot the bill for modernising the Plant and over & above make a gift in the form of increased retention price. Pure and simple blackmail!

It is interesting to note in this connection that

" Under the 1953 Extensions Programme it had originally been the intention that heavy capital expenditure should be incurred in affecting their (Blast Furnaces -writer) complete modernisation and rehabilitation." (Chirmans speech mentioned above, 1957.)

And the Company set apart a Reserve Fund of Rs35 lakhs for the specific purpose of Kulti Blast Furnace Rehabilitation. (Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st. March, 1957, IISCO). contd...4.

contd..

can legitimately feel proud ~~of the leadership of our workers~~
(Burnpur. Kulti. News, No. 18, April 1958).

And this 'something else' is the pressure of World Bank to which Govt. of India and the Company succumbed. When the Nation is passing through an acute shortage of pig iron & steel, when the Engineering Industry in West Bengal is facing a crisis due to this shortage, when the constructions under the 'core' of the plan is being seriously handicapped for lack of these essential ingredients when new Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens are being built to meet this National shortage, it is a matter of great shame that existing Plants producing these very materials have been allowed to be closed down to appease the greed of the ^{Dollar/} ~~Foreign~~ Imperialists who want to keep our country industrially backward. This is nothing but ~~our~~ betrayal of the National interests at the altar of ^{^ greed of} Big Business.

Contrast with China: This policy of Govt. of India which profess to establish a Socialist pattern of society is in striking contrast with that pursued in People's China. In China, Large, Medium and small, - all kinds of units are put into commission and all resources are mobilised and entire People are ^{drawn} into this mighty National effort. While private sector is encouraged, the decisive factor in the National Economy is the Public Sector. Thus, ". . . over 13,000 small and medium sized iron smelting Blast Furnaces are being built throughout the country this year. Their Annual productive capacity will be more than 80 million tons." Here in India, small and medium ones are closed down. Does it not amount to sabotage of National Production of over Two Lakh tons ^{^ of iron per year?} ~~2~~ - one may ask.

Patriotic/Workers/Call for effort to continue Production.: While Congress Govt. surrendered our National interest and National Pride to the dictates of Money-bags, both native and foreign, the workers, under the leadership of United Iron & Steel Workers Union (Action Committee) took up the fight to maintain in production the OLDEST Blast Furnace the country can boast of and against Retrenchment. For about a week since 29th. Sept; when the Management practically stopped supplying Iron ores to No. 4 Blast Furnace (since closed) and coal to the Coke Ovens, the workers themselves formed into squads and organised supply from Company's stock in other sections. They

bodily carried the materials by relay system usually taken by wagons. Sometimes drivers of the Traffic Dept. made a detour of the wagons from their original destinations and kept up the supply to No.4 furnace. Similarly coal used to be supplied. Company used to put empty wagons on the lines to block the passage of loaded wagons meant for No.5 furnace) but the ingenuity of the workers foiled all the tricks of the Management. Sometimes Engines were carried off the track keeping the wagons stranded. But workers of all depts. gave a helping hand, formed into 'Human engines' and ^{pulled} ~~pushed~~ the wagons to the Furnace or Coke Oven as the case may be, and kept them in operation. From the 2nd. October all the Supervisory staff were withdrawn leaving everything to the mercy of workers. Along with this move, the Company hung up notices saying that men "found responsible for endangering property" shall be "dismissed" and the "in case of accidents" the Company will not accept liability". At the call of their Union the workers kept twenty-four hours watch on all key points to protect National property and ~~frail~~ any attempt at sabotage of the Machinery by the agent-provocateurs. The Company became furious when it failed ^{in its conspiracy/} to discredit the workers as 'enemy' of the country. Then came the last desperate attempt. On the 5th. of Oct at about 5 P.M. some 25-30 ~~waka~~ followers of INTUC Union, at the instance of the Management, made a dastardly attack on the workers of No.4 Blast Furnace who were on duty with lathis, rods etc. Another ^{goondas/ ready/} hundred/~~were/~~ ^{armed/} ~~waiting~~ outside the Main Gate/~~with~~ lathis, spears etc; waiting for the signal to join those inside. The workers heroically resisted, -it was question of bread & Butter with them, the spectre of retrenchment was hanging over their heads - and forced the goondas to beat a retreat. Some were wounded in the melees. ^{Police} were called in, armed security police were posted all round ~~inside~~ the Works and police with lathis were posted inside. A reign of terror was created and police forced the workers out of the Plant and the Works. And ⁱⁿ simultaneously European and Anglo-Indian officers ~~walk~~ who were brought from Burnpur themselves went and blew out the OLDEST furnace of the Country. It was well-laid plan. Being Sunday, only a skeleton ^{at the works,} service ~~was~~ maintained, majority of workers who work in general shift were absent; Help and solidarity action from other depts and workers

I.N.T.U.C. betrays:

As the Company was doing everything in a clandestine manner, the continuous pressure by the United Union at last forced the Management to formally admit on the 30th. Sept. that they meant to close down the Furnace and Coke ovens. The same evening the United Union organised a mass meeting and called upon the workers to sink all differences and resist the retrenchment unitedly. A special appeal was made to the INTUC led workers to persuade their leaders to make a joint front on this issue at least. It had its desired effect. The next response was so spontaneous that the LOCAL leaders who were themselves workers were forced to hold a mass meeting (on 1st Oct) the next day and declared in public that on this issue there should be any difference between followers of 'Action ^{Committee} and 'Workers Union' (INTUC union as here is termed as such) and the attack must be resisted together. This was followed by a letter addressed to the INTUC union from the ~~action~~ ^{F. Com. of United Union}. This had an electric effect on the tempo and sweep of the movement. Followers of both attended in meetings called by either Union. This naturally un-nerved the Company and they contacted top leaders of INTUC, Sri Gopeswar, general Secy. of Intuc Union entered into a secret deal with the Company. ~~On 4th. a letter was addressed to the INTUC union by the United Union (Action Committee) urging joint action.~~ On 4th. an Agreement was signed between the Management and the INTUC leaders behind the back of the workers. It was obviously on the terms dictated by the Company. Out of 750 workers rendered surplus as a result of closure, the Company agreed to absorb only 350 workers, -the rest to get retrenchment after one month. ~~The agreement was circulated the same afternoon in various languages and distributed.~~ A mass meeting was called by INTUC the same evening and after a diatribe against the communists for an hour, and just before closing the meeting ^{Sri Gopeswar} announced the agreement and termed it a big 'victory'. Not all the terms were announced, ^{A item of} only partial absorption was hailed as victory. That the INTUC leaders were forced to sign on dotted lines was apparent to all. There was spontaneous protest and resentment even amongst the staunch followers of INTUC and ~~accepted~~ ^{was} the Agreement. ^{rejected.} Seeing the mood of the workers, the leaders hurriedly left the meeting and after declaring it closed. Whatever illusion was left as to the real role of the INTUC leadership, this act of gross betrayal helped to shatter them ~~the same~~. After that the leaders did not show their face at Kulti. ^{And the climax was reached on 5th when the Intuc leaders organised the goonda attack in league with the Management.}

Employer violates Code of Discipline and Govt. looks on:

This incident of closure has once more highlighted the fact that it is employers like Martin-Burn and Tatas who violate with impunity the Code of discipline. As per recent Nainital decisions of the 16th I.L.C. it was agreed that "... no total closure should take place without three months' notice to the workers as well as to the Govt." (emphasis mine). Hardly has the ink been dry on the Tripartite agreement reached at the 16th.I.L.C. when the same was trampled underfoot by the IISCO authorities. And the Govt. played the role of a helpless spectator ~~whaxxkha~~ during the whole episode. Shri Nanda, Union Labour Minister was informed ^{on 3rd Oct.} by Express telegram ~~tax~~ and urged to intervene. ^{What is on} ~~an the 1st~~ the very day notice ~~ax~~ was given for closure ^{down furnace & coke oven} on the 5th. Oct. This was preceded by a letter dated 29.9.58 expressing the worst fears that came to be too true. ~~ThaxUnion~~ Another letter followed on 6th. succeeded by a telegram on 7th. ~~ThaxUnionxhasxet to receive~~ ~~replies. taxtax~~ These have remained unanswered as yet, till the time of writing. On 4th. a deputation wited on Dr. Roy, Chief Minister, West Bengal, under the leadership of Mrs. Renu Chakravartty. M.P., Vice-pres-^{telephoned Sir Biren/and/}ident of the Union. In their presence ^{Dr. Roy/}asked for a week's ~~time~~ ^{postponement of shut-down} to study the question of alternative employment etc. and contact the Centre but Sir Biren turned down his request most unceremoniously. When it was pointed out that terms of Nainital decisions were being violated, Sir Biren retorted that the decision to close down had the sanction~~ax~~ of the Govt. of India. West Bengal Govt and its Labour Dept was kept absolutely in the dark till 1.10.58. Even the Intuc Union which is recognised was not consulted till the 2nd. Oct.

The guilt for non-implementation thus lies squarely on the Govt. of India which is ^a party to closure. The hollowness of tall utterances by Govt. spokesman has been proved once more. Recently Tatas were allowed to go scotfree by the simple device that the Code became operative from June 1, 1958. The country will await with interest what new ~~axg~~ ^{now} excuses would be put forward to save the bosses of Indian Iron & Steel Coy. When the employer is guilty of 'indiscipline' they are rewarded with increase in Retention price. when workers ~~axaxguilty~~ ~~ax~~ agitate for redress of grievances, they are ~~taxax guilty~~ ~~ax~~ blamed for 'indiscipline' and ~~axax~~ are taught a lesson by "non-violent" bullets as witnessed in Jamshedpur only recently. Can hypocrisy go further?

Significant Victory Won: When inspite of the heroic resistance ^{with police help} by the workers, the Plants were ultimately closed down.

the Action Committee leaders then concentrated on stopping Retrenchment. ~~The World Bank delegation was to visit Burnpur on 6th Oct.~~ ^{by securing alternative employment.} The United Union declared that unless Govt. and the Company gave assurances that to the effect that there will be no retrenchment, then ~~with~~ the workers would be forced to go to direct action. Almost daily meetings were being organised to mobilise public opinion and an explanatory campaign started. ^{Govt.} trunk called to Burnpur and contacted/

^{Sensed danger of} Dr. Roy/ ~~contacted~~ General Secy. Tahir Hussain M.L.A. on the 6th. evening and conveyed that he was ^{in a position} ~~arranged~~ to give written assurances that out of 750 rendered surplus, the Company would absorb 610 at Burnpur and Kulti ^{at} different jobs. The rest 140 would be taken at Govt./Plants. ~~at~~ at Durgapur and other places. ^{also/} He requested Tahir Hussain to meet him at Calcutta on 7th. when he would have further talks. At Calcutta he ~~gave~~ ⁱⁿ contacted

^{in presence of} the Union representatives, Sri Nanda over the phone, got the draft ~~written~~ ratified and handed over the same. In addition to the assurances that there will be no retrenchment and all 750 would be given alternative employment, it was further assured in writing that so long as 140 would remain unabsorbed the Company would keep them in the muster roll and they will get all benefits, monetary and otherwise, except Production Bonus.

When this was announced in a mammoth gathering at Kulti on the 8th. it was greeted with loudest acclamations & applause. It was pointed out by the leaders of the Union that workers must remain vigilant in order to implement the terms of settlement.

It was also declared to mobilise public opinion in the meantime so that the other Blast Furnace may remain in production and old ones reopened and modernised.

Protest Day observed: In order to register their protest against the interference of the World Bank, the Asansol Regional Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. and the United Union jointly called upon the workers of Asansol sub-division, to observe 11th. October, as protest Day by holding meeting, demonstrations etc. on the occasion of the visit to Burnpur of a delegation of World Bank on that day. The day was observed by the ~~xx~~ workers of various industries at ^{Asansol, Kulti} At Kulti the day was observed as a Day of Protest and Mourning as the oldest Furnace in the country was closed down, Demonstrations paraded the streets of Kulti wearing black badges and ~~with~~ with black flags, shouting slogans like, 'Down with Dollar Imperialism'; 'No interference in our internal economic development'; 'Maintain No.5 Blast Furnace in operation'; 'Re-open the closed furnace and Coke Ovens in National Interest'. Thus ended the first round of battle to defend the 'hard core' of the Second Plan, ^{and to stop retrenchment.}

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :- BARAKAR 133

KENDWA ROAD,

P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

Branch Office:
Phone :- ASANSOL 737

P. O. BURNPUR

DT. BURDWAN.

BARI

Ref. No. ALC/ASL/10/58-11

Dated the 28th Oct 1958.

To
The Asst. Labour Commissioner,
Asansol.

Ref: Our letter dated 15.10.58 re: Charge-sheet against some 25 Blast Fce. Workers and -our letter dated 25th Oct, re: Departmental Enquiry Committee to enquire into these charges.
(Copy To W. M.)

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above, we beg to inform you that despite our request to include a representative of workmen concerned in the said Departmental Enquiry Committee, in the lines laid down by the Sub Committee (of Indian Labour Conference on workers' Participation in Management and Discipline in Industry, the Management went on with their enquiry in to the charges of the workers mentioned above. The enquiry started yesterday and it continued also today.

Please find attached herewith a copy of Joint petition made by the workers concerned naming their representative for inclusion in the said Committee of enquiry. But to no purpose. Individual petitions to this effect also met with the same fate. (Copies attached)

The charges are of serious nature. So, it is desirable that a proper and impartial enquiry be held into the charges. And to ensure a proper enquiry the Sub Committee of I. L. C. laid down the provision of elected representative from each Dept. along with employer's nominee, to administer the GRIEVANCE Procedure.

In refusing to include the representative of the workers the Management thus clearly violates the principles of setting up a Grievance Machinery.

P. T. O.

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

Regd. No. 3389

Branch Office
Phone: - BARAKAT 787

Head Office
Phone: - BARAKAT 133

P. O. BURNPUR

BARI

KENDWA ROAD,

Anyway, the suspension order should be immediately withdrawn and the workers allowed to resume duties so that the prevailing discontent may not burst out disturbing the industrial peace.

Hope, you would do the needful and oblige.

Yours faithfully,

M. S. Khan
General Secretary.

Ref: Our letter dated 12.11.58 re: charges
about agents come to hand from
workers and - our letter dated 20th
Oct, re: Departmental Enquiry Committee
to enquire into these charges.
(Copy to ...)

Dear Sir,
With reference to the above, we beg to inform you
that despite our request to include a representative of workers
in the said Departmental Enquiry Committee, in the
lines laid down by the Sub Committee of Indian Labour Conference
on workers' participation in management and leadership in
industry, the management went on with their enquiry in the
charge of the workers mentioned above. The enquiry started
yesterday and is continued also today.

Please find attached herewith a copy of Joint
petition made by the workers concerned having their representa-
tives for inclusion in the said Committee of enquiry, but to no
purpose. Individual petitions to this effect also are attached
and (Copies attached)

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

No. WM/KULTI/10/58-2

Dated, the 24th Oct 1958.

BY EXPRESS DELIVERY.

To
The Works Manager,
The Indian Iron & Steel Co., Ltd.,
Kulti Works,
Kulti.

Sub: Departmental Enquiry Committee to go into Chargesheet etc.

Your Ref: WK/PO/58240-50-series etc. dated, 18.10.58.

Sir,

Our attention has been drawn to the memo referred to above which has been issued to workmen concerned in connection with chargesheets issued against them.

It appears that "a Departmental Enquiry Committee has been constituted to enquire into the charges" against each individual workmen.

In this connection I beg to draw your attention to the principles laid down by the Standing Labour Committee, Govt. of India, to deal with grievances of workers and known as "grievance procedure".

This machinery (of Grievance procedure) to deal with grievances will function on the basis of workers being represented through shop stewards who will be elected by workers of the shop if there is no agreed list. And the Management will nominate equal number of representatives.

It is evident that in forming the said Departmental Enquiry Committee the above principles have not been followed by you. Because no shop steward has been elected by the workers themselves nor any nominated by us.

Under the circumstances, we apprehend that any enquiry conducted by the said Dept. Enquiry Committee, having no elected representative of the workers, and including only nominees of the Management will be one-sided and mala fide.

In view of the above, we would urge upon you to reconstitute the said Dept. Enquiry Committee and include in it the elected representatives of workers concerned (Shop stewards) from their respective shops to ensure justice and fairplay. This is essential in order to guarantee that workers' voice has been adequately represented.

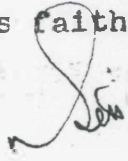
Under the Departmental Enquiry Committee is constituted as suggested above, and the workers are given the opportunity to be represented by their chosen nominees, we maintain that any finding of the said Committee, constituted undemocratically, cannot be binding on the workers concerned.

P. T. O.

Hope, you would take immediate steps to set up the machinery of grievance procedure in pursuance of the decision of the Standing Labour Committee to deal with the grievances of workers in general and those of B. Fce and M.E. in particular in the present case.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


General Secretary.

Copy to Labour Minister, Govt. of West Bengal

Deputy Labour Commissioner, Do

Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

To
The Works Manager,
The Indian Iron & Steel Co., Ltd.,
Kulti Works,
Kulti.

Dated the 26th Oct, 1958.

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

Sub: Workers' Representatives in the
Departmental Enquiry Committee.

Sir,

Further to our letter, dated 25.10.58, addressed to your good self by us individually, we beg to submit the following for your kind and sympathetic consideration:

We have already expressed our opinion as to the constitution of the Departmental Enquiry Committee, formed by the Management to enquire into the charges against us, in our letter mentioned above.

As there is no proper machinery as yet to administer the Grievance Procedure nor any works Committee in existence in the Works (if any, it is non-functioning) at present, we, the undersigned beg to elect Sri S. N. Chakravarty of the M.E. Dept; (Rivetting Shop) to act as our representative in the said Departmental Enquiry Committee constituted by you.

In view of the above, we urge upon your honour to please reconstitute the said Enquiry Committee and include Sri Chakravarty in it so that our interest may be adequately safeguarded.

Hope, you would please do the needful and oblige.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- T. P. Mukherjee
T.No. TCD/33

Copy to Labour Minister, West Bengal
to Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol.

Sd/- Ab Razak, TCD/39

Sd/- Kaloo Gowala
T.No. AA/64.

Sd/- Jaffar, AA/131.

Sd/- Jamuna Hazam
T.No. TBZ/10.

Sd/- Bindheswari Lall,
T.No. GO/36.

Sd/- Manoo,
T.No. AB/3

Sd/- Manki Muchi
AC/33.

Sd/- Latambarlal
T.No. GO/47.

Sd/- Sheonarayan, AC/9

Sd/- Jaffar Mia
T/No. AA/134.

Sd/- Bishu, WRP/113.

Sd/- Sk. Jabbar, CD/15.

To
The Works Manager,
The Indian Iron & Steel Co., Ltd.
Kulti Works,
Kulti.

Dated the 25th Oct'58.

Your Ref. No. WK/PO/..... dated 18.10.58.

Sir,

With reference to the above, I beg to submit the following for your kind perusal and necessary action:

That I come to learn from the memo mentioned above that " a Departmental Enquiry Committee has been constituted to enquire into the charges mentioned in Chargesheet " issued against me.

That justice and fairplay demand that the said Departmental Enquiry Committee should include our spokesman as well who is duly authorised to act on our behalf.

In order that the said spokesman may present the will of the vast majority of workers of our Dept, he or they should be democratically elected by the workers themselves, belonging to our Dept. But, to our knowledge, no such representative has been elected with democratic verdict of the workers of our Dept.

In view of the above, we would urge upon you to please include in the said Enquiry Committee an elected representative of ours as suggested above.

Before I end, please allow me to submit that the Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol, should be requested to be present during the said enquiry.

Please find below the names of my witnesses who should be allowed to depose before the said Enquiry.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Names of Witnesses :

(Sd) Tarapada Mukherjee
e oher

30 OCT 1958

P.O. Kulti
Dt. Burdwan
West Bengal.
28th. Oct, 1958.

Com. Sriwastava,

Please accept my warmest Vijoya Greetings.
And extend the same to other comrades of your centre.

Hope, you have already got my reportage
on the closure of Kulti Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens.
It may be used for your organ, T.U. Record and other purposes
you may deem fit. Please let me know if you are in receipt of the
same.

I will be sending another copy for your
record purpose.

By the way, two points I think have been left
out in my original first despatch. One, is the number of
workmen that would be rendered surplus when No.5 Blast Fur-
nace will be closed down. This number will be about 500.
And the number will be more when those of connected Depts;
are included.

Secondly, Mr. John, President of Intuc Union, ^{no. 3,}
Asansol Iron & Steel Workers Union (recognised by the Coy)
was summoned by the Company and he came to Kumardubhi, in
Bihar, and a few miles off from Kulti. And it was with his
final approval that the agreement of betrayal was signed
with the Management.

Yes, I have seen the report that has come out in
the News ~~xxx~~ Age, sent by Com. Gnan Bikas Mitra. There are
are some errors though he based ~~g~~ his report mainly on mine
that came out in the 'Swadhinata' Daily. As for example, the
daily tonnage is not 18 thousand tons, -it, the monthly
tonnage. And the amount of loan is NOT 5 crores of rupees
It is Five Crores Dollars that was sanctioned by World Bank
for the Indian Iron & steel Co. Ltd.

*** **** ***

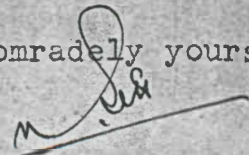
I have not yet heard from you as to my query
re: sending our Annual Returns. Please go thru my
previous letter and answer me quick.

When Com. Dange is expected back, please let us
know.

Are you attending the meeting at Bomabay to be held
on Steel?

With love and regards,

Comradely yours,



(Nitis)

I think we have
replied to this.
N. check up,
Recd in Nov 1958
Are you
Answer yet.
What is it?

I think we have
replied in
the P.T.R.
Muo
11/11

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:

Phone :- BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,

P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

Branch Office:

Phone :- ASANSOL 737

P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

BARI

Ref. No. _____

Dated the 30th. October 1958.

To

The Editor,

'New Age' (Weekly);
New Delhi.

Report on-

Ref:/ At the bidding of World Bank,
Kulti Blast Furnace closed.

Dear Comrade,

Please refer to your issue of Oct, 19 in which was published a report on closure of Kulti Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens from Com. Jnan Bikas Moitra, your Calcutta correspondent.

This report contains some inaccuracies as to facts which please correct. It is to draw your attention to these errors that I am writing this note to you. Please publish the CORRECTION in one of your subsequent issues. These are as follows:

At one place it has been stated that the daily production of Pig Iron is eighteen thousands tons which we are going to lose as a result of closure of this Blast Furnace. It should be eighteen thousand tons per month (and not daily). (1st. para)

At another place it is stated that the loan advanced to the Indian Iron & steel co. Ltd; by the World Bank amounts to Five Crores of Rupees. It should be Five Thousand Dollars as per report of IISCo. (Ref; Reports and Accounts, for the year ended 31st. March, 1957, IISCo)

These x errors crept into com. Moitra's report because ~~he~~ it was based ~~on~~ ~~his~~ ~~dispatch~~ on the materials published in the BEGALI daily Swadhinata where these printing errors took place. Swadhinata which regularly published these reports of mine (~~Excavations~~ being its OWN correspondent) on Kulti Blast Furnace closure, when commenting editorially committed the mistakes, which were brought to their notice. They promised to publish a correction but it was not done unfortunately. So, Com. Moitra cannot be blamed.

I request you to publish the correction because inaccuracies of this type should not be ignored by a responsible ~~press~~ Journal like yours. This is all the more so because this closure of Kulti Blast Furnace etc; will come up for hot discussion in the next session of the Parliament. And it is an all-India issue as well.

Yes, as to actual amount of loan given by World Bank i.e, the latest position vis-a vis IISCo, please check up the figure from authoritative sources. ****

By the way, please find attached herewith a sort of reportage

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

Regd. No. 3389

on the whole episode of closure. I sent the copies of the same to Trade Union Record and to New Age, -yours through a via media. It appears that the same has not reached you. So, I am sending another copy. If you think it useful, you may publish the same after necessary brushing up. I think, the other points not covered by Com. Moitra, ~~mentioned~~ if published, will help the movement as a whole, especially in the context of intensified offensive of the employers in league with the INTUC and with tacit Govt. approval. Anyway, you are the best judge to decide upon it as far as New Age is concerned. Shall be glad to hear from you.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,

Nitis Sett

(Nitis Sett.)

INDIA'S OLDEST BLAST FURNACE. CLOSED DOWN !
SURRENDER TO THE DICTATES OF THE WORLD BANK !

- From Nitish Sett, Kulti.
(United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.)

Fifth October, 1958, will go down in the history of our Country's Industrial construction as "Black Sunday", - the day on which one of the two Blast Furnaces of Kulti Works, the Oldest iron-smelting Blast Furnace in the country, was blown out to satisfy the insatiable lust for Profit of the Indo-British steel monopolists, the Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. Also the last two Coke Oven Batteries were shut down along with the furnace. The I I S C O authorities have also notified that the other and last (No. 5) Blast Furnace will be closed down by the end of the current year.

As a result of closure of one Furnace and two coke oven Batteries 750 workers have been rendered surplus just now. And after closure of the remaining Blast Furnace another 500 hundred will be rendered surplus. ^{The} of these Company Plans to retrench a good number.

Surrender to World Bank :

It will be remembered as a day of National shame because the Blast Furnaces of the Kulti Works which are the pride of the Nation, being the oldest in the country, perhaps in the whole of Asia, where iron was first smelted in the seventies of the last century, were closed down at the dictates of the Dollar Imperialists under the cover of World Bank and our National Govt. meekly surrendered to the same. This is the price of fifty million dollar loan sanctioned for I I S C O by the World Bank and for which the Govt. of India stood the guarantor. This closure just on the eve of Annual Conferences of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (to start in our Capital, ~~£~~ On 6th Oct) is perhaps symbolic of Reaction's effort to change our Economic policy with its accent on public sector about which Shri Morarji Desai assured his distinguished American audiences during his recent tour of U S A. This portends an ill omen and underlines the danger of American

interference in shaping our path of Industrial progress. This at once exposes the myth of "humanitarian interest" which our Prime Minister believed to have prompted the Industrialised countries of the West to give economic aid to the underdeveloped countries, especially India.

National Loss in Production : What it means in terms of loss in National Production will be evident from the following :- The country stands to lose per month some ten thousand tons of best quality pig Iron by this closure of a single furnace.

- And the total shut-down of the Coke Oven Batteries at Kulti has resulted in Annual loss of :-

Coke	1,20,000 tons (approx)
- Tar	3,500 ,, ,,
- Sulphate of	
- Ammonia	1,000 ,, ,,
-- Crude Benzol	1,70,500 Gallons

(figures for year ended 31st. March, 1958)

And the total closure of ^{the two} Blast Furnaces at Kulti alone will mean an annual loss of over TWO Lakhs tons of Pig Iron, especially meant for Foundry uses. (The total Pig Iron produced both at Burnpur and Kulti amounts to over 7,25,000 tons Kultis share being about 40%)

Company's arguments for closure : Now, what are the arguments

advanced by the I I S C O

authorities to deny the country of one its most precious wealth? In his speech as Chairman, delivered at the Annual General Meeting of share holders, last year, Sir Biren stated,

"... the conclusion was reached with the concurrence of both of Govt. of India and the World Bank that such expenditure (capital expenditure already sanctioned to the tune of 35 lakhs of Rupees or Kulti Blast Furnace Rehabilitation, -writer.) would not now be warranted having regard (a) to the surplus pig iron that would be available from the new Blast Furnaces at Burnpur ... and (b) to the inevitable higher cost of production at Kulti owing to inherent operational difficulties". these furnaces being 'old'. (Page 1 of Sir Biren's Speech as chairman)

Do these arguments stand scrutiny? Let us examine the facts.

As to the argument of 'surplus' this can be dismissed outright because it is common knowledge that the Engineering Industries of West Bengal are passing through an acute crisis for want of

Foundry Iron Moreover, it is a half-truth which is worse than a lie. Because the New Blast Furnaces at Burnpur cannot supplant the 'graded Iron' which is a speciality of Kulti. Here Foundry Iron is produced according to various specification and it is this 'Graded Iron' that the Small Engineering Industries of Howrah, etc, need most. It is well known that the new Furnaces at Burnpur are not normally meant for Fdy. iron (cast iron) but for steel. Kulti Pipes which are most famous are produced from the graded iron. Besides, increasing demand for raw materials needed for Durgapur Steel Projects etc. shall have to be supplied by the new and expanded Plants. So, the question of 'surplus' does not arise at all.

As to the 'higher cost of Production', suffice it to say that Iron & Steel produced in India are "the cheapest in the world!" And cost per ton of pig iron of the particular variety produced at Kulti is one of the lowest in the country. That "inherent operational Difficulties" are mere excuses to mislead public opinion can be proved from the Company's own assessment of the Annual progress at Kulti Works, which reads as follows:

" In the Kulti Works, the most substantial gains have been achieved in the Foundries where an over-all increase of over 3000 tons was registered in the Production side while the gain in the despatches in Foundry products over the year rose practically phenomenally by as much as over 8000 tons." (emphasis mine, Production trends during 1957-58, Burnpur Kulti News, No.18, April, 1958.)

The Pig Iron of Kulti mainly feeds the small engineering industries in addition to supplying its own needs of large and small Pipes. And with the erection of the Second Spun Pipe Plant at Kulti Works, the requirements have increased manifold. The production of Spun Pipes will increase from 60,000 to 1,50,000 tons per year. So, not to speak of 'surplus', more Blast Furnaces are needed to produce this Foundry Iron in order to meet the increasing demand. So, the real reason for closure has to be sought elsewhere.

Real motive-Profit :-

That Maximum Profit had been the only concern of these Steel Barons behind this move was ^{a frankly} admitted by Sir Biren himself ^{in his speech before the Shareholders.} ~~in a round about way.~~ When Govt. of India at first with-held permission to close down the Furnaces in view of National shortage of Iron & Steel and asked the Company

Contd... ..

last year for "the Kulti Blast Furnaces being maintained in Production for a priod of about FOUR years" more, the IISCO authorities sought to put pressure on the Govt. and bluntly told, that " ...

" ... the position would be capable of achievement only by the incurring of considerable expenditure on the Plant" and " the Company would expect all such emergent expenditure to be met by Govt. and the retention price of iron to be adjusted in relation to the actual cost of production." (Sir Biren's speech at the Annual General Meeting, 1957, page 2.)

In other words, Govt must foot the bill for modernising the Plant and over & above make a gift in the form of increased retention price. Pure and simple blackmail!

It is interesting to note in this connection that

" Under the 1953 Extensions Programme it had originally been the intention that heavy capital expenditure should be incurred in affecting their (Blast Furnaces -writer) complete modernisation and rehabilitation." (Chairmans speech mentioned above, 1957.)

And the Company set apart a Reserve Fund of Rs 35 Lakhs for the specific purpose of Kulti Blast Furnace Rehabilitation. (Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1957, IISCO). But mysteriously enough not a single pie has been spent out of this Reserve Fund and ultimately plans for Rehabilitation were abandoned.

And the Nehru Govt. which have been crying hoarse since its inception, "Produce or Perish" allowed the Plants to be closed down in the end, resulting in National loss of over TWO lakhs tons of Pig Iron per year.

Gift by Congress Govt: Retention price increased :

But the story does not end there. While no steps were taken to ensure "the Kulti Blast Furnaces being maintained in production the Congress Govt. most shamelessly obliged the Steel Magnates by increasing the Retention price. In the case of IISCO alone, upward revision of steel retention prices were given as many as NINE times in the course of First Plan only. The price before first revision stood at Rs 73/- per ton reaching its present figure of Rs 405/- per ton. And the total amount received by IISCO as a result of this increase in retention price already reached the handsome figure of Rupees Ten Crores and fourteen lakhs. And Rs 77,43,660/- was received during the last financial year only due to increase in retention price alone. (Report &

Contd... ..

Accounts, 1957, IISCO.) What a gift indeed !

Profits for Monopolists, Bullets for workers :

The reason is not far to seek why IISCO and Tatas pay liberally to the Funds of the ruling Congress Party. And the investment gets its return in full. That is why the Congress Govt. so zealously guard the profits of these monopolists against the onslaught of workers' struggle for a better living and working condition. That is why when the steel workers of IISCO or Tatas who get a minimum wage of Rs 1/- only per day (15/- for women workers) and an average of Rs 75/- (since April, '58 when D. A. of Rs 10/= was increased, previously it was Rs 65/- per month at IISCO) per month (at IISCO) agitate for increase in Wages or D. A., their struggle is sought to be drowned in blood, as was done at Jamshedpur recently.

Imperialist Intervention - Rapid Industrialization obstructed :

This is the sordid tale behind the closures of India's oldest Furnace. Not 'surplus', nor 'higher cost of production' but something else that pulled the strings from behind. Otherwise the Management could not have asserted,

" Taken all in all the production trends in the Indian Iron & Steel Company's Works in Burnpur and Kulti during the year 1957-58, just closed, show unmistakable evidences of a vitality and an unusual capacity for adjustment to varying circumstances which is deeply gratifying and for which the Management of the Works can legitimately feel proud".
(Burnpur - Kulti News , No. 18, April '58).

And this 'something else' is the pressure of World Bank to which Govt. of India and the Company succumbed. When the Nation is passing through an acute shortage of Pig Iron & Steel, when the Engineering Industry in West Bengal is facing a crisis due to this shortage, when the constructions under the 'core' of the plan is being seriously handicapped for lack of these essential ingredients when new Blast Furnaces and Coke Ovens are being built to meet this National shortage, it is a matter of great shame that existing plants producing these very materials have been allowed to be closed down to appease the greed of the Dollar Imperialists who want to keep our country Industrially backward. This is nothing but betrayal of the National interests at the altar of greed of ~~Big Business~~. *World monopolists.*

Contrast with China : This policy of Govt. of India which profess to establish a Socialist pattern of society is in striking contrast

with that pursued in People's China. In China, Large, Medium and small, -all kinds of units are ^{being} put into commission and all resources are mobilised and entire People are ^{drawn} into this mighty National effort.

(While private sector is encouraged, the decisive factor in the National Economy is the Public Sector.) Thus, "... over 13,000 small and medium sized iron smelting Blast Furnaces are being built throughout the country this year. Their Annual productive capacity will be more than 20 million tons! Here in India, small and medium ones are closed down. Does it not amount to sabotage of National Production of over Two lakh tons of iron per year? - one may ask.

Unemployment Problem Intensified:

More. Instead of unemployment problem being solved as a result of the Plans, ~~the~~ ~~an~~ proclaimed by the Congress Govt, more are

being added to the already existing huge army of unemployed. Thousands of

Skilled workers who used to get their technical 'know how' from a "native" training from the small Engineering Industries of West Bengal, especially Howrah, will now swell the ranks of unemployed because these industries are being closed down for lack of "raw materials."

Workers Patriotic effort to continue Production : While Congress

Govt. surrendered our National interest and National Pride to the dictates of Money-bags, both native and foreign, the workers, under the leadership of United Iron & Steel Workers' Union (^{under} Action Committee) took up the fight to maintain in production the OLDEST Blast Furnace the country can boast of and against Retrenchment. For about a week since 29th. Sept; when the Management practically stopped supplying Iron ores to No. 4 Blast Furnace (since closed) and coal to the Coke Ovens, ^(since closed) the workers themselves formed into squads and organised supply from Company's stock in other sections. They bodily carried the materials by relay system usually taken by wagons. Sometimes drivers of the Traffic Dept. made a detour of the wagons from their original destinations and kept up the supply to No. 4 Furnace. Similarly coal used to be supplied. Company used to put empty wagons on the lines to block the passage of loaded wagons (meant for No. 5 Furnace) but the ingenuity of the workers foiled all the tricks of the Management. Sometime Engines were carried off the track keeping the wagons stranded. But workers of all depts. gave a helping hand, formed into 'Human engines' and pulled the wagons to the Furnace or Coke Oven as the case may be, and kept them in operation. From the 2nd. October all the supervisory staff were withdrawn leaving everything to the mercy of workers. Along with this ~~move~~, the Company hung up notices saying that men

"found responsible for endangering property" shall be "dismissed" and the "in case of accidents", the Company will not accept liability." At the call of their Union the workers kept twenty-four hours watch on all key points to protect National property and foil any attempt at sabotage of the Machinery by the agent-provocateurs. The Company became furious when it failed in its conspiracy to discredit the workers as 'enemy' of the country. Then came the last desperate attempt. On the 5th. of October, at about 5 P. M. some 25-30 followers of I N T U C Union, at the instance of the Management, made a dastardly attack with lathis, rods etc on the workers of No. 4 Blast Furnace who were on duty. Another hundred goondas were ready outside the Main Gate armed with lathis, spears etc; waiting for the signal to join those inside. The workers heroically resisted, - it was a question of bread & Butter with them, the spectre of retrenchment was hanging over their heads, - and forced the goondas to beat a retreat. Some were wounded in the male. Police were called in, armed security police were posted all round the Works and police with lathis were posted inside. A reign of terror was created and police forced the workers out of the Plant and the Works. And simultaneously European and Anglo-Indian Officers, who were brought from Burnpur, themselves went and blew out the OLDEST Furnace of the Country. It was a well-laid Plan. Being Sunday, only a skeleton service is maintained at the works, majority of workers who work in general shift were absent; Help and solidarity action from other depts and workers inside would not be available on Sunday, - so calculated the Management.

Catastrophe averted inspite of [^]Provocation : But when the news spread like fire as to the cowardly attack, hundreds of workers who live in the Bustees just adjacent to the Works (the Works is rather surrounded by bustees and qrs. all round, being unplanned) mustered strong at the Gates and were about to force the Gates. A major catastrophe was averted by the timely intervention of the Action Committee. When the news of this tension reached the Office of 'United Union' (under Action Committee) which is situated just opposite the Works, leaders of the Union rushed to the

mike fitted in the Union's car (kept ready all these days) and appealed to the workers to maintain peace and keep calm. It was a most difficult moment, - the blood of workers was boiling with ^{rage} ~~any~~ anger, to counsel patience in the face of such worst provocation was a sever test for the leadership. But the leaders faced the workers boldly and pleaded not to fall a victim to provocation and not to give any excuse to the authorities concerned ^{to} enact the drama of Jamshedpur. The loyalty of the workers to the Union and their faith in the leaders saved the situation. I have seen old workers laterally crying with wounded pride; it was they who spent the best part of their lives in the Furnace, kept the fire burning and maintained the flow of ~~blood~~-red molten iron unending for ~~50~~ years on end. And now that flow stopped for good. It was as if the flow of blood in their own veins came to a dead-halt, ^{and they felt as if there was no more life in them} like the giant Blast Furnace that was laid to eternal rest.

In a mass meeting held the same evening attended by over ten thousand workers and citizens of Kulti, Janab Tahir Hussain, beloved leader of the workers declared amidst thunderous applause,

" Let this sorrow at the 'sad demise' of the oldest furnace in India, turned into holy anger of the people. This must be avenged by keeping in production No.5 Blast Furnace, the existing oldest one in the country. It must be preserved as National memento. The name of Kulti must be preserved as the place where iron was first smelted in India nay whole of Asia. And all out effort must be made to mobilise public opinion to reopen the other closed furnace in a bigger scale and also erect new ones. Not retrenchment but more employment to be provided for our people by increasing industrialisation, and to that end the Action Committee shall exert all its efforts. Let us all take pledge to fulfil this mission ! *The meeting took the pledge in firm resolve.*

I. N. T. U. C. betrays ^{Agree to Retrenchment} : As the Company was doing everything in a clandestine manner, the continuous pressure by the United Union at last forced the Management to ~~formally~~ admit on the 30th Sept. that they meant to close down the Furnace and Coke Ovens. ^{But there was no formal notice till then.} The same evening the United Union organised a mass meeting and called upon the workers to sink all differences and resist the retrenchment unitedly. A special appeal was made to the I N T U C-led workers to persuade their leaders to make a joint front on this issue at least. It had its desired effect. The ^{mass} ~~best~~ response was so spontaneous that the LOCAL leaders, who were themselves workers, were forced to hold a mass meeting (on 1st Oct) the next day and declared in public that on this issue there should not be any difference between followers of 'Action' ^{Committee (United Union)} and 'Workers Union' (INTUC Union here is termed as such) and the attack must be resisted together. ^{on 30th Sept} This was followed by a letter addressed to the INTUC Union

^{from the} ~~On 3-0~~, the Company gave the formal notice that No. 5 Blast Furnace & Coke Ovens would be ^{closed} down on 5th. ^{on the same evening} The ^{in a} huge rally of over ten thousand workers & citizens, the leaders of United Union warmly welcomed the call for United Action and urged to form Joint Committees following the magnificent example of Calcutta Tram workers.
 Contd...

This was followed on ^{morning} 4th by a letter from the Ex. Com. of United Union, addressed to the INTUC Union urging to set up joint organisational machinery to conduct the struggle.

~~Executive Committee of United Union on the 4th October.~~ This had an electric effect on the tempo and sweep of the movement. ~~Followers of both attended in meetings called by other Union.~~ This naturally un-nerved the Company and they contacted top leaders of I N T U C, held ^{Completely hurried} conferences and ultimately Sri Gopeswar, general Secy. of INTUC Union, entered into a secret deal with the Company. ^A ~~It is also reliably learnt that Mr. Mikhail John, President of INTUC Union, was summoned by the Management, and he came to Kumardubhi, in Bihar, few miles off from Kulti (because he did not dare to show his face at Kulti). He put the final seal of betrayal by agreeing to retrenchment of about 400 workmen.~~ On 4th, ^{afternoon} an agreement was signed between the Management and the INTUC leaders behind the back of the workers. It was obviously on the terms dictated by the Company. Out of 750 workers rendered surplus, as a result of closure, the Company agreed to absorb only 350 workers, -the rest 400 ^{we} to get retrenchment after one month. Thus the death warrant of 400 workers was signed by the INTUC. A mass meeting was ^{hurriedly} called by INTUC the same evening and after a diatribe against the communists for an hour, and just before closing the meeting announced the agreement and termed it a big 'victory! Not all the terms were even announced, only the item of partial absorption, ^{of 350 workers} was hailed as victory. ~~They even suppressed the fact that two Coke Oven batteries were going to be closed, rather, they declared that these would remain in production. But when the copy of agreement was circulated next day after being translated in various languages, it was discovered by the workers to their utter surprise that the Coke Oven Batteries would also be shut down.~~ That the INTUC leaders were forced to sign on dotted lines was apparent to all. There was spontaneous protest and resentment even amongst the staunch followers of INTUC and all rejected the Agreement. Seeing the mood of the workers, the leaders hurriedly left the meeting after declaring it closed. Whatever illusion was left as to the real role of the INTUC leadership, this act of gross betrayal helped to shatter the same, ^{even amongst their staunch followers.} The act of betrayal reached its climax ^{when the Company} by the organised ^{the} goonda attack on 5th, in league with ^{INTUC leaders} Management. ~~After that leaders did not show their face at Kulti.~~

Employer violates Code of Discipline and Govt. looks on :

This incident of closure has once more highlighted the fact that it is employers like MartineBurn and Tatas who violate with

impunity the Code of discipline. As per decisions of the 16th I. L. C. recently held at Nainital, it was agreed that "... nototal closure should take place without three months' notice to the workers as well as to the Govt."

But it was only on 3.10.58 that Company served notice that the Blast Furnace & Coke Oven would be closed down by 5.10.58. Not even 3 day notice! (emphasis mine). Hardly has the ink been dry on the Tripartite agreement reached at the 16th I. L. C. when the same was trampled underfoot by the I I S C O authorities. And the Govt. played the role of a helpless spectator during the whole episode. Shri Nanda, Union Labour Minister, was informed on 3rd Oct by Express telegram as to the closure and was urged to intervene, that is the very day notice was given for closure. This was preceded by a letter dated 29.9.58 expressing the worst fears that came to be too true. Another letter followed on 6th succeeded by a telegram on 7th. These have remained unanswered as yet, till the time of writing. On 4th. a deputation waited on Dr. Roy, Chief Minister, West Bengal, under the leadership of Mrs. Renu Chakravartty. M. P., Vice-President of the Union. In their presence Dr. Roy telephoned Sir Biren and asked for a week's postponement of the proposed shut-down to get some time to study the question of alternative employment etc. and contact the Centre in the meantime but Sir Biren turned down his request most unceremoniously. When it was pointed out that terms of Nainital decisions were being violated, Sir Biren retorted that the decision to close down had the sanction of the Govt. of India. But the West Bengal Govt and its Labour Dept were kept absolutely in the dark till 1.10.58. Even the I N T U C Union which is recognised was not consulted till the 2nd Oct.

The guilt for non-implementation of the Tripartite agreement thus lies squarely on the Govt. of India which is a party to closure. The hollowness of tall utterances by Govt. spokesmen has been proved once more. Recently, Tatas were allowed to go scotfree by the simple device that the Code became operative from June 1, 1958. The country will await with interest what new excuses would now be put forward to save the moneybags of Indian Iron & Steel Coy. When the employer is guilty of 'indiscipline' they are rewarded with increase in Retention price. But when workers agitate for redress of grievances, they are charged with the Crime (?) of 'indiscipline' and are taught a lesson by

"non-violent" bullets as witnessed in Jamshedpur recently. Can hypocrisy go further?

Significant Victory Won : When inspite of the heroic resistance by the workers, the Plants were ultimately closed down, the Action Committee leaders concentrated on stopping Retrenchment. The United Union declared that unless Govt. and the Company gave assurances to the effect that there will be no retrenchment, the workers would be forced to go to direct action. Almost daily meetings were being organised to mobilise public opinion and an explanatory campaign started. Govt. sensed danger. Dr. Roy trunkcalled to Burnpur and contacted Tahir Hussain M. L. A. General Secretary of United Union, on the 6th. evening and conveyed that he was prepared to give written assurances that out 750 rendered surplus, the Company would absorb 610 at Burnpur and Kulti in different jobs. The rest 140 would be taken at Govt. Plants. at Durgapur and other places. Dr. Roy also requested Tahir Hussain to meet him at Calcutta on 7th. when he would have further talks. At Calcutta he contacted Sri Nanda over the 'phone, in the presence of Union representatives, got the draft ratified and handed over the same to the latter. In addition to the assurances ~~that there will be~~ no retrenchment and all 750 would be given alternative employment, it was further assured in writing that so long as 140 would remain unabsorbed, their names would be kept in the Company's muster roll and they would get all benefits, monetary and otherwise, except production Bonus. Thus, while I N T U C agreed to Retrenchment of 400 works, United Union (A. I. T. U. C.) stopped retrenchment completly. W

When news of this victory was announced in a mammoth gathering at Kulti on the 8th Oct, it was greeted with loudest acclamations & applause. It was pointed out by the leaders of the Union that workers must remain vigilant in order to implement the terms of settlement. It was also declared to mobilise public opinion in the meantime so that the other Blast Furnace may remain in production and old ones reopened and modernised.

Protest Day observed : In order to register their protest against the interference of the World Bank, the Asansol Regional Committee of the A. I. T. U. C. and the United Union jointly called upon the workers of Asansol sub-division, to observe 11th. October, as

protest Day by holding meeting, demonstrations etc. on the occasion of the visit to Burnpur of a delegation of World Bank on that day. The day was observed by the workers of various industries at Asansol by holding meetings, wide postering etc. At Kulti the day was observed as a day of protest and Mourning ~~again~~ against imperialist interference and closure of oldest Blast Furnace in the country. Demonstrations paraded the streets of Kulti wearing black badges and with black flags, shouting slogans like, 'Down with Dollar imperialism'; 'No interference in our internal economic development'; 'Maintain No. 5 Blast Furnace in operation'; 'Re-open the closed furnace and Coke Ovens in National interest! Thus ended the first round of battle to defend the 'hard core' of the Second Plan, and to stop retrenchment.

----- **** * * * **** -----

6
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
4 Ashok Road, New Delhi
November 4, 1958

Dear Com.Nitish,

Your letter. Amendments noted. As you have seen, we have made use of the material for our write-up in the TUR of October 20.

2. Please send a copy of your annual return by ordinary mail.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

KMS
(K.G.Sriwastava)

P.S. We have no news about the Steel meeting in Bombay about which you refer. Please send details.

KMS

268

November 28, 1958

by hand

Dear Com.Nitish,

Thanks for your letter of 26.11.58. I have shown it to Com.Bejoy Paul who was here when it was received. He has taken the books.

2. He will tell you about the discussions here. I have given him note as decided as well as discussed.

3. We are challenging the figures of membership of the INTUC union and be sure, they will challenge ours. Be prepared to meet this.

With best wishes,

Yours fraternally,

Handwritten signature

(K.G.Sriwastava)

268

November 23, 1958

General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union,
Kendwa Road,
KULTI, Burdwan Dt., W.Bengal

Dear Comrade,

We enclose herewith copy of two letters received from the Ministry of Labour on alleged breach of the Code of Discipline and Inter-Union Code of Conduct on your part. Please let us have your comments on the contents of the Ministry's letters so that a suitable reply may be sent.

2. As you will note from these letters, attempts are being made by the INTUC union there to discredit us by filing such complaints. It is common knowledge that the INTUC leaders abuse and villify our unions with no regard for the Code of Conduct and attempts at violence are not also too little. What is essential is that such instances should be immediately reported to the AITUC, so that we could take up the same with the Ministry of Labour. ~~xxxxxxx~~ The INTUC, on baseless charges, would resort to this method more and more and our unions should display extreme vigilance in this respect.

With greetings,
Yours fraternally,
ms
(A.C.Sriwastava)

Copy of letters from Labour Ministry, Govt of India

I

D.O.No.E&I-11(20/58 dated
November 19.

Dear Shri Sriwastava,

It has been reported to this Ministry that the members of the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union, affiliated to your organisation, used abusive language, in a public meeting held on 8th November 1958 at Burnpur, against the office-bearers of the INTUC-led Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union. It is further alleged that Shri Pashupati Pandey of the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union said that Shri Abid Ali, the Union Deputy Labour Minister, was "a thief for sugar, textile and was an agent 'dalal' of maliks. It was a shame to call him Minister. He was a rogue, etc." The allegation adds that Shri Tahir Hussain, General Secretary of the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union also spoke and gave some misleading information while criticising Shri Michael John. The members of the Union also criticised and abused Sarvashree John, Gopeshwar and others of the INTUC union.

2. It will be appreciated that the above allegations, if correct, amount to a gross violation of the Code of Conduct and I am desired to request you to investigate into the matter and let this Ministry have your comments urgently.....

II

D.O.No.E&I-11(20/58
dated November 19, 1958

Dear Shri Sriwastava,

It has been reported to this Ministry that on the 5th October, 1958, some workers belonging to the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union went inside the Kulti Works and assaulted the workers belonging to the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers Union. Five of the injured workers had to be admitted to the hospital in a serious condition. It is further alleged that later on the same evening, Shri Tahir Hussain, General Secretary of the United Iron & Steel Workers' Union, openly supported this act in a mass meeting at Kulti and incited workers to commit further acts of violence.

2. If the above allegations are correct, it will be appreciated that the approval and incitement contained in Shri Tahir Hussain's speech and the violence committed by the members of the United Iron & Steel Workers Union, are all against the Codes of Conduct and Discipline and I am desired to request that the matter may kindly be investigated and your comments sent to this Ministry as early as possible.

Yours faithfully,

R.L.MEHTA,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Labour & Employment

28 NOV 1958

P.O. Kulti
Dt. Burdwan
West Bengal.

26.11.58.

Dear Com. Sriwastava,

Received your letters, -one thru Com. Renu Chakravartty and another post card. Thanks for the suggestions.

Com. Bijoy Ral has gone to Delhi and I have sent in my suggestions as well. He will see you personally. You have certainly met him by this time. Please do the needful and instruct in details as to the rest to be done from our end. Yes, give 'down-to-the-earth' details, for God's sake, to make it ~~sound~~ *sound, as to technicalities.*

What about Com. Dange's programme for Asansol area? When he is expected to come at Burnpur -Kulti? I have sent papers for raising questions at Parliament and also moving the Central Evaluation Committee.

May I request you to please take some personal interest in Burnpur- Kulti affairs, now that Com. Dange is unwell and also preoccupied with Parliamentary matters?

Please write back giving your opinion and also inform what materials you need, especially to bring to book the employer for violating the Nainital decisions. They must be exposed at least and put to the defence.

Hope you have got the copy of our Annual Return for the year 1957-58. We apprehend that the I.N.F.U?C has challenged our figures. We also telegraphed to Com. Dange to challenge theirs if it is advisable. On the face of it, we have a majority of several thousands and our budget reaches the figure of Lakhs. Please write back giving details of this Conf. as to the claims of membership: Here I give you some more detailed information.

Membership for 1956-57..... 14,715 (Burnpur..9385
Kulti.. 5330)

Total Income..Rs.1,05,506-1-6 pies

Total expenses.. 89,652-7-3

Balance ... 15,853-10-3 (Cash, plus assets)

Membership for 1957-58....15,169 (details already given)

Total Income..Rs.1,02,258.83 n.p.

Total exp... 95,605.67 n.p.

Balance ... 6,653.16 (cash plus assets.)

Please note that ~~the~~ in the Annual Return a consolidated account for both Burnpur and Kulti is given, -and membership etc, shown together and NOT separately. (the Copy of our Return will show that.) If you advise pl we can send a copy of our Annual return for 1956-57.

By the way, if Com. Bijoy Pal has not yet left the Capital then send at least two copies of the pamphlet on 18th. Tripartite Indian Labour Conference.

Also send the following copies of Trade Union Record to complete our file.

- Vol. XIV.. No. 12, April, 20
- no. 19, Aug, 5
- No. 20, Aug, 20

These copies are missing. We have not got them, can't say if lost in transit. Anyway, do send them.

Yes, I am trying my best to prepare a write-up to answer the allegations made by Sir Eiren in his speech before the Shareholders (Vide the Statesman of 5.11.58)

With my greeting to you all, staff comrades of the H.C. AITUC. Please send us, if possible, the figures of INTUC-led Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union's membership for as many years as available.

With kind regards,

Yours comradely,

Nitis
(Nitis Dett).

← पहला मोड़ →



भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :-

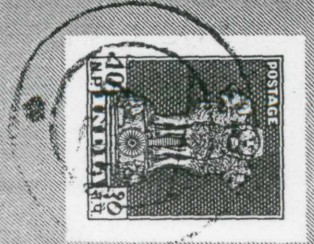
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← भीतर मोड़ →

Com. K.G. Srivastava,
Secretary, A.I.T.U.C.
4, ASHOK FOND;
New Delhi.

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र

इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न लिखिये



← दूसरा मोड़ →

268

November 28, 1958

Com. Taher Hussain, MLA,
Burnpur.

Dear Moulvi Saheb,

I am back in India after a long term in hospital. I resumed my work but I am not able to do it in the old scale. I am planning to go to Jamshedpur and Burnpur but before I do that I am trying to collect all the reports of the situation in the industry.

There is however one urgent matter and that is the question of the membership of the Burnpur Union and its affiliation with the AITUC. We have submitted to the Government of India, certain returns of membership which are going to be checked by the Government. In this connection, it is necessary that the rolls of names of the Burnpur union, its accounts and its affiliation with the AITUC should all be very clearly brought uptodate on record. I have explained the matters to Bejoy Paul who was here. So despite any other work, this thing should be completed both for Burnpur and Kulti.

I am trying to meet you as soon as possible and consult on the future work.

There is also the question of defending the cases in Jamshedpur. The defence is becoming very expensive. You are also now involved in one of the cases. So we should have to make a drive in Burnpur for collection of funds for defence of cases in Jamshedpur.

I am told that you have purchased a piece of land for construction of the union building. I wonder what has happened to it. So, we should now take an overall review of all our work in Burnpur and the future prospects.

page two

You must have read that Sir Biren Mukherjee recently spoke about having a tribunal for the industry. He, of course, wants the Tribunal in order to halt an increase in wages unless it is done by increasing workload. But in any case, a tribunal will be good for us, whatever may be the motive of Sir Biren in this respect. Therefore, we should utilise his support for the Tribunal demand and press for its appointment. I would be telling the Government of India also about it.

I hope you are keeping good health.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

SAD

(S.A.DANGE)

27 NOV 1958

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TN TVE

THE TAMILNAD ELECTRICITY WORKERS' FEDERATION

(Circular 2.)

No.5 Ritchie Street
Madras-2, 24-11-1958.

The Affiliated Unions.

Dear Comrade,

We are herewith enclosing a copy of the Resolutions that may be passed at the meetings to be held on 26-11-1958. The Resolutions 1, 2 & 4 alone need be sent to the Board and Government, while copy of all the four can be sent to the Federation,

Yours fraternally,
S.C. KRISHNAN
GENERAL SECRETARY.

Resolution No.1: This meeting of the Tamilnad Electricity Workers Federation unanimously protests against the delay in implementation of the recommendations of the Negotiating Committee set up by the Government and agreed to by the Madras State Electricity Board, particularly when the recommendations on ten issues have been unanimous.

This meeting expresses its grave concern at the Board having been a party to the dispute and a participant in the proceedings of the Negotiating Committee attempting to delay and defeat the recommendations, by mounting offensives on the workmen and increasing acts of victimisation on Trade Union Representatives.

This meeting expresses its strong protest against the Government in not directing the Board to observe Code for Discipline in Industry and to implement the recommendations on 10 issues even though more than a month has elapsed since the report has been submitted and urges on Government to direct the implementation on 10 issues without further delay.

This meeting therefore appeals to all sections of the people, all the Trade Unions of workmen and other public bodies to support the just and peaceful endeavour of the Electricity Workmen in this vital public sector industry in getting the recommendations implemented without delay, which alone will, not only be conducive to Industrial Peace but also to the same pace of rapid development of this industry so essential to the prosperity of the people in Tamilnad.

Resolution No.2: This meeting urges on the Government and the Board to immediately intervene and set right the unfair and illegal inroads on the existing privileges and rights effected during the period of negotiations in the following matters :-

- (i) Vindictive transfer of Federation and Union Office-bearers Sri S.R. Jeelakantan, M.A. Mallick, P. Madhavan and termination of V.J. Krishnamurthy and several others.
- (ii) Large scale termination of NMEs, Work-charged, Casual labour, with more than one year of service and emergency clerical cadre with more than six months service and upto 6 years of service contrary to the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, Shops and Establishment Act and the Code of Discipline;
- (iii) Unilateral and illegal stoppage of Special Allowances such as Unhealthy Locality allowance, Hill allowance for hundreds of workmen at Singara, Moyar and Papanasam and Daily Allowance to LMDs throughout the State.
- (iv) Unfair and discriminatory refusal to implement and denial of educational concessions to all the eligible workmen and 12 1/2% special allowance to Kundha Field Workmen and employees.

- (v) Unilateral and irregular suspension of existing elementary trade union rights such as right to hold meetings employees beyond office hours and within the departmental premises.
- (vi) The vindictive transfer of Sri D. Janakiram I.D.C., the Joint Secretary of Madras Electricity Employees Union and Member of State Executive Committee of the Federation, as well as Advisory Council, on 22-11-1958 from Madras to CoTy even when representation on the above (v) urgent matters are pending final decision with the Chairman of the Board and in violation of the specific recommendations of the Chairman of the Negotiating Committee on the issue of transfer of Office-Bearers.

Note:-

On 23rd November the order of transfer from SE/T/Elec. to SE/Inv were passed while in the forenoon of 22nd the Chairman had agreed to meet the President and the General Secretary for a review of the position regarding the above urgent ~~ms~~ issued (i) to (v) before the end of this month. This transfer of the Joint Secretary of the Madras Electricity Employees' Union without any notice is equally if not more vindictive and illegal and as such we have suggested inclusion of the same.

Resolution No.3 :- This meeting while fully enforcing the decisions of the State Council of the Tamilnad Electricity Workers' Federation held on 16th and 17th at Madras, calls upon all the Electricity Workmen to rally round the Federation unitedly in building cent per cent membership for the Unions, for greater and peaceful progress of the Industry and to stand -firmly to improve their living conditions.

Resolution No.4 : This meeting endorses the decision of the State Council of the Tamilnad Electricity Workers' Federation regarding the Code for Discipline in Industry and calls upon the Madras State Electricity Board to agree to accept the provisions of the Code and take early steps to set up the Grievance Procedure in consultation with the Tamilnad Electricity Workers' Federation and the Unions.

11 DEC 1958
UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:
Phone :- BARAKAR 133
KENDWA ROAD,
P. O. KULTI
DT. BURDWAN

BARI

Branch Office:
Phone :- ASANSOL 737
P. O. BURNPUR
DT. BURDWAN.

Under Certificate of Posting.

Ref. No. CEIC/12/58-4

Dated the 5th. Dec. 1958.

To
The Chairman,
Central Evaluation & Implementation Committee,
Ministry of Labour;
New Delhi.

Re: Violation of Grievance procedure by
Management, Kulti Works, the
Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.

Sir,

Please find attached herewith copies our letter to the Works Manager, Kulti Works, and to the Asst. Labour Commissioner, Asansol; and also copies of petition to the Works Manager, by a group of workers in connection with an Enquiry regarding inclusion of Departmental representatives or a representative on behalf of the workers, and the same will speak for themselves.

It is matter of great regret that the Management has been violating the decisions of 16th. I.L. conference and of Standing Labour Committee with impunity. Please refer in this connection to our letter dated the 5th. October, wherein we pointed out how this same management violated the decision re: total closure.

If the Employer is allowed to go scot free even in the face of such flagrant violations of CODE of Discipline, naturally you can't expect the workers to fulfil the obligations on their part. Because, obviously, it cannot be a one-way traffic, but should be mutual.

We take a serious view of the matter and would urge upon you to take the needful & oblige.

Yours faithfully,

Copy to A.I.T.U.C. New Delhi.

[Signature]
General Secy.

11 DEC 1958

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,
P. O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)

BARI

Phone No. Asl. 737

Ref. No.

Dated 9.12. 1958

To,

The General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
4, Ashoke Road,
New Delhi

Dear Brother,

We beg to put forward the following for your information kindly take up these matters with the Central Labour Ministry as these are gross violation of code of discipline and Inter Union Relationship.

That in the first week of November 1958 in the mass meeting at Bari Maidan, Sri Michael John, President of Asansol Iron & Steel Workers Union abused Sri Pasupati Pandey, by saying 'Pasupati Pandey, a bugger, Khaisa charaney Wala, Madari Ka Khel karneywala - has become a leader to-day.' In the same meeting Jagadish Singh one of the office bearer of the Asansol Iron & steel Workers' Union slandered and abused all the office bearer of the United Iron & Steel Union by saying ' Pasupatipati Pandey a thief, misappropriated money, Taher Hossain is a oil-seller, agent of Pakistan, all are goondas murderers etc." Sri Gopswar General Secretary of INTUC Union taunted Srimati Renu Chakraborty , vice-president of our Union in course of his speech.

On the last 2nd. December, '58 Asansol Iron & Steel Worker's Union called a mass meeting before the ground of Bari Manzil in presence of a foreign guest of the INTUC the said Jagadish abused Sri Pasupati Pandey & others vehemently using slang languages.

Further, on the last 7th. December a mass meeting was held by the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union at Burn pur Bari Maidan Hon'ble Labour Minister of the state Sri Abdus Sattar was chief guest of the same meeting. The said Jagadish before coming of Sri Sattar at dias slandered sri Pasupati Pandey by saying " Pasupati Mama is contemplating plot against me to assault me, to murder me " and other inciting languages.

Contd.....

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—K U L T I

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

on Road,
Burnpur.
urdwan)



Phone No. Asl. 737

Dated 195

-2-

Not only they slander in mass meeting but the said Jagadish Sing during the announcement of the above meetings speaks thro' mike by saying "Brothers, come by tens & thousands to the meeting there will be a vanda fore" of action Committee, taquedir khul jaiga, Taher Hossain, Pasupati Pandey, Dangey Ka Chori batlaya jayaga etc."

The said Jagadish Singh works under coke-oven Supdt. Mr. Lucas. With the abetment of Mr. Lucas the said Jagadish forcibly gets L.T.I. on the application form of membership of INTUC Union. Sometimes with the connivence of the foreman of C.O. Dept. (Burnpur Works) Kanai Babu & others the said Jagadish threatens the workers in general and makes member of the Union. Some illegal bribes such as cash money are being taken by the said Jagadish from the workers by saying he would be able to give promotion by hook or crook by saying Mr. Lucas, Mr. Lucas & foreman under him directs the workers by saying "go to Mohan's Union and enroll yourself & others to that Union, your son will be employed, you will get chance etc."

There are hundreds of such instances of all attempts made by office bearers of Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union in collaboration with the officers & management of the Company.

At last we would earnestly request you to refer these matters to the Central Labour Ministry as these are gross violation of code of Discipline & Inter Union relationship formulated agreedly in the last Mainital conference.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


GENERAL SECRETARY.

United Iron & Steel Workers' Union.

Regd. No. 3389

Head Office:—KULTI

(PROF. BARI ZINDABAD)

Office:-

Station Road,
P. O. Burnpur.
(Burdwan)



Phone No. Asl. 737

Ref. No.

Dated 15.12.58. 195

Com .K.G.Sriwastava,
Secretary,
A.I.T.U.C.
4 Ashok Road,
New-Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Kindly confirm us Com Dange's programme
for Burnpur-Kulti.

With trade Union greetings,

Comly Yours.

B. P. Hoskote
For General Secretary.

*Answer by
train
26.12.58*

268

December 17, 1958

General Secretary,
United Iron & Steel Workers' Union,
Kendwa Road,
KULTI, Dt. Burdwan, W. Bengal

Dear Comrade,

Your letter of 15th inst.

Com. Dange and Com. Sriwastava
would be reaching Asansol by the Kalka
Mail on the morning of 26th December, 1958.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Ur
Secretary

Copy to: Asansol
Burnpur

Cable : "AITUCONG"

Telephones : 48771
43414

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

T. U. LAW BUREAU :
R. L. TRUST BUILDING,
55, GIRGAON ROAD,
BOMBAY 4 (INDIA)

4, ASHOK ROAD,
NEW DELHI.

President : V. CHAKKARAI CHETTIAR, M.L.A. Madras
General Secretary : S. A. DANGE, M.P. ~~XXXXXX~~ S. Mirajkar

268

TOUR PROGRAMME

COMS.S.A.DANGE AND K.G.SRINASTAVA

A.M.

- Dec.26 - Arrive ASANSOL at 6.33/by Kalka Mail
 - Executive Committee meeting -
United Iron & Steel Workers Union.
- Dec.27 - Discussions
- Dec.28 - Public Meeting either at Burnpur,
or Kulti.
- Dec.29 - Visit to Sen-Raleigh Cycle Factory
 - Meeting with Executive and/or
public meeting (to be organised
by S.R.E.Union)
 - Leave Asansol at 23.14 hours by
Kalka Mail for Delhi.

261
December 18, 1958

Dear Com.Tahir Hussain,

Yours of 16th December 1958.

2. Com.Dange will be reaching Asansol on 26th morning by Kalka Mail and stay till 29th December.

Besides Burnpur and Kulti, he has also to talk to colliery and cycle comrades and address one meeting of cycle union.

We will send the detailed programme to Asansol.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G. Sriwastava

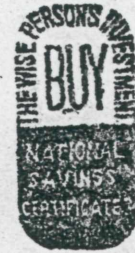
(K.G.Sriwastava)

Com.Tahir Hussain, MLA,
C/o W.Bengal Committee,
Communist Party of India,
64-A Lower Circular Road,
Calcutta 16.

17 DEC 1958
C.-3



2504



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No.

Received here at _____ H. _____ M.

O NL BARAKAR 16 56.

S A DANGE ■ MP NEW DELHI

KULTI ND FIVE BLASTFURANCE BLOWN AT ESTERNIGHT SUSPECT
SABORAGE BY MANAGEMENT SERIOUS ACCIDENT AVERTED BY WORKERS OVER
FIVERUNDERED FACE RETERENCHMENT PRAY INTER ENT.....

..... TAHIR HOSSAIN GENERAL SECRETARY UNITED IRON AND STEEL
WORKERS UNION BURANPUR KULTI.....

COPD A T 23.55. RAI."

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.
MGIFPAh.—121—30.4.57—91.370 Bks.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE

64A LOWER CIRCULAR ROAD :: CALCUTTA-16

Telegrams : "COMMUNIST"

Telephone : 44-5999

16th December, 1958.

To:
Com. S. A. Dange,
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

When I had a talk with you in Jamshedpur re: the condition of the workers in Steel Industry and other allied matters, you promised to have a talk re: this with the appropriate minister-in-charge.

You promised to come to Burnpur on 26th December '58 and spare some two or three days more for us.

Please let us know your detailed programme of arrival and departure, so that we can make preparations accordingly.

Yours fraternally



(Tahir Hossain)

22 DEC 1958

PHONE : BARAKAR 133

यूनाइटेड आयरन ऐंड स्टील वर्कर्स यूनियन

UNITED IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION

REGD. NO. 3389

BARI

Head Office : KENDWA ROAD, KULTI, BURDWAN.

301/LE/12/58-2

Dated, the 17th Dec 1958.

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

ri. G. L. Nanda,
Union Labour Minister,
Govt. Of India,
New Delhi.

Sub: Closure of No.5 Blast Furnace of Kulti Works under IISCO on the plea accident.

ir,

It is with a heavy heart that we beg to approach you with the following or your intervention not only as the Union Labour Minister but also as one most intimately connected with planning commission. A perusal of the same will give you some idea as to the role of big capitalists like Martin Burn (IISCO) vis-a-vis our country's effort for industrial progress.

You must have learnt from our Telegram sent to you yesterday that the No.5 Blast Furnace (No.5) of Kulti Works was closed down on the plea of an accident which resulted in the flooding of the furnace by water. Now the circumstances under which the accident took place are shrouded in mystery. From all appearances there is strong suspicion that the accident was pre-planned and just not a result of usual break-down. We give below the facts leading to the said accident.

On the night of Monday last, the 15th instant, at about mid night, immediately after the furnace was emptied of its "burden" (hot molten iron) the electric pump which supplies cold water to the cooling system, went out of action due to failure of electric current stopping the circulation of water. As a result, certain parts got burnt due to excessive heat. After some time when the pump re-started operation cold water from the cooling system rushed in through the openings made from burning of parts and flooded the furnace, putting it out of operation. The repair work was not undertaken and the management declared it closed as it had already been decided that the furnace would be blown out by Dec, '1958.

When the current failed the workers on duty tried frantically to start each the three pumps which are there for alternate use if one fails. But they could restore operation of only two smaller ones and the biggest one with capacity to circulate two lakh Gallons of water could not be brought to action. And strangely enough, the electric mistry of the shift meant for repair work was not found at the time. One worker of the furnace while trying to set things in order got seriously injured due to burns and is now lying in hospital. If water rushed in while the 'burden' of the furnace was here inside, then there must have been a serious explosion and several hundred workers on duty would be victim of the same. Not only that. The workers bustees only a couple of hundred yards away to the north from the works would also have been affected by the blowing up of the Furnace resulting in a large number of workers being injured.

Now this accident has posed several pertinent questions which must be answered satisfactorily if the Management wants to free themselves from any responsibility for the accident.

Firstly, why not the steam-driven pumps were put into action, meant for such emergency, when the electric pump failed?

Secondly, when the A.C. current fails (now supplied by D.V.C.) the pumps are operated by D.C. current generated from Company's own generator. But why this was not put into Commission during this emergency as was always done in the past?

In the past, whenever similar break-downs occurred due to failure of current, the pumps were restored to action by these alternative devices kept for emergency. And they never failed. This is the first time that the entire arrangements failed as if by a design. There are instances, when the pumps failed even when the Furnace was full with hot molten iron but every time operation was restored without fail. Yes, there was cent percent guarantee for this and never any accident of this type ever occurred in the life of the Works.

Thirdly, why the electric Fitter - one is always there in every shift - was mysteriously missing at the time when the pumps went out of order? Was it accidental or planned? Again, one electric mistry sent from the power dept. only at 2.30 A.M. though the information was sent at about 12 O'clock.

It is further reported that there was not sufficient water in the tank and when the two smaller pumps started working, muddy - water (because of silt) following flowing through the pipes choked the latter and thus free flow was obstructed.

Assuming for a moment that there was some negligence on the part of the workers responsible for these operations, what about the shift foreman who were over-all-in-charge? There are shift foremen at all key places viz, at the Turbine Section, the M.E. Section, the Power Dept. etc. How is it that all these gentlemen failed together and simultaneously? From the way the above failures were made to synchronise conclusion becomes irresistible that the accident was made to order, - was part away of a well-laid plan, a sort of sabotage by the management. The Officers are reported to say in private that the management took recourse to this underhand, foul means to avoid the 'awkward situation' they were confronted with at the time of closure of No.4 Furnace.

The questions posed above need categorical answers and so an enquiry should immediately be instituted to probe into the whole matter. Because the management ~~max~~ wants to parade the whole thing as a normal accident and that they were forced to closed down the Furnace quite prematurely.

The interest of the country is no concern of these money-bags. Let the country run short of pig iron, let valuable Foreign Exchange be spent to import the same, let the unemployment problem worsen, but the 'sacred profit' must remain untouched - so argue these capitalists. So, closed down the running Plants because they are "uneconomic".

The big capitalist even don't bother about sanctity of agreements reached in good faith. Hardly the ink was dry on the Nanital decisions of the Indian Labour Conference to which your good-self is also a signatory, when the employer violated most flagrantly the 'Code of discipline' by closing down the No.4 Blast Furnace and two Coke Ovens giving only 48 hours notice to the workers.

The Company has not yet properly absorbed the 610 workers (out of 750) rendered surplus due to closure of No.4 Blast Furnace and Coke Ovens. They have failed to come out with any concrete plan

P. T. O.

as yet though 3 months have rolled by. Over and above this now
max another 500 is added who would be made 'surplus' due to closure
of the No.5 Blast Furnace.

A black cloud has gathered over Kulti. A smouldering discontent
is spreading - the spectre of unemployment is haunting the workers.
It may spread and burst out any moment. So, we urge upon you to
intervene immediately in the interest of Industrial peace bring a
ray of hope before it is too late.

Awaiting an early reply.

Yours faithfully,

Hussain

(Taber Hussain)
General Secretary.

Copy to Dr. B. C. Roy, Chief Minister, West Bengal

✓ Sri. S. A. Dange, M.P.

Sri. Jyoti Basu, M. L. A.

3 DEC 1958

UNITED CONTRACTORS' WORKERS UNION
REGD. NO. 6885.

Station Road, Burnpur.

To,

The Hon'ble Chief Minister,
West Bengal,
Calcutta.

Dated 10.12.58.

Respected Sir,

Re: Illegal lock-out of B.B.J. Co. Ltd. Burnpur.

I beg to enclose herewith an extract from the resolution passed by the Executive Committee, dated 8.12.58.

In the ~~national~~ interest of avoiding National loss in terms of foreign exchange and for development of Industries, I would request you to kindly direct the B.B.J. Co. Ltd., Head Office, P-13 Mission Row Extension Calcutta, to withdraw the lock-out and allow the workers to resume normal duties and refrain from making false criminal (complaint) cases against the workers who are peaceful which can be seen at the set of work.

The contractors, on the whole are only thinking of their personal gain and conveniences regardless of National loss and development.

Yours faithfully,

V.P. Mukherjee

GENERAL SECRETARY.

UNITED CONTRACTORS' WORKERS'
UNION. BURNPURKULTI.

Copy to the General Secretary A.J.W.U.C.
4, Asok Road, New Delhi.

Extract of the Resolution from the Minutes Book - of the
Executive Committee Meeting held on 8.12.58.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously in the
meeting held on 8.12.58. - presided over by Sri. B.K.Roy.

...

Resolved - That the committee views with grave concern the increasing mass retrenchment done by the Contractors contrary to laws existing and not following fair labour practice and code of conduct laid down by the Government. The retrenchment and discharges have become every day incident and in spite of our bringing the matter to the notice of the labour department no satisfactory settlement has been arrived so far. In protest to illegal discharges, and mass retrenchments when the workers are protesting the contractors, with trying to settle the matter by peaceful means and through the Government Machinery established by law are resorting to lockouts and giving false and misleading informations to the police and local authorities as if they want to solve the labour trouble not by the proper channel but through other means i.e. by frightening the workers through false cases and also harassing labour by not paying their dues in time. The recent action of M/s. B.B.J. Const Co. Ltd. Birampur Site, in declaring lock out for indefinite period, on the pretext of violence on the part of workers are down right false and an attempt to give an idea to the Government against the peaceful workers. Instead of trying to solve the dead lock the the above contractor - Simultaneously declared the protest strike illegal within one hour from the time the strike, made numerous false charges against the workers, and lock out and subsequently refused to even pay the salary the workers. This lock out has no valid ground at all and only to harass the labour. In the interest of the averting national loss and for development of the country, we urge the Government to be earnest so that the B.B.J. Co. is forced to withdraw the lockout and allow the workers to resume normal work.

Resolved.

The general secretary is hereby empowered temporarily due to the situation created by the lockout of B.B.J. to pay reasonable amount in form of loan to the poor workers who may be requiring help till the normal work is resumed.

Resolved.

The general secretary is requested to move the Government to expedite the findings of the Tribunal. It is to noted that it was given to understand that the findings of the Tribunal will be out by 2/3 month's time but it is regretted 8 months have passed. Deep unrest prevails among the workers for this.

(PRESIDENT)