

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

23 January 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Shri Satish Loomba, Secretary, AITUC, has issued the following statement:

"The AITUC notes with concern that efforts are being made by interested parties to delay the work of the Central Wage Board for Coalmining Industry and that attempts are also being made to influence the Board's recommendations by creating an artificial crisis in the industry. According to reports, on the plea of 'overproduction', 'surplus stocks', etc., miners are being laid off in some mining areas.

"It has also been brought to our notice that on the question of categorisation and job description in the coalmines which were based on a bipartite agreement in 1956, efforts are now made to made drastic changes disadvantageous to the workers and without consulting the trade union centres. This would lead to serious consequences. It is unfortunate that on this problem, no serious efforts were made by the Wage Board to consult all the major trade union centres.

"The Coal Wage Board was set up after years of delay and even after one and half years of its functioning, the Wage Board has not yet taken steps to expedite its report. This should be done immediately."

(Satish Loomba)
Secretary, AITUC

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

24 February 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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


ON ARRESTS OF TRADE UNIONISTS IN BHOPAL

"Reports from Bhopal indicate that instead of speedily resolving the long-outstanding disputes about D.A. and recognition in the Heavy Electricals plant, the Government have resorted to repressive measures and have arrested the leading activists of the Union, including Union President, Shri Bhowmick, who is on hunger-strike. The AITUC condemns these arrests and demands that the trade unionists be released forthwith.

"As is well-known, the Bhopal Heavy Electricals plant workers were forced into action because there was no channel of communication between the workers and the management and because recognition has not been granted to the Heavy Electricals Servants Trade Union which commands the support of over 80 per cent of the employees. The INTUC affiliate which has been accorded 'representative status' under the M.P. Industrial Relations Act has no following in the plant and this union was imposed on the workers against their wishes.

"It is regrettable that the M.P. Chief Minister, on whose assurances the hunger-strike was earlier withdrawn, took no corrective action to resolve the disputes and that the workers were again forced to resort to struggle.

"The AITUC supports the struggle of the H.E.L. workers and demands that Government concede the workers' long-outstanding demands."


for Secretary,
AITUC

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

24 February 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Shri S.A.Dange, General Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress, has issued the following statement:

"The AITUC congratulates all those thousands of workers who went on a three-day hunger-strike from 20 to 22 February, in response to the call given by the National Campaign Committee of the Toilers of India. The AITUC congratulates particularly the women workers, especially in Bombay, who have joined in this action.

"According to information received, over fifty thousand leaders and workers were on hunger-strike in all States of India except Madras, where the hunger-strike will take place in March. Lakhs of workers demonstrated daily in support of the hunger-strikes and common men and women came in huge numbers to express their sympathy and solidarity with the demands of the campaign.

"We hope that this demonstration will have some effect on the Government to shed their complacency and will force them to take steps to check price-rises, link D.A. with cost of living, correct fraudulent indices, withdraw excise duty on essentials like tea, cloth, kerosene and sugar, introduce state-trading in foodgrains and nationalise banks. The hunger-strikes have clearly expressed the will and the mood of the working class of India.

"The AITUC notes that a spokesman of the Union Labour Ministry claimed yesterday that these popular demonstrations organised by the trade unions constitute a breach of the Code of Discipline and the Industrial Truce Resolution. The matter is not of legal quibbling. But even as regards legal interpretation of the Code, all that it says is that there shall be no hunger-strike without notice. Adequate notice was in this case served on the Government and none could say that this step took them by surprise.

"The spokesman of the Ministry has claimed that there is a tripartite agreement against the conduct of hunger-strikes by the trade unions. The AITUC may point out that there was no unanimous agreement in the tripartite meeting and most of the workers' organisations, including the AITUC, had expressed their disagreement with the proposal made by Government on this question.

"As regards the Industrial Truce Resolution and the current agitation by the trade unions, the AITUC may point out that the Resolution clearly laid down as an integral responsibility of the Government and the employers that prices would not be allowed to rise. During 1963, even Government figures of cost of living indices (all-India) have shown a rise of 10 points between January and December, and it is clear therefore that the Government did nothing to arrest the price rise and bring relief to the people, despite all the Emergency powers.

.....Contd.

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

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

24 February 1964

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.....Contd.

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

5, Jhande Wallan,

Rani Jhansi Road, NEW DELHI
Indore Dt. 26-2-64.PRESS STATEMENT.

Prices of essential articles are continuously rising and the Government has failed to check them, is now admitted even by Union Finance Minister T.T. Krishnamachari. Common man, including workers and peasants have failed to obtain any relief through government machinery to this end. The taxation policy of the government in the last budget has helped the prices further to shoot up.

Dearness allowance which is being paid to the workers is so inadequate that it could not stop their real wages and purchasing power continuously falling. The toilers have no option but to agitate against these policies of government and fight against it. The great petition and march on 13th Sept. 1963 compelled the govt. to withdraw compulsory deposit scheme for a section of workers and make changes in the Gold Control rules. It has failed to bring down prices. Through constitutional methods the toilers of India want to bring about change in the policy of govt. which helps rising prices and at the same time does not adversely affect the defence and development of the country. Acceptance by the govt. of 11 point demand put forth by the A.I.T.U.C. in Dec. 1963 will enable it to achieve this. The present three phased programme of the toilers is undertaken because of the failure of the govt. to respond to it in deeds. The first phase of fast by thousands of workers and leaders throughout the country from 20th to 22nd Feb. 64 has been successful beyond expectations. The next two phases i.e. demonstration before factories for 15 minutes either before or after the working hours from March 7th and Satyagraha before Parliament on April 6th to begin with by 1000 persons, will follow. If, meanwhile no response is made from the government and the employers, one day token strike and Hartal all over the country may have to be resorted to, if even then there is no change in the situation.

The Union Labour Ministry has charged A.I.T.U.C. for violation of Industrial Truce resolution, code of discipline and tripartite decisions of the ILC. Some employers have also expressed similar views. This is like the Kettle calling the pot black.

AITUC, along with other Central T.U. organizations, employers and the Union and State Governments unanimously agreed with the code of discipline in 1958 and Industrial Truce Resolution in Nov. 1962. AITUC had insisted and the then Union Labour Minister had agreed the code of discipline and other decisions of the ILC - specially those taken in 1957-58 are to be taken together for implementation by all concerned. A.I.T.U.C. and other central T.U. Organizations have on several occasions pointed out in tripartite meetings through correspondence and interviews with the authorities concerned that the employers, including public sector employers and the Union and State Governments have not been abiding by the code and that this is being imposed only on the working class.

It will be useful if the Labour Ministry checks up its own records of various ILC meetings where in worker's representatives have stated time and again that resorting to hunger strike is not violation of code of discipline. Workers can be discouraged from taking to the path of agitation, demonstrations, hunger-strike and strikes, only if all the employers including government concerned and their machinery move promptly to redress workers grievances as against the present in different and some times callous attitude. Even in the 20th Session of the ILC serious neglect and violation of the code of discipline and Industrial

truce resolutions by the employers and the government was brought to the notice by our representatives.

The Industrial truce resolution passed on Nov. 3rd 1962 enjoins upon the Govt. "to ensure that price of Industrial goods and essential commodities are not allowed to increase". The government has miserably failed to carry out their obligations in this respect

Particularly public sector employers, have behaved very bureaucratically recognised unions arbitrarily, refused to link D.A. to the cost of living Index and pay Bonus to their workers. The attitude of the Govts. (both Union & States) with their own employees in respect of grant of D.A. fully neutralising increase in Dearness is a pointer.

The employees have failed to carry out their obligations regarding closure, retrenchment and rationalization and taking recourse to arbitration as method of settling Industrial disputes among other obligations undertaken by them in the code discipline & the Industrial truce resolution. The Labour Ministry is fully aware of it. Employers were concerned with profits as first motive and often neglected the interest of the country, its defence, consumers and the workers. They took full advantage of the early period of emergency of the undertaking by the workers, not to interrupt production by minting more and more profits and attacking workers rights and their trade unions. The machinery of Labour Ministry proved incapable of chalking the employers until workers, in the changed situation at the borders and the country took upon themselves to defend their interest by agitations and actions. Thus Industrial truce resolutions remained unilaterally binding only on the workers and their trade unions. For the employers and the government it is used as only another stick to beat the workers with, whenever necessary.

AITUC and HMS expressed clearly in 21st Session of the ILC held in July 1963 and in subsequent tripartite meetings that the situation in the country has changed from what it was in Nov. 1962 and especially because the Government and the employers have failed to carry out their obligations of Industrial Truce resolutions, the blanket ban on the strikes and struggles of the working class (wherever necessary) will no longer be operative. Even now, we will not start strikes, just for the sake of strikes but as explained in the ILC if workers were forced to resort to struggle, our place is with the working class.

Uptill now the programme of the movement care has been taken that workers do not absent from their duties to the extent that production suffers. Production figures during 20th and 22nd Feb. 1964 will prove it.

Government has collected more taxes than anticipated. It is high time that the forth coming budget gives relief to the common man.

AITUC has used all the existing avenues of settlement in bringing these issues before the authorities concerned. If we look to the moving fast it is simply because government machinery is not speedy enough in checking rise in prices and tackling workers issues. AITUC will continue its fight for the 11 point demand along with other trade unions and sections of the people, till tangible results are achieved and workers and peoples interests are secured.

K.G. Shrivastav

(K.G. SHRIWASTAV)
Secretary.

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

2 March 1964

BUDGET PROPOSALS FAIL TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO COMMON MAN

- AITUC AGITATION AGAINST PRICE-RISES TO CONTINUE

Shri K.G. Sriwastava, Secretary, AITUC, has issued the following statement:

"The common people of our country, groaning under crushing tax burdens and price-rises, expected from the Government not only no fresh tax burdens but positive relief by way of reduction in the insidious indirect taxes on daily necessities and measures to bring down the price levels which are now abnormally high.

"In the budget presented by Shri T.T. Krishnamachari last Saturday, he has withdrawn the CDS completely. He did not impose new taxes on the common man and has made some re-adjustments in the indirect levies on items affecting the lives of the common people.

"Shri Krishnamachari has given more relief to the business community by withdrawing the Super Profit Tax and by several new rebates by way of incentive to private enterprise. Levying of certain new taxes on this wealthy section of the society does not increase the burden on the employers. On the other hand, there has been no reduction of duties and indirect taxes affecting the mass of the people.

"As regards soaring prices, the Finance Minister has only taken note of it but has not taken any steps to curb this trend or bring prices down. He has totally ignored the demand for nationalisation of banks, etc. In fact, in an interview with a foreign journal, he has claimed that 'the demand is being raised by a very small section and I do not think we need really bother about it.'

"No steps are also being contemplated to check the growing tendency of concentration of wealth in a few hands.

"While the Finance Minister has no scheme for reducing prices through physical controls and State trading, particularly in relation to foodgrains and other essential commodities and thus provide relief to the common people, he has favoured de-control of certain industrial goods. This policy will only lead to further increase in price levels.

And to top it all, the Finance Minister has sought to reverse the present industrial policy and allow private foreign investment in sectors earmarked for the Public Sector and which are in strategic fields. This is a dangerous trend and most ominous for the future of our country.

"The working class and the toiling millions in our country have no hope of relief from the budget proposals. They will continue to face the rigours of price-rises in the coming months. The movement for the effective steps to check price rises, for reduction in excise duties on kerosene, tea, sugar, etc., linking of D.A. with the price index, correction of the index, nationalisation of banks, State trading in foodgrains, etc., as per the 11-point Charter of Demands of the National Campaign will, therefore, have to be continued and intensified."

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

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

15 March 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUEAITUC DEMANDS REGULAR TRIPARTITE MEETING TO REVIEW
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SITUATION

In a communication to the Union Labour Minister, Shri D. Sanjivayya, Shri S.A. Dange, AITUC General Secretary, has demanded that a regular meeting of the tripartite Standing Labour Committee or the Indian Labour Conference should be convened to review the present industrial relations situation.

The AITUC has objected to the continuation of the Standing Committee on Industrial Truce and the meeting of this Committee which has been convened next Monday by the Labour Ministry, to discuss only the agitation launched by the AITUC. Shri Dange has stated that to call a tripartite to discuss only the actions of the AITUC showed a highly partisan attitude on the part of the Government and, therefore, the AITUC cannot agree to being a party to such a procedure.

Shri Dange reiterated that the main responsibility in creating discontent amongst the working people and the violation of the truce atmosphere lies on the taxation and other policies of the Government and the provocations carried out by the monopolists in various ways. He said that the recent budget has further worsened the situation by giving unheard of concessions to the big monopolists - Indian and foreign, and by refusing to give even the slightest concession in taxes that mainly affect the consumer goods required by the workers and peasants.

If the Government were seriously interested in finding a solution to the present problems, what is needed is that either the Indian Labour Conference or the Standing Labour Committee should be convened to discuss the present industrial relations situation in the country, in which, not only the AITUC but all TU organisations have been forced to defend the workers against the onslaughts of the Government and the monopolists.

The AITUC felt that in the conditions that exist today, the continuation of a Committee on Industrial Truce as such is out of date. The AITUC, therefore, will not be participating in the meeting of the Committee scheduled for March 16.

K.G. Sriwastava
15/3
(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary, AITUC

To:

The Editor

37
Patriot, Statesman,
(Patriot - Statesman -
New Delhi, Times of India)

Dear Sir,

I crave the hospitality of your esteemed paper for expressing my views on the Union Labour Minister's speech in Parliament during discussion of grant of Labour Department.

The Minister's speech unfortunately does not touch upon any of the present burning issues of the working class and toiling millions.

He asks: will the prices come down by strikes and agitations?

No, we know the prices will not automatically come down as a result of strikes and agitations but through agitations and strikes, the workers and masses of India want to ^{draw the up side} ~~tell~~ ^{attending} the Ministers, ~~Cabinet~~ and his Government to the live issues of the people, and the necessity to take positive and prompt action to hold the price line and reduce taxes on the poor, without slowing down defence and development plans of the country. It is hoped this will help them to rise from their slumber. It is regrettable that agitations uptill now has not reacted on the Finance and Labour Ministers as is evident from their speeches in the Parliament when they only promise to closely watch the situation regarding prices. More agitation and may be all-India strike is needed to wake them up to the realities. They can avoid strikes by taking up these issues in right earnest and promptly finding a solution.

He has criticised a section of trade unions for dividing the unity of the working class which was achieved after the Chinese attack, through these agitations. The splitters of TU organisations are very well known in the country and they are none other than those of his own political party whom Ministers like Shri Sanjivayya and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri boost up.

Shri Sanjivayya has also threatened that this section of the trade unions will not get the benefit of tripartite agreements, viz., voluntary arbitration, etc. The present

situation in the industry would not have arisen if the various tripartite decisions were implemented promptly. Employers, both private as well as of public sector violating these tripartite agreements and the Labour Ministry being a silent spectator, only sermonising the workers and the trade unions, has in fact brought about this situation.

In the last meeting of the Industrial Truce Committee, not a single word has been said about the employers and Government violating tripartite agreements and Industrial Truce resolution. Neither does any such reference appear in the Minister's speech.

Not outbursts and accusations but consideration ^{of solving} burning issues of the people and the working class promptly only will bring industrial peace. Let the new Union Labour Minister apply his mind to this.

Yours sincerely,

K. S. Prasadani.

4/5823, Deenapan
New Delhi. 21.3.44.

Cable: "AITUCONG"

Telephones: 57787
54740

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

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

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

21 March 1964

WORKING CLASS TO UPHOLD NATIONAL AND CLASS SOLIDARITY

AGAINST COMMUNALISM

K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, has issued the following statement:

" Reports of recent happenings in certain centres indicate that the communal demon has begun to raise its ugly head, threatening national and class unity in these industrial towns. Vested interests are obviously behind this orgy and it is necessary that the organised working class movement should be vigilant, intervene in time and devote all its energies to defeat communal reaction.

" The AITUC appeals to all workers and trade unions to unitedly strive to isolate the communal reactionaries and the anti-social elements, to organise peace squads in affected areas and preserve communal harmony.

" The AITUC hopes that the working class in this country which has had a proud tradition in upholding communal harmony will rise to the occasion and in alliance with all democrats, decisively intervene to foil the attempts of communal reaction".

K.G. Sriwastava
(K.G.Sriwastava) 21/3/64
Secretary

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

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

MOST URGENT

CIRCULAR

23 March 1964

To All State Committees
To All Members of the General
Council of the AITUC

Dear Comrades,

The AITUC views with grave concern the outburst of communal riots specially in working class areas and centres. We have already appealed through the press to the unions and our functionaries to make all-out efforts to improve the situation in these centres and take preventive measures in others.

In this connection, the AITUC welcomes the initiative of the Home Ministry in setting up tripartite machinery for maintaining communal peace and amity in working class centres and for taking effective and timely steps against communal disturbances. The AITUC considers that it is the first and foremost duty of every trade union to fight against the spread of communal poison in the working class. If the working class falls a prey to the dark forces of communal reaction, the very basis of the trade union movement is completely knocked out in a country like ours.

Reactionary and communal forces in our country are trying to justify these communal disturbances as some sort of a natural reaction to what is happening in East Pakistan. Communal passions are being roused and workers are being told that retaliation is the only way to help the minorities in East Pakistan. Demands are being raised even for an exchange of population as a solution to the communal problem.

The AITUC calls upon all its affiliates to fight against such propoganda and see that it is not able to mislead the working class. The minorities in India are as much a part of the Indian people as the majority community and not hostages to be held responsible for the misdeeds of the Pakistan ruling circles. The working class has to be made aware that just as in Pakistan the Ayub regime is resorting to communal disturbances to suppress the democratic movement, so in India communal disturbances are a weapon in the hands of Indian reaction to suppress, divide, disrupt and defeat the growing working class movement. Communal disturbances in India not only do not help the minorities in East Pakistan, they actually strengthen the Pakistani ruling circles in their attempt to crush the widespread democratic and secular movement in Pakistan for such demands as the introduction of an adult franchise.

It is therefore the sacred duty of every trade unionist in every part of the country, to mobilise the entire strength of the working class movement to defeat the reactionary designs of dark forces of communal reaction and maintain and build the unity of the working class. At the same time, the AITUC demands from the Government, urgent and effective steps against groups and newspapers who have been spreading communal propoganda in the country.

.../...

Trade unions in disturbed areas should immediately form committees, move in the areas (wherever necessary with passes from the authorities concerned), issue leaflets and posters and take every conceivable method to bring the situation to normalcy. The Home Ministry had a discussion with representatives of Central TU organisations here yesterday and agreed to give facilities to such work. Regular reports should be sent to the AITUC office and difficulty, if any experienced, immediately informed.

The TUs should also attend to the immediate question of relief in the riot-affected areas.

In all industrial centres, the trade unions should actively campaign for communal harmony and class unity and in apprehended trouble spots, utmost vigilance should be exercised to isolate the trouble-makers and with the help of the authorities, take prompt action against anti-social elements before they could do any mischief.

This work should be treated as part of the Campaign of the Toilers. Only by maintaining class unity, irrespective of caste, religion and colour can we move ahead.

THIS IS A PRIORITY TASK.

Please send us reports of your activities in this connection.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G. Sriwastava

(K.G. Sriwastava) 25/3
Secretary

Copy of statement issued by Com. K.G. Sriwastava, Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, on 21 March 1964 to the press:

" Reports of recent happenings in certain centres indicate that the communal demon has begun to raise its ugly head, threatening national and class unity in these industrial towns. Vested interests are obviously behind this orgy and it is necessary that the organised working class movement should be vigilant, intervene in time and devote all its energies to defeat communal reaction.

" The AITUC appeals to all workers and trade unions to unitedly strive to isolate the communal reactionaries and the anti-social elements, to organise peace squads in affected areas and preserve communal harmony.

" The AITUC hopes that the working class in this country which has had a proud tradition in upholding communal harmony will rise to the occasion and in alliance with all democrats, decisively intervene to foil the attempts of communal reaction".

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Telephones: 57787/54740

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

30 March 1964

Secretariat of the All India Trade Union Congress, has issued the following statement:

" The All India Trade Union Congress strongly condemns the lock-out in the Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal.

" For quite sometime past the workers of Heavy Electricals Limited have been struggling to achieve their legitimate demands of adequate dearness allowance and recognition of the most representative union the Heavy Electricals Servants' Trade Union. But the management which is fully backed by the Government has been denying their just claims and has foisted a puppet union as representative of the workers. Now the management of this public sector enterprise has declared a lock-out which is clearly illegal and unjustified. It is nothing but an attempt to break the workers morale and to smash the Heavy Electricals Servants' Trade Union.

" Alongwith the lockout leaders of the workers have been arrested and detained.

" The All India Trade Union Congress demands immediate lifting of the lock-out, release of the arrested leaders, and opening of discussion with rightful representatives of the workers to restore industrial peace and production."

Satish Loomba

(Satish Loomba)
Secretary

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

3 April 1964

The Secretariat of the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Federation of Indian Road Transport Workers have issued the following statement. :-

" The AITUC and the National Federation of Indian Road Transport Workers fully support the struggle of the Kerala State Transport workers for the restoration of rights and benefits which the State Government had unjustifiably withdrawn in 1960.


" The employees have been conducting continuous satyagraha for the last two months and from March 30 onwards, Sri K.V. Surandranath, General Secretary of the Employees' Union has gone on a hunger-strike on this issue.

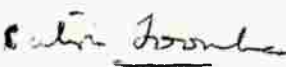
"What is particularly significant in this connection is that the employees have been compelled to launch a struggle for the revival of Works Committees, Staff Councils and Appeal Boards which should be a part of the normal set up in any industrial or commercial undertaking. In fact, under the scheme of joint consultation with workers which was successfully implemented at the time of the previous Communist-led Ministry in the State, these bodies had played a very useful role. Despite the exhortations to practice worker-participation in management as part of the Plan's labour policy, the Kerala Government completely sabotaged the joint council scheme in the State Transport.

"It is learnt that the State Government has claimed that since the State Transport is a departmental undertaking, labour laws and conventions as applicable to the industrial workers will not be applicable to the transport workers. This is indeed queer logic and goes contrary to the past practices in the State Transport undertaking itself where settlements under the industrial law had been arrived at earlier.

" It is all the more reprehensible that instead of resolving the outstanding disputes in this State Sector undertaking, the Administration is indulging in unfair labour practices like victimisation, prolongation of working hours, re-introduction of the daily wage system which was earlier abolished, etc. The authorities have also refused to implement the Standing Labour Committee recommendation on linking of Dearness Allowance with the cost of living index and monetary relief as against the steep rise in prices of essential commodities.

"The AITUC and the National Federation demand that the Government should immediately intervene, before the situation deteriorates further."


(N.D. Sundriyal)
General Secretary
National Federation of
Indian Road Transport Workers


(Satish Loomba)
Secretary
All-India Trade Union Congress

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

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

CIRCULAR

4 April 1964

To

- 1) All National Campaign Committee members,
- 2) All S.T.U.Cs.

Dear Comrades,

We are enclosing herewith copies of three resolutions passed by the National Campaign Committee of Toilers of India at its meeting held here on 3rd and 4th April, 1964, for your information.

1. On Toilers Campaign.
2. On Unity against Communalism.
3. On Bomus Commission Report.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours fraternally,



(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary

414

P.S. Please send us reports on the activity of our unions in combatting communalism and the problems encountered.

Cable "AITUCONG"

Telephones 57787/54740

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

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

4 April 1964

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

ON BONUS COMMISSION REPORT

This meeting of the National Campaign Committee of the Toilers of India voices its strong protest at the dilatory tactics of the Government of India on the question of the implementation of the Report of the Bonus Commission and at its weak-kneed attitude to the pressures being exerted by the employers to water down the meagre gains of the workers. It is strange that though the representative of the public sector managements had fully agreed with the report, the Finance Ministry is trying to interfere and help this watering down of the Commission's recommendations.

This meeting warns the Government that the workers will in no case accept any such move. This meeting calls upon the workers to observe 15th April 1964 as a day of protest against this move of the employers and Government. by sending protest telegrams to the Labour Minister with copies to the AITUC.

4 April 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The National Campaign Committee of the Toilers of India which concluded its two-day session in Delhi today, adopted the following resolution:

"The National Campaign Committee of the Toilers of India which met at New Delhi on April 3 and 4, heartily congratulates the hundreds of trade unions and lakhs of workers who have enthusiastically responded to its call for mass hunger-strikes and demonstrations during February and March. It also congratulates the lakhs of common men and women who expressed their active solidarity and sympathy with these working class actions

"The National Campaign Committee notes that around its 11-point Charter of Demands, a growing and conscious mobilisation is developing, not only in the ranks of the trade union movement, but also among broad sections of the toilers, middle-class and progressive intelligentsia.

"Industrial mass actions by the workers of different industries and enterprises on demands relating to dearness allowance, wages, rising prices, fraudulent cost of living indices, trade union rights, etc., are mounting in intensity and tempo. Wider and wider sections of the working class, irrespective of affiliations, are being drawn into this movement on the basis of their own experiences and sufferings. The National Campaign Committee is particularly gratified to find that the INTUC, HMS, UTUC, Hind Mazdoor Panchayat and several industrial federations, though not yet prepared for immediate united action, have gone unequivocally on record in support of most of the common demands of the workers and the need for mass mobilisation to secure them from the employers and to change the Government's labour policy in a progressive direction.

"The National Campaign Committee is firmly of opinion that only a coordinated countrywide mass action, based on all-in working class unity can have a decisive effect on the Government's and employers' anti-labour and anti-democratic policies. However, it is also true that no single organisation commands sufficient influence and resources at present to bring about such an action on its own. The efforts of all have to be coordinated and unified in such a way that the entire working class, supported by the broad toiling masses, can be brought into action for the common demands which are accepted by all.

"The National Campaign Committee draws pointed attention to the fact that not a single major demand of the working class has yet been conceded by either the Government or the employers. Plenty of vague assurances are no substitute for the harsh reality that prices of essential commodities continue to rule at unprecedentedly high levels, the overwhelming majority of enterprises in both the private and public sectors have ignored the unanimous decision for opening of fair price shops, real wages of the workers continue to decline, speculation in foodgrains continues, the defective cost of living indices have been only partially rectified at one or two centres.

..... P.T.O.

The Bonus Commission's report has disappeared indefinitely into the Government's files, the employers' offensive of victimisation, denial of trade union rights continues in full force, the new Budgets of the Central and State Governments have continued the old pattern of imposing the brunt of taxes on the lower-income groups, and the mounting demand for nationalisation of banks has been summarily rejected by the Union Finance Minister on the floor of Parliament.

Hence, the sufferings of the working class and toilers are continuing unabated. In this situation, the National Campaign Committee reiterates its proposal for a countrywide, one-day general strike and hartal as an essential step for winning its just demands. With this end in view, it appeals to all central trade union organisations and federations without exception and to all workers throughout the country, to build up a mighty united front on the basis of their commonly expressed demands and for joint countrywide action to achieve them.

In view of the growing importance of evolving agreed forms of action and struggle which would help to bring different trade union organisations still closer to each other in the interests of achieving common demands, and also in view of the serious communal and other disruption prevailing in various parts of the country and requiring the constant on-the-spot presence and vigilance of trade union leaders and cadres, the National Campaign Committee also resolves to withdraw its previously announced programme of a national satyagraha before the Parliament from April 15 and to concentrate all its energies on the campaign for a countrywide token general strike.

The National Campaign Committee resolves to set up a sub-committee consisting of Comrades S.A.Dange, Ranen Sen, K.G.Sriwastava, Indrajit Gupta, Satish Loomba, Datta Deshmukh, Parvathi Krishnan, Prabhat Kar and S.S.Yusuf to establish closer contacts and hold talks with other organisations at all-India and State levels with the object of bringing about maximum possible coordination and unity between them for a countrywide mass action at a suitable time.

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Telephones: 57787/54740

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

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

PRESS RELEASE

21 April 1964

The Secretariat of the All-India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement:-

"The strike in the Jay Engineering Works, Calcutta began on 17th December 1963. On 10th April 1964 the West Bengal Government declared it illegal under the Defence of India Rules. Yesterday Com. Sushobhan Roy, General Secretary of the union has been arrested under the Defence of India Rules. Com. Sushobhan Roy was arrested while the leaders of the union including him were reportedly negotiating with the Chief Minister, West Bengal.

"The All-India Trade Union Congress condemns the use of the Defence of India Rules to curb the legitimate struggle of the workers and in particular the arrest of the General Secretary. Repeated attempts to settle the disputes through negotiations have failed due to the obstinate attitude of the employers. What was required was that the Government should intervene to bring pressure upon the employers to settle with the workers. Use of the Defence of India Rules will only complicate the matter.

"The A.I.T.U.C. therefore demands immediate release of Com. Sushobhan Roy, withdrawal of the notification declaring the strike illegal and convening of tripartite meeting by the Government to settle the issue."

Satish Loomba
(Satish Loomba)
Secretary

21 April 1964

MESSAGE FOR MOSCOW RADIO ON THE EVE OF MAY DAY, 1964

Dear Comrades,

May Day of 1964 reminds the Indian Working class the slogan of "Workers of all land unite" more forcefully. The recent way of unity among the working class organisations in Latin America, Africa and a united action in India against price rise are welcome feature. United struggle of working class movement in France and Italy in Europe against their monopolists are a great strength of the working class movement. Building of Socialism and Communism in the Socialist countries notably in the U.S.S.R. not only helps the workers of these countries but is a positive gain for the movement of a world peace, fight against imperialism and democracy. The close ties that the people of the Soviet Union and India and particularly the working class of both these countries have maintained for the last 45 years is growing. Indian people and working class thanks the Soviet Union for the help in building Heavy Industries in our country. We wish workers in Soviet Union more and more success.

(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary, AITUC.

37
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'Phone: 57787

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

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

21 April 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

A. I. T. U. C. DEMANDS IMMEDIATE REVISION OF CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' D.A.

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement:

"The Secretariat of the AITUC urges upon the Government to immediately concede the demand of the employees for a revision in their D.A. The employees have been entitled to this rise, even on the most retrograde formula laid down by the Pay Commission, i.e., an average rise of 10 points in 12 months has been reached, when the January 1964 index has been stated as 140.

"The all-India index for February 1964 is stated to be 142. Thus due to the corrections made only in six out of 27 centres, the index for all-India has shown a rise of four points since November. This proves the contention of the trade unions that the malpractices in index compilation, partly brought to light by Expert Committees, should be fully probed into in respect of all centres for which consumer price indices are published. The AITUC would demand that Government should take immediate measures to rectify the faults in the indices for all centres and correct the All-India Consumer Price Index also.

"When the index has risen to 142 in February, the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation would also be entitled to a D.A. revision. The AITUC hopes that the authorities will not linger on a settlement on this dispute and would provide prompt relief.

"The AITUC hopes that Government would also take steps to revise the formula on D.A. for Central Government employees, to make it more realistic and capable of providing prompt relief. As a majority of employees' organisations have demanded, D.A. should be reviewed every six months, providing for full neutralisation of the rise in living costs. The present arrangement makes nonsense of the principle of linking D.A. with the price index since the Central Government employees had to wait for nearly three years to be entitled to a D.A. revision, since the rise upto 125 points was partly neutralised in November 1961."

Satish Loomba
(Satish Loomba)
Secretary, AITUC

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ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

PRESS RELEASE

5 May 1964

The Secretariat of the All India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement:

"Shri D. Sanjivayya, the Union Labour Minister, has stated that since the recommendations of the Bonus Commission are "far-reaching", these are being referred to the State Governments and the employing ministries of the Central Government. The reasoning out of the clearly delaying tactics in this respect is far from convincing.

" When the Bonus Commission was constituted, its terms of reference were drawn through agreement in a tripartite committee in which representatives from all State Governments were present. Moreover, on the Bonus Commission itself, a representative of the Public Sector selected in consultation with the State Governments and employing Ministries of the Central Government, was appointed. Shri Mathur represented the public sector employers while Shri Dandekar represented the Private sector interests.

" The State Governments and the employing ministries had their full say in the discussions and decisions of the Commission and Shri Mathur has signed the Report of the Bonus Commission, without indicating any reservations.

" The propriety of referring the Commission Report back again to the State Governments and the employing Ministries is therefore hard to understand.

"These methods will only undermine the sanctity of tripartite consultations and decisions and workers will lose their faith in this machinery.

" The trade union movement has weighty reasons to be apprehensive and indignant over the efforts at delaying the implementation of the Bonus Commission's recommendations and over the attempt to water down the recommendations in the name of fresh consultations. The Government will have to face united agitation of the workers all over the country if these nefarious attempts are persisted upon".

K.G. Sriwastava
(K.G. Sriwastava) *May*
Secretary

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ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

5-E, Jhandewalan, Kani Jhansi Road, New Delhi-1.

PRESS RELEASE

6 May 1964

AITUC PROTESTS AGAINST MISUSE OF EMERGENCY POWERS

The Secretariat of the All-India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement:

" The extraordinary step of imposing a ban on strikes in the Heavy Electricals Project, Bhopal, for a six-month period under the Defence of India Rules is clearly a misuse of the Emergency powers in the sphere of industrial relations. This is, to say the least, most unwarranted and undemocratic.

" The HEL management and the M.P. State Government have earned notorelty for the most callous handling of industrial relations in this important State Sector project. Despite the emergency and the industrial truce which the government speaks of, they had the least hesitation to shut down the plant for about three weeks, which all the trade unions have condemned as an illegal lock-out. While the emergency powers were not used to foil the illegal actions of the management, the State Government resorted to arrests of a large number of workers. The arrested workers were subjected to most inhuman treatment and an atmosphere of terror has been created inside the plant, suppressing all civil liberties and trade union rights.

" It has become the unfortunate experience of the TU movement that since the Emergency was declared, there has been hardly any instance when the Defence of India Rules were used to settle the long outstanding industrial disputes in favour of the workers. On the other hand, the DIR is being most arbitrarily utilised against the workers and the trade unions.

" The AITUC strongly protests against this misuse of the Emergency Powers and the attack on trade union rights. It appeals to the M.P. Government to review their policy in regard to industrial relations in HEL, release the arrested employees and initiate negotiations with the union genuinely representing the majority of the workers, with regard to the pending issues. That is the only way to secure industrial peace."

UKA. *[Signature]*
(K.G. Sriwastava) 6/1
Secretary, AITUC.

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

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

PRESS RELEASE

8 May 1964

INADEQUATE DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement to the press:

"It is very much regrettable that the Union Government which recommends others to fully neutralise the rise in the cost of living index by enhancing dearness allowance of the workers, itself refuses to implement the tripartite decision in respect of its own employees. The announcement by the Government of India to raise the dearness allowance of their employees by only 3.50 Rs. to the lowest paid employees even after the average rise in the cost of living index for 12 months has been to the order of 10 points, is too inadequate. For the lowest paid employee who has been burning under high prices for the last more than a year, this paltry increase of 50 per cent compensation from 1st of April 1964 is a drop in ocean. The lowest paid employee deserves more amount in the form of dearness allowance to meet the increasing cost of living.

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

11 May 1964

In a press statement Messrs S.M. Banerjee, M.P., Shakir Ali Khan, M.L.A., Krishna Pal Singh, M.L.A. and K.G. Srivastava, Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress have demanded upward revision in the dearness allowance of Heavy Electricals employees. It is surprising that while administrations of Hindustan Air Craft Ltd. and Bharat Electronics Ltd. have already revised dearness allowance of their employees, in the Steel Industry interim relief has been paid and the report of Wage Board has been awaited, in H.E.L. Dhopal the management is refusing to move in the matter except saying for months that the issue is under consideration.

For normalisation of relations in H.E.L. Shri S.M. Banerjee, M.P. and Shri Shakir Ali Khan, M.L.A. have met Priyansu Subramanian and D. Sanjivayya, Union Heavy Industries and Labour & Employment Minister on 10th and 11th May respectively.

A reign of terror has been created in the factory at Dhopal and Shri Shakir Ali Khan was not allowed to meet the detained workers in jail. They have appealed to these ministers to stop inhuman treatment to the arrested workers, pleaded for their immediate release, creating normal atmosphere in the factory and then negotiate on the major demands of the workers to arrive at settlement on the table.

1. Shri S.M. Banerjee, M.P. -----
2. Shri Shakir Ali Khan, M.L.A. -----
3. Shri Krishna Pal Singh, M.L.A. -----
4. Shri K.G. Srivastava, Secretary, A.I.T.U.C. *U.S. Banerjee*

EXTRA 87

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ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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



PRESS RELEASE

20 May 1964

The Secretariat of the All-India Trade Union Congress has, to-day issued the following statement to the press:

" The AITUC strongly condemns the arrests of nearly 400 trade union and political leaders of West Bengal. The trade unions in West Bengal have given a general strike call jointly to protest against the soaring prices and to press for an immediate settlement of the strike of the Jay Engineering Workers which is continuing since December 17, 1963. Various political parties have supported this call.

" Instead of taking stock of its failings in holding the price line and the anti-labour policy which has led to prolonged strike in the Jay Engineering Works Ltd. the West Bengal Government has resorted to a misuse of the Defence of India Rules in an attempt to silence the people's voice.

" The AITUC demands the immediate release of all those arrested, effective steps to check prices and the settlement of the Jay Engineering strike. It assures the trade unions which have called for this joint action, of its whole hearted support, and appeals to all people to condemn the repression let loose by the West Bengal Government.

" The AITUC calls upon the Government of India to immediately intervene in the situation."

Satish Loomba
(Satish Loomba)
Secretary

Handwritten red marks and numbers: a checkmark, the number '52', and the date '23-5'.

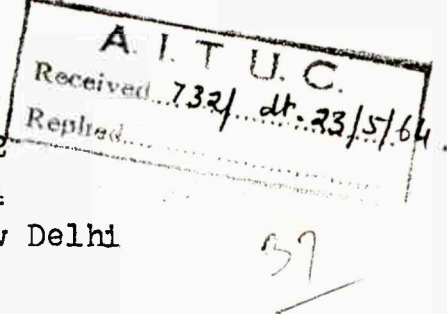
COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

Phone 271002

Central Office

271794

----- 7/4 Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi



May 20, 1964

press release

ON CALCUTTA ARRESTS

The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India has issued the following statement to the press on the latest arrests in Calcutta:

The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India indignantly protests against the largescale arrests of Communists, Socialists and other trade unionists in and around Calcutta.

The Government itself cannot hold the price line and hauls up the working people's leaders engaged in the righteous cause of organising a peaceful hartal and strike to protest against the unbearable situation.

We demand that the West Bengal Government immediately order their unconditional release and sit down with them and other people's leaders in a round table conference and evolve a practical and just solution.

The Editor,

for Central Office

37
'Phone: 57787/54740

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

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

23 May 1964

To
The News Editor,

PRESS CONFERENCE - AITUC OFFICE, JHANDEWALAN,
Sunday, 24th May 1964, 4.30 p.m.

Dear Sir,

Shri Shakir Ali Khan, MLA from Bhopal and President, Madhya Pradesh State Committee of the AITUC will begin his indefinite hunger-strike in front of Parliament from 25th May morning, as a protest against the repression against the workers of Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal, to press for fulfilment of the just demands of the workers and to draw the attention of Parliament to the mismanagement in the factory.

A Press Conference will be held in our office at 5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, on Sunday, 25th May at 4.30 p.m. in this connection. Shri S.A. Dange, General Secretary, AITUC and Shri Shakir Ali Khan will explain the position and the stand of the AITUC.

We hope that you will be good enough to attend or depute someone on your behalf.

Yours faithfully,

Satish Loomba

(Satish Loomba)
Secretary

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

PRESS RELEASE

17 July 1964

The Secretariat of the A.I.T.U.C. has issued the following statement to the press:

" The All-India Trade Union Congress had suggested to the Ministry of Labour that the question of rise in prices, correction of cost of living indices, linking of dearness allowance with cost of living index, and implementation of the Bonus Commission Report should be put on the agenda of the forthcoming 22nd Session of the Indian Labour Conference. However, the agenda circulated by the Labour Ministry does not contain any of these items which are of vital interest to the working class and instead it is loaded with items which are against the interests of the workers. As soon as the agenda was circulated the AITUC immediately wrote to the Ministry of Labour suggesting once again that the items proposed by it should be included for discussion. But the Ministry of Labour has not even cared to acknowledge such an important communication.

" In these circumstances, the Secretariat of the AITUC has decided to raise these issues in the Indian Labour Conference notwithstanding the fact that the Government has not included them in the agenda. Should discussion on these items be ruled out, the AITUC will not participate any further in the proceedings of the Indian Labour Conference.

Satish Loomba

(Satish Loomba)
Secretary

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ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

August 2, 1963.

AITUC SUPPORTS INTUC


Linking D.A. to Cost of Living Index to be discussed in
Tripartite Meeting.

Com. K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, New Delhi, has today issued the following statement to the press:-

AITUC wholeheartedly supports the view expressed by Shri S.R.Vasavada, General Secretary, INTUC, in a statement to the press on August 1, demanding linking of dearness allowance to the cost of living index for workers in all private and public sector industries including Government employees. In fact, this view was reiterated by our delegation at the 21st Session of the Indian Labour Conference held last month and the unions in many centres are agitating for this demand, specially in view of the present rise in prices.

We also demand that consequent on this linking of D.A. with the cost of living index, the neutralisation should be full and the method of working out cost of living index, about which complaints have been made by the trade unions on several occasions, should be revised, to reflect properly the actual rise and fall in the prices of daily necessities.

The AITUC proposes that this item should be seriously discussed in the proposed tripartite meeting on 5th August 1963.


Secretary, 21/8/63
All India Trade Union Congress
New Delhi.

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

6 August 1964

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement:

"The large-scale aggressive attacks launched by the U.S. naval forces on the territory of North Vietnam have shocked the peace-loving forces throughout the world. Aggressive circles in the USA have been, for a long time, preparing provocations and armed attacks on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, on various pretexts, and the dastardly acts committed by the U.S. imperialists yesterday were in continuation of the dirty war they have been carrying on against the national liberation struggle in South Vietnam.

"The movements of the nuclear-armed Seventh Fleet of the United States in Asian waters have been viewed with serious concern by all freedom-loving nations and peoples of this continent. The attacks launched by ships of the Seventh Fleet from the Gulf of Tonkin provide further ~~provide further~~ proof that the presence of this Fleet is the biggest threat to peace in Asia.

"It is now over ten years since the solemn agreements were reached at Geneva in 1954 with regard to a political settlement in Vietnam and to ensure for the Vietnamese people complete freedom to decide their internal affairs. During these years, however, the U.S. Government has actively intervened in the internal affairs of Vietnam and large-scale military operations are being carried on under the aegis of the U.S. military authorities. It is also not without significance that the former Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, General Taylor, has been posted as so-called 'Ambassador'.

"Freedom-loving nations the world over cannot but watch with extreme concern these sinister interventions by the United State Government's political and military apparatuses in the internal affairs of Vietnam. To pursue such naked imperialistic policies, the U.S. Government has even begun to stake the peace of the world.

"The AITUC calls upon the people and Government of India to unequivocally condemn the aggressive acts of the United States imperialists in Vietnam, demand that the Seventh Fleet leaves Asian waters forthwith, and to ensure the settlement of the internal affairs of Vietnam by the Vietnamese people themselves on the basis of the ~~1954~~ Geneva Agreements of 1954."


for Secretary

For favour of publication

10 August 1963

S.A. Dange's letter to Madhu Limaye.

Letter from Shri S.A. Dange, to Shri Madhu Limaye, President Sangharsh Samiti dated the 7th August, 1963 is reproduced below. Also enclosed is the circular AITUC has issued to all Unions on the conclusions of Standing Labour Committee meeting held on 5th August, 1963 and referred to in Shri Dange's letter:-

7 August 1963

Dear Madhu Limaye,

On 22nd July, before I left India for abroad, I had sent you a letter. Thereafter our Action Committee people had some discussions with you, I had also sent you copy of the letter we had sent to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

You are aware that the Labour Ministry of the Government of India called a Tripartite Conference of the Standing Committee of the Indian Labour Conference. It was obviously the outcome of the agitation that the workers and trade unions throughout the country are conducting against the high prices, taxes, C.D.S. and the worsening conditions of life. We two from Bombay brought up the specific Bombay problems before the conference and Government agenda papers also had put them in their notes.

The decisions of that conference are by now known to you. Though you were not in the conference, your P.M.S. partner in your Sangharsha Committee was represented by its president Shri Basawan Singh, alongwith Shri Mahesh Desai from Bombay.

There are three points in the decisions of the meeting which affect all of us and directly bear on our demands.

One decision is regarding the verification of the cost of living index, on which depends the variations in the D.A. amount. The Govt. agrees that in view of the complaint of the workers regarding the correctness of the index as stated in our letter, the Labour Minister and T.U. representatives (viz. myself) can do spot verification of the rates and find out the discrepancies, if any.

This certainly is a good outcome of the meeting, if properly implemented.

The Second decision is even more important. It is that all factories with three hundred or more workers must open, within four weeks, their own fair price shops where workers can buy at subsidised rates all their essential needs.

If this is implemented it will immediately affect not only the prices, paid by the workers, but it will also help to bring down prices in the town by sympathetic effect. This is a very important outcome.

Ofcourse the question of C.D.S. remains. In that also, the omission of bonus, overtime, house rent allowance and other fringe benefits from the income has given relief to a section of workers. However, our opposition to the C.D.S. as a whole remains.

If the prices question, which is the key to the situation can be resolved by these steps in a month's time, the workers will gain a lot.

Should we not, therefore, give the decision a trial and should we not work for positive implementation of these decisions, before we launch an action? Our objective is not action for action's sake, but action for definite relief. Why not see, if relief comes this way, at least partially, and if it fails, then think of further steps?

Then remains the question of the bonus of textiles and the demands of the Municipal and B E S T workers. In this too some moves are ~~off~~ afoot to resolve the deadlock. A Tripartite is to be called by the Govt. of Maharashtra immediately to give thought to all these problems.

Cont..... page 2.

Hence we are of the opinion that we should give Government and employers the time to fulfill the promise of the shops and thus bring down the high cost of living. If they fail, we can reconsider the matter of the protest strike-action which, in our opinion, should be postponed for the present.

We would request you and the Sangharsha Samiti to agree to this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- S.A.Dange.

President, Action Committee.

Sd/- S, G. Patkar.

President Sangharsh Samiti.

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

&

CIRCULAR
To General Council
Members and STUCs

7 August 1963

FOR THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF ALL
AFFILIATED UNIONS

Dear Comrades,

You must have read about the Tripartite Standing Committee meeting which was held in Delhi on 5 August 1963.

The meeting was called because the working people everywhere, especially in the trade unions, are moving against the high prices and the consequent fall in real wages.

The Great Petition to Parliament and the proposed March to present it, the move for a protest strike in Bombay and other places have also had their effect in making the Government to give urgent consideration to the price problem.

Government has failed to bring down prices as a whole and the attitude of Food Minister, Shri Patil, in refusing to take action against the profiteers in food under the D.I.R. shows that the Government is unable to execute any general line to control the profiteers and bring down prices and ensure supplies.

But when failing to carry out a general line of holding down prices, Government can take measures for partial relief.

On trade union pressure, Government has in this tripartite committee, agreed to take measures to see that every factory employing over 300 workers, open stores for its employees to supply all essential food articles at fair and controlled or subsidised prices.

If this measure covers all the factories and construction works, it will give significant relief to the workers. As a side effect, the profiteers will have to reduce their anti-social operations.

Hence, we request you to call meetings and report to workers about the agreements arrived at in this meeting.

Unless we move, these things will not be implemented. The employers and traders will sabotage under one pretext or another. The Government machinery may fail to provide supplies and so on.

It is agreed that this must be done in four weeks and it can be done.

If there are any mistakes, and if nothing moves within two weeks from now, send us information by telegram or letter on the actual facts. We will contact the Labour Ministry immediately.
data on

In larger towns where prices are collected for computing cost of living index, the trade unions should find out where the discrepancies between the declared fixed rates and the actual selling rates. They should write to the Government at the State and Centre and also inform us.

..... The case of

In the case of the workers in those wholesale kingdoms of the big monopolists who own their nagars and the whole life there, the problem of stores is easy to solve so far as organisation by the employers goes. But there it is most difficult to get it accepted by the monopolists, who have links with the big wholesale markets. For example, why there should not be subsidised fair price shops in Tatanagar, Modinagar, Dalmianagar, Walchandnagar and so on?

In these Nagars, the unions have to speak for the whole town and the population. The tripartite agreement refers to such nagars also.

The same is the case where large construction works under contractors, lasting over six months, are being carried on. The contractors and the shops are in league with each other in all their "shanty colonies". There too this problem must be attacked.

As all unions know, the fight against high prices and for fair supplies is an important struggle today.

The AITUC has been not only leading the fight but it is also giving constructive suggestions and solutions to seek immediate relief in this vital problem.

The trade unions have to play a twofold role - one of struggle to get the relief and another of constructive cooperation and participation in getting the schemes properly and promptly executed when Government and employers agree to them.

Government and employers now have agreed to do the things that are given in this circular.

Let us now move to ^{get} them executed.

So, meet your employer and discuss what he proposes to do.

Try to meet him through your union. If you are not recognised, it does not matter. Meet him as Works Committee or as a Committee elected by the workers meeting for this particular purpose. If possible, take other TU people with you, without raising any questions of front, etc. But move and get the shops.

Then watch how the shops behave, give your people to manage them, or help them. Make them into cooperatives later on. Just now do not wait to make them cooperatives under the law. That will take time. First the employer must start the shops with his capital and arrange supplies from the wholesale cooperatives or Government and sell that at subsidised prices.

We are telling you all this because unless you move, the workers in this way, we shall not be leading and serving the workers correctly. We must look into all details.

We know you have not got enough cadres to do all this. But you can train them from the intelligent, sacrificing and militant workers.

Just as we can manage a strike-battle, we must be able to manage the setting up of a shop and running a cooperative. Both are part of the working class movement.

We hope to learn the reports on all-India scale when we shall meet at the time of the March next month in Delhi, in a big review meeting.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

P.S. Please share this circular with other unions in your area and initiate local activity by joint meetings, etc.

S.A. Dange
for (S. A. DANGE) 7/11/44
General Secretary

A Note on I.L.C. Standing Committee Meeting

* PRINCIPLE OF LINKING D.A. WITH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
ACCEPTED

* FAIR PRICE SHOPS AND STORES TO BE OPENED FOR EQUITABLE
DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL ARTICLES AT REASONABLE PRICES

- by K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, AITUC

The Standing Committee of the 21st Session of the Indian Labour Conference met in New Delhi on 5 August 1963 to discuss the general labour situation since the last ILC meeting. The Committee discussed in detail the phenomena of rise in prices of essential articles in the recent period, which is one of the main causes of industrial unrest. Certain decisions were taken which, if implemented promptly and effectively, will go to remove to some extent, the anxieties of the working class.

S.R.Vasavada, General Secretary, INTUC, had on 1 August 1963 issued a statement demanding linking D.A. with consumer price indices in all private and public sector industries. The AITUC and the UTUC immediately supported this demand and also demanded that the rise in D.A. should fully neutralise the rise in cost of living. It was also urged that the index figures should be revised to truly reflect the actual rise and fall in living costs.

G.L.Nanda, the Union Labour Minister, agreed with this demand and stated that we should progress towards linking D.A. with consumer price indices in the industries which are not covered and carry forward the decisions of Wage Boards already announced in certain industries.

At the Standing Committee meeting, the TU representatives pointed out that the price statistics collected by Government inspectors to calculate the consumer price indices are faulty. They demanded that data on prices which should be collected should not be the "controlled" prices as fixed by Government but the actual prices paid by the consumers in the open market. It was agreed that the TU representatives will be taken into confidence and consulted in computing the consumer price index. Wherever there is complaint about the correctness of the price statistics, the official concerned and the TU representatives can have a physical re-verification on the spot. In Bombay, the Maharashtra Labour Minister, M.G.Mane and S.A.Dange will go on surprise checking of prices.

In order to provide the working class with articles of daily use, specially food articles at reasonable prices, it was agreed that in all concerns where more than 300 workers are engaged, stores will be opened by the employers within four weeks. Consumer cooperative stores of workers will also be encouraged and the civilian labour officers and others will help the trade unions to get these societies registered under the Cooperative Act, without any delay. The Labour Officers will consider this as one of their main work during this period. Payment of Wages Act will be amended wherever necessary to enable the employer to deduct the cost of supplies from wages, on being so authorised by the worker. Employers will provide accommodation for these stores and also money for initial investment. Government will provide foodgrains and other articles at subsidised rates.

Steps will also be taken to open fair price shops and such stores in industrial localities. In townships like Tatanagar, Modinagar, Birlagnam, Dalmianagar, etc., where employers control not only industries but even civic life, it was agreed that immediately these shops and stores should be opened.

For workers engaged on construction work which is to continue for six months or more, such stores will be provided.

. . . . G.L.Nanda warned

G.L.Nanda warned the employers that if the trading community does not cooperate in this and resorts to hoarding, profiteering or blackmarketing, appropriate action under the Defence of India Rules will be taken against them.

The Union Labour Minister will write letters to the Chief Ministers and the Labour Ministers of the States to give this programme a priority and explain this to the trade unions and employers' representatives in similar meetings at State level. Such tripartite Standing Committees should be formed in each State, without any delay. These should be presided over by the Labour Ministers.

It was reiterated that the Compulsory Deposit Scheme does not flow from the Industrial Truce Resolution. However, this Committee may discuss proposals for its modifications, if brought forward by the participants.

The threat of general strike in Bombay was discussed. It was agreed that the Maharashtra Labour Minister will call a tripartite meeting at the State level to discuss issues there. The Action Committee of the AITUC unions in Bombay had precisely demanded this in its letter to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

The Action Committee of the AITUC unions in Bombay will meet to discuss the outcome of this Tripartite consultation in Delhi. The agreement to verify the prices and the cost of living index in cooperation with union representatives and to make changes where it is found defective, the promise to open stores in each factory (employing over 300 workers) for supplying essential goods at fair prices within four weeks and the tripartite consultation by the State Government, will be given due consideration by the unions in formulating their future programme of action.

As regards the bonus issue of textile workers of Bombay, the Maharashtra Labour Minister informed that the representative union under the BIR Act is studying the latest balance-sheets of the employers and will put up its demand shortly. He also stated that the AITUC will be informed of the position officially.

The proposal to set up Central and State Arbitration Councils was postponed for consideration at the next meeting of the Standing Committee at the request of the employers, who wanted time to examine it in more detail.

The representatives of the trade unions were willing to wait and watch implementation of these decisions.

*

It is now the task in all trade union centres, first to see that the promised stores are opened within four weeks by the employers of all factories employing over 300 workers, including places where construction works are being carried on. Trade unions should immediately meet the employers to find out what they propose to do and in what way the workers and employers can cooperate in executing this very important measure. Where employers do not respond, the unions should hold meetings and demonstrations and demand action against such employers.

Unions must take initiative, both constructive and agitational, in order to get this agreement implemented in practice. If the unions succeed, the cost of living index, where it is manipulated or wrongly constructed can be corrected. Another gain from this agreement will be that where profiteering shops are fleecing the workers, we can secure relief through the fair price shops at each factory or industrial colony.

The State tripartites must be made to be active bodies in carrying out this programme.

Above all, the unions must be on the move for getting this implemented.

*

S.A.Dange, K.G.Sriwastava and S.G.Patkar attended the Standing Committee meeting on behalf of the AITUC.

37

Telegrams: AITUCONG

Telephones: 57787/54740

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

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

8 August 1964

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement to press:-

" All India Trade Union Congress strongly protests against the unwarranted firing, lathi charge and the arrests made by the Governments of Gujarat and M.P. in dealing with agitations against scarcity conditions and rising prices of food articles.

" AITUC congratulates the workers of Kerala and Gujarat for unitedly expressing their protest against the food policy of the Government. In the coming week workers of Delhi, Maharashtra and U.P. States are also joining them in this protest on 12th and 18th August.

"Government had ample warning and notices that to protest against their failure to tackle food situation; working class and people will peacefully but firmly raise their voice. The purpose of these one-day strikes, hartals and demonstrations is to wake the Government of its apathetic attitude towards this national issue, and express in unmistakable terms that people would not tolerate continuation of these conditions for long.

" Mere assurances and announcements of long term schemes would not feed people, nor can the hoax as displayed in Delhi regarding "raiding" of godowns, satisfy them. Central and State Governments have been refusing to take proper and quick steps to check rise in prices. And then they seem to be afraid of even peaceful protests from the people. Meek submission to their misrule in these circumstances is impossible. AITUC will continue to lead the protests of the workers until Government comes out with concrete steps to fight hoarders, bring prices down and provide people with articles of daily use at reasonable prices.

" AITUC demands judicial inquiry into the firing at Ahmedabad, punishment to the guilty, payment of compensation to the dependents of deceased and release of arrested persons. It demands of M.P. Government to immediately release Com. Homi F. Daji, M.P. and other hunger strikers of Indore, immediately.

" We hope Government will not resort to provocative actions by arrests, lathi charge and firing to these protest actions by the working class and people and instead take suitable and concrete steps to solve the problems".

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

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

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

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

18 August 1964

The Secretariat of the A.I.T.U.C. has today issued the following statement to the press:-

" The fast deteriorating food situation in Goa, Daman and Diu has forced the Goa Trade Union Council to give a call for "GOA BANDH" on 20th August. This is not the first time that a State-wide action on the question of food and prices is being undertaken.

" The AITUC fully supports the call given by the Goa Trade Union Council and calls upon the workers and people of Goa to make the call for 24 hours 'General Strike' on 20th August a complete success.

" The following slogans have been put forward by the Goa T.U.C.

1. To immediately take over the trading in wholesale food grains and other essential commodities.
2. To supply sufficient food grains quotas to the existing co-operative consumers societies and fair price shops and to open more fair price shops in every village throughout Goa, Daman and Diu.
3. To severely punish the hoarders and black-marketeers under DIR, and
4. To declare substantial interim relief in the form of D.A., pending the finalisation and compilation of cost of living indices for Goa.

" Only the widest unity and firm action by the people can force the Government to take action against vested interests and relieve the sufferings of the people".

Satish Loomba
(Satish Loomba)
Secretary, AITUC.

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

President: S. S. MIRAJKAR
General Secretary: S. A. DANGE

20 August 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

FAILURE OF LABOUR MINISTRY TO IMPLEMENT LABOUR CONFERENCE

DECISIONS ON FOOD AND BONUS COMMISSION.

K. G. Srivastava, Secretary of A.I.T.U.C. has issued the following statement to the press:-

" Tripartite decision was taken in Bangalore last month to set up consumer stores by legislation as employers have failed since last one year to implement earlier decision voluntarily. Wheat, Rice and sugar were to be supplied by the Government and cloth, pulses and edible oils by the employers at wholesale price. Another decision was to quickly announce government decision on the recommendations of Bonus Commission pending with the government for 3 months. Workers representatives at the conference were unanimous that the majority recommendations should not be tampered with by the government against the interest of workers.

" More than 20 days have passed since this decision was taken. It seems the bureaucracy is handling these issues in their usual leisurely manner. It is only Home Ministry which is active in giving threats to the movements of the workers and the people against inaction of the Government to promptly and satisfactorily tackle food problem. As I had said in the 22nd Indian Labour Conference the working class would like immediate implementation of the decisions and assurances. As this is not forthcoming there is no other way for them but to continue the agitation. The Home Minister would do well to lend his experienced helping hand to the Labour Ministry in implementing the decisions of the Conference which would render agitation superfluous than threats of using his "Panda".

K.G. Srivastava
(K.G. Srivastava)
Secretary

- i) P.T.I.
- ii) Ministry of Labour
- iii) Public
- iv) India Express
- v) ...

'Phone: 57787
54740

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

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

28 August 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

ON GOVT'S MODIFICATION OF BONUS COMMISSION REPORT

Shri Satish Loomba, Secretary, AITUC, has issued the following statement:

"The decision of the Government to modify the Bonus Commission Report will not be accepted by the workers. The Bonus Commission report was clearly accepted as a package compromise deal by the workers although in many respects, its recommendations fell far short of the workers' demands. Now the Government has altered these compromise recommendations along lines urged by the employers. This will deprive workers of a big part of bonus which would have been due to them even under the Bonus Commission's recommendations.

"Apart from this, the decision of the Government raises an important point of principle. An expert tripartite commission was appointed by the Government, which went into a detailed examination of all aspects of the question. The Commission gave its findings and now the Government, yielding to the pressure of monopolists, has altered the recommendations. No Commission or Wage Board, etc., can now have any sanctity since the Government itself has set the tone in defying what experts appointed by itself have agreed upon.

"Bonus has been a most vexed issue. Now the Government will have to squarely accept responsibility for all consequences which may follow from its shamefully partisan action.

"A meeting of the National Campaign Committee has been summoned for September 5 at Delhi, which will discuss this latest position and chalk out appropriate steps to defeat this attack.

"The AITUC appeals to all central TU organisations to evolve joint forms of action to safeguard the workers' interests."


for Secretary

ALL - INDIA DEFENCE EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION

4/5823, Devnagar, New Delhi-5.

PRESS RELEASE

New Delhi,
31 August 1964

DASS COMMISSION OPPOSED

STRIKE BALLOT IF NEGOTIATIONS FAIL

K. G. Sriwastava, Joint Secretary, All India Defence Employees' Federation, has issued the following statement to the press:-

" Appointment at this stage of Ex-Justice Dass, Chairman of Second Pay Commission for Central Government Employees as a One-man Commission to simply determine the quantum of dearness allowance according to his earlier recommendations is not only too late but will serve little purpose. As it is, it is a wastage of the Government money.

"His recommendations on dearness allowance accepted by the Government in 1959 has since then been criticized by the employees as retrograde and inadequate. The experience of these five years of its implementations and at present when the price index stands at 150, Government employees are paid D.A. at 130 points, has fully justified it. What is required to-day is to revise the D.A. formulae itself and meanwhile grant some interim relief to meet the cost of rising prices.

" Appointment of the very same person whose recommendations have been rejected by the trade union organisations of Central Government employees in every department for this job, however eminent he may be, will not generate confidence among the employees.

" What is needed to-day is appointment of a fresh Board with representatives of employees on it to give an award within a fixed period regarding new formulae of P.A. for Central Government Employees and immediate grant of interim relief of Rs.10/- p.m. pending efforts by the Govt. to open consumers stores where cheap grains is made available.

" Executive Committee of A.I.D.E.F. at its recent meeting has decided that if these and certain other demands like a new Wage Board and Permanent Negotiating Machinery are not satisfactorily negotiated in September, the workers will be legitimately justified to take recourse to strike ballot in the month of October 1964."

K.G. Sriwastava
(K.G. Sriwastava) 31/8/64
Joint Secretary, AIDEF.

Cable : "AITUCONG"

Telephones: 57787 & 54740

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

September 3, 1963

The Secretariat of the All India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement:

"The All India Trade Union Congress expresses its deep sense of sorrow at the passing away of Shri S. Guruswamy, President, All India Railwaymen's Federation yesterday. Shri Guruswamy's knowledge of the problems of our Railways and Railwaymen is unmatched in the trade union movement. He has tried to keep the Trade Union organisations united. In his demise the trade union movement and particularly the Railway Trade Union movement has lost an experienced, able and sincere fighter for their demands.

The All India Trade Union Congress also sends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Shri M.E. Serang the builder of National Union of Seamen.

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

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

7 September 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The following resolutions were adopted by the National Campaign Committee at its meeting in Delhi which concluded yesterday.

I

The National Campaign Committee of the Toilers of India congratulates the lakhs of men and women - workers, employees, professional people, shopkeepers and others - who responded magnificently to the call for Statewide Bandhs in Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Goa and made these actions a united manifestation of the people's anger against rising prices and scarcity of essential commodities and the anti-people policies of the Government.

The workers in many parts of India have gone on united local actions as in Coimbatore and West Bengal, Delhi and other places, adopting various forms of struggle.

As a result of these and other struggles, the demand for state trading in foodgrains and for nationalisation of banks has gathered momentum and many sections of people and political opinion have begun to press for their immediate implementation. The Government has been forced to announce that state trading in foodgrains will be introduced but their scheme of a Trading Corporation is partial and defective as it does not envisage monopoly purchase of foodgrains by the State, thus leaving the way open for private trade and speculators to operate.

The steep and continuous rise in prices is not due to any natural causes but is the result of the growth of monopoly concentration of wealth and money and the speculation and hoarding which are facilitated and abetted by the policies of the Government.

It is a matter of deep concern that these policies still continue. Prices continue to rise; speculators and hoarders continue to mint money out of people's food, creating an artificial scarcity and the Government refuses to take any effective action against these enemies of the people. Such half-hearted action as the Government has been forced to take has not resulted in improving the situation as a whole but has worsened conditions and accentuated the crisis in some areas. Government's anti-working class attitude has found another concrete manifestation in the decision to alter the Report of the Bonus Commission against workers' interests and along the lines pressed for by the monopolists, as reflected in the dissenting note of their representative in the Commission.

In these circumstances, the National Campaign Committee once again reiterates its firm belief that it is only united and resolute action by the working class, in solidarity with

. . . millions of other

millions of other toilers, which can force the Government to take concrete action against the food hoarders, monopoly financiers and others who are heaping misery on the people. It is only united action by the working class which can force the Government to abandon those policies which have led to the present conditions and adopt measures which will relieve the situation and benefit the people. Such a united class action should naturally take the form of Bharat Bandh.

The series of Statewide Bandh actions have made it clear that if various central TU organisations can give a united call, the working class and other toiling sections of the people can make Bharat Bandh a possibility capable of being successfully realised.

Hence, the National Campaign Committee appeals to all central TU organisations and to all industrial federations to consult together with each other with a view to making 'Bharat Bandh', a slogan capable of early implementation.

Today, workers' struggles on local, industrial and Statewide scale in support of their demands will continue to take place. The National Campaign Committee lends its full support to such struggles and considers them an integral part of the nationwide struggle to defeat the offensive of the anti-people forces. It appeals to all workers, whatever their affiliation, to unite together to make these actions successful and to lay the basis for a united all-India action of the toilers.

II

ON GOVT'S MODIFICATIONS OF BONUS REPORT

This meeting of the National Campaign Committee has considered the decision of the Government of India on the Report of the Bonus Commission. This decision lays down, inter alia, that:-

- (i) All direct taxes for the time being in force should be deducted as prior charges in the calculation of 'available surplus' for purposes of bonus.
- (ii) In addition, tax concessions given to industry to provide resources for future development should not be utilised for payment of larger bonuses to employees.
- (iii) As regards return on capital, the actual rate payable on preferential share capital, 8.5 per cent (taxable) on paid up equity capital and six per cent (taxable) on reserves should be allowed in respect of establishments other than banks; in the case of banks, corresponding rates to be allowed should be the actual rate payable on preferential share capital, ~~7.5 per cent (taxable)~~ 7.5 per cent (taxable) on paid-up equity capital, and five per cent (taxable) on reserves.
- (iv) Bonus beyond a certain level should be paid in the form of savings certificates or other suitable investments.

This meeting is of the firm opinion that this decision is an abject surrender on the part of the Government to the pressure which the big capitalists have been mounting quite blatantly for past few months against the recommendations of the Bonus Commission, as a part of their all round offensive

to bring about a reactionary shift in the policies of the country. Government's decision is a clear evidence of the big capitalists' influence on the Government.

2. In setting aside the recommendations made by a majority of six of the seven members of the tripartite commission, to which one of the employers' representatives (representing the public sector) was also a party, and in virtually implementing the suggestions of the lone dissenting member, the Government has created a precedent which strikes at the root of all tripartite collective bargaining bodies.

3. The Commission has spent more than two years in studying all aspects of the question of bonus, on which it has set down its findings in detail. The Commission had given full consideration to the points of difference raised by their dissenting colleague and had cogently argued against his points. These facts further bring out the thoroughly arbitrary character of Government's decisions on the recommendations of the Bonus Commission.

4. The Commission was appointed as a result of the prolonged and determined struggle wages by the organised trade union movement as a whole against the L.A.T. formula and for a better bonus formula which would yield larger amounts as bonus to the working class in various industries and would narrow down the difference between the actual wage and the need-based wage to which the right of the working class has been recognised. The Campaign Committee is of the considered opinion that modifications effected by the Government in the recommendations of the Commission will result in drastically cutting down the quantum of bonus in almost all profit-making concerns which constitute the overwhelming majority of concerns in the country. The fact that Government has dared to effect these anti-working class modification in complete disregard of the strong and unanimous opinion of the organised TU movement clearly shows that the Government fully accepts the notorious bourgeois theory that the rise in prices is due to greater purchasing power in the hands of the working people and that a drastic cut in purchasing power is the remedy for controlling prices.

5. The Campaign Committee severely condemns this anti-working class decision of the Government which has dashed the hopes for a larger bonus of millions of working men and women in the organised industries and has angered the working class all over the country.

6. The Campaign Committee takes note of the fact that conditions for defending workers' interests against this onslaught on them have improved due to the complete unanimity among all trade union centres in the country in condemning the modifications made by the Government and in declaring their resolve to fight the decision of the Government with all means at their command including that of strike. The Campaign Committee suggests to all the central TU organisations to meet in a conference to work out ways and means for bringing necessary pressure on the Government to compell it to withdraw its decision which is bad in itself and which has far-reaching policy implication of an anti-democratic and anti-working class nature.

7. The Campaign Committee instructs the sub-committee earlier appointed by it to approach the various central TU organisations and endeavour to bring about a conference, under the common auspices of all central TU organisations in the country on this extremely vital problem.

8. The Campaign Committee is of the opinion that the recommendations of the Bonus Commission represent a tripartite working compromise in which while the working class has made certain gains such as compulsory minimum bonus, removal of rehabilitation as a prior charge, etc., the working class at the same time also stood to suffer from certain disadvantageous provisions as on the enhancement of rate of return on capital, etc. In certain important respects, Com.S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC who was a member of the Commission had also indicated his dissenting notes in the body of the Bonus Commission's Report.

The Committee, therefore, suggests that since the Government of India has rejected in essence the Bonus Commission formula, all trade union organisations should immediately press for the formula put forward earlier by the TU movement. We should now demand that bonus be paid on the basis of the following formula:

(a) A minimum bonus equal to one-twelfth of the total earnings in perennial industries and one-sixth of total earnings in seasonal industries be paid by all concerns covered by the Factories Act and the Shops and Establishments Acts, etc., irrespective of their financial position.

(b) The available surplus for distribution as bonus should be arrived at and distributed as follows

From Gross Profits, deduct

- Depreciation;
- 6 per cent return on actual paid up capital, excluding bonus shares;
- 2 per cent return on reserves;
- Statutory income-tax on profits after deducting bonus payable;

Sixty per cent of the available surplus thus calculated should be paid as bonus ^{in cash} without any ceiling.

(c) There should be no freezing of any part of the bonus amount into savings certificates.

(d) Rehabilitation, development rebate, super tax, shall not be admitted as prior charges.

(e) Accounts of companies must be made available for inspection on demand from unions.

(f) New concerns must pay minimum bonus till they start making profits. New establishments of old companies shall be treated along with the parent company for the purposes of bonus.

(g) All public sector concerns whether departmentally run or otherwise and whether enjoying monopoly or not must pay bonus on the same basis as concerns in private sector.

(h) All workers including casual, temporary, contract workers shall be paid pro rata bonus according to the number of days put in by them with the concern in the relevant year.

(i) Bonus shall be recoverable through Payment of Wages Courts.

(j) Employers failing to pay bonus due before the expiry of the eighth month after the end of the bonus year shall be published.

(k) Wherever there exist awards/settlements for payment of higher quantum of bonus, these shall continue.

The Campaign Committee further suggests to all trade unions:

- i) to serve notices on the respective employers before September 25, 1964 for this year's bonus basing their demands on the points given above.
- ii) to organise big demonstrations on September 25, 1964 on the demands for adequate bonus and the demand for linking D.A. with the local cost of living index, so as to fully neutralise the rise in the index with a point to point adjustment.
- iii) To prepare and to resort to strike struggles on the bonus demand if it is rejected by the employers and Government in the respective units or industries as and when desired and democratically decided by the unions and workers concerned, so that this year's bonus struggles will become a coordinated all-India bonus battle against the employers as a class.

Satish Loomba
(Satish Loomba)
Secretary, AITUC

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

7 September 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Comrade S.A.Dange, General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement on the interview given by Comrade S.S.Mirajkar, President of the AITUC, to a Kerala daily:

"Comrade Mirajkar, President of the AITUC, is reported to have given an interview to the Deshabhimani, a Malayalam daily, run by E.M.S.Namboodiripad. Some parts of it appeared in a few English papers. The interview makes certain statements against the AITUC centre and me particularly.

"Comrade Mirajkar's most outstanding complaint is that he is paid only Rs.100/- (not 1000/- as some papers have said), while even a clerk in the AITUC gets Rs.250. The facts are as follows:

"There are seven people (excluding myself) who are working full time at the AITUC centre. Two of them are elected Secretaries. There are two salary scales in the AITUC centre - Rs.300 and Rs.250.

"Besides this, we also meet the part-time needs of some ten organisers in various centres in the country, all of them being wholetimers in TU work.

"The President's post is not a paid post. But the AITUC centre has a practice of giving Rs.100 or Rs.150 to the President for his local conveyance, etc. This practice was started by the late N.M.Joshi and Comrade Mirajkar's predecessor was paid in the same way.

"Comrade Mirajkar's complaint that he is not given travelling expenses is not correct. He is always booked by air or first class train and all his costs including stay in hotels is met by the AITUC whenever he chooses to attend its meetings.

"Moreover, Comrade Mirajkar's home conditions are not so bad that he has only to live on the AITUC allowance. His wife earns over Rs.350/- per month as a senior grade teacher in the Bombay Corporation schools. His son to whom he refers in his interview is reported to be employed on Rs.300 or so. His another son, who was trained as a Lino operator in the Party press earns over Rs.500 or so. Thus it can be seen that neither the AITUC nor the Party has conspired to "disable" him in any way.

"With all this, if he wanted more money, he could have asked for it, which he did not do, until he gave this interview.

"Comrade Mirajkar complains that he has been neglected by the AITUC in the matter of sending him in delegations abroad and that once I sent "my driver", that is the driver of the AITUC car, instead of the President. What are the facts in this respect?

.../...

PTC

"Comrade Mirajkar has been sent abroad six times. And he, along with Com.K.T.Sule, is the only communist who has had the fortune to visit even America. Here are his visits.

- (1) 27th Session of the ILO in Paris in October-November 1945.
- (2) 29th Session of ILO in Montreal (Canada) in September-October 1946; from there he went to New York, etc.
- (3) May Day Delegation to Rumania in April-May 1955.
- (4) Peace Congress in Helsinki
- (5) World Congress on Disarmament in Moscow
- (6) Moscow in August-September 1961 for medical treatment and rest.

"During these visits, he also visited Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and several other countries in Europe.

"The driver, about whom he complains, is a victimised trade union leader. He was organiser and secretary of the Road Transport Union in U.P. and lost his job in a strike. Then the AITUC employed him, as it required a driver. He was sent to Moscow in a delegation of the Road Transport Federation. From there he attended the Congress of the WFTU.


"As Comrade Mirajkar had ceased to take much interest in the AITUC work and did not show any desire to go to the World Congress, he was not included in the delegation which consisted of 25 delegates and 7 observers drawn from all over the country.

"In fact, the President should have been proud that the AITUC sent its driver, who is a worker, to the World Congress. Instead, he is complaining. It is the standing practice in the AITUC centre that all its staff members (apart from the elected office-bearers) are given the opportunity to go once at least, in delegations abroad. Five such members have, so far, been sent abroad. Not being functionaries of local unions, they have no chance of being sent through any union. Hence this practice of ours, which enables them to learn and help our work better for the AITUC. It should also be noted that generally, delegations are composed by consultations with unions concerned or the State TUCs or the Working Committee which, on several occasions, delegated the choice to the Secretariat.

"These few facts are enough to show that Mirajkar has really no grounds for complaint so far as the treatment he has received from the AITUC centre.

"His story about the WFTU grants, which are given to the AITUC as solidarity aid, is all a concoction. The AID is spent through the AITUC and the persons concerned in the office keep the accounts. It is dealt with by me as General Secretary of the AITUC and also as Vice President of the WFTU. As President of the AITUC, he could any time have asked me about it or looked into the records, even in my absence. I may have to say something more about this later on.

Comrade Mirajkar, in his long interview, has brought in many other matters. I do not think it is necessary to reply to them, because they are nothing but figments of his imagination, coming out rather too late in the day and are drawn from the same arsenal of slanders which has been let loose against me since some time. It is best to treat it with contempt. The real story, it is plain, hangs round the question of a hundred rupees."


J. Secretary, AITUC

2166 19/9/64

S. S. Mirajkar, President, All-India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement to the Press:

Com. S.A. Dange, General Secretary of the AITUC has issued a statement purported to be a reply to my interview in a Kerala daily, "Deshabhimani". It is true that a correspondent of this daily called on me for an interview. He has published some remarks made by me in a distorted manner and in spite of my repeated warning that they be treated "off-the-record".

With regard to the reference to an allowance of Rs. 100 that I receive from the AITUC, of which Com. Dange has made much of, I would like to clarify. The fact was that a cheque of Rs. 100 was lying on my table when the Deshabhimani correspondent came to my place. When he questioned me about it, I replied that it was my monthly allowance. He also asked me how much other members of the AITUC office staff were being paid, I said it might be somewhere around Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 per month though I did not know exactly what the office staff were being paid.

I never said anything in the spirit of a complaint against anybody. In fact I had warned the correspondent that all those remarks should not be published. It was not at all my intention to discuss in public such organisational matters. But unfortunately the correspondent included all these remarks in the published version of my interview. I thought that according to normal journalistic practice he would have brought the text of the interview as written by him for my approval in which case I would have certainly deleted all the irrelevant points included in it. I was really hurt that a correspondent belonging to a communist daily should have violated such an established journalistic standard and would give a distorted version of my observations.

I do not wish to say anything further on this subject. Let those who know me in the trade union movement, in the AITUC, as well as in the domain of my political life judge whether I am capable of making such an ado over such an insignificant issue. It is widely known that I entered the working class movement and have remained in it for 40 years and more and worked in it without any selfish motive. I was actuated solely by the powerful urge to identify myself with the working class and participate in its struggle for economic and political liberation and not because I wanted to live as a parasite on the movement and build up a life of personal comfort and luxury as some comrades have done.

I was elected the president of the AITUC at the Ernakulam session in 1957 but for a long period I did not receive any allowance whatsoever. Nor did I ask for it. About 25 months ago one day I receive a money order for Rs. 100, which has subsequently continued to be paid to me every month ever since. I never fought for receiving the amount as the Deshabhimani correspondent has reported.

Com. Dange says that I was paid my expenses for air travel, railway journey, hotel bills etc. In the first place, I have rarely, only on exceptional occasions, travelled by air. What is wrong if the AITUC paid travel expenses to its president for his effective functioning? I held the office of the President of the AITUC and expenses had to be paid whenever there were meetings of the organisation, especially when I never had or have personal income. Comrades from various states often wanted to know why I did not visit their Trade Union centres but I had to keep silent.

I could undertake some visits during the period when the late Shri N.M. Joshi was at the helm of the AITUC although the financial resources of the organisation were meagre. But since Comrade Dange took over, whenever I had to attend state conference I had to ask for money from the host unions to meet my travel expenses. This is the true picture of the situation.

Comrade Dange has made a research into the earnings of my family members giving inflated figures. I do not know why. Could I have asked for money to finance my trade union activity from my wife and sons when their income was not sufficient to make both ends meet? Besides my elder son has his own separate family establishment.

Now a word about the delegation sent by the AITUC to the WFTU conference. Dange again gives statistics of my visits to foreign countries. In the first place I never went abroad because of the personal favours of Com. Dange. I was sent to the conferences abroad as per the decisions of the AITUC and the Communist Party in a period when Com. Dange did not have the dictatorial voice which he has today.

A delegation of 32 comrades attended the last Congress of the WFTU in Moscow. My question is whether the President of the AITUC should have found a place in the delegation or not. I had drawn the attention of Com. Dange to this and he had agreed to include me. Subsequently, however, I found myself excluded from the delegation.

2/11/64

P.T.O

Can there be a greater anomaly than a delegation of the AITUC attending the conference of the WFTU without its President? Com. Dange has now put forward a totally untruthful excuse that I had "ceased to take much interest in the AITUC work and did not show any desire to go to the World Congress"

This is in blatant contradiction to the real facts. Can anyone charge me with ceasing to take interest in the AITUC with which I have been associated for decades inspite of all the vicissitudes it has passed through.

During his regime in the AITUC, Com. Dange has taken every precaution to see that I had no contact with the WFTU at all. I fail to understand why. After I became the President of the AITUC, to world congresses of the WFTU were held, several meetings of its various committees took place but I was never chosen to attend any one of those meetings. I did not desire a pleasure trip to Moscow but I only wanted to attend the world congress of the WFTU.

Regarding the inclusion of the ~~dir~~ driver comrade of the AITUC in the delegation, I had no complaint to make. In fact I was happy that he was selected. Though I felt intense resentment at my ~~paradoxical~~ paradoxical exclusion from the delegation, however, I specifically asked the Deshabhmani correspondent not to refer to these organisational problems of the AITUC which should not be discussed outside the organisation in the interest of its unity.

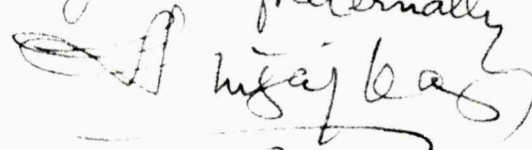
I had not the least intention of lowering the prestige of the AITUC, for which I strenuously and unselfishly worked for decades. I do not know why Com. Dange has picked on irrelevant and secondary issues to launch an attack on me, when there were other serious political charges made by me against him. Is it a diversionary tactic to distract the attention of the people from his own skeletons in the cupboard?

S.S. Mirajkar.

To
Com Atchuthan,
Editor, Trade Union Record,
New-Delhi

Dear Comrade,

You have published Com. Dange's statement in the current issue of the Record. This is my statement in reply to it. I hope you will publish in the next issue of the T.U. Record.

Yours fraternally

16/9/64

' Grams: AITUCONG
' Phone: 57787/54740

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

21 September 1963

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Satish Loomba, Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress, has issued the following statement:

"The AITUC welcomes the announcement made in the Lok Sabha today by Shri T.T.Krishnamachari, the Finance Minister, scrapping the CDS for all classes of people except those who pay income-tax.

"Ever since this invidious scheme was introduced, the AITUC, reflecting the sentiment of the broad masses of the working people, has been opposed to it. Among the trade union organisations, it was only the INTUC which welcomed this anti-people measure as a device for increasing capital formation and keeping prices down. But the Bombay Bandh struggle and the Great March to Parliament showed that the people were opposed to it and would be satisfied only if it was scrapped. Even now the income-tax payers are subject to CDS and the AITUC hopes that the Government would again review the position and exempt the lower income-tax paying group, also withdrawing the surcharge levied on them.

"The People's Petition to Parliament and the Great March, backed by the organised strength of the people, have begun to bear fruit. However, prices have yet to be pegged and the campaign for nationalisation of banks, oil and import-export trade has to be carried on.

"The AITUC congratulates all the millions of workers and common people who raised their powerful voice for abolition of the CDS, and appeals to them to unite ever more firmly for securing the rest of the demands contained in the People's Petition to Parliament.

"The AITUC calls upon all unions to popularise this big victory of the people and to rouse them to press forward further to greater victories."

Satish Loomba

(Satish Loomba)
Secretary, AITUC

Grams: AITUCONG
Phones: 57787/54740

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

24 September 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement:

"The Secretariat of the AITUC strongly condemns the arrests of leading trade unionists of West Bengal under the Defence of India Rules. It has become customary with the Government to resort to repressive measures to crush the movement of workers and to silence their voice however justified the demands may be. Repression cannot silence the starving people nor can it stifle their movement for bringing down the prices.

"The Government cannot absolve themselves of their responsibility in bringing about the present price and scarcity conditions. It would be better if the repressive machinery is used against those who are starving and fleecing the people and not against those who are the victims of speculation and hoarding.

"AITUC demands immediate release of those arrested and assures the West Bengal working class and people of its fullest support."

Satish Loomba
(Satish Loomba)
Secretary, AITUC.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

President: S.A.Dange
General Secretaries: N.D.Sundriyal
Ishar Singh

20 October 1964

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS IN

APPOINTMENT OF WAGE BOARD AND COVERAGE UNDER BONUS FORMULA

The Secretariat of the National Federation of Indian Road Transport Workers has issued the following statement:

"The 23.5 lakhs of road transport workers have been particularly discriminated against by the Government both in the formulation and implementation of welfare legislations as well as in considering their demands relating to wage revision and bonus. Although Wage Boards have been appointed in a number of industries where the employment is not even one-tenth of the strength in road transport, no wage board to fix fair wages in road transport industry has as yet been appointed. The National Federation of Indian Road Transport Workers demands that Government should not delay the setting up of a Wage Board for this industry any longer.


"The same discriminatory attitude is shown in regard to the application of the bonus formula to road transport.

"Firstly, under the so-called formula of '20 per cent competitiveness' for public sector undertakings to make them pay bonus to workmen, the State Transport undertakings are refusing to apply the bonus formula to their workmen. Even if this formula is accepted for arguments' sake, it is obvious that no State Transport undertaking can claim itself to be a non-competitive industry since private sector transport services are allowed in all States and even on a regional basis, no monopoly can be established. This is true even of the municipalised transport undertakings as in Bombay and Delhi.

"Secondly, the Bonus Commission report does not specifically cover the road transport industry and the Commission recommended that the formula should apply in the case of small units only to those establishments covered by the Factories Act. As is well-known, in the case of Motor Transport Workers Act, the coverage extends to all units employing five or more workers, as against ten (in units using power) specified in the Factories Act.

"Therefore, while drafting the proposed legislation on bonus, Government should specifically include a provision that all units covered by the Motor Transport Workers Act should come within the purview of the statutory enactment on bonus. Also, since the formula on 20 per cent competitiveness is extremely unreal in the case of road transport, no exemption should be given to State or municipalised transport undertakings from the operation of the bonus formula.

"The Federation hopes that Government should take steps to end the gross discrimination against road transport workers."


for General Secretary

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi 1

Ex-100

President: S. S. MIRAJKAR
General Secretary: S. A. DANGE

PRESS RELEASE

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement to the press:-

"The mass killing of three to four hundred Jute workers in East Pakistan has shocked the Indian people. Such a massacre has been unheard of in the trade union movement. That such brutality is possible in Pakistan today, clearly shows the Government of that country in its true colours.

"The AITUC expresses its deep sorrow at this mass murder and extends its full solidarity to the workers who are on strike since October 12, 1964. It endorses the demand raised by democratic leaders in Pakistan for an inquiry commission".

New Delhi,
Dated the 21.10.1964.


(Satish Loomba)
Secretary, AITUC

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

23 October 1963

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

AITUC SUPPORTS AIYF CALL FOR OBSERVING
ANTI-UNEMPLOYMENT DAY ON 10 NOV.

Shri K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, All-India Trade Union

Congress, has issued the following statement:

"The All-India Trade Union Congress supports the initiative taken by the All-India Youth Federation to observe 10 November 1963 as ANTI-UNEMPLOYMENT DAY. Despite some avenues of employment opened up by programmes of industrialisation and expansion of services, the present schemes of the Government are far too inadequate to provide employment opportunities to the several thousands of young employment seekers. According to indications, even the Third Plan target on employment would fall short by nearly twenty lakhs.

"The Employment Exchange statistics themselves show that the number of job-seekers registered with the exchanges had gone up by about seven lakhs in the course of one year. The figure was 19.8 lakhs in May 1962 and it rose to 26.3 lakhs in May this year.

"The rigours of unemployment and under-employment are particularly hard on the young entrants to the nation's labour force. Along with lack of employment opportunities, insecurity of employment is an additional factor facing the young workers. In the large construction projects under the Plan, the workers who acquire skills and experience are retrenched in a haphazard manner and there is no plan to utilise their services elsewhere for similar construction work. The impact of rationalisation schemes is also quite heavy on the new entrants to the labour force since they are the first to be axed being the junior-most. There are also instances of workers being kept on badli list and not provided even fifteen days of continuous employment in the mills and factories. Unemployment among young women workers is also fairly widespread and they besides suffer from discrimination. The problem of 'educated unemployed' is another serious question facing the youth and the nation.

"Therefore, the AITUC considers that the efforts being made by the All-India Youth Federation to focus public attention to this grave problem of unemployment deserve the support of all, and particularly of the trade unions. The AITUC appeals to all trade unions to wholeheartedly cooperate with the units of the All-India Youth Federation to observe the ANTI-UNEMPLOYMENT DAY, mobilising wide sections of public opinion."

K.G. Sriwastava
23/10
(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary

Cable: "AITUCONG"

Telephones: 57787/54740


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

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

17 November 1964

Shri Indrajit Gupta, M.P., President of the Port, Dock and Waterfront Workers' Federation of India and Shri K.G. Sriwastava, Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, have issued the following statement:

" News has been received of the arrests under the Defence of India Rules of Shri Gerald Pereira and Shri Gajanan Patil, leaders of the Goa Dock workers. This is a clear case of misuse of the Government's powers in order to crush the trade union movement in Goa harbour by means of repression. This is not the first time since Goa's liberation that the administration has tried to persecute and suppress legal trade union activities in the interests of the Stevedores and shippers. It is reprehensible that that the Defence of India Rules should be used for this purpose and trade unionists who are not guilty of any illegal act, should be thus detained without trial. We strongly protest against the arrests of Shri Pereira and Shri Patil and demand their immediate release".

V. . .

(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary

Cable: "AITUCONG"

Telephones: 57787/54740

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

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

PRESS RELEASE

New Delhi,
Dated the 21 December 1964

GOA FIRING - WORKERS NOT ALLOWED TO RESUME WORK - INSTEAD FIRED AT

K.G. Sriwastava, Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, has in a press statement strongly criticized the firing by police on Port & Dock workers in Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa which has resulted in the death of one worker and injury to several others.

" Irony of the situation is that workers were, after the appointment of the Commission, willing to resume work . They were not allowed to resume work. Their leaders are still under detention. I sought the intervention of Shri Sanji-vaiyya, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, on 17th December 1964 so that workers are allowed to resume work and their leaders are released from detention. He promised to do the needful after inquiry. He rushed the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) for this purpose. Meanwhile, the local employers, as has been the case all along, were bent on not allowing the workers to resume their duty and on the contrary tried to recruit new hands. Goa Administration seems to be fully backing the nefarious activities of the Employers. And this has resulted in firing and killing.

" A.I.T.U.C. demands an independent judicial inquiry into the firing and intervention of the Home and Labour Ministers to settle the issue amicably by releasing the arrested leaders and allowing the workers to resume the work".

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

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

31 December 1964

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement:

"The AITUC lodges its vigorous protest against the arrest of trade union leaders in various States of India. Those arrested include office-bearers and members of the Working Committee and General Council of the AITUC and leaders of State TUCs.

"The Defence of India Rules have been repeatedly used to crush the movement of people for the redressal of their grievances and for betterment of their lives. The wholesale arrest of TU and other democratic leaders cannot but add to discontent specially in view of the failure of the Government to solve the price and food questions.

"These arrests have once again underlined the immediate need for repeal of DIR and the ending of the state of national emergency.

"The AITUC demands the immediate release of all those arrested."

Satish Loomba

(Satish Loomba)
Secretary