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MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

ON INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC LOOMS (Delhi, Dec. 22, 1958)

The office note on the subject which had been circulated earlier was discussed. After considering the viewpoints of the invitees present and Shri Dange's letter, to Labour Minister on the subject, the proposals made in the office note were approved subject to the following decisions/conclusions:-

(1) Exports were important from the point of view of our economy. To labour they are important because dwindling exports would result in loss of employment. The proposal to instal 2500 automatic looms annually was marginal in character and could be supported without much difficulty by labour. Even so, the actual implementation should be preceded by steps to apprise the workers of its object and scope to prevent possible misapprehensions. It was emphasised that employers should totally desist from indulging in new recruitment while workers were being rendered surplus.

(2) It was agreed that in considering the safeguards afforded by the Indian Labour Conference recommendations on rationalisation, prohibition of retrenchment of workers should be interpreted to include substitute workers. This would be in tune with the recommendations in the Plan which had been approved by Parliament.

(3) In choosing units for introducing the scheme, Government might consult the appropriate employers' and workers' interests where necessary. While the normal ceiling on the number of looms to be allotted to a single unit will be only 144, in exceptional cases, allotments upto a maximum of 300 looms for a single unit may be made in consultation with the union(s) in the concerned unit.

(4) The country should be divided into appropriate regions for distributing the looms.

(5) In judging industrial relations in individual undertakings for choosing units, the extent to which the Code for Discipline is honoured will be a prime consideration.

(6) Should disputes arise over the implementation of these proposals either party must have the benefit of adjudication. In the meanwhile, mediatory efforts of the two-man team envisaged in the office note may be availed of, subject to the condition that ~~the team will be strengthened by the addition of a third member from a Labour Court or Industrial Tribunal in case formal adjudications were needed. Labour Ministry would examine the legal implications of such a procedure.~~ the team will be strengthened by the addition of a third member from a Labour Court or Industrial Tribunal in case formal adjudications were needed. Labour Ministry would examine the legal implications of such a procedure.

(7) Government should ensure that employers and workers honour their commitments governing the introduction of the scheme. In the light of allegations from the labour side that in some textile centres, even the awards of arbitrators were sometimes not honoured, the sanctions behind the decisions of voluntary bodies like the Indian Labour Conference, came in for discussion. Labour Minister mentioned that the next session of the Conference will consider this question. Meanwhile, it was pointed out that so far as this particular scheme was concerned, while Government had no legal powers to punish the party which failed to honour its agreement, it would not be difficult to take appropriate measures to bring round the defaulting party.

(8) The working of the scheme should be reviewed once a year, and more frequently if any party should desire it.

(9) Details of the arrangement should be worked out by the Minister and a representative of the Labour

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

4, ASHOK ROAD,
NEW DELHI.

President : S. S. MIRAJKAR.
General Secretary : S. A. DANGE, M.P.

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January 4, 1959

Dear Com.Dange,

Enclosed are notes on some points we wish to include in the Organisational Report. Please go through them and if you wish to make any changes, please inform us on trunk.

2. We are booking on 10th for the journey to Bangalore. Tai has agreed to go in A.C. and has been booked accordingly.
3. Please remit this month's expenses for Betul from Bombay (or you could give him at Nagpur or Betul when you go there). We do not have sufficient funds for this purpose after accommodating expenditure here.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

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

Inquiry into the following strikes from the point of view of the Code of Discipline were held in 1958:

1. Jamshedpur Strike of May 12, 1958 - Shri R.L.Mehta, I.A.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour, made an inquiry into the Jamshedpur strike. The AITUC submitted a memorandum to the Inquiring Officer explaining at length the background of the dispute and that while the Union resorted to strike as a last resort, violation of the Code of Conduct was clearly evident in the attitude and actions of the Company and the Government. Dr.Raj Bahadur Gour, M.P., Secretary, AITUC, led the delegation of the Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union when Shri Mehta held his inquiries at Jamshedpur. Later at Delhi, on Com.S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary and Com.K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary met Shri Mehta in this connection. Com.Dange also sent a note to Shri Mehta afterwards emphasising certain points connected with the TISCO strike.

In the meeting of the Central Evaluation and Implementation Committee held in Delhi on September 20, 1958 as well as at the 17th Session of the Standing Labour Committee (October 28-29), Government spokesmen declared that the inquiry into the Jamshedpur strike would not be held as within the purview of the Code of Discipline since according to them, the Code takes effect from June 1, 1958, following ratification by the 16th Indian Labour Conference. The AITUC representatives on both the above Committees demanded that the report of the officer should at any rate be made known to the parties concerned and discussed in the E&I Committee. The Labour Minister has now agreed to discuss the report in the next tripartite meeting.

2. Bombay General Strike of July 25, 1958 and the strike in Premier Automobiles Shri R.L.Mehta was again deputed by the Labour Ministry to inquire into these two strikes. The AITUC submitted a memorandum on this inquiry also, which was prepared by our Bombay State Committee. Our affiliated union, the Mill Mazdoor Union, Bombay, also submitted a memorandum highlighting the situation in Bombay textiles. Com.K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, AITUC, accompanied the delegation of the Mill Mazdoor Union to meet Shri Mehta in Bombay on October 31, 1958.

3. Calcutta Tramway Strike: As per decision of the Central Evaluation and Implementation Committee, Shri R.L.Mehta with representatives of employers and employees as assessors would conduct an inquiry into the Tramway strike. There are three assessors each from the employers' and workers' side. A preliminary meeting has already been held and the inquiry starts at Calcutta on January 12, 1959. Dr.Ranen Sen, Vice President, will represent our organisation on the inquiry body.

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Although in certain cases, implementation of labour laws and agreements were expedited by the E&I Division of the Union Labour Ministry, there exist serious ~~l~~ drawbacks in the functioning of this body. On the issue of non-implementation of the Delhi Agreement on rationalisation (15th Indian Labour Conference, July 1957), the E&I Division held that there was no agreement but that it was only a recommendation to conclude bipartite agreement. When this fact was sharply posed in the context of the Ministry's proposals to introduce ~~xx~~ automatic looms, Labour Minister Shri Nanda has now clarified that the Delhi Agreement is binding on parties and any violations should have to be taken seriously. Again, in the matter of setting up E&I Committee at State level, many State Governments have yet to take steps.

T.U.R.

We have been able to bring out our fortnightly organ, the TRADE UNION RECORD regularly this year, except for a break of the issue dated January 5, 1958, following the Ernakulam Session.

It still remains to be repeated that we do not get sufficient reports from the States for publication in the TUR. ~~Important~~ meetings in different States of tripartite bodies/have gone unreported for the sole reason that the participating comrades did not post us with requisite information. The same is equally true even in respect of reporting major strikes and settlements. Requests to our functionaries in the States and in different industrial centres for articles and reports have been largely unresponded.

The editorial and circulation work of the journal still remain on an ad hoc basis, there being no whole-time staff who could be given this responsibility. The result is, of course, that we could not put it on proper shape.

With the growing TU movement in general and our influence in particular, a fortnightly journal would not possibly cope with the rapid strides of the movement. At the same time, with a selling price of just 20 nP for a 16-pager, and with its limited sale, we cannot venture either to increase the pages or change the format into a bigger size, or think of converting it into a weekly

We also find that a number of unsubstantiated and patently false cases are being reported to the E&I Division by the INTUC against our organisation. The role of the E&I Division as just a post office for ~~the~~ transmitting such complaints came under criticism at the meeting of the last meeting of the Central E&I Committee. It has also to be pointed out that while the Division has shown anxiety in pressing for investigation complaints against our unions filed by the INTUC, similar complaints lodged by us ~~have~~ have merited just formal acknowledgment and no serious follow up action.

org report

Following are a few modest suggestions to tone up our organisation:

For State TUCs:

1. To set apart in each State cadre whose primary responsibility should be to look after STUC centre's work. The General Secretary of the State Committee should also take upon himself the work of the STUC as priority work.
2. Regular STUC Conferences, Working Committee and General Council meetings should be held.
3. Reports should be made to the Central Office of all the Tripartite Committee meetings and conferences at State level as well as on Working Committee meetings of the STUC.
4. Sales of TUR among the middle class and English-knowing cadre of affiliated and non-affiliated unions should be organised. Campaign should be initiated for enrolling larger number of annual subscribers.
5. Membership Campaign for the year 1958-59 (as on March 31, 1959) should be intensified. This should have top priority.
6. Unions should be asked to send copy of their annual returns to the Registrar of Trade Unions, to the AITUC Centre and the STUC.
7. To fully utilise and invariably send reports and cases of non-implementation of awards, agreements, labour laws, etc. to the Evaluation and Implementation Division of the State Labour Department and later to the Central E&I Machinery through the AITUC.
8. To honour and observe the Code of Discipline and Code of Conduct agreed to at Nainital Conference and to report breaches of the Code to the E&I Machinery.
9. Works Committees to be made basis for settling local and workshop grievances; non-functioning of Works Committees or non-implementation of its decisions to be reported to the AITUC centre.
10. Prompt payment of affiliation fees to the AITUC Centre and the STUCs by unions should be ensured so that these organisations are able to discharge their responsibilities efficiently. (The tendency not to pay till reminders are sent and to wait till annual conferences to pay up the dues should be discouraged.)
11. Unions which are not recognised by employers should apply for recognition in terms of the Code of Discipline (clause 6 - "Management's Responsibility")

23 MAY 1959

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Bombay, May 22, 1959.

Dear K.G.,

Your p.c. of 20th inst.

The textile conference is indeed postponed. The revised dates are July 16th to 18th.

I hope the schedule will be maintained.

It is good that you have been able to get a copy of a good photograph of Com. S.A.D. For ever since you told me about the photograph taken by Shri Khanolkar of Poona, I was after a copy of it. I tried even through Com. Gavankar. But the many letters sent to him have gone unresponded. A week back I even arranged a telegram to be sent to him. I wonder whether the fellow is in Poona or is out of station.

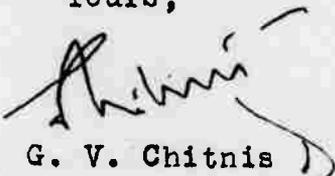
I hope that with the copy you have been able to get, it would not be necessary now to pursue the matter any further.

I will enquire at the IAC today about the Air Packet.

When are you coming down here? It looks as if it were a long time since we met.

With Greetings to you and others,

Yours,


(G. V. Chitnis)

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107/10

Grams:- "GIRANIKAMU"

Phone: 63674

Mumbai Girani Kamgar Union

Dalavi Building Parel,
BOMBAY 12

President:- S. M. Joshi M. L. A.

General Secretary:- S. A. Dange M. P.

June 22, 9. 195
Date

The President/Secretary,

Dear Friend,

The revised dates for the proposed all-India Textile Conference have now been finally fixed as from Friday, July 17th 1959 to Sunday July 19th 1959.

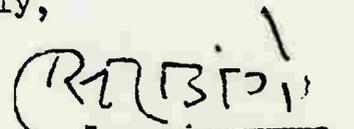
We have to request you now to please let us have at your earliest and preferably prior to 30th inst. a detailed report concerning the condition of industry and labour at your Centre, with a view to enabling us to prepare necessary reports for the Conference.

Also please let us have the names of your delegates attending the conference not later than July 10th.

Thanking you,

Yours fraternally,


(S. M. Joshi,
M.L.A.)
PRESIDENT.


(S. A. Dange,
M.P.)
GENERAL SECRETARY.

27 JUN 1959

Bombay, 25th June 59

Dear K.G;

your letter.

The all-India Textile Conference is meeting next month, from July 17th to 19th.

A copy of a letter sent in this behalf to the different unions, has been sent to you for your information.

All our unions - viz. unions on the list of the Textile Committee of the AITUC - have been informed. But there are important unions that are yet outside the AITUC fold, which also need be invited. These are the united unions of Kanpur, Nagpur & Indore.

Handwritten notes:
K.G. 27/6/59
27/6/59

Handwritten mark:
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Handwritten notes:
Secy to Hon'ble
Dasi & Hissar.
for Kanpur / an
copy 2.

Handwritten notes:
26/6/59

10 JUL 1959

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Bombay - 4
9th July 1959

Dear Com. K.G.,

The Text Conference has again been postponed. So please do not bother all our centres with letters and telegrams.

The revised dates have not been fixed. But it is obvious that it would not go now be before Sept. 59.

The main thing is that when our friends saw that only our unions join all over the country responded to the invita-

-tions, and that it would be more or less ^{an} ANTUC show, they lost all interest in the conference.

Com. Patkar is leaving today for Trivendrum.

About other things I have already written to you in my last.

So when do you propose to come down?

My greetings to you and other comrades.

yours

Shrihari

10 JUL 1959

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Bombay, July 8, 1959.

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Dear K.G.,

Herewith a copy of the Receipts & Payments \checkmark for June 1959.

2. The textile Conference has again been postponed to July 21st and 22nd. The earlier dates could not be adhered to owing to the meeting of the Party National Council at Trivendrum. The dates are not likely to be changed any more. So please advise all our unions accordingly. At least the leading unions should be properly represented.

3. Our main idea behind holding the conference was that it would help to form an All-India Organisation of the textile workers. The Conference that we are now organising is not likely, I am afraid, to serve that purpose, since our own Union would not join it. The PSP and the Lal Bishan Group would not agree to even an independent federation - the latter mainly out of its links with the PSP. (Both have agreed to 'co-ordinate' their work in mass organisations.) So a way has to be found out to co-ordinate the work of our unions ^{at least} as well. At present there is no co-ordination whatever, as you know. So better give some thought to this.

4. You know Com. Dange has shifted to Sion. In his place at Dadar, he has permitted me to stay. Com. Dange has many schemes concerning this flat. But in any case my accomodation problem has been solved, atleast for the present.

5. Our Opera House Office (55, Girgaum Road) would be housing now the Central Office of the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti, and that of its Parliamentary Board. Shri Datta Deshmukh has already started visiting the office daily.

6. Your air-packet to hand. Thanks for it. But your addressing it to Sion ~~was~~ added to my running about for collecting it.

P.T.O.



7. When are you coming down here! Our textile conference would have served as a fine 'pretext'. But I am not hopeful whether our friends would agree to extending invitations to all the four National Centres to send their delegates to greet the Conference.

Any way try to find out some 'pretext' for coming down. This time I am going to make you stay with me at Dadar since the accomodation difficulty is no more there.

When are you holding the working committee of the A.E.T.U.C.?

8. A copy of a statement issued by Shri George Fernandez is enclosed herewith for your information. He has sent a copy of this to Com. Dange.

More when we meet.

Please convey my best greetings to Com. Achutan Krishnan and Satish.

Yours,

[Signature]
(G.V. Chitria)

Com. Dange has promised the union that we would make them available all reports etc concerning textiles and files of the A.E.T.U.C. for the reports and resolutions of the Conference. He has asked me to write to you in this behalf. If you have any such material please send the same to this address. The same would be returned after the conference. At least send the reports and resolutions of the Tamilnad textile conference just held at Timpur.