

# **HIND MAZDOOR SABHA (HMS)**

## **Tamilnadu State Conferences**

### **Aims and Objects of Hind Mazdoor Sabha:**

The objects of the Sabha shall be:

- (i) To promote the economic, political, social and cultural interests of the Indian working class;
- (ii) (ii) to guide and co-ordinate the activities of affiliated organisations and assist them in their work;
- (iii) (iii) to watch, safeguard and promote the interests, rights and privileges of workers in all matters relating to their employment
- (iv) to promote the formation of : -
  - (a) federations of unions from the same industry or occupation, and
  - (b) National unions of workers employed in the same industry or occupation;
- (v) to secure and maintain for the workers :
  - (a) freedom of association;
  - (b) freedom of assembly;
  - (c) freedom of speech
  - (d) freedom of press;
  - (e) right to work or maintenance;
  - (f) right to social security, and
  - (g) right to strike
- (vi) to organise for and promote the establishment of a democratic socialist society in India;
- (vii) to promote the formation of co-operative societies and to foster workers' education;
- (viii) to co-operate with other organisations in the country and outside having similar aims and objects.

In the promotion and realisation of these aims and objects, the sabha shall employ all legitimate, peaceful and democratic methods.

### **Tamilnadu State Conference - 1977**

The inaugural session was held on 11-12-1977, in Chennai. With the Welcome address given by the reception committee Chairman Sri. S. Krishnan, the conference was inaugurated by Sri. S.R. Kulkarni, the President of All India Port and Dock Workers Federation. Sri. S.C. Anthony Pillai, presided over the meeting and the report was submitted by the General Secretary Sri. A. Subramaniam. Sri. S.M. Narayanan of INTUC greeted the conference.

### **The resolutions passed in delegate meeting held on 12-12-1977:**

1. Condoling the death of Sri. S.P. Giri, M.P., and past President of HMS.

2. On the loss of lives and property in Tamilnadu, Andhra and Pondicherry due to cyclone and floods – urging relief measures with the assistance of Central Government for providing food for work etc.,
3. On the steep rise in prices of the essential commodities and demanding PDS through Government agencies.
4. Demanding third wage board.
5. Immediate refund of CDS amounts.
6. Demanding proper and effective functioning of ESI hospitals.
7. Demanding age proof for paper industry workers.
8. Demanding immediate implementation of Raja Subramanian Committee report for the welfare of Handloom workers.
9. Removal of ambiguities in the gratuity act and withdrawal of Sec. 4(6) of the act, denying gratuity to workers under certain conditions; immediate grant of exemption under Sec. 5, for industries, where gratuity was being paid in excess of the amount under the act.
10. The parity of wages and privileges for the workers of the private estates on par with the govt. estates.
11. Raising the wages of the workers of the small coffee and tea plantation.
12. To streamline the effective functioning of the textile mills through
  - (a) Clear cut policies in the interest of workers, public and the industry
  - (b) Government taking over purchase and distribution of cotton and ensuring proper supply of yarn and cloth and
  - (c) Formation of committees to supervise the administration and the functioning of mills and taking remedial measures to save the mills.
13. To ensure 8.33% bonus for all and removal of all ceilings thereon.
14. Raising PF contribution to 10% and punishing the directors of the industries for not remitting the contribution in time.
15. Raising the wages of agricultural workers and formulating housing scheme for them.
16. Wage board for cycle industry.
17. Ensure “8 hours duty” for transport workers and providing rest room for them in important cities.
18. To form a united forum of like-minded unions, having faith in democracy, socialism and secularism; to fight for bonus for all, to achieve real wages and to evolve income-wage policy to promote health, bipartite settlement.

**Office-bearer elected in the conference:**

1. President : Sri. S.C.C. Anthony Pillai, (Madras)
2. Vice-President : Sri. P.L. Perumal, (Nilgiris)

- Sri. R. Ramaiah, (Madurai)  
Sri. K.N. Shenoy, (Madras)
3. General Secretary. : Sri. A. Subramaniam, (Kovai)  
4. Secretaries : Sri. G. Balaram, Madras  
Sri. G. Ramasamy, Kovai  
5. Treasurer : K.N. Kumarasamy, Kovai.

## **HMS (Tamilnadu State) Conference – 1981**

The conference was held on October 1 & 2, 1981, in Kovai, under the Presidentship of S.C.C. Anthony Pillai, Flag hoisting by AICC General Secretary Sri. Satyanarayan Rao, M.P., inaugurated by Andhra State labour minister G. Venkatasamy and rally flagged off by HMS General Secretary. S.R. Kulkarni. The conference was greeted by Sri. Sriramulu, ex-labour minister of Karnataka State. The report was submitted by the General Secretary A.N. Subramanian.

### **Resolutions passed :**

1. On national scene : Demanding 4,500 crores aid from IMF to offset the deficit caused by the increased oil prices, the need to import essential commodities and rise in defense budget in view of the American military aid to Pakistan; Government to procure essential commodities direct from the agriculturists and ensure proper distribution; appreciating Smt.. Indira Gandhi's stress on Grand Commission report in the north-south summit held in Mexico to bridge the gap between developed and under-developed countries.
2. To increase the wage limit of workers to avail the benefits under the ID act, Wages act, Workman's compensation act, ESI act and Bonus act.
3. To create a fund to pay full wages for lay-off period.
4. To amend the Gratuity act regarding eligibility service in a year in view of the Supreme court Judgement.
5. On Srilankan Tamils, in view of the geonicide there and seeking full implementation of "Sastri-Sirimavo Agreement".
6. Minimum wages for people below poverty line, by providing work for them as in Maharashtra State.
7. To ensure wages to Private estate workers on par with those in Government.
8. Condoling the death 32 workers in Sivakasi cracker blast and appealing to the Government to ensure strict implementation of all relevant acts by manufacturers.
9. To allot plots to worker and to provide cement etc., on subsided rate for house building.
10. To implement the handloom workers welfare act throughout Tamilnadu.
11. To increase minimum bonus to 8.33% bonus as in textile mills to all Industries.
12. To create a Dock labour port in Tuticorin Port.

13. To open a GPF office in Pondicherry.
14. To provide minimum wages for Foundry workers and to provide infrastructure at concessional rates.
15. To ensure supply of raw material at lowest rates avoiding intermediaries.
16. To provide minimum wages for workers of waste cotton mills and jinning factories.
17. To extend all workers welfare act to co-operative employees also.

**Office-bearers:**

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|-----------------------|---|--|
| 1. President          | : | S.C.C. Anthony Pillai, Madras  |
| 2. Vice Presidents    | : | P.L. Perumal , Nilgiris<br>R. Ramaiah, Madurai<br>S. Krishnan, Madras<br>R. Alwar, Pondy |
| 3. General Secretary. | : | A. Subramanian   |
| 4. Secretary.         | : | G. Ramasamy, Kovai<br>G. Balaram, Madras   |
| 5. Treasurer          | : | K.N.Kumarasamy, Kovai  |

**HMS Tamilnadu state Conference – 1987**

**Condolations :**

- Com. Dharma Rao, Secretary All India HMS and General Secretary AP HMS and leader of Vizag Port and Dock workers ;
- Com. Govindan, Secretary. HMS Tamilnadu State Council;
- Captain P.L. Perumal, one of the HMS leaders and President of Nilgiris Estate workers Union.
- M. Satyamoorthy. Assistant Secretary, EID Parry's Employees Union, Nellikuppam; and
- M. Kulandhaivelu, President, NLC operators Associations.

**Resolutions :**

1. To reopen closed mills involving 70,000 workers.
2. To implement without delay, the special Industrial Tribunal Award given nine months back
3. Denouncing the wage agreement, which with other unions ignoring HMS and demanding reference of issues to tribunal.
4. Against the block method unilaterally imposed in Valparai Estate.
5. Against bifurcation of estates in binami names to deny benefits to workers.
6. DA on par with Central PSUs to State PSUs.
7. Removing ceiling of bonus and demanding minimum bonus of 12.5 %.
8. Removal of ceiling for availing ESI benefits.

9. Expressing concern for growing unemployment problems and urging the Government .to take remedial measures by starting new industries etc.,
10. Demanding amendment to ID act, to define all except management Personnel as workers.
11. To increase PF contribution to 10% from 8%.
12. To increase the ceiling on gratuity and rate of gratuity as one month against 15 days in a year.
13. To take steps to avoid closures of mills and to evolve methods to give wages for lay-off periods.
14. To take steps to ensure ecological balance to avoid floods and droughts.
15. To control deficit financing
16. Welcoming “Indo-Srilankan Accord” and appealing to LTTE to cooperate in implementing the same.
17. Demanding NLC management to invite the HMS union also for bipartite talks.

### **Discard in the Leadership:**

In respect of the workers and management referred to a special industrial tribunal, the HMS, INTUC, TNTUC, LPF and ATP, reached an agreement with SIMA, while CITU and AITUC refused to be a part in the same, as it could amount to accepting in principal, the management’s demand of scientific fixation of workers assignments. Sri.Chinna durai, the HMS representative in the JAC, openly criticized the agreement reached by the Unions, associating himself with the stand to CITU. This resulted in the other representative of HMS, Sri. A. Subramaninan, (General Secretary. Tamilnadu) in complaining to the Head quarters, protesting not only against the stand of Chinnadurai, but also the verification campaign of Chinnadurai, against the G.S. and others.

(No other details regarding the proceedings and the office bearers are available).

### **HMS Tamilnadu State Conference – 1991**

The HMS Tamilnadu Conference was held in Nagercoil, on 19, 20, & 21 January 1991, attended by 1,400 delegates and 4,000 members. The conference was presided over by S.C.C. Anthony Pillai and inaugurated by the All India Secretary, Vasant Gupte. The General Secretary of Tamilnadu. A.Subramanian, submitted the report and the conference was greeted by Danoshkodi Athithan M.P., among others.Earlier a procession of 6,000 workers was held by led by A. Balaiah, M.L.A.

### **Resolutions :**

1. Demanding Karnataka Government to immediately release 20 TMC water from Krishnaraja Sagar Dam to save the withering crops in Thanjavur.
2. To appealing to the concerned Nations to bring an end to the Gulf war and take efforts for the independence of Kuwait and find solutions to the Palestineains

problems; criticizing USA for launching an war against Iraq without waiting for the results of the sanctions against it and evading settlement through dialogue

3. Demanding direct procurement of essential commodities by the Government and distribution through PDS with a committee of all parties to supervise the same.
4. To reopen the closed textile and the engineering industries.
5. To remove the ceilings in ESI, bonus and gratuity act and to increase the minimum limits.
6. To declare the pension scheme suggested by the sub-committee to the PF Central Trust Board, as the National Pension Scheme.
7. To increase the PF contribution to 10% and to increase the rate of interest.
8. To declare Right to employment as a fundamental right.
9. To stop regular and permanent works of PSUs to contractors.
10. To give need based min. wages to all and full utilization of the DA
11. To give full orders to BHEL, Trichy, to avoid closure.
12. To increase the IT limit to Rs. 0,000 and to increase the standard deductions to 40%.
13. Appealing to workers to isolate forces, which divide people on caste and communal lines and incite violence and discard.
14. The conference welcomed the fall of communist regimes in east European countries and paid tributes to Gorbachev for his courageous initiatives; expressed concern over "China alone being an exception to this trend"; appealing to the people of India and Pakistan to thwart the designs of Pakistan abetting the terrorists forces in Kashmir; Supporting the Nepalese people fighting for democratic rule.

(Office bearers list not available.)

## **HMS Tamilnadu State Conference – 1996**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of HMS Tamilnadu was held in Neyveli on 17 & 18, February, 1996. Flag hoisting was done by the President S.C.C. Anthony Pillai. After a rally of about 10,000 members in the evening the conference was inaugurated by the All India HMS sec. Umrao Prohit, under the Presidentship of Anthony Pillai. Dr. Vallal Peruman M.P. and P.M. Kumar, the Secretar yof CITU Tamilnadu, greeted the conference. After the submission of Secretary's Report by Sivasubramanian, the conference passed the following resolutions on 18-2-1996.

1. Condoling the demise of
  - G.R. Ramalingam, State Committee member of HMS;
  - Dasaratharaman, HMS Education Committee Convener;
  - Cuddalore Baby, President of Nilgris Estate Plantation labour organization;
  - V.N. Chinnaian, President of Kovai Dist. Textile workers' union and

- M. Po. Sivagnanam, freedom fighter, literary giant and ex-chairman of Tamilnadu Legislative Council.
- 2. Welcoming the Central Government's Scheme of 1993 and suggesting improvements in favour of workers.
- 3. To reopen closed mills and to give relief for jobless period.
- 4. To increase power generation, to avoid power-cut and to ensure equitable distribution of powers to all sectors agriculture and industries till then, with proper notice.
- 5. To remove all ceilings relating to CSI and bonus acts.
- 6. Criticizing the Central Government for not taking any steps to reopen the closed mills, contrary to the assurance given by them while introducing liberalization; criticizing the way in which PSU disinvestments were made a huge lose and not utilizing these amounts to revamp PSUs, but for offsetting the budget finances; Tamilnadu government was also criticized for the same.
- 7. Against child labour and urging proper implementation of Child labour (prevention and regularization act – 1991) in its true spirit.
- 8. Demanding insurance scheme for lay-off days.
- 9. Deploring castes conflicts in southern districts and urging to break the police-illicit liquor lobby nexus and to ensure the rights of dalits and downtrodden people;
- 10. To ban scratching lotteries.
- 11. To hold elections to Co-operative societies.
- 12. To ban obscene scenes and posters in Cinemas
- 13. Not to give permanent workers to Contract labours.
- 14. Not to privatize NLC's functions.
- 15. The surplus water going waste from NLC to be utilized in the areas in and around Neyveli.

**Office- bearers :**

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|----------------------|---|---|
| 1. President         | : | S.C.C. Anthony Pillai, Madras   |
| 2. Vice Presidents   | : | S. Krishnan, Madras<br>G. Ramasamy, Kovai<br>N. Ponnuraj, Madura<br>C. Poornachandran, Nellikuppam<br>M. Subramania Pillai, Nagercoil<br>P. Karthikeyan, Trichy |
| 3. General Secretary | : | A. Subramaniam  |
| 4. Secretary         | : | G. Balaram, Madras<br>S. Rajamani, Kovai<br>Cheran R. Arjun, Kovai and<br>P.R. Paramasivam, Mettur.   |
| 5. Treasurer         | : | V.M. Arunachalam, Kovai.  |