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# **AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING**

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**REPORT  
&  
INFORMATION MATERIAL**

**HYDERABAD  
DEC. 30-31, 1993**

## A G E N D A

1. Condolence resolution.
2. minutes of the last meeting of the General Council.
3. Resolutions and Credential Committees.
4. Report of activities and developments since the last General Council meeting.
5. Discussion on Report.
6. Report on AIFC General Council meeting.
7. AIFUC Conference
8. Resolutions.
9. Amendments to the AIFUC Constitution proposed by Comrades K.S.Krishnan and D.K.Ganguli.
10. Credential Committee Report.
11. Any other matter with the permission of Chair.

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REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF AITUC ON  
ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN SINCE  
ITS BHILAI SESSION - 30-31 December '93.

Comrades,

It was in October, 1992, that we had met in General Council Session held in Goa. The Council, after undertaking a broad analysis of the situation confronting the working class and the Trade Union movement, concluded that it had become absolutely necessary to further develop struggles of the working-people both on our own, as well as through the newly-created united Trade Union forum of "Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions". While laying down certain concrete organisational and movement-related tasks, the report as approved by the Council called on all affiliates to "unfailingly take lead in bringing together constituents of the T.U. Sponsoring Committee and other left-oriented workers' organisations for joint agitation and struggles on slogans and demands commonly decided upon by the Committee". The immediate target and focus of agitational activity at the time was the 25th November (1992) workers' march to the Parliament. Perspectives for the AITUC-led Trade Union movement were also set out with some degree of precision in the operative part of the report. The main aim projected was building up of a broad and formidable fighting front of the working class with a view to effectively repelling the onslaught of the new Economic and Industrial policies of the Rao Government at the centre on the vital interests of the working class in particular and toiling masses in general, and forcing the Government to retreat from some of its highly obnoxious anti-working class and anti-people policies.

Main tasks set by the General Council

These tasks as approved by the General Council, gave high priority to the 'toning up or streamlining our own organisation at every level 'with utmost sense of urgency and earnestness'. Others high-lighted the need to considerably expand the dimensions of the AITUC - led movement through speeding up efforts to organise the vast mass of unorganised workers on the basis of their most pressing demands and issues like need-based minimum wages, elimination of obnoxious casual and contract system of employment, job-security, trade union rights, etc. Yet others stressed the urgent need to stir up activity of workers/employees in different sectors of industry and services with a view to enlisting their active and conscious participation in the developing nationwide combative actions against anti-people policies of Narsimha Rao Government on the one hand and against dark forces of communalism and religious fundamentalism on the other.

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Our role in subsequent major campaigns  
undertaken unitedly

The Working Committee in its meeting held in Shilai on May 14-15, 1993, undertook a review of the extent to which the state Committees of AIFUC, and the organisation as such, were able to implement the programme of agitational and combative activities, besides fulfilling the organisational tasks set by the Goa General Council Session. As regards the main target set for the period immediately following the Session, it felt satisfied at the role played by the AIFUC in ensuring the resounding success of the 25th November (1992) march to the Parliament. The Working Committee appraised the 25th November March to the Parliament as an important milestone in the advance of united action of Trade Unions in our country on the basis of a joint platform of common concerns and demands of the working-people.

The set back and resumption of march forward

Although the march forward of the campaign unleashed by the strident call issued by the 25th November (1992) united rally for intensification of the struggle against new economic and Industrial policies of the Government suffered a set back due to the communal holocaust triggered by the demolition of the Babri-Masjid structure by Hindu communalists, the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Union managed in the following months to restore the tempo of the movement. As is known to you all, this was achieved by considerably expanding the composition and mass base of Trade Union action, through its broadening into a joint action-platform of all left oriented class & mass organisations, including agricultural workers, kisans, youth, students, and women. Thousands of representatives of these organisations held a historic Convention in New Delhi on the 15th April, 1993. Judging by its extensively broad composition and the content of its deliberations and conclusions, this Convention could well be described as the first of its kind in the history of mass movements in the post-independence era.

Reviewing this phase of the toiling peoples' movement, AIFUC Working Committee held in Shilai observed that this Convention of Trade Unions and mass organisations constituted a historic step in the direction of giving concrete shape to the long over due task of building up the broadest possible platform of action for defence and extension of common demands and rights of the mass of the toiling people. Besides articulating firm opposition of mass of the toiling people to the World Bank and I.M.F. dictated anti-people policies of warasidha Rao Government the platform advanced slogans and tasks involving mobilization of vast sections of the people to beat back the fierce onslaught of communalism and religious fanaticism on our class unity as well as on national unity and integrity.

In the subsequent months our State Committees and affiliates all over the country earnestly engaged themselves in intense mass activity in order to fulfil the tasks arising out of the decision of the April Convention. From the available reports of campaigns and agitational activity mounted by our State and Distt./local Committees, it could be concluded that they had gone into the battle with utmost seriousness and fighting zeal. Even making allowance for shortcomings occurring in certain sectors and states, the AIFUC on the whole can take legitimate pride in the role played by its leadership at almost every level in taking initiative to organise and mobilize different sections of the working people with diverse or no affiliations for implementing the decisions of the April Convention. AIFUC affiliates in majority of cases were in the forefront during the entire campaign culminating in the 9th September industrial strike and Bandh. Tens of thousand AIFUC Cadres, members as well as leaders at various levels bore the brunt of police repression, including arrests, lathicharge and tear-gassing, etc. In the capital city Delhi itself hundreds of members of AIFUC Unions, led by national P.U. leaders, including Coms. Indrajit Gupta, Chaturanan Mishra, Secretariat members of AIFUC, besides members of Parliament like Trade Union leader Com. Gurudas Dasgupta, Khet mazdoor leader Com. Bhogendra Jha, and Com. Balram, etc. were subjected to Brutal lathi-charge and teargassing while participating in the 'Jail Bharo' programme on the 19th August, 1993.

As per our working Committee reckoning, not less than 20 million workers, peasants, agricultural workers and members of mass organisations of Youth, Students and intelligentsia participated in one form or the other in various programmes and actions connected with the 'Jail Bharo' campaign on the 19th August and the general strike on the 9th September 1993. It could safely be described as the biggest yet mobilization of the working masses of the country in post-independence period with the aim of defending their own interests as well as those of the nation which stand seriously jeopardised by the policies being pursued by the Narasimha Rao Government on the one hand, and by diabolical forces of communal reaction, spearheaded by the BJP - RSS - VHP - Bajrangdal combine. In its meeting held in Delhi on 21-22nd October, 1993, the working Committee congratulated the tens of thousand AIFUC cadres, members and leaders at different levels for the indomitable courage displayed by them in the face of combined onslaught of the Government's repressive machinery and of employers, aided by disruptive forces of communal reaction. A summary of reports on the 19th August "Jail Bharo" and the 9th September strike and Bandh is being appended to this report. (appx.I).

#### Campaigns and struggles at state/local and industry level

The period under review has been marked by a whole series of struggles by our affiliates at different levels with their specific demands and grievances, an increasing number of which are arising out of the implementation of one aspect or the other of the New Economic and Industrial policy of the Government. A summary of reports on these struggles is given in appx.II. Some of the highly negative aspects of these policies that have come to the fore with

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devastating effect on the economic and social life of the working people, have been high-lighted in the memorandum presented to the Union Finance Minister in the course of the pre-budget discussions on the Union Budget for 1994-95. The memorandum is being reproduced in extenso in appx.III. It may be pointed out that a similar exercise was undertaken in January 1993 in respect of the 1993-94 Budget & the consequent analysis of the disastrous consequences of the implementation of the New Economic and Industrial policy undertaken in it is borne out by the developments taking place thereafter. Pursuit of the new Economic and Industrial policy, with its essential components of 'liberalisation, free market, so-called industrial restructuring, disinvestment of PSU shares aimed at denationalisation and privatisation, unrestrained entry of MNCs leading to destruction of the very foundation for building a self-reliant economy and not so concealed implementation of 'exit policy', has already given rise to acute economic and social crisis in the country. The world bank and I.M.F. ordained prescription for up-lifting national economy with drastic squeeze on developmental and social spending has only contributed to intensifying further the effect of recession. Constant and steep price-rise and explosive situation on the employment front are combining to pull down the already miserable living standards of the people. Closures, shut-down and lay-offs continue unabated throughout the industrial sector. Even prestigious and giant Public Sector enterprise like BHEL, Khetri Copper mines, IISCO, IDPL, WPC, NPCC with ever increasing number of units particularly in the metal and engineering sector are being rendered sick either by withholding orders for their products or by starving them of their requirements of working capital and of budgetary allocations. The Special tripartite machinery set up by the Government under pressure from the Trade Union movement to devise ways and means to tackle the situation, has all but been scuttled and utilization of RFR mechanism is instead in full swing. Repeated demand by all the national Trade Union centres to activate the tripartite machinery and industrial Committees has been falling on deaf ears. The situation in enterprises run by State Governments is no different. Road transport industry in particular, is being hit hard by the privatisation drive.

The AIFUC Centre is virtually flooded with requests from our Unions in the stricken enterprises and industries to intervene in the situation. In its turn the centre has been repeatedly knocking the doors of various ministries of the Central Government without any appreciable results. At times some amount of relief could be obtained for workers in some cases with the assistance of members of Parliament - Coms. Indrajit Gupta, Chaturanan Mishra, Gurudas Dasgupta and Gaya Singh. But these efforts merely fringe of the fast developing situation.

It is worth mentioning, however, that the workers and their Trade Unions almost in every case, are increasingly refusing to take things lying down. A gratifying feature of the situation is that even forgetting their rivalry

wherever it exists, trade unions with different affiliations, including the INTUC-affiliates, are unicecily resisting the attacks on their jobs and working conditions. It has to be appreciated that AIPOC affiliates are in most of the cases taking a leading part in the increasing number of such skirmishes on local or industrial level. A brief account of some of the major sectoral struggles is given below.

1. public sector workers' phased programme of united action

The phased programme of united action (including a threatened 3-day token strike) organised by the CPSPU against ban on wage-negotiations and for increase in rate of industrial D.A., achieved partial success. The Govt. agreed to lift the ban on wage negotiations and hike the basic rate of D.A. to Rs.2.00 per point. However the issue of working out of slabs at different levels was left to be discussed among Trade Unions to evolve a consensus before the Government could finally decide the issue. The Trade Unions have by now presented the Government a commonly agreed scheme of slabs, and are awaiting Government's response thereto. All the Trade Union centres are confronting the Government unitedly with the demand that the preposterous 'guidelines' for wage negotiations by the D.P.E be withdrawn and managements of individual public sector undertakings be given free hand to discuss and decide wage and connected demands of employees through the process of collective bargaining.

2. Central Government employees' struggle for wage revision and connected issues

AS a consequence of powerful united agitation by the Central Government employees, with the National Joint Council of action deciding on an indefinite strike for enforcing the acceptance of their wage claims, the Govt. was forced to come to a settlement with the Council. Hard bargaining between the parties yielded an interim relief at the rate of Rs.100/- p.m., with provision for setting up a new Pay Commission (the 5th one) to review structure of Pay and allowances and other related matters. Besides merger of a part of D.A. with wages for the purpose of payment of gratuity, the ceiling on emoluments for bonus payment stands raised from Rs.3500) to Rs.4,500/- in case of Railwaymen, and from Rs.2,500/- to Rs.3,500/- in case of other Central Government employees in receipt of Productivity Linked Bonus, including P.& T. and a section of the Defence workers.

3. Bankmen's struggle for introduction of Pension Scheme

Following a long, but well-organised agitation and struggle, including token strikes, the Bankmen, lead jointly by the AFSSA and AIPOA, achieved a signal victory in enforcing the acceptance of their demand for a full-fledged Index-linked Pension Scheme. High-lights of this scheme have been published in Trade Union Record at 29.11.93. The Bankmen are now up in arms against the so-called "action plan", hatched by top Bank executives under advice of the finance minister himself, in order to cripple their bargaining power vis-a-vis the I.R.A. and the Govt.

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so as to overcome this resistance to measures leading to adverse changes in banking laws and practices in the name of reforms in the Banking sector.

4. Strike of postal staff

The postal staff went through a 4-5 day country-wide strike with telling effect. The strike was called off on reaching a positive understanding with the Government on the main issues involved in it, one of the main issues being the regularisation of 'extra-departmental' staff. Further authentic details with regard to the outcome of the strike are still awaited.

Payment of  
Rs. 50/- P.M.  
as Interim  
allowance

In almost every case the AIFUC secretariat lent its full support to the workers' struggles by sending communications to the concerned departments of the Government and by issuing press statements, besides highlighting them through the columns of Trade Union Record.

State of our organisation

The functioning, and to a certain extent performance, of the Secretariat continued to suffer severe handicap due to further depletion in its strength following totally unexpected demise of our dear old Comrade T.N. Siddhanta. With his mature knowledge and rich experience gained in the course of his devoted life-long trade Union activity he had all along the last two decades, been an immense source of strength for the Secretariat. With its already depleted strength due to prolonged illness and calamity befalling our General Secretary, Com. Homi Daji and inability of Com. Manindra to devote full time to the work of the Secretariat on grounds of health, AIFUC Centre could ill afford to lose the invaluable services of Com. Siddhanta, particularly in the present stormy phase of working class struggles. The task of streamlining and coning up our organisation at all levels, as set by the Goa Session of the General Council, could not therefore be fulfilled to the desired extent. However with all its limitations imposed by abovementioned factors, the Secretariat continued to strive hard to at least partially measure up to the major responsibilities entrusted to it. Regular meetings of the Secretariat were held at least once every month in which the extent of implementation of decisions taken previously was reviewed and appropriate steps taken to undertake tasks thrown up by the movement on a daily basis, besides tackling unfinished tasks. Steps were also taken to bring about some improvement in the functioning of the central office consistent with the means available. As already stated some important aspects of functions of the centre, e.g. those connected with the F.U.R. and regular participation of AIFUC representatives in various official, semi-official or I.L.O sponsored meets, seminars or discussions had to suffer due to depletion in the

Amplify



strength of the Secretariat particularly after Com. Siddhant's demise. A begining has been made to make up for this rather serious handicap by inducting Com. G.L.Dhar, a veteran Trade Union leader of Central Government employees into the Secretariat besides commissioning Com. Santosh Kumar, a prominent leader of the Newspaper Employees' Trade Unions to assist in editing and publishing the FUR. Both the Coms. have by now taken up the responsibilities entrusted to them.

Inspite of utmost efforts the Secretariat as such has not found it possible to give on the spot guidance, to state Committees on matters requiring such guidance, particularly on the all-important issue of toning up and strengthening the organisation at state level. While many of the State Committees particularly those in the south, have been able to enlist the assistance of office bearers or senior working Committee members in the state in tackling this important task successfully, others continue to be in an indifferent shape so far as their internal organisation is concerned. As the working Committee in its Shilal meeting observed, State Centres functioning regularly and democratically hardly constitute a majority. Functioning of the organisation from grass-root level upwards continues to be unplanned and unorganised in several cases. In all such cases state centres find themselves resourceless both in terms of money as well as field cadres and organisers. Even skeletal facilities for proper and efficient functioning of state centres and its leadership are non-existent. On the other hand many of our affiliates in these very states possess resources sufficient to ensure their smooth and efficient functioning. The causes underlying such serious shortcomings plaguing many of our State organisations require to be gone into thoroughly and with utmost seriousness, and appropriate remedial measures applied before it is too late. We will be deluding ourselves if we feel satisfied merely by the mass response to the repeated calls of the Joint Trade Union platform. It is an inexorable logic of mass united activity that the constituent with the greatest internal cohesion, compact organisation and clearest perspectives concerning the direction of the movement, ultimately emerges as de-facto leading and guiding force. Difficulties faced by the leadership both in the states as well as at the centre in ensuring the completion of formalities for verification of membership, and for properly going through the prescribed verification process, furnishes an indication on poor organisational outlook on the part of several of our state Committees. If properly accounted for we could surely be found having decisive superiority over other national centres in respect of genuine membership.

Some of the state organisations till recently suffering from acute organisational weakness have during this period appreciably overcome the same. Among these could perhaps be placed the State Committees of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. State organisations in U.P., and

Himachal Pradesh appear to be still struggling to bring about some improvement in their rather poor organisational set-up. Delhi and Haryana have lately fallen behind others on this account. The State organisation in West Bengal too in need of putting its house in order. State organisations in Gujrat and Rajasthan continue to be in a bad shape and require to be looked after with necessary advice and spot guidance. Assam seems to be doing well considering the rather difficult internal situation in that State and its neighbouring territories. The State organisations in Andhra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are able to look after themselves to an appreciable extent.

#### WORKING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Since the holding of Goa Session of the General Council, the Working Committee has met twice - in Shillai, M.P. on May 14-15th 1993; and on October 21-22nd in New Delhi. On both the occasions a thorough review of the work and performance of the centre as well as of the organisation as a whole was undertaken and fresh guidelines laid down for conducting agitations and campaigns necessitated by new developments affecting the working class and the toiling masses in general. Important issues affecting the working people like pension, sickness in industry, functioning of Special Tripartite and industrial committees, O.A. to public sector employees, ban on wage negotiations and CRR guidelines on wage revision, union Government's budget for 1993-94, etc. of reports of a number of Committees appointed by the Government with a view to secure recommendation in favour of its industrial and financial restructuring, struggle against the menace of communalism, etc. engaged serious attention of the Working Committee in these sessions.

A special meeting of State Presidents and secretaries was convened in April '93 to discuss threadbare the pension scheme as framed by a Special Sub-Committee of the M.P.F. Central Board. The conclusion reached at the two-day meeting was that the Government should be pressurised to come forward with legislation ensuring continuance of its own contribution to the scheme and thereafter introduce the scheme with a number of major amendments like indexation, etc. The Government however, still appear to be undecided in the matter despite united stand taken by all the centres thereon, except the CITU.

#### State Conferences

The Working Committee had decided that State Committees should as far as possible hold their State Conferences by the end of December 1993, simultaneously ensuring the payment of all affiliation dues by AITUC affiliates in their respective States. So far only the STUC of Punjab U.P. and Gujrat have held their Conferences.

State Conferences in Punjab and U.P. were attended and addressed by Coms. Indrajit Gupta and B.D. Joshi, while no central leader was able to attend the Gujrat Conference for complete lack of information from the state Committee. A few of the State Committees in January, 1994, while no response has been forthcoming from others.

(have  
asked for  
permission  
to hold  
their  
conferences

35th Conference of the AIFUC

As has already been notified our Bihar State Committee has been kind enough to agree to host the 35th Conference of the AIFUC in Patna from 11th - 15th March, 1994. A circular notifying the dates, venue, agenda etc. for the Conference has already been issued from the Centre and must surely have already reached the State Committees and AIFUC affiliates.

Some Major organisational tasks of crucial importance to the working class movement in the country.

One of the most important and urgent tasks set by the Goa Session of the AIFUC was "to considerably expand the dimensions of the AIFUC-led Trade Union movement by taking up with much more seriousness the oft-stressed task of organising the unorganised on the basis of their/pressing demands". Note many State Committees appear to have found it possible to fulfil this task with the seriousness expected of them. Or else they have not cared to report to the centre their performance on this front. Mention must, however, be made of the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Goa, Tamilnadu and to a certain extent Andhra and Bihar, where our State Committees have given attention to this priority-task.

In this connection it would be worthwhile taking note of the following facts on the extent and dimensions of unorganised labour in our country. The provisional data of National Sample Survey organisation revealed that 40% of the rural population and 28% of the urban population continue to be below the Poverty-line. These figures have since proved to be considerably under-estimated, and the actual figures for the two spheres are easily above 40%. Going by official statistics the total labour-population has in 1993 hit the 400 million mark. A vast majority of these unfortunate beings eke out a near-animal living by engaging themselves in unorganised professions, cottage or small-scale industries, besides seasonal employment in agriculture. In all these cases either there is no minimum wage legislation applicable to them or if such legislation has been enacted its enforcement is far from satisfactory, even non-existent. This particularly is the case in the vast unorganised, small-scale employments in the private-sector or even in the public sector in the case of so-called casual/contract labour. Minimum wages continue to linger around what is called "rock-bottom level of human existence" for such employees in most of the major states. Enough battles have been fought by our Unions in some instances in the States mentioned in the foregoing para, yet our efforts have to go much beyond what could be called 'touching the tip of the ice-berg'. To organise this vast mass for improvement of their miserable living and working

conditions on the basis of demands for enactment and stringent enforcement of minimum wage legislation, minimum wages linked to Consumer Price Index, security of jobs through abolition of the abominable contract/casual system of labour, and introduction of reasonable social security measures is not only a humanitarian and Trade Union task but an intensely patriotic one. It may be pointed out that the Supreme Court in its judgement delivered in civil appeal no.4336(NL) of 1991, in Workmen Vs Management of Reptakos Brett. & Co. have held that an additional component for children's education, medical requirements minimum recreation, including festivals/ceremonies and provision for old age, marriage etc. should further constitute 25% of the total minimum wage. Subordination of Indian economy to imperialist financial agencies resulting ultimately in erosion of countries' independence and sovereignty, which the present Economic and Industrial policies of the Government inevitably lead to, cannot be prevented by the organised working class movement unless it assumes all-embracing dimensions by bringing into its fold this vast mass of unorganised toilers both in urban as well as rural India. This has become a most pressing task, not a distant but an immediate one in the context of the present critical situation.

#### struggle against communal reaction and religious fundamentalism

It hardly needs mention how the forces of communal reaction and religious fundamentalism were able to halt the progress of the united struggle of the working people for defence of their rights and interests by enacting the most heinous and shameful outrage of demolition of the Babri Masjid structure in Ayodhya. This most shocking outrage against the secular and democratic foundations of Indian State, perpetrated in furtherance of diabolical RSS-VHP-Shiv Sena-BJP combine resulted in orgies of communal violence throughout the country. It should not be forgotten that the communal riots following this heinous crime engulfed many of the industrial centres with quite substantial concentration of working class population. While industrial centres like Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Kanpur, Bhopal, Ahmadabad, Bangalore, Baroda and Hyderabad and even Calcutta could not escape the fratricidal consequences of communal conflagration, Bombay, the cradle of working class movement in our country witnessed unimaginably shocking situation. It was beyond anyone's imagination how the Shiv-Sena inspired gangs of Hindu workers blocked the entry of their Muslim brethren in certain industrial establishments. The seeds of bitter communal conflict sown by these diabolical forces continue to haunt the people of Bombay till to-day in one form or the other.

AIFUC Centre issued repeated calls and circulars to State Committees and fraternal organisations to wage a determined all-round struggle against these diabolical forces through mobilisation of the mass of the working and toiling people on the basis of secular-democratic values of our country and its constitution.

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In the following period the campaign against communalism and for communal peace and amity was taken up first by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions, later merging into a national campaign initiated by several secular and democratic parties and groups (except the Congress & BJP) constituting the "Rashtriya Ekta Abhiyan". As one of the participants in the 'Abhiyan', AIFUC decided to participate in this movement. One of major items of the programme undertaken by the steering Committee of the Abhiyan was to conduct a countrywide signature campaign on a pledge to fight for safeguarding the secular character of Indian polity. The State Committees were asked to take up signature programme on a mass scale and forward the pledge forms supplied to them to the centre by a fixed date. Our constituents, however, do not appear to have attached due importance to the programme as is evident from the disappointing fact that barely a few scores of signature-sheets with a few thousand signatures thereon were received in the centre instead of a few lakhs expected by the leadership. Our performance at every level in this behalf requires to be subjected to a searching scrutiny. As stressed by the resolution adopted by the April Convention of class and mass organisations, active struggle against communalism and religious fanaticism has become an integral part of the struggle of the working people for defence of their rights and interests, and for defending the independence, integrity and unity of the country.

#### Struggle against privatisation of IISCO

An important struggles being currently conducted jointly by all the major national Trade Union centres (including the INTUC) is one against the determined privatisation move of the IISCO by the Central Government. A joint call for one-day token strike in the entire nationalised steel sector against this move achieved partial success. Reports received at the centre reveal that while the strike was fairly successful in Durgapur and Rourkela, it was partial in Bokaro and a total failure in the INTUC dominated Bhilai Steel Plant. However, the joint campaign against IISCO privatisation continues in various forms. A copy of resolution adopted unanimously at a meeting of representatives of unions in the steel sector convened by the national trade union centres is being circulated along with some other documents.

#### AIFUC's intervention in some other sectoral struggles

Although a complete account of intervention which the AIFUC Centre has been called upon to effect in a large no. of cases during period is difficult to be rendered, it would perhaps be worthwhile mentioning some more important ones. As has already been mentioned the BIPR with its industrial restructuring exercises has already created a havoc on the employment front, particularly so in the Public Sector, which is sought to be ultimately liquidated through privatisation. While BIPR continues to be flooded

with references for dealing with "unviable" cases, the AIFUC office itself has had to devote considerable time and attention to make personal representations at the level of Minister of Industrial Development, Labour, Power, Textile, Chemicals, Steel, Agriculture etc. Notable among these are BHEL, ILDPL, Scooters India, Braithwaites, Hindustan Photofilms, FCI (Paliyadars) and NTC, etc. Though these interventions have not yielded the desired results so far, we continue to exercise whatever pressure we are capable of with the valuable assistance of some of our Trade Union leaders among MPs, including Coms. Chaturman Mishra, Indrajit Gupta, Gurudas Dasgupta, and Gayal Singh. We have been able to achieve some notable results in case of NTC, by compelling the Labour and Textile Ministries to set up a special Sub-Committee of the Tripartite Industrial Committee on NTC. The Special Sub-Committee, comprising representatives of IAFUC, AIFUC, CIPU, SMS, SMS, and NLO, was successful in compelling the Textile Ministry to reconsider and revise the turn-around strategy decided upon by the Cabinet which envisaged the outright closure of 14 NTC units, and closure through merger of 19 units resulting in around 80000 loss of jobs. Joint stand by representatives of the abovementioned national Trade Unions has yielded some positive results for the time being. A unanimous recommendation has now been made to the Tripartite Industrial Committee for Textiles recommending modernisation of the NTC units in consultation with the workers' unions taking into consideration the findings of the four textile research organisations commissioned to carry out a unit by unit study of the units described as unviable. Copies of this document embodying broad-outlines of the revised approach on NTC units will be made available to each SFUC. However, Trade Unions cannot leave the matter at that. It has therefore been decided to hold a full-fledged national Convention of textile workers' organisations in Indore somewhere in the first week of February 1993 in order to take further steps to bring to bear sufficient pressure on the Government to agree to the unanimous recommendation of the Special NTC Committee to carry out modernisation without tears. Pressure continues to be exerted by us on the concerned Government ministries to resolve the issues in other cases involving loss of jobs resulting from intended closures, privatisation, etc. as a consequence of withdrawal of budgetary support and non-availability of working capital on the pretext of the net worth of the enterprise having turned negative. The situation on this account has become extremely serious. It can be tackled only through well-conceived and well-organised united struggles on the level of the industry or enterprise concerned on the one hand and persistent pressure on the Government on the basis of feasible rehabilitation/revival packages evolved through a concrete study of the techno-economic factors operating in the situation on the other. Involvement of members of Parliament in the process of meetings and discussions at ministerial level is also becoming increasingly unavoidable due, particularly, to growing reluctance on the part of Union Ministers to entertain representations made by Trade Unions, including the Trade Union centres, in view of strict instructions issued by the Finance Ministry in line with the world Bank - I.M.F. directives.

Representations, protests, etc. made to the Government  
on certain important issues

During the period under review <sup>numerous</sup> representations and protests written as well as oral continued to be made from the AITUC centre.

The AITUC Secretariat lost no opportunity to oppose and lodge protest against anti-labour and anti-people recommendations contained in reports like those of Goswami Committee, Narasimhan Committee, Biju Patnaik Committee on austerity etc. It has flayed the reported Government decision of bringing forward the Industrial Relation Bill. It has been consistently opposing the so-called 'exit policy' at every forum.

Participation in Seminars, workshops etc.

There has been a big spurt in public debate through Seminars, workshops, round-table discussions during this period. They are being organised by official, semi-official, private or foreign financed agencies besides a number of those convened by the ILO. Some of them have also been organised by progressive academic circles, often in collaboration with mass organisations, while the main theme of has been connected with one aspect or the other of the New Economic policy and its consequences for different sections of the society as viewed from different angles and in different interests, newly emerging issues of considerable importance for the Trade Union movement have started coming to the front. Such are issues concerning safety and health in industry, environment, Human Rights, women workers and child labour, family planning, adult education, Industrial Relations workers' Training and redeployment in the context of the New Economic Policy Productivity, workers' Education, etc. In the present situation it is of considerable importance that the view-point of the working class in general, is put across effectively through these meets, and the platform offered by them is utilized to our i.e. workers' advantage. Although we have tried our best to depute suitable comrades to participate in these seminars, etc., it has not been possible to register AITUC's presence to the desired extent. The two main reasons responsible for this are non-availability at the proper time of comrades who could prove equal to the task, and secondly lack of a properly organised information centre or mechanism which could make available necessary inputs to the intending participants on the subject matter or theme under discussion on these fora. We can hardly afford to miss these opportunities offering us the advantage of projecting the AITUC and its standpoint on various issues affecting the working people in the country. Financial constraints under which the AITUC is having to operate is also a factor that obstructs our manoevrability in this direction. An attempt is being made by the Secretariat to set up some sort of a research-cum-training institute in order to equip our comrades with useful information on current affairs and topics.

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WFTU General Council on Renewal of International Trade Union movement

The General Council of WFTU, which met in Poland in October last has after prolonged deliberations unanimously adopted a new Policy Document. After carrying out an indepth study and analysis of the present situation in the world, especially as it affects the world of labour. The document boldly outlines the need for renewal of the international Trade Union movement in order to effectively defend the interests of workers against onslaughts of international capitalism and imperialism by forging broadest possible unity of working people based on convergence and solidarity brought about through democratic means. The document lays considerable emphasis on development of regional activity. "The more specific activity of the Regional offices, and their close liaison with national centres and the FUs," the document observes, "should enable cooperation and coordination to be furthered on the basis of real needs". The document also lays stress on the need to develop more actively Trade Union movements' participation in the work of UN Specialised agencies - especially the ILO - and regional institutions.

In furtherance of the above understanding a functioning regional office of the WFTU has already been set up in New Delhi, with Com. Deb Kumar Ganguli, Secretary of the WFTU, at its head. AIFUC centre has been keeping close contact with the regional office which has helped us to establish useful contacts with Trade Unions in the erstwhile Asian Republics. Regional Secretariat of FUI Transport headed by Com. S. Basu, one of the Secretaries of the FUI has also become almost fully functional. Com. Basu has of late, been quite active in assisting our Road Transport workers' Federation to establish useful international contacts using the columns of a regularly published news-letter. The Working Committee in its New Delhi meeting approved the idea to maintain close contact with the WFTU Regional organisations; while also keeping in mind the need to discharge certain important obligations towards the WFTU as one of its important affiliates in this part of the globe.

I leave it to Com. Ganguli to give you a report on the outcome of the WFTU General Council meeting held recently in Poland.

Exchange of fraternal delegations

During the period under review AIFUC had the privilege to receive a number T.U. delegations from abroad. A Chinese T.U. delegation headed by the Senior Vice-President (General Secretary) of Chinese Federation of Labour visited our country on an invitation jointly extended by INTUC, CIU, AIFUC and FMS. In return an AIFUC delegation consisting of Sant Singh Brar, Member of AIFUC Working Committee and Com. Vijay Kumar, our Vice-President visited China a couple of months back. We were also able to receive Trade Union delegations from Cuba, and Asian Republics of Kazakstan and Turkmenistan arranged by the regional office of WFTU. In return AIFUC delegation consisting of Com. Aziz Pasha visited Kazakstan and Uzbekistan as part of a joint T.U.



delegation consisting of representatives of WFTU Asia Pacific Region and INTUC, CIFU and AIFUC. These visits both ways have been quite useful and further development of bilateral relations between our respective Trade Unions has been made possible on the basis of agreements signed between AIFUC and Central Trade Union organisations of these Asian Republics. Closer fraternal relations between AIFUC on the one hand and the Asian Republics of erstwhile Soviet Union on the other, acquire a special significance in view of the emerging situation in this part of the world. Unfortunately, however, both the sides presently suffer from lack of financial resources necessary to further the objective on a desired scale.

#### Solidarity with Cuba

In its resolution "For an End to Economic Blockade, Trade Boycotts and Sanctions, Discrimination and Protectionism", the 45th WFTU General Council Session called upon the workers of the world to strengthen further solidarity with the Republic of Cuba in its heroic resistance to the unjust, inhuman and criminal economic, trade and financial blockade to which it has been subjected for more than 30 year by the US Government and to register their condemnation of the blockade with the Secretary - General of the United Nations and US President Bill Clinton".

In keeping with its consistent and firm support to the Cuban workers and people, communications were sent on behalf of the AIFUC Secretariat to the Secretary General of U.N. demanding that all unilateral measures taken by the U.S. administration involving economic blockade of, and every type of discrimination against Cuba be forth ended. Almost at the same time the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution to the above effect.

AIFUC and the vast following that it enjoys must continue to mobilize opinion and support of the broad mass of the toiling people in the country in favour of the valiant working class and people of Cuba.

#### Greater prospects for cooperation with ILO

Certain developments leading to further reorientation of ILO policies towards developing countries, in particular India, have opened prospects for closer and fruitful cooperation between the AIFUC and ILO, as represented by its Regional organisation located in New Delhi. Issues concerning workers' education and training, women workers, child labour, labour research, safety and environment besides problems arising out of what is called "Structural adjustment" in developing countries, etc. are increasingly offering avenues and opportunities for developing such cooperation with benefit to the participants in activities being promoted by the ILO. In fact due to some of our organisational drawbacks we are unable to take advantage of the opportunities offered by ILO programmes in our country. The matter must engage our serious attention.

Trade Union Unity

Massive offensive against workers' jobs and living standards accompanying the induction of the World Bank - IMF dictated structural adjustment programmes, is increasingly forcing the components of national Trade Union movement to come together in one form or the other. AITUC has all along stood for genuine Trade Union Unity, and has naturally welcomed the opportunity to further this process in word and deeds. While playing its due role in expanding and deepening the broad unity symbolised by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions, it is constantly laying stress on convergence among Trade Unions with varied orientations - political, non-political or independent. Free and frank exchange of views, dialogue, accompanied by joint actions on specific issues at plant, local or industrial level, are now yielding results. This approach, facilitated by the increasing number of problems being faced by affiliates of different Trade Union centres has of late brought the IITUC leadership as well as rank and file nearer to the left-oriented Trade Unions. While joint stand is being taken by the IITUC with other major Trade Union centres on issues commonly affecting the working class, united activity on plant as well as industrial level is assuming proportions. Joint delegations of affiliates of different centres, till now engaged in rival activities, seeking redressal of their major grievances or protection of their jobs with united efforts of the leadership of various Trade Union centres have become quite frequent. This has again contributed to unity at the top on major issues confronting the working people in the context of the New Economic and Industrial policies of the Central Government. The IITUC leadership no longer flinches shy of opposing many aspects of these policies unitedly with other centres. This is a very positive development which must be consciously strengthened through democratic methods. All our affiliates should be encouraged to steadfastly, patiently and perseveringly further this process.

Some

AITUC - IITUC unity move

The proposal for coordination of activities between AITUC & IITUC with the ultimate aim of merging together has been revived in recent months with the IITUC leadership reacting positively (though belatedly) to it. After some serious discussions, a tentative agreement has been reached. The text of the same as commonly agreed between the respective Secretariats is appended to the report as appendix IV. It has been proposed that a meeting of authorised representatives of the two organisations be held sometime in mid-January '94, to formalise the instrument and release the same to the Press.

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The Maharashtra quake tragedy

The AIFUC Centre issued an appeal to all the affiliates through State Committees to collect and rush relief to the victims of this shocking tragedy. It also addressed communications to the Prime Minister as well as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra expressing grief at the tragedy and offering AIFUC's full cooperation in organising relief. Some of our affiliates are reported to have responded to the appeal and sent relief through our Maharashtra State Committee, which could provide details about the source and extent of the same.

WFTU and CGT of France have sent relief in cash which has also been diverted to the Maharashtra State Committee through the Regional office of the WFTU in New Delhi.

TRADE UNION RECORD:

The void created in the secretariat by the demise of Com. P.N. Sidhanta has seriously affected the publication of T.J.R. stop-gap arrangements have for the time-being been made to ensure uninterrupted publication of the journal. These arrangements have to be perfected in several respects. The journal has not only to be published regularly, but also requires lot of improvement as regards its coverage, contents, make-up, etc., so as to become a much more powerful instrument of furthering the cause of the working people besides becoming an effective catalyst in AIFUC's organisational drive. This naturally entails increased cooperation and contribution by our State Committees and affiliates in terms of ensuring substantial increase in its circulation, procuring advertisements, enrolling as many life-members as possible besides feeding it with factual and analytical reports on different aspects of activities campaigns and struggles of the working-people. We have also to seriously consider an increase in its price commensurate with its size and content in order to enable the TJR establishment to stabilize its finances. As at present it is running on a heavy subsidy out of AIFUC funds.

Malfunctioning of Social Security measures

Due to our Trade Union's main preoccupation with major issues affecting their jobs and wages, we have often ignored taking a serious view of worsening state of affairs in social security sphere. For example it has been reported by Com. G.V. Chitnis, our representative on the ESIC Central Board that the standard of services rendered by the Corporation Hospitals and dispensaries in almost every State has been suffering drastic deterioration during the last few years. While workers are getting a raw deal in matters of overall medical assistance, including supply of medicines, absence of hospitalisation facilities, general family health care, funds on a fantastic scale amounting to hundreds of crore accumulated out of workers' contributions have been invested by the ESIC authorities elsewhere on low interest. As on March 3, 1993, an amount of Rs.178.56 crores is reported officially to be outstanding on account of SSI dues against various employers. Similarly as on March 31, 1993, over 10,900 establishments had been found defaulting in making payment towards ESI contributions. Bureaucratic hurdles persistently stand in

the way of the workers deriving timely benefit of these social security measures. We must not allow the autonomous institutions administering these schemes to oblige the Government at the expense of the workers through loading their funds to the former while the latter stand deprived of benefits and services legitimately and justly due to them. Due vigilance requires to be observed on this account by our affiliates and Distt./State Committees. Besides persistent pressure on the enforcement machinery has to be kept upto prevent breach of the provisions of social security legislation.

GATT agreement - a shameful compromise of our sovereignty.

With the surrender by Rao Government to the dictates of G-7, and imperialist financial agencies signing the GATT agreement incorporating the provisions of the infamous Dunkel-Draft, India would appear to have exposed itself to neo-colonial plunder of its industry, agriculture as well as scientific-technological potential. Even a cursory glance at the text of the agreement appearing in our Press is sufficient to convince any sensible person that the nation has been duped in. Even the high pressure salesmanship indulged in by the Government, including the Finance, Commerce & Finance Ministers themselves fail to conceal the anti-national consequences of the deal. As against the false claims of these gentlemen that the deal would ensure nearly 4.6 billion Dollar annual benefit from Trade reform envisaged in the GATT agreement, the following devastatingly harmful consequences stand out prominently. Nor is this all. There is much that has been attempted to be swept below the carpet, and the entire and real truth will be revealed only in the course of implementation of the agreement which will surely assume a near-unilateral character at the hands of the Big partners - USA - E.C. and Japan.

TEXTILES:

Instead of integrating the textile trade into GATT, even products outside the MFA have been included in the list of textile products that are to be freed from restrictions after the transition period of 10 years - further backloading the transition which itself has been forced on us most arbitrarily. Clinton's assurances given to the AFPA partners clearly express USA's intention that this transition period can be reviewed upwards in course of time. This leaves our textile trade, constituting almost 25% of external trade in terms of value high and dry.

Pharmaceuticals:

No longer will Indian companies be able to use the process-route to manufacture drugs patented abroad - mainly by E.C. partners and USA. With subordinating our Pharmaceutical and drug industry to the Multinationals prices of life-saving and even other medicines will register phenomenal increase.

AGRICULTURE

Patenting of micro-organism by western Companies, as inherent and implicit in the new situation is bound to have far reaching adverse consequences for our entire economy including scientific research and developments.

- a) Customary use of micro-organism in India will become impossible;
- b) Exchange of seeds or modification thereof for use will become impermissible;
- c) Produce of Hy-brid seeds will not be allowed to be retained as seed;
- d) Take-over of Indian seed-market by MNCs will follow;
- e) Unrestrained increase in seed-prices is bound to take place.

All this will result in total subordination of our economy by multinationals with imperialist stranglehold on state power.

As regards the much trumpeted annual trade benefits to our country, even a very recent W.T.O.-OECD study predicts huge losses from a fall in international prices of agricultural products that India exports (i.e. Sugar, plantation crops and rice). At the same time it asserts that there will be rise in prices of those very agricultural products that India has to import. The industrial as well as urban sectors of India, it concludes, would suffer a net loss of welfare as a result of lower tariffs on imported manufactured goods, enforced in terms of the relevant provisions of the agreement. As against a total of 2002 billion US\$ annual benefit accruing from trade reform, India's share at the maximum amounts to merely 4.6 billion as against 18.8, 25.9, 80.7, 12.8 billion Dollars in case of USA, Japan, E.C and EFTA respectively, according to the study.

The above appraisal of the deal entered into by our Government without taking into confidence even the Parliament of the country, actually underestimates the grave consequences which will ultimately emerge out of it for the future of our country. General Council will naturally have to discuss and decide on mounting a nationwide campaign both jointly with other class and mass organisations as well as on its own to rouse the toiling masses to take to the streets for prolonged and bitter struggle to compel the government to abrogate all the provisions of the GATT document which impinge on our sovereign right to order and conduct our economy in the best interests of our nation.

On enhancement of AIFUC's organisational and fighting potential

With the Indian Government's seal having been put on GATT agreement incorporating within it the essence of the abominable Dunkel Draft, the Government is evidently poised to go full steam ahead with the entire package of its "Structural adjustment Programme" forming the core of its new economic and industrial policy. This naturally brings into sharp focus the prospects of a long-drawn-out and bitter struggle by the working class and its allies on a

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countrywide scale. The situation, therefore, demands, considerable improvement in our internal organisation at every level, first and foremost at the central level. Two months hence forward we shall be meeting in the 35th Conference of AIFUC in Patna, Bihar. It is time, therefore, our leadership at every level starts giving serious thought to the renewal of the organisation. This implies, firstly, strengthening the central team by releasing or deputing experienced, capable and comparatively young comrades to assume responsibilities of leadership at the centre. Alongside the Central office apparatus also needs to undergo some degree of modernisation, through provision of better office equipment (e.g. an electronic typewriter), a good library professional assistance like that of a scenographer, etc.etc. Members of the secretariat and office bearers have to be enabled to undertake regular visits to different states to assist the State Committees in performing organisational as well as combative tasks with greater degree of success. The condition of state centres, at least of some of them in bigger states, also requires improvement to facilitate more effective functioning on their part. In particular Democratic functioning of our State and District Committees is of utmost importance so that the activities of the organisation as such could fully reflect the wishes and sentiments of millions of workers and their Unions owing allegiance to this great premier organisation of the working people of India. Taking realities of the situation into account it is no longer possible, nor desirable that our leaders, organisers, or the office-staff itself, should continue to be denied reasonable or modest requirements for their efficient functioning in terms of necessities of present day life-some of which fell under the category of 'comforts' in the past. All this entails strengthening of finances of AIFUC both at the Central as well as state level. Whether this could be ensured by raising the rate of affiliation-fees or by resort to the device of frequent calls for special levies or contributions is for all of us to consider. In this connection the Centre has to admit its failure in not being able so far to secure a suitable site for constructing its office-building, despite having at its disposal funds sufficient to make a fairly good beginning with a building project. Let it be known, however, that funds received from affiliates towards the building fund remain untouched, having been invested in fixed deposits in a nationalised bank.

It may, en-passant be mentioned that there appear to be grounds for carrying out a number of amendments to the present AIFUC constitution, several provisions of which are evidently out of date. Some suggestions on this behalf have already been circulated, while some others are being circulated now.

#### TASKS.

Most of the tasks, in particular those relating to organisation, laid down by the Goa Session of the General Council retain their full validity in the present situation too. They require to be pursued with greater vigour and urgency, in order to enable the AIFUC in its capacity as a

major constituent of the broad platform of class and mass organisations, to become a decisive force in contributing to further development and extension of united struggles against anti-people policies of Rao Govt. By signing the GAIL agreement in dotted lines, the Govt. demonstrated its shameful resolve to irretrievably pursue the path chartered by Imperialist financial agencies and MNCs at the cost of even our country's independence. The battle against this gross national betrayal has to be carried forward with unwavering combative intrepidity. Full organisational preparedness on our part to prove ourselves equal to this patriotic task has got to be ensured.

The working class will have to evolve new methods of struggle in this period. What has become essential is to devote special attention to painstakingly undertake study of concrete problems and issues economic as well as technological, involved in each specific industry, service or establishment. Agitation and struggles in every sphere of activity have to be conducted on the basis of both negative as well as positive demands and slogans evolved through the knowledge derived from such a study. Besides fully participating in campaigns and struggles sanctioned by the Sponsoring Committee of IUs and the newly created Platform of class and mass organisations, struggles on plant, local and state-level have to be persistently planned and waged against particular aspects of the new Economic and Industrial Policy, distorting the performance or operation of the industry or service concerned. Solidarity actions in support of agitating and struggling workers have to be developed in every case. Our State and District Committees must unfailingly take the initiative and lead to assist our affiliates to fulfil these tasks which, if properly planned and pursued will enable the movement to develop horizontal dimension as well. All means of propaganda and publicity have to be utilized to convince the working masses of the ominous implications of the new economic policy for them and their future generation. It is equally necessary that the grave danger posed by communal and religious fanaticism to the unity of the nation itself should be consistently and persistently explained to them.

Myriads of struggles waged on plant, local, state or industry level, backed by such well-conceived publicity and explanatory campaign have to be untiringly intensified and developed into acquiring a deeper class-content. These struggles have to get merged into one mighty wave of sustained national protest, powerful enough to force the Govt. to reverse its anti-working class and anti-people policies or get wiped out.

Let us prepare fully ourselves to spearhead this crusade.

Thank you for lending me your ears for such a long time.

APPENDIX-I

SUMMARY OF REPORTS ON 19TH AUGUST JAIL BHAAR  
AND 9TH SEPTEMBER GENERAL STRIKE AND BHARAT BANDH

PUNJAB

- P.E.S.U Roadways Transport Corporation Staff - 80% buses were off the roads.
- Punjab Roadways - 60% strike.
- Punjab State Electricity Board - 65% strike.
- Banks and Insurance - Nearly 100%.
- F.C.I. Pallekar - Majority on strike except INDC workers.
- P.M.D Workers - withdrew from the strike.
- General Industrial workers - majority on strike.
- Shops and markets - limited response.
- Mass organisations, Peasants, Rural labours, Women, Students - could not mobilise masses in a big way as was expected.

Opinion expressed is that the call for 'Bharat Bandh' was not proper. Only Industrial strike should have been announced. Industrial areas of Amritsar, Jullundhar, Ludhiana, Batala, Dhariwal, Rajpura, Maler Kotla, Mansa, Abohar, Kharar, Mohali and Chandigarh were almost totally strike bound. 50,000 Electric Board workers were on strike.

UTTAR PRADESH

1. Kanpur: -
  - Defence - 5 production units including MES and ICS on total strike.
  - Banks - 100% strike but BEFI members applied for leave.
  - LIC, GIC, Indian Oil - Total strike.
  - Textiles- Total strike in only two mills; attendance in NTC, BIC normal.
  - Engineering and Leather - Very little response.
  - Electricity - Workshops and some other establishments totally closed.
  - Power House - Normal functioning.
  - Markets - Functioned normally in general; some areas closed.
  - General impact - Good.

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2. DEHRADUN:

Preparations for Bharat Bandh were mainly undertaken by AIFUC units. Despite their repeated efforts both CITU and Janta Dal continued to adopt obstructionist tactics and made little contribution to the bandh. However, determined efforts by AIFUC workers resulted in obstructing traffic and forcing bandh in several areas.

3. DALA CEMENT FACTORY

10,000 workers courted arrest, mainly AIFUC and CITU organised the 19th August "Jail Bharo" movement. Many women and youth workers participated. No report on 9th strike.

4. GHAZIABAD

Over 50 small and medium establishments in the industrial areas in Ghaziabad district were totally strike bound on the 9th September '93.

5. (HARDWAR, RANIPUR)

BHARAT ELECTRONICS

- 19th August Dharna took place with participation of our own union members only.
- 9th September strike - only members of AIFUC and CITU participated. Others including H.M.S and INFUC and IHRP did not co-operate. Majority of the workers not on strike. 800 only on strike. A big procession with participation of several smaller trade Unions taken out through markets in Hardwar.

6. LUCKNOW

SCOOTER INDIA LIMITED

- Total strike on 9th September 1993.

KARNATAKA STATE

The AIFUC unit in Karnataka did a nice and splendid job. It was able to mobilise all the forces and organisations who had participated in New Delhi Convention. In addition, it also mobilised local forces. About 30,000 people courted arrest on the 19th of August. The response to the bandh on 9th September '93 was wide-spread, both in industrial belts as well as rural areas. Transport strike was complete. Civic life was also affected seriously in most of the areas. Besides CITU, elements of Janta Dal also participated in certain areas. Large number of arrests were also made. Police violence was much in evidence. On the whole, the action programme on the 19th August as well as on the 9th September can be described as highly successful.

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Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation

Many struggles launched. A complete token strike on 23.7.93 also observed in support of their demands. Large scale victimization against which campaign is on.

GOA

AIFUC and CIPU unions participated in a big way in Jail Bhara Andolan on 19th August. A total of over 10,000 workers participated in the Jail Bhara Andolan in various localities in Union Territory of Goa.

Performance of Trade Unions in Goa who mobilized different sections of the society for the bandh yielded splendid results. Tens of thousand workers in the 11-industrial estates mining establishments, public services, electricity and Transport, ferry - services etc., were on strike. A number of towns in Goa observed bandh following massive demonstrations, marches and processions by workers. Police high handedness including Lathi Charge and arrest of union leaders did not deter workers from going ahead with militant actions.

DELHI

Over 10000 workers belonging to AIFUC, CIPU, HMS, UFUC, and some other left-oriented Trade Union groups participated in 19th August "Jail Bhara" programme. The massive march of workers for courting arrest was led by national leaders of AIFUC, CIPU, HMS, UFUC, etc. The processionists including Com.Indrajit Gupta, Chaturanan Mishra, Gaya Singh and Gurudas Dasgupta, etc. were subjected to brutal lathi charge. Nearly 8,000 workers were arrested but later released. Number of workers striking work on 9th September is estimated between 40,000 to 75,000.

MAHARASHTRA

About a lakh workers participated in "Jail Bhara" programme in Maharashtra, including 22,000 in Bombay city alone. At many places peaceful processionists were brutally lathi-charged and large number of arrests were made. Among those arrested in other parts of the state there were a large number of women Bidi workers.

RAJASTHAN

There are reports of wide-spread meetings, conventions etc. held in different parts of Rajasthan. In Jaipur many establishments in industrial estates were closed. Strike of roadways workers was partial. In Kota a number of big and small industrial establishment were closed. Many markets also got closed. In some of the cities like Sardar Sahar large number of women picketed railway tracks and forced a Bandh on the town. Workers in Khetri Copper mines observed a partial strike.

PORT AND DOCK WORKERS

Units affiliated to Port, Dock and Water Front Federation of India also participated in 9th September strike at various places.

GUJRAT

Industrial areas in and around Baorda responded to the strike call.

ANDHRA PRADESH

The Bandh call was quite successful in the state as whole. Most of the public sector undertakings in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam areas were strike bound. Road transport was also disrupted. There was a brutal Lathi Charge by police in Hyderabad and nearly 2,000 arrests were made.

TAMIL NADU

The industrial strike and Bandh call registered a big success in the State of Tamil Nadu also. The Bandh call evoked good response in a large number of towns and cities including, in particular, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Trichi, Nager-Coil, Neel Giris, Kambacomom, Balore, Salem and Madras. Large number of small as well as major factories remained strike bound. These included the entire textile industry and engineering factories in Coimbatore, BHEL factories in Trichi and Ranipet, Neyvey Lignite Corporation, Hindustan Photo Films, Hindustan Motors in Trichlore, besides mass of transport and electricity workers. Lakhs of workers in unorganised industries like Bidi, tannery, powerloom, handloom, Cashewnut also observed token strike. Banks, insurance and oil company offices also observed complete strike. In many places even INFUC and EMS workers also joined the strike. Primary school teachers struck work en-masse. Others joining the strike were Air Corporation employees, employees in post and telegraph and telecommunication and medical workers etc. Estimated number of workers and employees joining the strike throughout the State has been placed at about 14 lakhs. About 2,000 workers were arrested.

TRIPURA

The 9th September Bandh was a big success. All state Government offices, Road transport, Schools and colleges besides industrial establishments observed complete strike.

MADHYA PRADESH

Over 50,000 industrial workers, peasants, youth and students and women courted arrest on 19th August. AIFUC unions, in mining, textile, engineering, Bidi and small-scale industries were in the fore-front in organising the 9th September General Strike and Bandh bringing together other affiliates of Central trade unions organisations besides youth and agricultural workers. Major cities and towns including Bhopal, Jabalpur, Indore, Raipur, Bilaspur etc. observed a complete bandh despite opposition from Congress and B.J.P.

ASSAM

There was total bandh in certain areas including Malegaon, Kokrajhar tea estates and in many sections of telegraph employees. Top State leaders of AIFUC were arrested.

### HARYANA

Entire Industrial area of Rohtak observed strike. Local peasantry in several districts including Sirsa, Hissar, Bhiwani, Delhi-Road blocked the traffic for several hours. Electricity Board workers in districts of Palwal, Faridabad industrial areas also joined strike. P.W.D. workers also joined the strike.

### BANKS, INSURANCE ETC.

Employees in banks, and insurance companies participated in the struggle every where in country with their usual determination and enthusiasm. So was the case with electricity workers in many of the states. Performance of Road transport workers however, does not give cause for much satisfaction barring a few brilliant exceptions like that of State Transport workers of Karnataka, Goa and Punjab, besides those of Bengal and Kerala. Post, telegraph and telecommunication services exhibited enough enthusiasm but their actual participation did not match their enthusiasm. This was perhaps mainly due to luke-warm attitude of the national leadership of these services.

Highly noteworthy has also been the performance of state government employees practically all over India. Their participation in the "Bharat Bandh" surpassed even expectation of sponsoring organisations.

The same could be said about Defence workers who speed-fastly responded to the general strike call almost all over India inspite of the fact that several other departmental undertakings backed out from the strike decision at the last moment.

Employees in major sectors like Railways and sections of ports and Docks, (except the AIFUC affiliates) made little contribution to this historic struggle in spite of repeated calls made by the Sponsoring Committee of trade unions. Participation of postal services and major sections of Central Government employees could also be described as less than partial. Participation of employees from these vital sectors in 9th September strike and bandh would have invested it with character of a near national upheaval.

### COAL

Coal Mines organised under Samyukta Khardan Sangh (including Captive iron ore mines of Bhilai Steel Plant, Dalli-Raj-Hara and mines in other areas) - organised the 9th September strike. It was highly successful in Dalli-Rajhara, Nandini and Hirri Coal Mines. In addition the strike call was fully responded to by workers in various mines including Kirandool, Bacheli, Balco mines, Malanji Khand Copper mines, mines in areas like Korba, Gevora, Kusunda, Jumna Katma, Rai Gadh, Chrimiri, Suhagpur etc. The strike of workers in all these Coal fields created considerable impact in many areas resulting in stoppage of commercial, educational etc. activity.

UPPAR PRADESH & MADHYA PRADESH - NCL

Singrauli Coyala Mazdoor Sangh and Colliery Mazdoor Sabha

Though no clear-cut information has been made available as to the extent of participation of workers of these Coal fields in the 19th August "Jail Bharo" and 9th September Bharat Bandh it appears that the strike in these Coal-fields has not been very successful except, perhaps in certain sections of N.C.L. The role of affiliates of other Central Trade Unions in the 19th August and 9th September action would appear to be negative.

BRAJRAJ NAGAR COAL MINES - ORISSA

Large number of workers in Brajraj Nagar Coal mines led by the AIFUC and All India Mines Workers' Federation are also reported to have participated in 9th September strike.

Serious note has also to be taken of the fact that in spite of the wide dimensions of the movement extending even to several unorganised sections of the industry and professions, workers in certain major segments of organised industry could not be persuaded to respond to the 9th September general strike call. Giant BHEL units like those in Hardwar and Bhopal Singareni Coal Mines, etc., besides sections of workers in major steel enterprises furnish such examples. Similar has been the case with certain important sections of services like IPDC and many of nationalised hotels under it.

A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE JAIL BHARO AND BANDH CAMPAIGN

Special mention must be made of important contribution made to the success of the struggle by large sections of the toiling people in rural India, including small peasants and agricultural workers. It was for the first time in the history of working class struggle in our country that the toiling sections of rural population made common cause with the industrial workers and urban toilers on matters of policy vitally affecting national interests. As already stated teachers both in schools and universities joined the struggle in a big way. Active participation of unorganised workers including women on such a vast scale and in such overwhelming numbers is another highly encouraging feature of this struggle. Participation of organised sections of youth and students, though on a limited scale, also contributed to expanding the base of movement in appropriate directions.

Diary of main struggles/agitations(as reported)  
organised since Goa General Council Session.

1. Strike of Familnadu: Textile workers numbering about a lakh and half employed in about 100 textile units of Familnadu and Pondicherry, 15-21 December, 1992,. Their demands were referred to adjudication with simultaneous bipartite negotiations and grant of an interim relief of Rs.125/- per month and other gains. The struggle was led and settled by JAC with INTUC, AITUC HMS, CITU, LMF, NLO and AFP, etc.
2. Karnataka: State Road Transport workers organised a rally participated in by about 15,000 workers on 5 March '93 against delay in starting wage negotiations.
3. Goa: Workers of the Sancoale Industrial Estate went on prolonged strike on the 8th May '93 demanding unconditional release of the 10 workers arrested in the Estate on trumped up charges. They were brutally beaten up by police. The State Committee decided to spread the agitation and demanded suspension of police officials involved.
4. Familnadu: As a result of police firing on April 10, 1993 on a peaceful procession of workers of Pugalur Sugar factory in Karur Taluk of Trichy district, 3 workers were killed and 7 injured. It was a peaceful procession of 130 workers demanding reemployment of about 500 workers who were retrenched in November 1992, on the ~~pretext~~ of transfer of ownership.

All shops, schools, industries observed a bandh on 12 April '93, when the workers took out a huge silent procession, carrying the dead bodies of the workers shot by the police.

5. Madhyapradesh: Hundreds of bidi workers in Madhya Pradesh assembled in Bhopal on June 14, 1993, to stage Dharna near Raj Bhavan demanding increase in the minimum wage rates from Rs.14/- per day to Rs.32.42 per day linked with Consumer Price Index and also for payment of D.A. separately following increase in CPI.

Nearly 500 Bidi workers who proceeded to submit memorandum to the Governor were arrested and sent to Jail by police. Later a delegation, led by the General Secretary to Madhya Pradesh State committee of AITUC, Com.C.R.Bakshi submitted a memorandum to the Governor, who admitted that there was a strong case for wage increase of the Bidi workers.

6. Karnataka: As per call of KSRTC Staff and workers' Federation, the State Road Transport workers observed Dharna before the Divisional offices all over the State of Karnataka in support of their charter of demands and against the irresponsible statement of State Transport Minister. The corporation employs about 50,000 employees.

7. Campaign against Privatisation of IISCO.

Five major Trade Unions, AITUC, INTUC, CITU, HMS and BMS in a letter to the Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee of Industry, and the Minister for Steel, opposed any move to induct privatisation either through

Mukund Engineering or any other private party and advocated TISCO's modernisation through SAIL. In response to an invitation of the Minister on the 17th December 1993, all the Trade Union representatives attending the meet made it clear that no further discussion could be held unless the above proposal was conceded in principle and the meeting, therefore, abruptly ended.

8. Power Workers strike in Bihar

30,000 employees of the Bihar State electricity board went on strike from 7 October 1993 against extremely hostile attitude and victimisation by the Chairman, who wanted to float a pocket-union by large scale removal of several prominent leaders of the movement from service and transferring scores of them to far off places. The situation became so serious that two of the top leaders of the Federation, Coms. A.B. Bardhan and Chakradhar Prasad Singh, were forced to go on hunger strike.

9. Against Dunkel Draft

A memorandum was presented by a 15 member delegation including AIFUC representative to the Commerce Minister describing Dunkel Draft as a charter of compromising the Nation's Sovereignty and protesting against the visit of Mr. Sutherland, the successor of Dunkel on the 28th October 1993.

10. Bata Employees Struggle

Bata employees of Faridabad have lodged a complaint with the Labour Commissioner against the management's unilateral policy of ordering curtailment of production and ultimate reduction of manpower and mass retrenchment.

11. Mineral Exploration Corporation employees' Dharna against Government's Apathy.

About 7,000 employees of MCL, all over the country launched a week long Dharna against the Government's apathy in getting work and refusing to give financial support to the expert drilling exploration corporation in the Central Public Sector, between 22 and 27 November 1993.

Having formed a Joint Action Committee, with AIFUC, INFUC, CIPU, SMS and SMS representatives held a press conference on 30 November '92 1993 and a seminar on its Revival plan on the 4 December 1993 with the participation of the CMD, Director (Technical), President of officers association, Com. A.B. Bardhan of AIFUC, S.G. Zama of INFUC, S.P. Kashyap of CIPU, Ms. Rawal of SMS, with Shri Mahip Singh, ex CMD of MCL, WCL, CMPOI, MLC as the Chief guest.

12. Postal Employees' strike. (already referred to in the main report)

New Economic and Industrial policies lead to worsening  
of economic situation with gross distortions in social  
life

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1. The Government has been finding itself unable to prevent persistent rise in revenue deficit, which on the basis of the year 1993-94, is almost certain to rise from Rs.17,630 crores to Rs.32,874 crores during the next two years, constituting much more than the target of 4.7% of GDP. Budget deficit on all calculations is going to soar to more than 6.2% of GDP, which is well above the target of 5.7% for the year 1993-94. Substantially higher volume of RBI credits than the target of Rs.4314 crores advanced to meet the Budget deficit has become a contributory factor in fuelling inflation. This is taking place despite heavy cut-backs on capital expenditure and social spending.
2. Sustained rise in annual rate of inflation has been taking place all through this period. This rate according to official figures for the week ending 13.11.93, stands at 8.5%, which represents the steepest level in the last 47 weeks. These being only provisional figures, which always underestimate the extent of price-rise, the actual rate in all probability may by now have crossed the double-digit mark.
3. Official wholesale price Index for all commodities has already recorded a rise to 251.7 during the week ending 6.11.93. Working class Consumer price Index for September 1993, according to official figures stood over 7% higher than the corresponding period of 1992 (259 against 243 in September 1992). Continuous increase in indices of food articles constitute the main factor in causing the rise. These figures, as is well known, underestimate the actual extent of price-rise which is manipulated downwards through introducing consumer durables in the consumption basket.
4. In spite of having a good monsoon for the 6th succession year, and good procurement performance with ample food stocks claimed by the Government, grain prices continue to soar. In October, 1993, alone the price of wheat increased by 4.3% and of rice by 2.3%. This is naturally leading to drastic erosion of the already meagre purchasing power of mass of the working people, imposing untold misery and privations on them.
5. Overall stagnation and decline of growth in industrial sector- further deepening of recession etc.

In the first quarter of the current financial year (April - June 1993) industrial production increased by a meagre 0.8% against the targetted growth rate of 5% in the current year. The manufacturing sector, in particular the capital goods segment, has had a negative growth of 0.4% so far. The industry according to expert opinion

contd.....3



has to an appreciable extent been hit by a decline in public sector spending ordained by the W.B. and IMF, besides factors like under-utilization of capacity caused by anti-public sector measures being taken by the Government besides persisting demand-recession.

6. Persistent & Staggering rise in unemployment.

Taking into consideration all the foregoing factors along with others directly affecting employment, the situation has been assuming alarming proportions. With increasing number of unemployed on the live register, constantly dwindling number of vacancies notified, and still smaller number of actual placements, along with millions of lost jobs due to "restructuring" of the industry under the overall IMF - W.B.-brand 'Structural Adjustment Programmes of the Government, compounded by unabated spate of closures, partial as well as full, lock-outs, etc., the number of persons for whom jobs have to be created would far exceed the Government's own estimate of nearly 100 million during the next 6-7 years. Viewed against these facts and figures the so-called 'Exit policy' advocated by IMF-W.B., besides Indian and foreign monopolies, and accepted by the Government spells disaster for our social and economic life. Nod of approval on the part of the Government to highly retrograde recommendations of bodies like Goswami Committee, Narasimhan Committee and Committee on Austerity and Rangarajan Committee etc. is sure ultimately to lead to protracted industrial strife, social tensions, threatening the very unity of the nation. All talk of 'retraining' and 'redeployment' is proving deceptive, with the so-called NRF being utilized for anti-working class 'VRS' or retrenchment schemes only.

7. Highly damaging consequences of direction of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and unrestricted entry of MNCs

As against the totally unfounded claim of the Government that the bulk of the total FDI approvals of Rs.9,168 crores have been in the priority sector, an analysis of the direction of actual investments, based on facts and figures released by the ministry of Industry itself, prove that in reality the bulk of the promised inflows of FDI are confined to Consumer non-durables & durables. Hardly any concrete inflows in sectors like Power, Telecom, etc. have so far materialised and the Government has all but surrendered to the demand of the MNCs for sovereign guarantee of 16% return on capital. However, MNCs are putting forward a number of other conditions like the right to have captive coal mines and joint operation of accounts with electricity Boards, etc., before making actual investment in these industries. Considering that Dollar Bond rates are currently nearly 8%, entertainment of FDI on such liberal terms can-not but lead to seriously adverse consequences for our indigenous industry particularly in the small-scale and ancillary sectors.

wedded to the basics of the MSP, the Govt. is now able to prevent the wholesale take-over of our Consumer Industries by MNCs through various devices. Take-over of Parle by Coke of USA, absorption of Godrej by Procter and Gamble, of Fomco by Hindustan Levers & Haloltras by Gillette, furnish ready examples of such take-overs. Policies pursued by the Government render it incapable of intervening in a situation where rights shares at fantastically heavy discount are being issued to the promoters of foreign companies operating in India, thus enabling them to enrich themselves with bonanzas amounting to thousands of million rupees.

8. Privatisation and Disinvestment measures threaten gross misuse/misdirection of nation's resources.

The zeal with which the Government conducted the last round of disinvestment of PSU shares has already resulted in under-realisation of receipts aggregating to Rs.3,441.71 crores. This was due to complete disregard of guidelines on mechanism to be set up for disinvestment, and met with serious objection from CAG, besides severe criticisms in the Parliament. What further compounds the guilt of the Govt. is the fact that receipts from disinvestment are being utilised for meeting deficit revenue instead of meeting the requirements of modernisation and expansion of PSUs. The intended implementation of recommendations of Rangarajan Committee is going to lead to indiscriminate disinvestment and privatisation under the smokescreen of "augmentation of equity base of PSUs" from capital market. All these measures are fraught with grave consequences for national interests, virtually paving the way for full control and take over of vast national assets of our PSUs by indigenous and foreign monopolies for a song.

9. While unable, or unwilling, to curb predatory operation of MNCs in league with sections of Indian monopoly houses, and refusing to make any effort whatever to unearth the 'black money' which is playing havoc with economic and social fabric of the society, the Government is readily contemplating implementation of the World Bank - IMF dictated measures to curb basic trade union and democratic rights of workers. The proposed measures to bring forward the so-called Industrial Relations Act in furtherance of blatantly anti-labour and anti-social 'exit policy'.

10. In this connection pointed attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister is invited to the contents of a recent World Bank study on the crucial Government role in steering national economy of 'East Asian Tigers' - South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, etc. The study takes special note of the systematic intervention by the Governments in these countries in playing a key role in developing the industry. This has taken many forms, like targetting subsidized credit to select industries, protecting domestic import-substitutes, supporting R & D through public investment, coupled with anti-inflationary, fiscal and monetary policies. This is a clear indication of even

the World Bank moving away from placing complete faith in markets to advocating selective Government intervention as practised in the abovementioned countries.

11. From whichever angle the matter is viewed disinvestment, reduction of investment and privatisation of major PSUs with proven record of good performance is inimical to the interests of national economy. Policies which are resulting in throwing open the entire public Transport industry to private operators, denying even economically viable public sector units their requirements of working capital/inputs and starving giant enterprises like the BSNL of orders which they are capable of executing even in a competitive market, have nothing in common with the well-being of the people. The reported move to close down a number of branches of nationalised banks and to allow foreign equity participation upto 49% in private banking sector, which is being substantially expanded, have seeds of subversion of the entire public sector banking system.

12. Menacing shadow of Dunkel proposals

In the race for integration of Indian economy with global economy our Government feels compelled to accept the infamous Dunkel proposals in one form or the other. These proposals in essence amount to acceptance of the G-7 claim to retain monopoly over technology, while indulging in glib talk of "Free Trade" with the aim of gaining access to our markets. Acceptance of these proposals would scotch R & D in India, making it permanently dependant on them. It would directly and seriously hit our pharmaceutical industry besides adversely affecting our agriculture.

13. Balance of Trade and prospects of external aid receipts - foreign debt

Though the gap between exports and imports has narrowed down during this period but the position still remains unsatisfactory and uncertain. This is so because of substantial increase in the share of agro based products in the total value of exports. The share of manufactured goods in our exports remains far from satisfactory, and to that extent our export trade continues to be unstable and shaky. As for our foreign exchange reserves, they are of the order of 7 billion Dollars as against a total external debt of 35 billion Dollars. There is thus need for a sustained annual export growth rate of 20-25% in Dollar terms and the BSNP shows no way to achieve this target.

Total external aid receipts for the centre during the first half of 1993-94, for which figures are available, have continued to be negative. Against a gross aid receipt of Rs.2,883 crores in this period there is actually a net outflow of 1,676 crores after deducting repayments of Rs.2,518 crores and interest payments of Rs.2,041 crores. Note must also be taken of the disconcerting development involving NRI deposits. Total outflow from NRI deposits in the first half of the current financial year is

estimated at 778 million U.S. Dollars, which is substantially higher than the outflow of 188 million U.S. Dollars during the same period of 1992-93. Outflow in September, 1993, alone is estimated at 192 million Dollars - with foreign currency account outflow claiming a major share of the total outflow.

14. Summing up the experience of the MSP during this period, the AIFUC is of the firm opinion that the road to competition does not and cannot flow from IMF - U.S. model of 'liberalisation'. On the contrary it flows from policies of self-reliance - with foreign trade contributing to strengthening its base. Experience and success of far east economies confirm that loans from World Bank & IMF with their conditionalities raise costs in the present with a highly doubtful benefit, if any, in the future.

In keeping with the foregoing analysis of the economic policies of the Government, the AIFUC makes the following proposals/suggestions for framing the budget for 1994-95:-

1. The Budget deficit should be reduced by imposing taxes on builders, speculators, the big land holders etc., increase taxes on import of consumer goods and streamlining the machinery for collection of tax, customs duty and excise etc.
2. Steps should be taken to see that the wasteful expenditure of the Government is eliminated;
3. Exports of manufactured goods should be encouraged so that gives better unit value. The increase in exports should be accompanied by decrease in import of luxury goods and goods manufactured in the country.

The thoughtless import of Copper is leading to the crisis of Hindustan Copper Ltd.

4. Public Sector units should be made autonomous and political interference should stop. They should be accountable to the Parliament for efficiency and quality so as to remain competitive. They should be run on business lines and workers participation upto Board level should be introduced. Stop privatisation or disinvestment of shares.
5. The banking system should be restructured. A single banking corporation of India should be created besides establishing a Central banking authority delinked from the Reserve Bank of India. This authority should be entrusted with full responsibility for supervision guidance and monitoring of the banking system. Any attempt to disinvest shares or permitting large scale banking in private sector or F.N.B.'s should be stopped.
6. Small scale industries should be given tax concessions and should be encouraged.
7. Investment in infrastructure including power sector should continue as it is essential both for industrial and agricultural development.

8. Import of foreign technology should be restricted to high tech sector and capital goods sector.
9. Expenditure should increase on R. & D. A special cess should be levied on private sector for development of R & D. This is a must to be competitive in the world.
10. Free trade is disastrous. There should be necessary guided restrictions.
11. The National renewal fund should be utilised for revamping of sick industries and for training and retrenching, instead of only for Voluntary retirement schemes.
12. Restriction should be imposed on bank credit to the wholesale traders in foodgrains and other consumer items.
13. Strengthening and expansion of Public distribution system to rural areas along with wider coverage in items of mass consumption with effective supervision on sale and pricing of such commodities.
14. Investment should be encouraged and directed towards production of wage goods rather than consumer durables.
15. Firm steps should be undertaken to unearth black money through curbing malpractices in foreign trade, speculative trade, under valuation in transactions involving immovable property, and tax dodging etc.
16. Managements, responsible for creating sickness through financial and managerial malpractices must be penalised by confiscating the assets of companies or enterprises belonging to the same group.
17. Protection and generation of employment should form the basis of our economic and industrial policy. Through land reforms and ceiling laws should strictly be implemented. Small scale labour intensive industries, and agro-based industries in the rural centres should be encouraged and supported. Self employment opportunities and employment guarantee schemes should be introduced throughout the country. In these schemes minimum wage should be guaranteed.
18. The guidelines issued by the industries ministry for wage negotiations in public sector should be withdrawn.
19. The unanimous recommendations of central trade unions regarding D.A. Slabs should be implemented.
20. The existing ceiling as regards eligibility as well as quantum of bonus must be immediately done away with.
21. Income ceiling for salaried people for the purpose of income tax be raised to 0.50,000.

22. All social security benefits should be extended to the workers of unorganised sector.

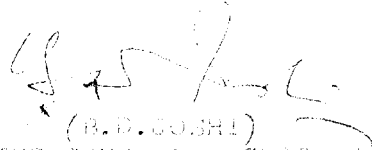
23. Indexed pension scheme should be introduced for all workers.

24. Adequate provision of funds for extensive as well as intensive programmes of housing, health care, education, slum clearance, literacy campaign, etc. should be made in the budget.

25. All trade unions are opposed to 'exit policy'. The Government should withdraw the so-called industrial relations bill and should enact a bill on the basis of the unanimous recommendations of the Ramnujan Committee.

Representatives of the ATTUC would like to supplement the foregoing in the course of their oral discussions with Finance Minister.

M. S. KRISHNAN  
PRESIDENT  
ATTUC

  
(B. D. GOSHI)  
ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY  
ATTUC

APPENDIX-IV

Proposals of AIFUC as amended & accepted by HMS.

In order to bring about closer coordination of work and activities and in order to evolve common approach on several issues confronting the Trade Union movement and workers, so that it may help in greater unity and ultimate merger of the two organisations, namely the AIFUC and HMS, the following proposals are made:

1. A Coordination Committee of both the organisations to be constituted at the national level. In the beginning it could consist of the president, General Secretary, and not more than seven representatives of each organisation.
2. Similar Coordination Committees to be constituted at state levels.
3. Coordination Committees at the level of National Industrial Federations and also state level industrial Federations to be constituted.
4. Efforts to be made to promote the coordination also at the unions level.

5. For the present, the formation of the Coordination Committees will not come in the way of affiliation of the organisations to international Trade Union Centres.

6. The national level Coordination Committee to meet at least once in three months to discuss national issues and policy matters, initiating or evolving campaigns on common issues. The available members of the Coordination Committee to meet as often as possible to work out the details and implement them. Efforts to be made in these meetings to have a common approach on all issues, in Committees which deal with the Govt. or other Central Trade Union organisations like the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions, CPSPU, Platform of mass organisations etc. In case of differences on any issue which could not be resolved despite discussions, each central T.U. is permitted to express its own opinion. However this should not come in the way of making continued efforts to a common approach on the issues. If differences arise at State level, the national level leaders will assist to sort them out so that a united approach could be evolved.

7. In the light of experience, further steps to be taken for greater coordination and unity of the two organisations.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

GLOOMY EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROSPECT

(A) Increasing number of  
Job-seekers (In '000)

Year	No. of Applicants on Live Register	Vacancies notified	Placements
1987	30,247	621	360
1988	30,050	544	330
1989	32,776	599	289
1990	34,632	490	236
1991	36,300	365	197
1992 Sept.	37,171	316	180

(B) Decreasing Employment in public Sector Enterprises

Year	No. of Regular Employees (in lakhs)	%age increase/ decrease from previous year.
1978-79	17.03	-
1984-85	21.07	-
1985-86	21.54	2.23
1986-87	22.11	2.65
1987-88	22.14	0.01
1988-89	22.09	(-) 0.23
1989-90	22.36	1.22
1990-91	22.19	(-) 0.76
1991-92	21.84	(-) 1.60

(Public Enterprises  
Survey - 1991-92)

contd.....2



(C)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

( Lakhs ) :

1980	72.27	
1981	73.95	
1983	75.52	
1984	73.46	
1985	73.09	1990 - 75.90
1986	73.74	1991 - 78.54
1987	73.64	
1988	73.92	
1989	74.53	(As on 31 March)

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Relates to non-agricultural establishments in the private sector employing 10 or more persons.

(Ministry of Labour)

(D) EDUCATED JOB-SEEKERS

As on 31 December 1991

Males -	16557.0
Females -	4549.9
Total:	<u>21106.9</u>

(in thousands)

Matriculates and above but below graduate degree constituted 82.8 per cent of the educated job-seekers and the remaining 17.2 per cent were graduate and above. About 21.6 per cent of educated job-seekers were females.

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Sluggish Growth in employment

According to the latest data compiled by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the average national growth in employment in all broad sectors of the national economy since 1987 has been a mere 1.82 per cent on annual basis.

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Sectionally, construction industry showed 3.58 percent growth - the highest among all other sectors, followed by electricity, gas and water (2.73 %) and transport, storage and communication (2.05 %).

Other sectors in the growth in employment are Mining and quarrying - 1.94%, agriculture and allied fields 1.65%. Other services together achieved 1.82 percent growth.

The survey says that the total employment is estimated at 314.14 million in 1992 as compared to 290.93 million in 1987-88. Agriculture and allied fields provided the maximum number of people - 199.33 million in 1992 as against 185.90 million in 1987-88. There were 13.38 million employed in the construction industry in 1992 compared to 11.52 million in 1988.

In the organised sector, over-all employment had increased to 26.8 million in March 1991 from 25.71 million in March 1988.

...P.T.O.:

D.A. Slabs

Joint T.U. Proposal

All the five Major National Trade Union Centres have come to a unanimous decision on fixation of D.A. Slabs for the Central Public sector units. The decision has been conveyed to the Union Minister of Labour, Sri P. Sangma in a joint communication dated 20-11-1993.

The slabs worked out jointly are as follows.

1. Below Rs.1800	Rs.2 per point
2. Rs.1801-2200	Rs.2.50 "
3. Rs.2201-2600	Rs.3.00 "
4. Rs.2601-3000	Rs.3.50 "
5. Rs.3001-3400	Rs.4.00 "
6. Rs.3401-3800	Rs.4.50 "
7. Rs.3801-4200	Rs.5.00 "

ALL - INDIA AVERAGE CONSUMER PRICE  
NUMBERS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

<u>1992</u>	<u>1980 base</u>	<u>1960 base</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1980 Base</u>	<u>1960 base</u>
January	- 228	- 1124		241	- 1188
February	- 229	- 1129		242	- 1193
March	- 229	- 1129		243	- 1197
April	- 231	- 1139		245	- 1207
May	- 234	- 1154		246	- 1212
June	- 236	- 1164		250	- 1232
July	- 242	- 1193		253	- 1247
August	- 242	- 1193		256	- 1262
September	- 243	- 1198		259	- 1276
October	- 244	- 1203			
November	- 244	- 1203			
December	- 243	- 1198			

Increasing trend in Consumer Price Index Numbers

between 1961 and 1992 the rise of consumer price index gave the following picture:

<u>Year</u>	<u>All-India Consumer Price Index: Annual Average for Calendar year: 1960 Base</u>	<u>Rise of Points in Price Index, Ten year periods</u>
1961	- 104	-
1971	- 190	86
1981	- 441	251
1991	- 1045	604
1992	- 1169	124

(compared to previous year)

- 2 -

Major hike in administered prices during 1991-93

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. All Petroleum Products except Kerosene for domestic use | September 1992<br>by 15%       |
| 2. Procurement prices of Jabi Crops                        | January 1993<br>by 12.5 to 24% |
| 3. Issue prices of wheat and rice                          | In January 1993<br>by 16%      |
| 4. Levy Sugar  | In February 1993<br>by 20.33%  |
| 5. Coal price  | In February 1993<br>by 14.92%  |
| 6. Railway freight and fare                                | In April 1993<br>by 19.12%     |



RESOLUTION

In a Joint Meeting of the representatives of AIFUC, BMS, CIPU, HMS and INTUC, Industrial Federations and Affiliated Unions thereof: in IISCO Units and IISCO Officers Association held on 8th December, 1993 in Deputy Speaker's Hall, Constitution Club, NEW DELHI.

This Joint Meeting alongwith a large number of members of Parliament discussed the issue of the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) Denationalisation Bill in the Parliament, and after long deliberations passed the following resolution:-

1. IISCO must remain a part of the Steel Authority of Indian Limited (SAIL).
2. Modernisation of IISCO should be done through SAIL.
3. Central Trade Union Organisations will seek interview and discussions with the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, and Steel Minister before the introduction of the Bill, to impress upon them the after-effect of denationalisation of IISCO.
4. In the event of introduction of the Bill in the Parliament, all the employees in all the units of IISCO will embark upon the following programme: -
  - a) One-day hunger strike by all the employees on the day after the Bill is introduced in the Parliament.
  - b) One-day strike in all the Units on a date fixed up thereafter.
  - c) One-day strike in all the Steel Plants.
  - d) National agitation including one-day national strike as a protest against the closure, privatisation and such other steps in the public sector undertakings.
  - e) There should be movements and agitations in all the Units of IISCO as also in the steel plants and at the national level.
  - f) There will be meetings at Burnpur and at Calcutta to explain to the employees and to motivate them to fight against any odds.
  - g) Central rallies be organised at Burnpur and at Calcutta over the issue.
  - h) Arrangement will be made for a National Debate on IISCO inviting technical persons including ex-steel Ministers, ex-Steel Secretaries, Ex-Chairmen, SAIL etc to have an open-forum discussion.
  - i) Trade Union leaders will adopt non-cooperation attitude with regard to other issues on Steel sector or other sectors.

- j) All benefits hitherto given to the employees of IISCO due to Steel sector wage negotiations or Coal wage negotiations or collective bargaining, Pension and Interim Relief, etc. should also be given to the employees of IISCO as all along here-to-for. All service conditions, facilities, privileges and safeguards as given to the employees of SAIL and employees and officers of IISCO must be allowed to continue.
- k) No reference of IISCO matter to BIFR.
- l) Central Trade Union leaders will represent to the Lab Minister for a special meeting of the Tripartite Committee over the IISCO issue.
- m) Central Trade Union leaders, their federations and the affiliate unions will have a concerted programme of mass movement to acquaint the employees with the real situation and also to face disinformation and misleading propaganda lashed out by interested elements including the bidders of IISCO.
- n) As a last resort, if at all, the IISCO is handed over to the private interests, the employees may seek or have the option of availing the alternative scheme as per the Memorandum of Settlement held in July, 1989.
- o) Steps should be taken against violation of the Memorandum of Agreement reached in July, 1989 over IISCO.
- p) If IISCO is handed over to the management of employees, and officers, it should be made ready for modernisation having in-house technical and financial help from SAIL.
- q) Dharna before the Prime Minister's House to press for the issue.
- r) Lastly, we should prepare for legal steps to prevent denationalisation of IISCO.

The Central Trade Union Organisations will take needful steps as mentioned above.