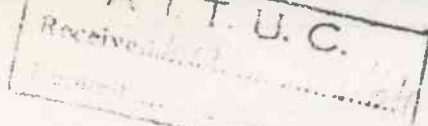


Telephone : 2025

Punjab & Himachal Committee

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS



G. T. Road,
JULLUNDUR CITY.

Ref. No.

FOR PAY OF PUBLICATION

Dated 5-1-64

196

A meeting of the working committee of the Punjab State Committee of AITUC was held at Jullundur on 3-1-64. Baba Kartar Singh, President, presided.

The Working Committee condemned the decision of the U.S. Govt. to send the 7th Fleet to the Indian Ocean. It characterised the move as dangerous to Indian sovereignty and independence and as a measure which would extend the coldwar to our shores. It called upon all sections of workers to protest against this and force the US government to cancel this dangerous move.

The Working Committee discussed the serious situation arising out of the rapid and continuous rise of prices. It demanded that prices should be immediately brought down by at least 25% and be effectively controlled at that level. It demanded that wages of all workers where there is no D.A. should be raised by 25% to effect the increased cost of living. Where the system of DA prevails, it should be linked with cost of living index with 100% neutralisation and the cost of living index calculated in a method of calculating indices resulted in depriving the workers of their due as it did not reflect the actual rise in prices.

The Working Committee called upon all unions to observe 12th, 13th and 14th Jan. as demands Days in presence of the decision of the AITUC in furtherance of these demands and for calling for immediate nationalisation of Banks, Oil, Export Import Trade and Sugar Industry, and for introduction of State Trading in Poo grains. It decided to call a convention of all Trade Unions in the State to consider these questions and chalk out further line of action at Ludhiana on January 26th. It appealed to all T.Us of whatever affiliation to join the convention so that united action can be forced on these important questions.

The Working Committee condemned the repression on the workers of three Copal Paper Mills Yamunansagar. At the same time it severely criticised the activities of the Bharitya Masdoor Sangh, who instead of fighting for the genuine demands of the workers on the basis of their unity, had turned the struggle into a political struggle of the Jan Sangh. It appealed to the workers to unite on the basis of a correct policy, and while furthering their struggle for their genuine demands, oust the BMS who was mis-utilising the workers struggle for its narrow political and reactionary aims.

The Working Committee welcome the decision of the Punjab Government to raise the pay of sweepers to Rs 35/- p.m. and demanded that the pays of all other low-paid servants should be raised forthwith. It demanded a minimum pay of Rs 80/- for class IV servants and proportionate rise for class III servants.

The Working Committee protested against the exclusion of any representative of AITUC from the panel of names of arbitrators proposed by the Government and demanded immediate inclusion of AITUC names in the same.

The working Committee demanded that in all industries where there wages had been fixed and the ~~statutory~~ statutory period of 5 years had elapsed, minimum wages Committees should be appointed. In other industries like chemicals, sports, rubber, glass and leather etc. where such wages had not been fixed, committee should be constituted at once.

The Working Committee protested against the recent rise in bus fares and demanded its immediate cancellation.

Satinder Kaur

4 May 1964

Com. Baba Kartar Singh,
President,
P.T.U.C., Jullundur City.

My dear Babaji,

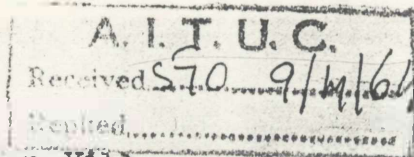
Regarding the P.T.U.C. Working Committee it will be better if the same is shifted to Sunday the 24th May. The Kharar meeting may be fixed on 24th May evening or night and I shall return here on 25th.

Please apply to the Labour Court and get the date of the Usha case now fixed on 23rd May changed to 8th June when the Bhogpur case has been fixed.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

(Satish Loomba)



Skipton Villa,
Simla,
8th May, 1964.

My dear Com. Loomba,

You had assured me that you would depute Com. Baba Kartar Singh along with another comrade from Nangal to Mandi for about a fortnight. I had pressed you to do that immediately.

I have again to remind you about the urgency of the matter.

This Pandoh Dam is going to give employment to about 30,000 persons and that over a period of 5-7 years. At present there is an INTUC Union and we have no union here. Our organised influence would mean controlling the whole district.

This would also help us in our struggle with the so-called 'Left' here for the whole influence they exercise is in this district.

I hope you would give urgent consideration to this letter.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Kameshwar Pandit

(Kameshwar Pandit)

17/5-
copy
Baba Kartar Singh.

11 May 1964

My dear Babaji,

We are reproducing below copy of the letter received by us from Com. Kameshwar Pandit for your information.

" You had assured me that you would depute Com. Baba Kartar Singh alongwith another comrade from Nangal to Mandi for about a fortnight. I had pressed you to do that immediately.

" I have again to remind you about the urgency of the matter.

" This Pandoh Dam is going to give employment to about 30,000 persons and that over a period of 5-7 years. At present there is an INTUC Union and we have no union here. Our organised influence would mean controlling the whole district.

" This would also help us in our struggle with the so-called 'Left' here for the whole influence they exercise is in this district.

" I hope you would give urgent consideration to this letter.

With greetings,."

The letter is addressed to Com Satish. He ~~is~~ has gone to Bangalore.

Yours fraternally,

U.S.

(K.G.Sriwastava)

Punjab & Himachal Committee
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

~~603-888~~ 704-
~~ALL INDIA~~ CITY Sector 22A
~~CHANDIGARH~~ Chandigarh

Ref. No.

Dated 7-7-64

196

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION.

Grave concern was expressed at the failure of the Punjab Government and the Central Government to implement the recommendations of the Minimum Wages Committee on Textile industry and the Bonus Commission respectively at a conference of the textile workers of the State which concluded at Amritsar yesterday. The conference which was convened by the Punjab Trade Union Congress was presided over by Baba Kartar Singh President of the Punjab Trade Union Congress. Over 100 delegates from the important textile centres of Dhariwal, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Bhiwani, Panipat, Kharar etc. attended, who in their speeches conveyed the deep resentment that is prevalent in the textile workers of the State.

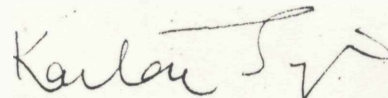
The Conference welcomed the removal of S. Pratap Singh Kairon cabinet, whose labour Minister Pt. Mohan Lal had developed anti-labour policies to the detriment of the workers. In spite of the demands made by a number of delegates to resort to one day protest strike to force the acceptance of their demands, the conference resolved to wait upon the new ministry for their fulfilment. It also decided to observe demands days on 1st and 2nd of August when demands badges will be worn by the workers as well as demonstrations and protest rallies will be held by the workers of other industries also. If the above steps fail to win the demands, the conference decided to observe one day token general strike and appointed an 11 member action committee to take further steps for the same. The Action Committee includes Baba Kartar Singh and Com. Satish Loomba, President and General Secretary respectively and Com. Satya Pal Bang, Secretary of Punjab Trade Union Congress, Com. Raj Kumar Municipal Commissioner Dhariwal, and Com. Madan Lal Didi and Com. M. Akhan Singh labour leaders of Ludhiana and Bhiwani.

In another resolution adopted by the conference, urgent steps to check steep rise in prices of food grains and other necessities of life were demanded of the Central and State Governments.

The Conference also demanded the appointment of Second Wage Board for the textile industry in the country which should cover cotton, woollen and artificial fibre textile industry.

The Conference in a resolution on industrial relations in the state demanded from the new Ministry in the State urgent steps to change the labour policy of the department and for this and in view of to convene a meeting of the Labour Advisory Board. Also the long promised assurance by the government to correct the indices of the cost of living and wholesale prices for Punjab as a large number of workmen are awarded dearness allowance equalising the rise as established by government record of indices. The conference issued an appeal to textile workers organised under the INTUC and Un-affiliated to any central organisations to forge a united front to win these demands.

Later on Open session of the Conference was addressed by Comrades Baba Kartar Singh, Satya Pal Bang, Parduman Singh, Raghbir Singh and Raj Kumar.



(Kartar Singh)
 President

14.6
10

Punjab State Committee
ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

704, Sector 22A
Chandigarh
13th July, 1964.

To,

Shri (Comrade) Ram Kishan
The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Sri Rizak Ram
Minister for Labour, Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Shrimenji,

Together with the rest of our people, we have read with great interest the policy statement of the new Government.

We welcome the declaration that the new Government would take determined steps to bring down prices and to fight corruption the two most pressing problems facing the people. We hope that the new Government would soon take concrete measures to implement these declarations and to produce actual results. On behalf of the trade unions affiliated to the AITUC, we assure you our full cooperation in all such measures.

We also welcome decisions of the new Government to reverse the decisions of the previous Ministry to restore Zaildari, to separate judiciary from Executive, etc.

14/7/64
S.S.
(13)

We, however, consider it but proper to tell you of our disappointment at the fact that the urgent problems facing the industrial working class in the State find hardly any reflection in the policy statements of the new Government. We are therefore writing to you to draw your urgent attention to some of the most important problems facing the industrial labour, the problems which are the cause of acute discontent.

1. First and foremost is the question of the constantly rising prices on the one hand and meagre wages on the other. It is the duty of the State Government to fix minimum Wages at adequate level for all industries and to link the Dearness allowance part of the same with the cost of living.

The State Government appointed an Advisory Committee for the industrial sector in 1963 to make recommendations regarding

The State Government appointed an Advisory Committee for the textile industry in 1963 to make recommendations regarding minimum wages for this industry.

In the Committee representatives of the workmen agreed to something which was much less than what would be fair and just for the sake of unanimity. The Committee was thus able to make unanimous recommendations.

Months have passed but even these unanimous recommendations have not been enforced due to the influence of the Amritsar Textile Employers on the previous Ministry. This has naturally led to acute discontent among the workers engaged in the textile industry - the biggest in the State. They had decided to go on one day protest strike but have deferred the decision for a month hoping that the new Ministry would reverse the previous policy.

We would strongly urge that the unanimous recommendations of the Advisory Committee for fixation of minimum wages in the textile industry be enforced immediately.

There are number of other industries too in which minimum wages have not yet been fixed. They include Rubber industry, chemical Steel Re-rolling, glass & ceramics etc. Minimum wages in these industries too must be fixed at once.

In a number of industries minimum wages were fixed long ago. They are extremely inadequate and are not linked with the cost of living index.

Steps should be taken to revise minimum wages in all these industries at earliest possible.

The pays of Class IV and Class III employees of the State Government also of local bodies should also be increased and their dearness allowance should be linked with the cost of living index.

2. In come industries like Sugar, Cotton Textile and Cement the Wage Boards appointed by the Government of India have linked the Dearness Allowance paid to the workmen with the cost of living index.

The cost of living index published by Punjab Government

however, is very faulty, It does not reflect the actual increase in the cost of living the result is that every month, the workers are cheated of lakhs of rupees.

A tripartite machinery must be appointed at once to go into this whole matter, as per decision of the Standing Labour Committee to make recommendations to the State Government.

3. A very large number of demands of the workmen have been refused adjudication or have been pending with the Government since long. In many cases, the Government advised the unions raising the demands as also the employers to accept voluntary arbitration for deciding the demands. The Unions agreed but the employers refused. Even, thereafter, the State Government has not referred these demands for adjudication. This is in complete violation of the guiding principles laid down at the highest tripartite level to decide the question of referring demands adjudication.

We would request you to issue immediate instructions to ensure that the pending Demands Notices are referred for adjudication without further delay.

4. On the unanimous recommendations of the Labour Advisory Board, the Punjab Government agreed to enact legislation i) giving the right to dismissed/discharged/terminated workers to individually take their cases to Courts for adjudication, ii) fixing paid casual and sick leave and paid festival holidays for industrial workers in the State. The Bills too were prepared. Under pressure of the employers, however, they were never placed before the Assembly.

We would strongly urge that these Bills be placed before the Assembly in the next session and made into laws, till then Bills should be enacted through Ordinance.

5. There quite a few other urgent problems facing the workers concerning their working and living conditions including such aspects as housing, E.S.I. scheme, and Provident Fund etc.

- i) ESI Scheme- Still there exist great disparity in the treatment given to member workers and their families. The ESI Corporation agreed to give the treatment to their families without any discrimination, but this decision has not been implemented by the State Government since 1960.

In February, 1963 even State Government agreed to implement the decision w.e.f. 1.5.64, but that promise even hasnot been honoured so far.

ii) Provident Fund-A la rge number of workmen in engineering industry and Foundries have been deprived of their membership of the scheme by the employers. Such workers are declared 'contractors' arbitrarily, just to cheat the Government. Such workers are allege 'individual contractors' and not employees of any contractor, while reality is that all such ~~workar~~ alleged individual contractors are 'employees' within the meanings of S.2(f) of the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952.

Such employees of various factories at Jullundur and Batala have complained to the Commissioner, under the scheme, but nothing has come out of it, because there is no provision in the Act to decide such disputed points by any judicial or industrial court.

We would urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to remove this difficulty and asa interim measure such cases should be referred for adjudication where-ever the workmen raised dispute in this respect.

On behalf of the Punjab State Committee we have already requested you to fix some time when a deputation of ours can see you and discuss most urgent problems with you in details,

We will request you to do this without delay. The most suitable dates to members of the deputation are 27th and 28th instant.

Yours Sincerely,

Kartar Singh
(Kartar Singh)
President

Satish Looma
(Satish Looma)
General Secretary

Satya Pal
(Satya Pal Bang)
Secretary



Book Post

Satish Looma
Secretary
A-1-T. U.C.,
Ranjghansi Road, New Delhi



PUJAB STATE COMMITTEE
ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

IMMEDIATE704-Sector 22A
Govt. of Punjab

Chandigarh

Dated 4th November, 1964.Ref. No. PTUC - GOI/64-2261

The Deputy Secretary to Government of India,
 Ministry of Labour & Employment,
 New Delhi.

Sub;-Implementation of Wage Board's recommen-
dations - para.107- Dearness allowance.

Dear Sir,

The Javatjit Cotton Textile Mills Ltd., Phagwara is in Punjab Region and along with Hissar Mills has been categorised as 'A' class.

The workmen were getting a fixed DA is $1\frac{1}{2}$ of their basic wages and the wages of the workmen were quite low in 1960 prior to the implementation of the recommendation of the 1st Wage Board for Textile in 1960. Total emoluments of the unskilled workmen amounted to Rs 58/-only while the Mills at Hissar paid Rs 75/-p.m. to the said category.

The workmen represented to the Punjab Govt. to set suitable machinery to fix adequate DA and to link the same to the cost of living index.

The Government of India wrote to the Government Punjab vide its letter No.WB-8/5/61 dated 28-4-61, the same was sent to the then Labour Commissioner, Punjab who sent a D.O. recommending to the Govt. of Punjab to set up the required machinery to implement the recommendations of the Board given in Para-107.

The Punjab Govt. did not move further no such machinery was set up, in respect of DA and workload.

The workmen raised a dispute in 1960 to fix the adequate DA and to link the same with the cost of living index and wrote to the State Govt. and took to you also.

(continued on 2 page)

Finally on 19-6-63 the workmen served a regular demands notice on the management for the same. The Punjab Govt. has refused to refer the same for adjudication.

Hence we are requesting you to intervene in the matter and refer the issue of dispute i.e. adequacy of DA and linking with the cost of living index at the earliest.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment had put a blanket ban on all reference arising out of the recommendations of the 1st Wage Board for Textile Industry now because the 2nd Wage Board has been appointed.

We submit the following:-

(1) Government of India through its resolution accepting the recommendations of the 1st Wage Board for textile Industry gave solemn assurance that suitable machinery for implementation will be set up regarding the recommendations in Para 107 of the Board's Report.

(ii) The Government of India decided to appoint the National Tribunal for implementation of the recommendations of the Report.

Neither the State Government has set up any machinery to settle the issue, nor the Ministry of Labour Government of India has done any thing in this matter.

We will request you to refer the issue agitating the workmen to the National Tribunal-

"Whether the workmen of M/S Jagatjit Cotton Textile Mills Ltd., Phagwara, are entitled to any higher rate of DA than given by the management, if so, with what details ?

*

The workmen have served a strike notice upon the management of the Mills and hunger strike is going on since 18-11-1964. The State Government has taken indifferent attitude towards the dispute which may further ~~cause to~~ deteriorate the situation. I request you to refer the above matter to the National Tribunal etc. for adjudication and implementation thereof.

An early reply is requested.

Yours faithfully,

Madan Lal Didi

(Madan Lal Didi)
for General Secretary

Copy to the Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi, for further necessary action please.

* "Whether the management has increased workload in Ring frame Dept., if so, What is the share of the workmen in gains."

हिमाचल प्रदेश कमेटी
आल इण्डिया ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस

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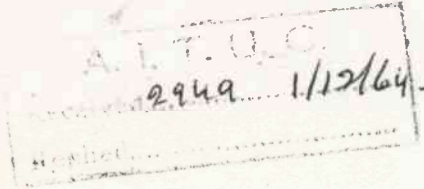
Himachal Pradesh Committee
All India Trade Union Congress.

प्रधान :

कामेश्वर पंडित

जनरल सैक्रेटरी :

प्रकाश कपाटिया



फे लाज, शिमला

Fay Lodge, Simla

Date 27th November, 64

No. _____

To,

The President,
Punjab State Committee,
All India Trade Union Congress,
Chandigarh.

Dear Comrade,

At present the Unions of Dharampore area and Simla Distt. are affiliated with the your state committee. For better organisation and co-ordination, it is suggested that these Unions be affiliated with the Himachal Committee. The local unions of Simla are already working under the Himachal Committee. This matter was also discussed with you on 7th Sept. at Delhi, wherein you agreed to our proposal.

We hope you ^{will} do the needfull in the matter and will inform us accordingly.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,
Parkash Kapatia
(Parkash Kapatia)
General Secretary.

Himachal Committee

All India Trade Union Congress

Copy to;

General Secretary, AITUC,
New Delhi.

7
1/12/64