

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

To

November 15, 1960

General Secretary,

Sub: Affiliation Fees

Dear Comrade,

We find from our records that your union has not yet paid affiliation fees to the AITUC.

As per the Constitution of the AITUC, the annual contribution should be paid by the unions by the 30th June each year. The Constitution provides that "non-payment of any contribution or levy that has become due, shall disqualify the defaulting Union from voting at or participating in the meeting of the AITUC, or any of its constituent bodies, until the payment is made."

You are therefore requested to clear the arrears immediately.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

*K.G. Sriwastava*

(K.G. Sriwastava) 12/xi/60  
Secretary

Rates of affiliation fees are as follows: For unions with membership less than 250 - Rs.16.50; from 251 to 500 - Rs. 21.50; from 501 to 1000 - Rs.29.00. For membership over 1000 at the rate of two naye paise per member, plus WFTU levy at the rate of Rs.5 per 1000 members and TUR subscription of Rs.4.

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

CIRCULAR No. AU/1/60  
To All Affiliated unions

March 18, 1960

ON ORGANISATIONAL METHODS

Dear Comrades,

The General Council of the AITUC at its session in Delhi in February devoted considerable attention to the organisational problems facing trade unions. It was revealed during discussions and from the experience of comrades who were dealing with verification of trade union membership that serious weaknesses exist in many unions in their organisational practices.

In this connection, the serious problem which emerged was the weakness in office functioning in the case of several unions. This, of course, is part of the overall problem of training cadres, the shortage of which is seriously felt in many centres. However, it is also a fact that even where cadres with the required calibre exist, things are not so good because of the lack of due consciousness and consequently not paying requisite attention to organisational work. This is seen in the failure to organise collections of membership fee periodically, maintenance of membership registers and account books, submission of returns, payment of affiliation fees, etc.

The General Council set up a Standing Credential Committee to scrutinise these aspects of trade union functioning. Where serious lapses are noted, the Committee is authorized to recommend disaffiliation of defaulting unions.

IMMEDIATE TASKS

On March 31, 1960, the official year 1959-60 will come to a close and unions should from now on take special steps in connection with the verification of membership as on 31.2.60. in the following manner:

- (1) a. Membership registers and account books should be made upto date and all arrears on membership dues as per provision of the Constitution of the Union collected immediately.  
b. Wherever members have been re-enrolled during the year because of non-payment for certain months in accordance with the constitution of the Union, arrears should be collected and formal Executive decisions taken.  
c. Wherever members are allowed to pay arrears and remain on the live register of membership, necessary sanction of the Executive Committee/General Council of the Union should be obtained.  
d. First concentrate on collection of current dues - then arrears. In verification, if current dues are outstanding, such membership will not be taken into account.
- (2) Annual returns should be sent latest by end of June. Official procedure is being made strict and unions will be de-registered if returns are not sent in time. A copy of the return should be endorsed to AITUC centre and STUCs.
- (3) Those unions who have not remitted affiliation fees for 1959-60 should pay their dues immediately since the year is coming to a close. During verification, it was found that since some unions could not produce receipt for affiliation fee paid, they were scored out from AITUC claims.
- (4) If you have any objections regarding the procedure or official practice in conducting verification of membership for the year ending 31.3.59, please write to us immediately.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

  
(K.G. Srinivastava)

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

October 10, 1960

CIRCULAR  
To All Affiliated Unions

Sub: 26th Session of the AITUC - Coimbatore, January 3 to 11, 1961

Dear Comrades,

On January 3 to 11, 1961, will be held our 26th Session, at Coimbatore (Madras State). Since we met last in December 1957 at Ernakulam, many important developments have taken place, our movement has taken great strides forward and our organisation has been considerably strengthened. The 26th Session will review these developments, sharply pose the demands of the workers on a national and industrial scale and take organisational steps for a new greater upsurge of the TU movement under the banner of the AITUC.

- The Session will take into account the present international situation and the necessity to continue with still greater vigour, the fight for world peace and complete disarmament.
- The Second Five Year Plan is coming to an end and the Third Plan is being discussed. The 26th Session will be called upon to assess the progress of national development and express itself on the Third Five Year Plan and its labour policy.
- The great struggles of the working class in our country during the period since our last session, in defence of their standard of living and TU rights, the proposed ban on TU rights in 'essential services', etc., have to be reviewed by the Conference.

It is essential that affiliated unions should prepare for the conference from now on and the 26th Session widely popularised among the workers, as the forum of the workers of India, to express themselves on their demands, on their struggles in the interests of the class and the country. Mobilise all the workers in your industry or area, irrespective of their affiliation, to express their viewpoints on the problems facing the country and our class, which should be placed before the 26th Session. Organise mass collections to send delegations to the 26th Session. Send reports to us on the preparations you are making, for publication in the TRADE UNION RECORD.

For the information of the unions, Article 16 of our Constitution, on election of delegates to the General Session of the AITUC, is reproduced below:

16. (a) For the General or the Special Session of the AITUC, the affiliated unions shall be entitled to elect delegates on the following basis:

One delegate for each union having a membership of 200 or less, and one additional delegate for every complete set of 200 members, and a further delegate for the last fraction of 200, if the said last fraction consists of 100 or more members.

(b) to ascertain the number of delegates which an affiliated Union is entitled to send to the AITUC, the basis shall be the number of paying members existing on the register of the Union, as disclosed in the balance sheet of the Union, for the year prior to the Session of the AITUC, duly certified by the auditor.

(c) An Affiliated Union shall furnish to the General Secretary, the names and addresses of the delegates two weeks before the date fixed for the session of the AITUC.

(d) Delegate's card will be issued on production of a certificate of election by the Secretary of the Union concerned.

(e) No person who is neither an office-bearer of the Affiliated Union, nor a member of the Affiliated Union shall be entitled to be elected as a delegate of the AITUC.

(f) Propositions for the agenda of the General Session of the AITUC must be signed by the President or the Secretary of the Union sending them, and must reach the General Secretary of the AITUC, at last two weeks before the time fixed for the meeting of the AITUC.

(g) A Trade Union shall not be allowed to send more than five resolutions but in order that important labour questions may not be omitted from discussion at the Session, the General Council is empowered to place important propositions on the Agenda.

(h) At the meeting of the AITUC, the official business shall have priority over other business.

The above constitutional requirements should be strictly adhered to by the unions.

As Unions are aware, non-affiliated unions could participate in our General Session as observers. Call upon other unions in your industry or area to join in preparing for the 26th Session and to send observers and participate in our deliberations.

Unions which have paid up all the arrears of affiliation fees, since the Ernakulam Session, i.e., 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 will only be entitled to send delegations to the 26th Session. Unions are therefore requested to pay the arrears of affiliation fees immediately.

**TRAVEL CONCESSION:** It is understood that for participating in the 26th Session, delegates may avail of the Xmas concession of the Railways, available from the third week of December to 5th January 1961.

**RECEPTION COMMITTEE:** A Reception Committee for the 26th Session has been set up at Coimbatore. Unions may correspond to the Reception Committee, for any information they may require, at the following address:

C/o Coimbatore Dt. Mill Workers Union,  
10/21 Renga Konar Road,  
Kattoor, COIMBATORE, Madras State.

A copy of your list of delegates may also be forwarded to the Reception Committee. Delegates' Cards will be issued at the Session on payment of fee of Rs. 2 per delegate.

Coimbatore, on the Southern Railway, can be reached by an overnight journey from Madras. There are two Express Trains which leave Madras every evening, the Nilgiri Express and the Cochin Express which pass via Coimbatore.

FORWARD TO THE 26TH SESSION OF THE AITUC:

With warm greetings,

Yours Fraternally,



(S. A. DANGE)  
General Secretary

# ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI

Circular To All Affiliated Unions

November 20, 1960

## Sub : PREPARATIONS FOR 26TH SESSION

Dear Comrades,

Further to our circular letter of October 10, 1960, in connection with preparations for the 26th Session, we have to inform you the following:

1 The Reception Committee has decided that delegates will be charged only Rs. 1.50 per day for food. Lodging will, of course, be arranged free.

2 The weather in Coimbatore in January will be somewhat cool, though not so cold as in North India. Delegates are therefore advised to bring at least pullovers and blankets when they come to Coimbatore.

3 Unions are requested to write to the Reception Committee immediately about the number of women delega-

tes who may be participating in the Session. This information should be sent in advance to enable the Reception Committee to make necessary arrangements for the stay of women delegates. The address of the Reception Committee is given below:

Reception Committee,  
26th Session of the  
AITUC,  
Co Coimbatore Dt. Mill  
Workers Union,  
10/21 Ranga Konar Road  
Kattoor, COIMBATORE,  
Madras State.  
Telegraphic Address:  
AITUCONG, COIMBA-  
TORE.  
(Phone No. 3831)

4 As already informed, unions should send names of delegates to the Reception Committee and the Central Office of the AITUC in ad-

vance. Time of delegates' arrival in Coimbatore should also be communicated to the Reception Committee in advance.

Send us reports on the preparations being made, by way of mobilising the workers on issues to be discussed at the 26th Session, collections being made for sending delegations, etc., for publication.

5 The Delegate Session will begin on January 5, 1961, since the Working Committee and General Council of the AITUC will be meeting a day earlier.

6 The notice for amendments of the Constitution of the AITUC is circulated herewith.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,  
K. G. SRIWASTAVA  
Secretary

### AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Notice is hereby given proposing the following amendments to the Constitution of the AITUC:

(1) Article 5: Clause (v): Delete the sentence: "The minimum fee which a Union desiring affiliation to the AITUC shall charge to its members shall not be less than one rupee per year," and replace instead:

"The minimum fee which a Union desiring affiliation to the AITUC shall charge to its members shall not be less than three rupees per year, to be collected monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly."

(2) Article 6: Delete Clause (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) and add instead:

"(a) An annual contribution at the rate of fifteen paise per member, subject to a minimum of Rs. 25, out of which, upto 33-1/3 per cent of the collections will be given by the AITUC to the State Committees, for meeting their organisational and other day-to-day expenses."

(3) Article 6: Delete clause (d), i.e., "Every affiliated union shall pay to the State Com-

mittee such levy as may be fixed by the State Committee."

(4) Article 8: In clause (v), instead of the word "Provincial", insert "State".

(5) Article 16: In Clause (a) delete the words "One delegate for each union having a membership of 200 or less, and one additional delegate for every complete set of 200 members, and a further delegate for the last fraction of 200, if the said last fraction consists of 100 or more members," and add instead:

"One delegate for each union having a membership of 200 or less and one additional delegate for every complete set of 200 members upto a membership of 1000; and on membership over 1000, one delegate for every set of 500 members or major fraction thereof.

"NOTE: Unions with less than a membership of 1000 will be entitled to elect an additional delegate for the last fraction of 200 if the said last fraction consists of more than 100 members. For unions with membership of over 1000, the last fraction should be over 250 to entitle them to elect an additional delegate."

(6) Article 16: After clause (e), add:

"(f) Office-bearers or Members of the Working Committee or General Council who are working in the Central Office of the AITUC will be ex-officio delegates to the General or Special Sessions of the AITUC with full rights to speak and vote.

"The Working Committee will determine the number and names of such delegates for every session."

(7) Add, after Article 27, a new Article:

"28. The funds of the AITUC shall be kept in a bank and the Working Committee shall have the power to nominate such persons from among the office-bearers of the AITUC who are authorised to open and operate such bank accounts."

(8) Article 29: Replace the words "Provincial administrative unit" or "Provincial", wherever occurring, by the words "State/Union Territory."

(9) Article 29: Add, after, clause (a):

"State Committee of the AITUC shall have the right to fix levy on affiliated unions in the State, as may be decided by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the members of the General Council of the State Committee."

## NOTES ON AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

(1) Following the recent amendment to the Indian Trade Unions Act, it is now compulsory for trade unions to have a minimum membership of Rs. 3 per year, or 25 nP per month. Conditions governing application for affiliation to the AITUC stipulate that unions should be registered bodies or should get themselves registered soon after affiliation. Therefore, the amendment is proposed to bring the membership fee clause on par with statutory requirements.

(2) The present rate of affiliation fee was fixed years ago and it is necessary in the interest of stable finances for the AITUC and its State organisations that the rates are revised to a reasonable extent. The rates have been streamlined and the levies payable to State Committees are now included in the central affiliation dues.

(3) The amendment follows from (2) above.

(4) Since there are no more "provincial administrative units", the terms in the Constitution have to be made up-to-date.

(5) With the increase in membership of the AITUC and the necessity to limit number of delegates at Sessions within reasonable proportions, the amendment has been proposed.

(6) Office-bearers or Members of the Working Committee or General Council who are working whole time in the Central Office of the AITUC may not be able to work in local unions and get themselves elected as delegates. In order to avoid this difficulty, provision for ex-officio delegates is proposed in the Constitution.

(7) There was no provision in the Constitution with regard to finances and opening of bank accounts. The provision is therefore added.

(8) Amendment follows from (4) above.

(9) Due to certain organisational patterns, unions in certain States pay to the State Committees special levies on different accounts. It is not intended to disturb such arrangements or to deny such facilities in other States where such special levies may have to be fixed according to circumstances.

(10) Experience of the last few years shows that it is not necessary to have Regional

## EXTRACTS FROM AITUC CONSTITUTION

**Article 5 (v):** The minimum fee which a Union desiring affiliation to the AITUC shall charge to its members shall not be less than one rupee per year. The General Council, however, shall have power to permit a lesser membership fee in cases of unions consisting of workers from seasonal or sweated industries.

**Article 6.** Each affiliated union shall pay to the AITUC

(a) (i) An annual contribution at the following rates: Membership upto 250—Rs. 10.00; Membership from 251 to 500—Rs. 15.00; Membership from 501 to 1000—Rs. 20; and at the rate of two naye paise per member for unions with a membership above 1000;

(ii) WFTU Levy at the rate of Rs. 5.00 per 1000 members, and a major fraction thereof; subject to a minimum of Rs. 2.50 for membership less than 500;

(iii) Annual subscription for Trade Union Record as fixed by the Working Committee from time to time;

(b) A delegation fee of Rs. 2 per delegate;

(c) Such other levy as may be fixed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the General Council;

(d) Every affiliated Union shall pay to the State Committee such levy as may be fixed by the State Committee.

**Article 8.** The AITUC shall consist of: (i) The Affiliated Unions; (ii) The delegates assembled at the General or Special Session; (iii) The General Council including the Office-bearers; (iv) The Working Committee of the General Council; (v) The Provincial Bodies.

**Article 16.** For the General or the Special Session of the AITUC, the affiliated unions shall be entitled to elect delegates on the following basis:

One delegate for each union having a membership of 200 or less, and one additional delegate for every complete set of 200 members, and a further delegate for the last fraction of 200, if the said last fraction consists of 100 or more members....

**Article 29.** (a) Affiliated unions in every Provincial administrative unit, shall form a Provincial Trade Union Congress Committee. Every Union in the Province, affiliated to the AITUC, shall automatically form a part of the Provincial Committee, and a

Union to the AITUC shall not become a member of the Provincial Committee. The Provincial Committee and the individual Unions shall have power to manage their affairs according to their own rules, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

Where a Provincial Administrative Unit consists of two or more linguistic units, separate Provincial Trade Union Committees may be permitted to be formed by the General Council.

(b) The Provincial Committee may enrol as Associate Member any union which has not secured affiliation to the AITUC, but which proposes to observe the constitution of the AITUC, except sub-rule (a)(iv) of Rule 5. The Associate Unions will have no power of voting at the meeting of Provincial Committees, nor will they be entitled to have any privileges of Affiliated Unions under the Constitution of the AITUC.

(c) Regional Trade Union Councils: Where the General Council finds that if affiliated trade unions in an area are grouped together (taking into consideration homogeneity of language and nearness, or affinity of industrial units in the area) in a Regional Trade Union Council, the work of the organisation will be more efficiently done, the General Council may authorise the Provincial Committee to organise such Trade Union Councils. The Regional Trade Union Councils will have their own working constitution, which will be consistent with that of the AITUC and of the Provincial Committees. In matters of representations, etc., to the Government concerning regions, the Regional Council may directly approach the Government but when such matters concern the province as a whole, the Regional Council will only function through the Provincial Committees.

## FOR INFORMATION OF DELEGATES TO 26TH SESSION OF AITUC

For delegates travelling to Coimbatore via Madras, there are two express trains leaving Madras in the evening.

The Cochin Express leaves Madras Central Station at 6.45 p.m. and reaches Coimbatore next morning at 7.10 a.m.

The Nilgiri Express leaves Madras Central Station at 7.45 p.m. and reaches Coimbatore next morning at 7.55 a.m.