

Telegraphic Address: "AITUCONG" 16 JAN 1960

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*Air Mail*

# अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस

## ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

पञ्जीकन कव्हेक  
कव्हेक कव्हेक  
NEW DELHI (INDIA)

4, Ashok Road,

Camp: Bombay,  
January 13, 1960.

President: *S. S. Mirraiker*  
~~S. S. Mirraiker, M.L.A. (Madras)~~

General Secretary: S. A. DANGE.

*10B*

### FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION:

Mr. S. A. Dange, General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement:

" The All-India Trade Union Congress fully supports the Indian Pilots Guild in their struggle to protect their trade union rights.

" Lot of literature has been published by the Government and the Trade Unions to show how they together have built up workers' participation in industry and have evolved new worker-management relations. All these claims have no foundation in fact. This is amply shown by the Pilots' struggle.

" That Mr. Tata and his management did not even care to consult the Pilots Guild in deputing a favourite of their own to America and defied the guild to do their worst, shows how false are their claims about their so-called progressive approach to labour. In this case, it was not a question of a body of illiterate or unskilled workers being consulted. Highly paid, skilled and educated pilots who surely know what is being done, have been treated with as much contempt as is meted out to other ordinary workers. The employers in India yet refuse to learn new lessons and take the trade unions seriously. The pilots deserve support from all for fighting nepotism and favouritism. The Air India is a national concern and not the private property of the Tatas. The Government and Parliament must inquire into its affairs."

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The Editor,

T. U. C.

New Delhi 47

Dear Sir,

Please publish the above statement in the esteemed columns of your paper and oblige.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

  
/ G.V. Chitnis /  
OFFICE SECRETARY.

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A L L - I N D I A T R A D E U N I O N C O N G R E S S

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

January 15, 1960

A.I.T.U.C. GENERAL COUNCIL  
TO MEET IN DELHI

The General Council of the AITUC has been convened in Delhi on February 13-14-15, 1960. A meeting of the Working Committee of the AITUC will precede the General Council session.

The report of the Central Pay Commission and Government's decisions thereon as well as the reports of the Cement and Textile Wage Boards expected to be published shortly, will come up for consideration at the General Council session.

The Council will hear a report on the 13th Session of the Standing Labour Committee and will consider its attitude to the tripartite bodies, in the context of the rejection of the norms laid down by the 15th Indian Labour Conference on the part of the Union Finance Ministry and the Central Pay Commission. It will be recalled that the AITUC delegation at the Standing Labour Committee had expressed its strong protest on this question and the Union Labour Minister had stated that the tripartite agreements have a "moral" though not "legal" binding on parties.

The Council will also determine its attitude to the Government's draft proposals on labour policy during Third Five Year Plan.

The meeting will consider the report of General Secretary, Shri S.A. Dange, M.P., reviewing the developments in 1959 and will formulate plans of action for 1960.

*K.G. Sriwastava*  
(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary, AITUC

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस  
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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

January 12, 1960

Shri K.G.Srivastava, Secretary, AITUC has issued the following statement:

"The AITUC expresses its grave concern at the fact that the Government of India have as yet failed to constitute a Court of Inquiry to investigate into the tragic accident at Dama colliery (M.P.) on January 5, resulting in loss of 16 lives, as announced in the press.

"It is evident that despite the repeated warnings made by the trade unions in regard to the alarming state of safety in mines, the Mines Department has failed to make proper investigations and defaulting employers brought to book. The attitude of neglect has now caused the toll of lives, in the very same manner as happened in Newton Chikli in the same area in 1954.

"The compensation so far announced, of Rs.100 to the families of the victims, is inequitable. It only shows the continuation of the same callousness in safeguarding the lives of miners underground.

"Shri S.K.Banyal and Shri S.B.Mukerjee of the AITUC who visited the site of the tragedy on last Friday have reported that the Government and the management failed to take serious note of the findings of the Court of Inquiry appointed in the Newton Chikli disaster. The description of the present accident speak of almost the same negligence and callousness of the management that is interested only in profits at the risk of hundreds of poor lives working underground. The approaching precautions towards the abandoned mine and the caution given by the workers working on the boring being ignored have once again brought about this disaster.

"The AITUC demands that a Court of Inquiry should be appointed immediately by the Government and that victims should be compensated properly at the earliest.

"The certificate of the Mine Manager concerned should be withdrawn till the findings of the inquiry and concerned officials of the Mines Department should be suspended forthwith."

*K.G. Srivastava*  
12/1  
(K.G.Srivastava)  
Secretary, AITUC

January 6, 1960

The Editor,  
TIMES OF INDIA,  
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,


In your coverage of the Standing Labour Committee meeting held on January 5 (Times of India, January 6), it has been presented as if the AITUC representatives threatened to walk out of the conference on the question of the revival of the Labour Appellate Tribunal. This is incorrect.

The AITUC delegate read a statement in the Committee meeting giving reasons for the decision to withdraw from the Committee and this statement catalogued a number of ~~ok~~ issues on which Government failed to implement tripartite agreements. The AITUC particularly expressed serious concern over the Union Ministry of Finance's letter to the Central Pay Commission stating that Government was not bound to implement the recommendations of the 15th Indian Labour Conference on norms for fixing need-based minimum wages.

Since Government as a party to tripartite agreements should fulfil its obligations in the matter of implementing them, the AITUC felt that the inaction of the Government undermined the very spirit which lay behind adoption of such agreements. Shri Nanda, the Union Labour Minister, however, assured that the points raised by the AITUC delegate would be discussed in the meeting and in deference to the wishes of Shri Nanda, the AITUC delegation continued to participate in the meeting.

A copy of the statement is attached. As you will see, there is no reference to the Labour Appellate Tribunal anywhere in the statement.

Yours faithfully,

  
(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary, AITUC

Encl:

STATEMENT BY A.I.T.U.C. DELEGATION  
TO 15TH SESSION OF THE STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

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The AITUC has been participating in the tripartite conferences convened by the Labour Ministry, of the Government of India with the expectation that the decisions of these conferences, though not having a statutory status in any way, are morally binding on all parties including the Government whose representatives attend and participate in the tripartite discussions and will therefore honour the decisions as such. Hence we have been propagating among the workers for the implementation of these decisions on their part, in the letter and spirit, with the sincere wish for the good of all, and inculcating faith that employers and the Government will also do likewise.

In this connection, the AITUC also wishes to recall the fact that when one of the officials of the Union Labour Ministry had described these decisions as having a merely recommendatory nature and the matter was referred to him by the AITUC, the Union Labour Minister, Shri G.L.Nanda had stated: "The decisions of the conference may be in the nature of recommendations for others but are to be taken as binding on the parties." (Letter from Shri G.L.Nanda to Shri S.A.Dange dated December 29, 1958).

Some of the decisions taken in the 15th and 16th Indian Labour Conferences and sessions of the Standing Labour Committee during the last three years were described by us as a turning point in the labour and industrial policy of the Government which is beneficial to the country and its people and especially the working class.

Recent events have, however, belied our hopes in this respect.

In the 15th Indian Labour Conference held in 1957, important decisions were taken in the matter of rationalisation, wages policy and housing, and the principles for formulating the Code of Discipline were evolved.

In the 16th Indian Labour Conference held in 1958, decisions were taken on the question of closures of factories and the Code of Discipline was adopted.

Workers' representatives had made it clear in the 15th Indian Labour Conference and subsequently also that all these decisions constitute an integrated whole and all in one form the basis of this new turn.

. . . The working

The working class in general and the AITUC have scrupulously carried out their part of obligations arising out of these decisions. We can understand, though not agree, the employers' resistance in implementing some of these recommendations which are beneficial to the workers. But we regret very much the attitude of the Government - Central as well as States - in not accepting and implementing these decisions.

In the 15th Indian Labour Conference, some vital decisions regarding "Wage Policy during the Second Five Year Plan" were taken. Rejecting the wage-freeze policy, the conference decided to appoint Wage Boards and to help the Boards in fixing wages, laid down norms for this purpose - specially in relation to consumption units, minimum food requirements on the basis of a net intake of calories as recommended by Dr. Aykroyd, clothing requirements, etc.

When asked by the Central Pay Commission, the Finance Ministry of the Government of India, however, made the following astounding statement:

"The Government desire me to make it clear that the recommendations of the Labour Conference should not be regarded as decisions of Government and have not been formally ratified by the Central Government. They should be regarded as what they are, namely, the recommendations of the Indian Labour Conference which is tripartite in character. Government have, at no time, committed themselves to taking executive action to enforce the recommendations." (Report of the Central Pay Commission, p.63).

The Union Labour Ministry not only did not contradict this statement but by keeping silent became a party to such a position by which the Union Finance Ministry has been allowed to torpedo the tripartite agreements and take decisions against the working class.

The Central Pay Commission basing themselves on the Finance Ministry's statement went further and tried to lay down their own standards with regard to minimum food requirements (reduced from 2400 to 2200 calories) with the help of Nutrition Research Laboratories of Hyderabad and Bombay's Finance Minister, Dr. Jivraj Mehta.

The rejection of the norms for fixing 'need-based' minimum wages agreed at the 15th Indian Labour Conference has thus resulted in the lowering of minimum wages which will affect not only 18 lakhs of Central Government employees or

. . . . six million

six million of their dependants but the entire working class.

A similar statement has been made by the Union Finance Ministry in reply to a query by the Central Wage Board for Sugar Industry. This was brought to the attention of the Union Labour Ministry over three months ago by the AITUC but as yet no reply has been received.

The Code of Discipline is being violated not only by the employers but even by the Central and State Governments, both in their capacity as Government as well as employers in Public Sector undertakings. It was decided at the 16th Indian Labour Conference held in May 1958 that the Code of Discipline will apply equally to all public undertakings and industrial units in the Public Sector and for this purpose, a special meeting of the trade unions in Public Sector and Governmental services and employing Ministries will be convened. The employing Ministries of the Government of India and the State Governments have refused to follow the Code of Discipline.

The Model Agreement on Rationalisation adopted in the 15th Indian Labour Conference has been implemented by Government only to the extent it helped the employers. The AITUC held the view that crisis of over-production and stock-accumulation in the textile industry in the years 1957 and 1958 was artificial. The textile magnates who were instrumental in creating such a situation wanted to force the Government to agree to their plans of rationalisation and automation wherever they wanted and to get concession in taxes. They resorted to such tactics as closure of mills, retrenchment of workers and demanded not only a wage-freeze but a cut in dearness allowance.

And the Government obliged the textile magnates by giving them concession in excise duty more than once, by allowing them to introduce rationalisation and closure of units wherever they wanted, by giving them permission and financial help to instal automatic looms in private sector, not speeding up the submission of the report of the Textile Wage Board for about three years and by refusing interim relief demanded by textile workers. Thousands of workers were rendered unemployed as a result and the production of cloth curtailed.

We now find that the picture of overproduction and no markets has become out of date and we are told that there is a likelihood of cloth famine.

. . . At the same time,



At the same time, as against the decisions of the 15th Indian Labour Conference on rationalisation, nowhere in the textile industry has the worker got an equitable share of the benefits which accrued from the increased workload, rationalisation and increased profits.

This shows that the plans and perspectives of the Government of India in the industrial spheres, particularly textiles, sugar, cement, are absolutely faulty and their policies help only a handful of employers.

The policy regarding industrial housing scheme and co-operatives adopted at the 15th Indian Labour Conference has, in the same manner, remained on paper.

The Employees State Insurance Scheme continues to be as lame as before and irritating to the workers.

These actions of the Government of India and the State Governments in not binding themselves and implementing some of the important tripartite decisions raise a vital issue before the working class regarding the utility of continuing participation in such tripartite conferences and committees.

We also wish to record our strong protest at certain irresponsible statements made by Deputy Labour Minister, Shri Abid Ali, on the floor of Parliament. In the course of the debate in the Lok Sabha on December 9, 1959, on the proceedings of the 15th Indian Labour Conference, Shri Abid Ali tried to insinuate that our organisation wanted to suppress the report of inquiry into the Janshedpur strike, conducted under the Code of Discipline. I take this opportunity to make it clear that our organisation demands publication of all reports of such inquiries, i.e., in the case of strike in Janshedpur, Bombay General Strike and strike in Premier Automobiles and Calcutta tramway strike. I was an assessor in the Inquiry Body in respect of the Calcutta tramway strike. The Deputy Labour Minister alleged that the delay in finalising the report is due to me. I am surprised at this falsehood. I submitted my note to Mr. Mehta, the officer deputed for the inquiry on May 12, 1959 and since then I have not heard anything from him. If there is any delay, it is definitely not on my part.

As a protest against the policy of the Government in not binding themselves and not implementing the tripartite agreements, the AITUC has decided to walk out from this 15th Session of the Standing Labour Committee.

January 5, 1960

Dr. Ranen Sen, MLA,  
Vice President, AITUC

K.G. Sriwastava,  
Secretary, AITUC.

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ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

New file for Bhilai 266-

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February 25, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

ON BHILAI

The All-India Trade Union Congress had sent a delegation consisting of Shri A.K.Gopalan, M.P., and Shri Mohd. Elias, M.P., to make on the spot inquiries into the serious situation which prevailed in Bhilai during the past few days. The delegation was in Bhilai from February 21 to 24 and met representatives of workers and management. Though the situation has become somewhat normal as far as functioning of the plant as such is concerned, the delegation has come to the conclusion that what is absolutely essential to ensure industrial peace is a radical change in the labour policy of the Government in this important unit in the Public Sector.

Shri A.K.Gopalan and Shri Mohd. Elias have issued the following statement to the press, on their visit to Bhilai:

"After a four-day visit to the Bhilai Steel Project area and discussions with workers and the General Manager of the Project, Mr.N.C.Sriwastava, we returned back to Delhi today.

"We had gone to Bhilai to inquire into the serious situation which arose in this Public Sector steel plant, the strike by workers, the repression by the police and the charge of alleged sabotage made by Government spokesmen on the floor of Parliament.

"As a result of our talks with the workers of the plant, the construction workers, trade union leaders, representatives of the management and the people in the area, we feel that there is no case of alleged attempt to sabotage the plant by the organised workers. Workers in general felt proud of the plant and there was eagerness and awareness to increase production of iron and steel, which is so decisive in the plan for national reconstruction. However, we came across rumours that certain officials who have been transferred to Bhilai from private sector steel plants were keen to bring discredit to the Public Sector plant and this, it is rumoured, played a hand in the recent developments. This, of course, needs scrutiny and detailed inquiry by the Government and if found correct, necessary steps should be taken to remove such elements from leading positions in the Public Sector undertakings. We definitely feel that whatever the seriousness of the grievances of the workers, violence and loss or damage of machinery is not the way to get it redressed.

"However, the real issue in Bhilai today is something totally different. We have come to the conclusion that the recent events could have been averted had there been a proper labour policy in the matter of recruitment, wages, machinery for redressal of grievances, workers' housing, medical facilities, transport and so on.

"It is most scandalous that in a steel plant which has pride of place in the nation's economy, the minimum consolidated wage inclusive of all allowances was kept at Rs.48 per month!

"Moreover, there is complete anarchy in wage fixation and in the matter of promotions. Wages of workers doing identical jobs in the same department differ. There is one pay scale for workers

P.T.O.

recruited from Kulti, another for those from Jamshedpur and yet another to those recruited directly. Qualifications and experience, it seems, have not been considered while fixing pay of these workers.

"Construction allowance (given as compensation against the high cost of living at construction site) is paid only to the ministerial staff and those employed in operation on or before May 1959, thus ignoring the justified claims of thousands of other workers.

"There is no facility for drinking water in the factory area. We are told that during lunch break, workers have to clean their hands with their kerchiefs!

"There are no canteen facilities. A few days back all canteens in the factory area were removed by the authorities. There are now only three canteens which serve only tea. There is no arrangement for mid-day meal.

"We also came across serious complaints about the alarming rate of accidents and absence of adequate first aid measures. The callousness of the management in this respect is highly deplorable. Workers say that there were 167 fatal accidents during the period April 1959 to January 1960 while the management puts the figure at 36. In any case, even the management's figures are quite alarming.

"There are only two hospitals which are quite inadequate to cater the needs of such a vast area and over 50,000 workers.

"There are scarcely adequate transport facilities and with the housing shortage, workers live in nearby towns and transport from these towns to the plant site is most inadequate.

"The condition of workers' housing, even the limited ones made available, is extremely unsatisfactory.

"We could enumerate hundreds of such complaints which are indeed shocking. While the progress in the construction and production of the Bhilai steel plant has been highly commendable, it is most unfortunate that the management did not pay adequate attention to assure fair conditions of work to the employees in this vital industry.

"It is equally deplorable that in this large steel plant, the management has not provided a grievance machinery and grievance procedure which were evolved by tripartite agreement over two years ago. In the absence of such a machinery and functioning Works Committees, grievances were allowed to accumulate and the recent strike can be directly traced to such a development.

"Another failure of the management which is quite important is the refusal to recognise any trade union in the plant. Such a position makes the tackling of even ordinary grievances difficult, insofar as collective bargaining through the union is not encouraged.

"We wish to point out that industrial relations in Bhilai should not be isolated from the general policy of Government in this respect for the Public Sector in general and the steel plants in particular. We would therefore urge the Government to pay adequate attention to this question and appoint a Wage Board for the industry to lay down uniform minimum wages, according to tripartite agreements and work standards.

"We found that there is no standardised wage in the plant, no proper classification and no grade and scale system. Employees are completely at the mercy of the various officials. As a result complete anarchy prevails in the wage structure and working conditions.

"To put an end to such state of affairs, standardisation of occupational terms, proper wage differentials and scientific wage structure must be evolved and for this purpose, the constitution of a Wage Board is necessary.

"We have written today to the Prime Minister giving the above facts and requesting his personal intervention."

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*K.G. Sriwastava*

(K.G. Sriwastava)

Secretary,

All-India Trade Union Congress

## श्री तामस्कर के तीर

(हमारे भोपाल कार्यालय द्वारा)

भोपाल, गुरुवार । विधानसभा में विरोधी दल के नेता श्री तामस्कर (प्र. स.) अपने तीखे हास्य और व्यंग के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं। आपने श्रम मंत्री श्री द्रविड द्वारा प्रस्तुत भारतीय मजदूर संघ (मध्यप्रदेश) संशोधन विधेयक पर बोलते हुए न केवल श्रम विभाग और श्री द्रविड पर ही बौछार की बल्कि अन्य मन्त्रियों और विभागों को भी नहीं छोड़ा। श्री तामस्कर ने कहा कि इन्दोरी हस्तक्षेप से झमेला बढ़ रहा है और आप खुद भी झगड़े में पड़ रहे हैं। इस इन्दोरी बुद्धि में तस्मीम होना जरूरी है। हमारी पही मांग है, वैसे आप अपने विभाग में फलो-फूलो, सेक्टर में मिनिस्टर बन जाओ।

श्री तामस्कर ने आगे कहा, "द्रविड साहिब ऐसे मिनिस्टर नहीं है कि घोखेसे मिनिस्टर बन गए हों, जैसे कि वन का ठेका तक लिया नहीं और वन मंत्री बन गये या कि दवाई तक नहीं पहचानी और स्वास्थ्य मंत्री बन गए।

आपने आगे कहा, दो, तीन मिनिस्टर हैं जो बहुत कुशल हैं। एक एक तो है डा. 'काटजू' और दूसरे हैं हमारे डा. शर्मा साहिब। वे डाक्टर हैं, उनके डिपार्टमेंट में घपला ही घपला है। ननेश के 'ग' से गधे का 'ग' बन गया। उनके विभाग में, ऐसी हालत है।

श्री तामस्कर ने कहा, "इन्दोर से आपने हेमन्त देशमुख को भिलाई भेजा और अब वहां देशमुख और आष्टीकर में कुश्ती हो रही है। यह झगड़ा रहा तो कप्युनिस्ट बाजी मार ले जायेंगे। न आप ही सम्हाल पायेंगे और न हम ही। यह मित्र के नाते आपको मेरी सलाह है।

श्री द्रविड ने कहा, मेरा नाम इन्दोर से जोड़ दिया जाता है। मैं अगर यह कहूँ कि हमारी विचारधारा पर पूर्वाग्रह और यहां तक कि दूषित पूर्वाग्रहों का असर रहता है तो अनुचित नहीं होगा। तामस्कर साहिब जो आरोप मुझ पर लगाते हैं, उससे वे क्या बच पाते हैं? इस प्रदेश का सीमांत है कि वह इन सब से ऊपर है।

मैं स्वयं यहाँ खड़ा हूँ किन्तु मैं नहीं जानता कि मैं कहाँ से आया हूँ। मेरे पूर्वज कभी दक्षिण महाराष्ट्र में रहे हों।

श्री द्रविड के इस कथन पर डा० खूबचन्द बघेल ने कहा इजाजत हो तो एक शेर कह दूँ :-

"इस सादगी पर कौन न मर जाये या खुदा ! लड़ते हैं मगर हाथ में तलवार नहीं !"

Press handout:

(1) ~~XXXX~~ BACKGROUND OF VISIT BY A.K.GOPALAN M.P. AND M.ELIAS M.L.  
TO Bhilai Steel Project area:

- Alarming news from Bhilai that serious trouble had broken out in the Steel Plant centring round grievances of workmen engaged in constructional work and the fact that police resorted to firing ~~and~~ ~~xxxx~~ and teargassing to suppress the workers, led the opposition members including Communist M.P. to table adjournment motions to elicit information.
  - While opposing adjournment motions Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for ~~Fuel, Mines, and Fuel~~, brought serious charges of attempt at sabotage by workers, especially in cutting the Power supply.
  - This serious charge of alleged sabotage in this strategic industry like Iron & Steel in the Public Sector and the fact of hungerstrike by the secy. of a Union made us come here for an on-the-spot study of the situation.
- (2) By the time we reached here on the night of 21.2.60, the hunger-strike was called off.

-Here we met groups of workers of various sections, saw Mr.Dubey and met the Management as well.

-Here are our observations:

- (a) Re: Sabotage: Workers and their representatives completely deny the charge.

Even the Management had to admit that 'it was difficult to draw any definite conclusion re: sabotage' except for the fact that Power generation Plant was ~~attacked~~ <sup>attacked</sup> and investigation was being made to ascertain facts.

Allegations and counter-allegations apart, we cannot believe that any patriotic worker can take recourse to sabotage because it only hampers their own cause but also the larger interests of the country. Because the prosperity of the country depends on the development of heavy industry, especially the Iron & Steel Industry.

- (b) Demands Justified: We have no doubts in our minds that the workers were agitating for the redress of very genuine and just grievances. One example will prove beyond any shadow of doubt how the workers' patience was taxed to the maximum by the adamant and unimaginative attitude of the Management.

These N.M.R.-men (Normal Muster Roll Worker) had been getting a consolidated monthly emolument of Rs.48/- (forty-eight) only. This is scandalous, to say the least. How can one make both ends meet with this paltry sum can better be imagined than described especially in these days of soaring prices of essential commodities of life. The norm for the minimum wage that was agreed upon at the 15th. Tripartite (I.L.C.) works out to be Rs.125/-. Even the Second Pay Commission's recommendations which we consider to be most unsatisfactory provide for an unskilled worker a minimum wage of Rs.80/-.

~~xxxxxx~~ The Govt. instead of setting an example as a model employer have behaved, in this case, in a thought-less fashion.

Thus it will be seen that genuine grievances of the workmen had been accumulating for several years past and the Management sat tight over them till it burst out recently. The unsympathetic and non-co-operative attitude of the Management can be seen from the fact that though representations were being made for the last six or seven months, nothing was done in this regard.

- (c) Proper Machinery for negotiation needed: Labour-management Co-operation.- These happenings highlights once more the imperative need of setting up a proper machinery through the workmen can ventilate their grievances and the employer also can explain their position to the workmen. But we regret to note that no such machinery exists at present. Not only that. Even when groups

of workers want to negotiate, we are told, they are not given a proper hearing. This only aggravates the situation and the workers are left with no other alternative but to resort to direct action.

After going into the state of affairs ourselves and hearing the parties concerned, we have come to the definite conclusion that irrespective of what has happened, there was genuine and justified discontent amongst the workers which were allowed to accumulate by the Management.

And if this is the state of affairs in the Public Sector, then all talk of a good employer-employee relation is meaningless. The employer and employee must sit together, at least in the public sector, and discuss all differences through negotiation and talks round the table.

- (1) WORKERS COMMITTEE: Grievance Machinery: It is in this context that the formation of WORKERS Committee at the factory will provide a most democratic forum to help solve urgent problems of the employees. Or, some sort of Grievance machinery must be formed to tackle the day to day problems.

In our talks with the General Manager the following things emerged:

- There are two categories of workmen namely,
- (1) Those engaged in constructional work (2) Those engaged in regular operational jobs.

The main issues confronting the constructional workers are:

- (1) Retrenchment - we glad to note that new recruitment has been stopped and the retrenched men will be provided with alternative employment.
- (2) Annual increment and promotion: We understand that a sort of selection board functions departmentwise to give promotion to proper candidates. We were told that any irregularity brought to the notice of the management will be looked into. There are also complaints that promotion is not done according to seniority. The management has now agreed to promote on the basis of seniority-cum-merit. Here is snag remains. Who is going to judge merit? In the absence of any machinery acceptable to both employees and employer to judge merit promotion should generally made on the basis of seniority.
- (3) Continuity of service: We understand that service from the very beginning will be taken in to account in absorbing men in different depts. and zones.

The following issues are common to employees of both the categories:

- (1) Grade: There is complete anarchy as far as Grade is concerned for the same job done workers are put in indifferent grades - some are put in Rs. 60-90; some in Rs. 80-120 and some again in 150-250 for the same job. This anomaly must go. The principle of equal pay for same job to be followed.
- (2) Scale of pay: Minimum wage: Though the management has agreed to promote these workmen; serving in mazdoor grade II (Rs 48/-) to mazdoor grade I (Rs 70/-) the minimum consolidated monthly emolument of Rs 48/- continues to operate. We wish to make it very clear with all emphasis at our command that the basis of this discontent will remain as long as this minimum is not raised. Whatever may be the grade and pay of scale this min. of Rs 48/- must go immediately.
- (3) Construction allowance: It is in this background that the demand of C.A. for all & at the original rate of 25% of wages acquires importance & significance. We maintain that (1) as the market has not stabilised and the normalcy of the town ship has not been reached as yet; (2) and as the construction work still going on & is expected to continue for several years more this C.A. should be continued. This will go a long way to meet the increasing cost of living; there being no signs of prices getting stable or going down. And this should be given to all categories of workers - constructional and operational.
- (4) Regarding Medical facilities, quarters - canteens etc the management has admitted that these are inadequate and

and steps are being taken to provide more facilities in these regards.

- (5) Rent: Any irregularity brought to the notice will be looked into.
- (6) Accidents: Compensation for accidents and sick benefits are not given in a short time and workers are unnecessarily harassed. This will also be looked into.
- (7) Transport: Easy transport for workers living in outlying areas to be provided and cost of transport should be reduced.

Wage Board: Before we end let us emphasise once more that in order to bring about uniformity in the wage structure of the Steel industry in both public and private sectors and to bring about a National Standardisation of jobs; a Wage board for this Industry should immediately be setup as per decision of the 15th Tripartite conference. We will take up this matter in parliament with the Govt. of India.

In conclusion we express our sincere sorrow and grief at the sad demise of the deputy Chief Engineer who happens to be a Russian as a result of accident that took place yesterday.

In this connection we express our ~~gratitude~~ gratitude to the Soviet Govt. for the ungrudging help they have been giving to our country for our national reconstruction.

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## WAGE BOARD

a. - Starting minimum wage of an unskilled worker is far below the starvation level. Not to speak of wage Norm decided by the 15th Tripartite.

Therefore minimum wage must be based on fair wage minimum ~~work~~

b. There is no standardised wage in the Plant. No standardised occupational terms, no proper classification & no grade & scale system. Employees are completely at the mercy of employer. As a result complete anarchy in the wage structure & working conditions are there.

To end with these, standardisation of occupational terms, proper wage differentials & scientific wage structure must be evolved and for this constitution of Wage Board is necessary to go into the all important problems of wages & do justice to the workers which is long over due.

Manaklal Banthia

M. A. (FIN.)

RAIPUR,

Date



S. K. Gorg. President  
S. K. - Dutta, Vice - Pres  
Tata - Bangalore Training  
M. N. Panchev - Mahara  
Maharaj Treputi - <sup>Tia</sup> J. S. S.  
Treasurer - M. Menon  
Kerala

Ex. member

Sunil Das - Hindustan  
- met with us.

United Steel Workers  
Union

Reg No 379.

Legal Advisor - Mahan Das  
Resides in Bombay

Membership - 300 paid members  
- 18/- per month.  
Supports about 700 workmen.

# भिलाई स्टील प्लांट एम्प्लाइज यूनियन

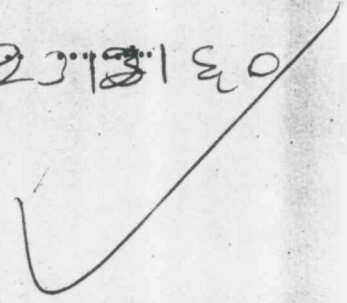
(यूनाइटेड ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस से संबंधित)

शिवपारा दुर्ग, म. प्र.

क्रमांक.....

दिनांक 23/11/60

प्राप्तकर्ता: - गोपालजी -  
पार्लियामेंट बिल्डिंग  
(1 - मिला)



यह युनियन की ओर

से आप का स्वागत अभिनंदन

करता हूँ जो कि मिला स्टील प्लांट

के द्वारा मरी मजदूरी की जायज

मांगों के विषय में पार्लियामेंट

आवाज बुलंद करेगा

आपका लक्ष्य

है कृपया धिक्का  
जयल - सेक्टर 2

# अंग्रेजी के समझौता का हिन्दी में रूपांतर

दिनांक २६-१०-६० के नोटिस ऑफ चेंज जो कि म० प्र० आइ. बजार आयोगिक कलह निवारण कानून धारा ३२ (१) १९४७ के अंतर्गत, राष्ट्रीय मिल मजदूर संघ राजनांदगांव जो कानून के अंतर्गत मान्यता प्राप्त यूनियन है, यहां यूनियन कहलाया वंगल जगपुर कानून मिक्स लि। राजनांदगांव यहां मिल कहलाया को दिया गया था उस मिलसिले में पत्तों ने सभी प्रकार से सोच विचार के पश्चात, जिसमें कि तरह तरह की बातों पर जैसे कि नुकसान, आर्थिक संकट और मिल बंदी की दिगर सम्बंधित कारणों से, यह निम्न बातों पर यह सुझावनामा कर लिया है—

- (१) यह मिल जल्द से जल्द जैसे ही यह समझौता शासन रजिस्ट्रेशन (प्रंजीयक) हो जावेगा, पुनः चालू कर दिया जावेगा स्वामिकतः जो भी खातों में माल और प्रोसेस मिल जायेगा सिर्फ वे ही खाते चालू हो जायेगे। सम्बंधित खातों जैसे ही जरूरत के माल और प्रोसेस मिल सकेगे चालू कर दिये जा सकते हैं।
  - (२) यह कि मिल को फिर से सुचारु रूप चालू करने के लिए यह एक शर्त है कि मिल केलिये कम्पैमेंट २३४७ हो रहेगे, शेडल (अ) के अनुसार जो इस समझौते के साथ नथी है और जो इसका एक हिस्सा है और जो भी समझौता कोई भी खाते के कम्पैमेंट के लिए इस समझौता के पहिले तारीख को हुए है वो सब रद्द गिने जायगे।
  - (३) यह कि मिल को फिर से सुचारु रूप से चालू करने के लिये यह एक शर्त है कि कामवाद् शेडल "ब" के अनुसार रहेगा जो इस समझौता के साथ नथी है और जो इसका एक हिस्सा है और जो भी समझौता कोई भी खाता में कामवाद् के लिये इस समझौता के पहिले हो चुका है वह इस तारीख से रद्द समझा जाये।
  - (४) यह कि समझौता का क्लोजर २ को कार्यरूप में परिणित करने के लिए, बायडिंग पारपिन घड़ीखाता घड़ी खाता, रगघर और धोती खातों के कामगारों का पगार फिर से गौर लिया जायेगा जैसाकि कामवाठ के आधार पर शेडल "ब" के अंतर्गत दर्शाया गया है जिससे कि उन्हें मंगलमूर्ती एगार्ड के आधार पर लाया जाये। यह हालांकि यूनियन से सलाह लेकर ही निश्चय किया जावेगा और जो जो कुछ भी निश्चय किया जावेगा दोनों पक्षों के लिये बाध्य रहेगा। इस के समझौता पहिले कोई भी समझौता लागू हुआ होगा वह इस समझौता के दिन से रद्द समझा जायगा।
  - (५) यह कि हर खाते के कामगार या कामगारों को शेडल "ब" जो इस समझौता के साथ नथी है उसी के आधार पर उत्पादन देना होगा जो कि उत्पादन सम्बंधी आवश्यक कारणों को जैसाकि मिशनरी कि हालत कांउट और कपडे की क्वालिटी को बनाना है। और यहां के अन्य कारणों को जैना कि तारों का टूटने का एलाउस, मशीनों की मरम्मत इत्यादि की मद्दे नजर रखते हुए बनाया गया है। हर कामगार को उस ही एकोसियेन्सी और माल का स्तर उठाने के लिए जैसा कि शेडल "ब" में निश्चित किया गया है वाजिब मौबा दिया जायेगा और यदि यह मौबा देने के बाद भी कोई कामगार अहरत के अनुसार उत्पादन शेडल "ब" में जो निश्चित किया गया है) नहीं दे पाता है तो वह काम से अलग कर दिया जावेगा; उसे इसके बारे में जवाब तलब का मौका देकर।
- उदाहरण— (वाजिब मौबा का मतलब है एक महीने का समय)
- (६) यदि कोई भी कामगार या कामगारों कोई भी खाता या खातों के शेडल के अनुसार उत्पादन नहीं देने के कारण, ७ दिखने माल में कमी हो जायेगी और मिल दूसरे खाता या खातों के कामगारों को लेडआफ देगा यदि वह सोचे कि यह मिल के हद में है और या मिल को बंद कर देगा और उसकी जवाबदारी मिलबंदी की या लड ऑफ की नहीं रहेगी पर जवाबदारी कामगारों की होगी।
  - (७) तौ भी सदा है कि मजदूरों की नारमल कम्पैमेंट में कमी करने और बराबर करने में गुं जाइश रहेगी। नारमल कम्पैमेंट या स्टैंडर्ड कम्पैमेंट जो कि फिलहाल है वह कम्पैमेंट २३४७ है जो कि आपन में शेडल ब के अनुसार तय किया गया है जो इस समझौते के साथ नथी है। यह कम्पैमेंट मिल के सभी कामगारों को बाध्य होगा और इसकी किसी शर्त पर या फिर से इस सबाल को लेकर, किसी अदालत या अन्य अधिकारी के पास फिर से नहीं उठाया जा सकेगा। यदि किसी घंथों पर जगह खाली होती है और स्टैंडर्ड कम्पैमेंट से नीचे होती है। तो कामगारों को मिल की मर्चा के अनुसार दूसरे घंथों (आकुलेशन) में बदलो कर दिया जा सकेगा है और हालांकि उस कामगार को काम में बदलो की जगह दूसरी भी हो या मिलती जुलती न हो फिर भी ट्रान्सफर कर दिया जा सकता है जिससे कि यह समझौता सफल हो सके और उसका बराबर पालन हो सके। बदलो कामगारों को निपुक्ति यदि मिल को किसी खाता या खातों में जरूरत पड़े, जैसा कि नारमल कम्पैमेंट के आधार पर मिल चल सके, मिल को पूर्ण पूर्ण मर्चा के मुताबिक चुनकर और लायक कामगारों को ही रखा जा सकेगा।

(८) यह कि समझौते के क्लॉस (२) और (३) के पूर्ती होने के कारण मिल में कामगारों की संख्या जरूरत से ज्यादा पाई गई है जैसा अभी फिल हाल शेडूल के अनुसार जो कि राज्य सरकार से भी स्वीकृति हो गई है मिल में अभी की संख्या से कम करनी ही होगी इस बात को भदे नजर रखते हुए तय किया गया है कि परमानेंट कामगारों को यदि उन्हें दूसरी जगह खपत नहीं कर सकेगा उन्हें छटनी का मुआवजा मिल के खुलने के ६ माह के अन्दर देकर अगल कर दिया जावेगा। अगर उन लोगों को दूसरे कामों में खपत नहीं कर सके जैसा कि इस समझौता में दर्शाया गया है, परन्तु रोल पर के बदली, कामगार किसी भी सुरता में किसी प्रकार के मुआवजा के हकदार नहीं रहेंगे जैसे कि शेडूल (ब) में नारमल कामप्लीमेंट में कभी बतलाया गया है।

परमानेंट कामगारों की सूची या लिस्ट जिन्हें काम से अलग करने का मुआवजा दिया जावेगा, मिल की मर्जी के मुताबिक और यूनियन की राय से और जहाँ तक मुआवजे का दस्तूर है कि "बाद में आया वो पहले जायेगा" इस दस्तूर को भदे नजर रखते हुए जोर दिगर बातों को जैसा कि एफोसिमेन्सी, बाल चलन, व्यवहार और उस कामगार का पिछला रिकार्ड इत्यादि की देखकर लिस्ट बनाई जायेगी।

(९) मिल को पुनः चालू करने के दिन के बाद या यदि किसी खाता खातों में और अधिक कामगारों की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी तो मिल खुलने के ४ हप्ते के अंदर यदि जरूरत पड़ी तो मुक़ ऐसे परमानेंट कामगारों को जो कि पैरो ८ के अनुसार कामगारों की छटनी में आने वालों को दूसरा काम (बालदारलेविष काम) दिया जा सकेगा। जब वैसे कामगार नये काम के लिये नोदिस लगाने के सात दिन के अंदर अपना अर्जी उस जगह के लिये अन्य काम के लिए मिल में पेश करेंगे।

मिल मनेजमेंट इस बात के लिये राजी है कि वैसे कामगारों को एक माह का पगार देगा जहा पर उन्हें अन्य काम दिया जायेगा ताकि वह कामगार पूरी तरह से काम सीख सके और जरूरत तक एफोसिमेन्सी दे सके। अपना पगार मिल बंदी के पहले की औमत पगार से किसी किसम से कम नहीं समेगा और यदि ट्रेनिंग के समय के बाद उस जगह पर काम करने के लायक समझा जायेगा तो उसे उस जगह का पगार मिलेगा। इसी अनुसार से परमानेंट कामगारों को काम देने के बाद यदि कुछ जगह खली रहेगी तो उसकी पूर्ती बदली कामगारों से पूरी की जायेगी हमेशा की तरह यदि ट्रेनिंग मिलने के बाद भी परमानेंट कामगार अपने काम में ठीक नहीं पाये गये तो उनकी छटनी बिना किसी नोटिस के बाहर कर दिये जा सकते हैं।

(१०) यूनियन इस बात के लिये राजी है कि मिल बंदी के सिल सिले में जो की कानूनी मामले मिल के विरुद्ध होंगे तो वापस ले लेंगी या ६-९-५९ से मिल बंदी के सिल सिले में और जब से मिन बंद है, उसका छेड़ आफ का मुआवजा या किसी किसम का कपेन्सेसन जो कि कोई भी कामगार या कामगारों को और मिल के कर्कों का किसी किसम का मिल बंदी का मुआवजा नहीं मिलेगा।

(११) यूनियन को यह भी शर्त मान्य है कि पगार के दिने में एक साल के लिये कोई भी रद्दीबदल नहीं होगी या मिल की नई मशीनें लगते हैं जो भी बंदी हो सके इस समझौते के अंतर्गत किसी भी स्थिति में मिल को पगार के दिने में कोई भी तब्दीली एक साल के पहले नहीं होगी और उससे बंध यदि ऐसी स्थिति होगी तो आपस में मिल और यूनियन के समझौते पर ही पगार के दिने फरक हो सकेगा

(१२) यह कि यूनियन अधिक से अधिक सहयोग और शक्ति मिल को अच्छी तरह चलाने में देगा और मिल भी यह विश्वास दिलाती है कि अपनी ओर से वे स्थाई कामगारों को जहाँ तक हो सकेगा चौकरी में रखने की चेष्टा करेगी और इसके लिए वो और विपट बढ़ाने या काम के लिये भी यदि हो सके तो तैयार है।

(१३) इस समझौते को पूरी तरह अमल में लाने के लिये और नियत उत्पादन के आंकड़ों पर पहुंचने के लिये एक कमेटी बनाई जावेगी जिसमें कि मिल की ओर से दो नुमाइन्दे होंगे जिसमें कि एक प्रमनल मनेजर और दूसरा खाते का मुख्य अधिकारी होगा और यूनियन के भी दो नुमाइन्दे होंगे जिसमें कि एक यूनियन प्रेसिडेंट या जनरल सेक्रेटरी होगा और दूसरा खाते में यूनियन का नुमाइन्दे होगा। किसी भी शिवायत या सुझाव को जो कि समझौते को अमल में लाने के लिये होगा इस कमेटी के समक्ष आवेगा और कमेटी की एक राय हाने पर व दोनों पक्षों लागू होगा और कमेटी के सदस्यों मतभेद हाने पर मामला १: पंच के समक्ष जिसको कि कमेटी एक राय होकर चुनेगी रखा जावेगा और पंच का नियम अंतिम होगा और इस प्रमेट की सब शर्तें पिछले सब समझौते के बाबजूद जो कि समझौता के प्रहिते हुये थे लागू होंगे। यह समझौता दोनों पक्षों में १ फरवरी को किया। यूनियन की ओर से जनरल सेक्रेटरी और गवाह श्री साबिर अली और शिवायतक नत्री और मिल की तरफ से श्री के० सी० गर्ग गवाह श्री बर्मो, श्री तेज सिंह ने इस समझौते पर दस्तखत किये।

भवदीय  
बोजीराव मुनेश्वर  
जनरल सेक्रेटरी  
रा० म० म० पंच राजनादगोव

दिनांक-१०-२-६०

Dated the 20th Feb., 1960.

COPY OF PRESS RELEASE MADE ON  
20TH FEBRUARY 1960, at 10.00 P.M.  
\*\*\*

The General Manager, Bhilai Steel Project,  
Shri N.C. Shrivastava, this evening called a meeting of  
representatives of the Registered Trade Unions working  
in the Project area and some workmen and appealed to them  
to do their best to restore the cordial atmosphere which  
prevailed here before the disturbances a couple of days ago.

2. He also explained to them that orders had been  
issued on 2nd February, 1960 to stop recruitment of any new  
workmen to the Project so that only the minimum number of  
workmen may have to be retrenched. He explained to them  
the principles to be followed in the matter of retrenchment  
and assured that the Management would make all possible  
arrangements to find employment in other Projects for any  
surplus workmen.

3. The General Manager said that he had passed orders  
that all construction workers of the Project serving as  
Mazdoor Grade II, who had put in continuous service of six  
months or more on the 31st January 1960, would be promoted  
as Mazdoor Grade I from the 1st February 1960. As a  
result, these workmen who are getting a consolidated monthly  
emoluments of Rs. 48/- would get monthly basic pay of Rs. 25/-  
plus dearness allowance. It is estimated that about  
three thousand workmen engaged on construction work within  
the Steel Works and outside in the Project area would be  
benefitted by this decision.

COPY OF ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE GENERAL  
MANAGER BHILAI STEEL PROJECT THROUGH THE  
LABOUR OFFICER ON 18TH AND 19TH FEB., 1960.

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It is notified for general information, that in order to reduce retrenchment of workers to the minimum, the General Manager of Bhilai Steel Project had passed orders a fortnight ago that recruitment of new workers to the project should be discontinued. He had also passed orders at the same time that retrenchment compensation should be paid to every employee who was entitled to it. Orders of the General Manager also specified that retrenchment should be on the basis of "first come last go", the seniority being counted from the date of first joining the Project in any department. This applies to both male and female workers. Female workers will not ✓ be retrenched merely because they are female workers.

Arrangements will be made to absorb the surplus workers in other branches as workers or artisan trainees on the principle of seniority-cum-merit. All assistance will be given so that surplus workers are absorbed in other Projects. Steps in this direction have already been taken.

The management has spent considerable sums of money for putting up several temporary Construction Camps. Arrangements have been made for issue of hutting material to the Project workmen and this facility will continue to be made available to all the workers applying for it.

The Management will provide additional schools in those Camps where there is demand. Wherever necessary, arrangements for additional medical and sanitary facilities and water supplies will be made.

The entire Bhilai Steel Works are national property and all workers are being appealed to cooperate in safeguarding the plant and its working from any damage. Those who are not willing to work even after this announcement are requested to come out peacefully out of the Plant.

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*Handwritten notes:*  
Can't know -  
Grade  
Same thing  
Same thing  
Same thing  
Same thing

# Poor Living Conditions Of Bhilai Workers

Continued from Page 1 Column 7

that adequate steps would be taken in this respect.

Of more vital concern to the workers is their miserable standard of living. One has only to see the pitiful shacks on the Raipur-Bhilai national highway to understand their woes.

Electricity is supplied to only one of four workers' camps, each a conglomeration of hovels. The others are enveloped in darkness. None of the camps have an adequate supply of water. Even the slums "built" on the other side of the road by contractors for their labour, although without adequate amenities, appear to be better.

Everybody, excepting naturally the management, feels that there is no reason why this state of affairs should not be improved. A Madhya Pradesh official ventured to suggest that if Mr. Nehru visited the Bhilai workers' camps, some of the high-ups of the project would, perhaps, be replaced.

## WANTS IGNORED

If there is no electricity to spare, there should be other forms of lighting available; if water cannot be piped and tapped, at least a few tube-wells can be bored. Apparently, no one has thought about these things.

Another official said that Hindustan Steel was so much engrossed in completing the giant works according to schedule that it had had no time or energy left to think of the workers.

The workers' unions are considerably perturbed by the management's apathy and seem to be convinced that without an agitation, the management cannot even be made to listen to them.

What gives a sharp edge to the restiveness of the workers is the reported refusal of the authorities to permit them to present their demands to visiting dignitaries. The authorities prevented them from submitting a memorandum to Mr. Nehru and it required a demonstration by the workers to secure a chance to represent their grievances to the Union Labour Minister, Mr. G. L. Nanda.

In April, 1958, the railway siding workers launched a strike in an endeavour to have their condition improved. In October of the same year, another group of workers went on hunger-strike. Nevertheless, the situation remains what it was.

After that hunger-strike, the management did agree to meet some of the demands but as the present condition of the workers shows, hardly anything material has been done.

The General Manager of the Bhilai Steel Project, Mr. N. C. Shrivastava, said that he had agreed to meet most of their demands even before Mr. Dubey began his fast on February 10.

The Indian Chief Engineer, Mr. P. P. Dani, added that some orders had been issued as early as February 2. But nobody answered the question what made Mr. Dubey launch a hun-

ger-strike a week later.

Yesterday, when workers turned up to resume normal work after the three-day strike, 35 men of the coke-oven plant and many more on the roll were asked to quit.

The union leaders interpreted this action as victimisation but the management said that it was implementing its retrenchment plan. It rescinded its orders, however, when its attention was drawn to the now-agreed principle of retrenchment according to seniority. Red tape obviously caused the confusion, if this explanation is to be accepted.

Still, some aspects of the retrenchment plan are likely to breed discontent. Tension continues and Section 144 of the Cr.P.C. is in force.

It is true that workers, in a fit of rage, did unworthy things, tried to bring the plant to a standstill and showed no concern over the damage their decision might possibly cause. It is also true that their leaders eventually came forward to restart work in eight vital sectors to avert a disaster.

Unfortunately, there is no proper machinery by which the management and the workers can maintain contact with each other. Of four labour unions at the plant, only two are registered and neither is recognised. The labour officers of Hindustan Steel maintain a direct but obviously unsatisfactory connection with labour.

## RECOGNITION OF UNION

Mr. Shrivastava said that it was entirely a matter for the Madhya Pradesh Government, whose labour laws applied to Bhilai. The INTUC union alone had applied for recognition in 1958. He had forwarded its application but knew "nothing afterwards."

Inquiries show that the INTUC union is not the strongest of the four and certainly not as strong as the PSP-led Kamgar Sangh. Besides, it is disrupted by factionalism. Complaints are also heard that the Government is still keen that the INTUC should be the only organisation to function among Bhilai labour, in conformity with the principle of "one union, one industry."

The question of a sound trade union is vital to the future of Bhilai and on a satisfactory solution of this issue will depend the welfare of the workers.



Nagpur Times  
24-2-60

# Bhilai Compromise Is Against Govt. Policy

## M.P. LABOUR MINISTRY TAKES EXCEPTION

From Our Staff Correspondent

RAIPUR, Feb. 23.

Labour Ministry of the Madhya Pradesh Government is understood to have taken strong exception to the compromise reached between the Bhilai Steel Plant authorities and the labour union.

According to the Ministry, the action of the Plant management is not only against the accepted labour policies of the State and the Union Government, but also will encourage rowdy and unruly elements in the trade unions in the public sector.

While the Labour Minister, V V Dravid has brought this matter into the notice of Union Minister, Guljarilal Nanda, the State Government is likely to make a formal representation in this connection.

### GOVT. STAND

According to the Government sources, the Labour Ministry wanted Deosharan Dube, the General Secretary of the Bhilai Kamgar Union to give up his hunger strike and normal working in the plant to be resumed first, before any negotiations over the workers' demands could be started. The Bhilai authorities had been advised accordingly.

Against this advice, the General Manager met the labour representatives on Feb. 21 and announced the decision to promote all grade two workers completing six months or more service to grade one and accept the principle of seniority in respect of retrenchment.

According to the same sources, it was also learnt, that the labour Ministry has felt offended because the Bhilai Management did not care to take labour officials at Raipur into confidence with regard to arriving at the settlement.

## Cent Percent Attendance at Bhilai

RAIPUR, Feb. 22.

Cent percent attendance in both the operational and construction side was reported today at the Bhilai Steel project, which was the scene of some labour trouble recently. G. D. S. Dubey, General Secretary of the Bhilai Kamgar Union, who had been on hunger strike since Feb. 10 in support of the Kamgar Union's charter of demands, gave up his fast yesterday evening.

According to the steel plant authorities resumption of normal production will be possible very soon.

# Bhilai Saturated with Police Guards

## PROTECTION OF VITAL INSTALLATIONS

"The Times of India" News Service

BHILAI, February 23.

BHILAI is almost back to normal. But the Central Laboratory of the steel plant continues to be the busy camp of a vast police force hurriedly assembled from Madhya Pradesh and Bombay, last week.

Police officers are in touch with the State capital plotting on blackboards the position of 700 of their men and 500 security guards of Bhilai deployed to protect the Soviet-aided Rs. 180-crore steel plant.

As labour unrest reached a peak last week, workers deserted their posts at the coke ovens, forced the closure of the power house and marched towards the blast-furnace in a bid to cripple the plant.

### SABOTAGE FEARED

There were whispers and suspicion of sabotage and the authorities went all out to saturate Bhilai with police guards. They knew that the prolonged suspension of work in vital sectors of the plant would have caused immeasurable damage.

Fortunately, the storm blew over. The plant has emerged unscathed. Two jeeps were burned, a divisional engineer was manhandled and a few panes of glass were broken. Neither this damage nor the loss arising from the three-day strike has yet been estimated.

It was stated that a strike had not been originally planned because the workers were keen on observing all the formalities required before an organised stoppage.

The General Secretary of the PSP-led Bhilai Steel Kamgar Sangh, Mr. Deosharan Dubey, began a fast on February 11 to draw the attention of the management, Hindustan Steel, to the long-standing grievances of about 30,000 construction workers.

Their demands were 13 in number. They mainly related to primary needs—housing, medical aid, the supply of drinking water, schools for children and the upgrading of the pay scale from Rs. 43 to Rs. 75 at the lowest level.

Their leaders recognised the inevitability of retrenchment as the work of construction tapered off and merely asked for the acceptance of the principle, "first come, first go."

### MANY LIVES LOST

They demanded that women workers should not be axed wholesale but treated on a par with men and retrenched in accordance with seniority. They suggested that the retrenched workers should be helped as far as possible to get jobs in similar undertakings and that no fresh recruitment should be made until those threatened with unemployment had been retained.

The workers also asked for adequate safety measures and complained that 168 of their colleagues had died in accidents since the inception of the project. The management does not accept this figure and admits only 35 had died and that during the short period from April, 1959, to January, 1960.

Although safety measures are most urgent at Bhilai, they do not seem to be given as much attention as their other demands. The Secretary of the Kamgar Sangh said that he had been shown a manual the management was preparing and that he was satisfied

Continued on Page 7 Column 6

# Communist MPs Blame Bhilai Management

From Our Staff Correspondent

RAIPUR, Feb. 23. A. K. Gopalan and Mohammad Elias, Communist M.Ps, said here today that the recent trouble in Bhilai could have been averted had there been a proper machinery between the management and the workers.

The Communist leaders, who were addressing a press conference, said that grievances of the workers had been accumulating for some time. Unsympathetic and non-cooperative attitude of the management could be seen from the fact that in spite of repeated representations, nothing had been done, they added.

Gopalan said while the General Manager of Bhilai Steel Plant claimed that some demands of the labourers had been conceded and others were under consideration, the labourers thought otherwise as they had no knowledge of the management's stand in respect

## Red M.P.s Blame

(Contd. From Page 1 Col. 1)

of their demands. The Communist M.Ps, who arrived here on Sunday, made several rounds of the Plant and met labour leaders and the management.

They said that the management claimed that there was an intelligent attempt to sabotage the Plant, by attacking the power-generating unit but the labourers in general denied the allegation.

Continuing, they pointed out that several skilled workers intimated to them that certain high officials, recruited from private sector, were interested in sabotaging the Bhilai Steel Plant and they might be behind the recent trouble.

**WAGES**  
Referring to wages, Gopalan said, there was no proper wage structure and workers doing similar work, were put in varying grades. An unskilled worker was paid at the rate of Rs. 48 p.m. when the 15th Indian Labour Conference had recommended Rs. 125 and the second Pay Commission Rs.

The Communist M.Ps added that, in the absence of a recognised Union at Bhilai, the Iron and Steel Ministry should direct the management to form works committees and production committees to put before the management the grievances of the workers.

They highly appreciated the progress of the Plant and added that they would submit a detailed report to Union Iron and Steel Minister Sardar Swaran Singh.

# Bhilai Workers Discontent Justified

## GOPALAN'S CALL FOR "ONE UNION, ONE INDUSTRY"

(From Our Staff Correspondent)

RAIPUR, Feb. 23.—The discontent among the workers of the Bhilai Steel Plant which led the occurrence of unhappy disturbances on Feb. 17 and 18 was genuine and justified observed Shri A K Gopalan, the Communist M. P. at a press conference here.

Shri Gopalan, who along with Shri Mohammed Elias had visited Bhilai for an on the spot study of the situation referred to the large number of workers' unions at Bhilai and opined that for such a vital industry there ought to be only one union. "I believe in the formula of one union, one industry", he remarked. He also reiterated his suggestion for setting up the Workers Committees and the Joint Production Com-

(Continued on page 5, Col. 1)

(Continued on page 5, Col. 1)

## WAGE BOARD FOR STEEL INDUSTRY

### N.P. Chronicle, 24.2.60 Gopalan's Demand At Bhilai

RAIPUR, FEB. 23. Mr A K Gopalan, deputy leader of Communist group in Lok Sabha, and Mohammad Elias M. P., today demanded the setting up of a wage board for the steel industry to bring about uniformity in the wage structure and national standardisation of job in both the public and private sectors.

The two Communist M.Ps who went round the Bhilai Steel Plant on Sunday, told pressmen here that there was "widespread dissatisfaction" both among the skilled and unskilled workers there due to lack of standardisation of wages and work. These would remain a permanent cause of "unrest" among the workers, they added.

They described the payment of consolidated monthly emolument of Rs. 48/- to unskilled workers in the Bhilai Plant as "scandalous" and said that there was "complete anarchy" as far as the grade was concerned. Workers performing the same type of work were categorised under different grades, they said.

The 15th Indian Labour Conference, they said, had recommended a minimum salary of Rs. 125 while the second Pay Commission recommended a minimum of Rs. 80 for unskilled workers. So long as this "scandalous state of affairs" in regard to pay scale continued in the Bhilai Plant, there were "bound to be troubles in one form or another," they said.

PTI

## GOPALAN AT BHILAI

(Continued from Page 1)

mittees with a view to ensure better relations between the workers and the Management in the industry.

Explaining his purpose to visit Bhilai, Shri Gopalan said that the alarming news from the steel town had caused great concern in the country and had led the opposition Members including the Communists to table a motion of adjournment in the Parliament. Opposing the motion Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel had charged the workers of an attempt to sabotage the steel establishment especially in the Power Plant. It was to investigate into the whole matter that he visited the plant. The workers and their representatives denied all the charges during the course of their talks, he said. "Even the Management had to admit that it was difficult to draw any conclusion, except for the fact that the Power Plant was attacked", he added.

"Allegations and counter allegations apart, one cannot believe that any patriot worker can resort to extreme methods such as sabotage", he observed.

Referring to the demands of the workers, Shri Gopalan said that they were just and alleged that "the workers patience was taxed to the maximum by the adamant attitude of the management". He said that the normal muster roll worker was getting a consolidated monthly salary of Rs. 48 only which was "scandalous to say the least".

The minimum wage agreed upon in the 15th Tripartite Indian Labour Conference worked out at Rs. 125 and even the 2nd Pay Commission thought it to be most unsatisfactory and recommended for an unskilled worker Rs. 80 as minimum wage. The Government instead of setting up an example as an ideal employer behaved in a thoughtless manner and the outcome was the recent unhappy situation, he charged.

Referring to the talks with the General Manager Mr Gopalan said they had discussed at length the various labour problems at the project and he was assured by the G.M. that steps were being taken to redress the grievances of the workers regarding retrenchment, annual increment, promotion and continuity of service. He said Mr Gopalan, however, regretted the grade system which he criticised severely because for the same job done, he found that different grades prevailed.

There were grades of Rs. 60-90, Rs. 80-120 and Rs. 160-250 for the same job and it was essential that this system was abolished, he emphasised. Mr Gopalan further added that the Project Manager had also assured

## Bhilai Trouble Could Have Been Averted

N.P. Chronicle, 24.2.60  
Gopalan's View

RAIPUR, Feb 23

Mr A K Gopalan, Deputy Leader of the Communist group in Lok Sabha, and Mohammad Elias, M P, told pressmen here today that proper handling of the situation by the authorities of the Bhilai Steel Plant could have averted the labour trouble which broke out on Feb 17.

Had there been a proper machinery for negotiation and coordination between the labour and the management, there would have been no trouble whatsoever, they added.

The two Communist M.P.s went round the Bhilai Plant and the township on Sunday and later held discussions with labour leaders, a number of workers and the management.

The labourers in general they said, denied the management's allegation that there had been a very "intelligent attempt to sabotage" the Steel Plant by invading the Power Generation Plant.

On the other hand, they said, a large number of skilled workers alleged that some high officials recruited in the Plant from the private sectors were "interested in sabotaging the plant and might be having their hand behind the recent trouble."

The Communist M.P.s said that "genuine grievances" of workmen had been accumulating for a long time and the management, which adopted the "most unsympathetic and non-cooperative attitude," sat tight over the workers demands till it burst out recently.

## MR. PETRENKO

The death of the Russian Deputy Chief Engineer of the Bhilai plant, Mr. Petrenko will be mourned by all the men at the plant.

The circumstances of his death give poignancy to the incident. He was supervising work in the rail and structural mill when, according to reports a heavy steel door fell on him and knocked him down.

Mr. Petrenko is the second Russian engineer to die on his post of work in Bhilai. In more than one sense these men who have braved many hazards in their devotion to duty and in their zeal to help an underdeveloped nation build its sinews of strength have left their lingering memory in the plant. And have built their own monuments — in concrete and steel.

## ACCIDENTS

It is well and good that a timely enquiry has been ordered in the circumstances of the accident. Possibly the accident coming so soon on the heels of a labour strike demanding safety measures may put the whole question in the proper perspective.

The General Manager, Mr. N. C. Shrivastava has stated that 36 fatal accidents have occurred at the plant site. That the victims or their dependents are adequately compensated or will be so compensated makes little difference to the recurring tragedies.

It may be true that in such construction works and in such plants the possibilities of accidents cannot be totally eliminated. That however makes the need for taking all possible safety measures quite imperative.

## 30,000 Workers To Lose Jobs On Completion Of Rourkela Plant

BHUBANESWAR, Feb 23

Mr Raj Ballav Misra, Orissa's Minister for Labour, told the State Legislative Assembly during question hour today that about 25 to 30 thousand of the workers now employed in the construction work of the Rourkela Steel Plant would be thrown out of employment between now and March 31 1961 when the construction work would be completed.

He said that these unemployed workers might be given alternative jobs when the construction of the Sambalpur-Kantabanji Railway line was started and in ancillary industries in and round Rourkela.

## SOVIET EXPERT SKILLED AT BHILAI

CRANE DROPS STEEL STRUCTURE

From Our Special Correspondent

BHILAI, Feb 22.—As work on the steel plant site was fast returning to normal this morning after last week's violent disturbances when the project's Russian Deputy Chief Engineer, Mr P. Petrenko, was killed in an accident.

He was supervising work in the rail and structural mill when a heavy steel door slipped from the overhead crane and hit his head. Mr Petrenko tried to run to safety but was caught under the structure and knocked down into a pit. Death was instantaneous.

An inquiry into the accident has been ordered. Mr Petrenko's body is being flown to Moscow.

The first Soviet Chief Engineer in Bhilai, Mr Kratenko, was drowned while out shooting in November, 1958.

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

PTI adds: The Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, Sardar Swaran Singh, has sent the following message of condolences to the Russian Ambassador in India:

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the sad demise of Mr Petrenko in an accident at Bhilai. I had known him personally. He was devoted to his work and was by his personal example and cheerful manner able to lead a happy team of workers to work hard to build the steel works according to programme. His sudden death under tragic circumstances is a loss to the Bhilai steel works which will be irreparable. May I request you to convey to his family my heartfelt condolences and sympathy?"

## BHILAI IS BACK TO NORMAL

21.2.60 *The Times*  
Adjourn Move.

### Disallowed

"The Times of India" News Service  
NEW DELHI, February 19.

The State-owned Bhilai Steel Plant, scene of violent labour trouble, is back to normal. Its two blast furnaces, the coke oven plant and the power house, are operating again following suspension of work on February 17.

This was stated by the Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, Mr. Swaran Singh, in the Lok Sabha today while opposing an adjournment motion on the situation in the steel plant. The motion was later disallowed by the Speaker, Mr. Ayyangar.

Of importance was the Minister's assurances that contrary to certain reports there had been no serious damage "to any part of the plant." And there was now adequate police force to maintain peace and order in the troubled area.

The sponsors of the motion, including Mr. A. B. Vajpayee (Jana Sangh) and Mr. T. C. N. Menon (Communist) alleged that there was no machinery to redress the workers' grievances and despite persistent demand the plant authorities had failed to provide adequate

Continued on page 9, col. 3

admitted the motion if the Government had not acted in the manner detailed by the Minister before order in the major States. Congress members cheered.

## Report On Incidents

page 1, col. 5.

plant today. This was attributed by the management to a misinterpretation of the prohibitory order issued by the District Magistrate, under Section 144, Cr. P. C., banning assembly of more than five persons and imposing certain other restrictions in the steel project area.

A spokesman of the management said: "The attendance of construction labour is bound to improve tomorrow and with the resumption of duties by most of the labourers, normal production will be resumed very soon."

Mr. Nirmal Chandra Srivastava, General Manager of the steel plant, told newsmen today that most of the operational workers joined duty today. He added, he had brought about slight improvement in the production position and tapping of pig iron from the blast furnaces and pushing of coke in the coke oven batteries could be resumed today.

### MINOR INCIDENTS

At Nandhar lime-stone quarry, about 10 miles from Bhilai, some workers refused to resume duties and there was some apprehension of trouble. But timely intervention by Government authorities averted any breach of the peace and normal working continued at the quarry. A couple of stone-throwing incidents were, however, reported. Official sources described these incidents as minor and caused no damage was reported.

Mr. R. P. Naronha, Commissioner of Raipur Division, and Mr. K. F. Rustomji, Inspector-General of Police, who toured the city and suburbs today, told newsmen that the law and order situation there was normal though a certain amount of tension was noticeable in some places.

Meanwhile, the visit of an American steel delegation to the steel plant today was cancelled at the eleventh hour.—P.T.I.

## Places to be visited ✓

1. Camp No 4. at the back of Coke ovens
2. Boria camp.

Operations

2. Blast furnace
3. Coke-ovens
4. Power-generation
5. Open Hearth.
6. Blooming mill.

→ heating - Do the workers get heating allowance? What is their pay? What type of work they do?

- Drinking water
- First aid.
- Hospital.
- Safety-measures.

## Construction.

{ Blast furnace No 3.  
Rolling mills.

Questions. 1 - - got promoting <sup>are</sup>  
- How long they <sup>are</sup> working as works-charge?

✓

The unfortunate incidents that have taken place on 17th and 18th Feb. in the B.S.P. are mainly due to the policy of the management in matters of promotion, annual increment, delay in payment of wages, no water supply in the factory area, inadequate housing and medical facilities and such other demands. Due to the short sighted policy of the management, there was discontent among the workers. It was thought to be utilised by the P.S.P. union when Shri Deb Saran Dube of the Bhitai Kangar Sangh went on hunger-strike on 10th Feb. Before this, there was no agitation whatsoever except that some leaflets were distributed and posters were pasted on the walls.

In spite of the fact that the demands for which the hunger-strike was undertaken, were genuine there was lack of response from the workers. So, it seems, that some a handful of enthusiastic supporters of this union initiated the picking of stones. Very few people ~~participated~~ took the initiative in this and then it was beyond their control and spontaneously got the upper hand. They there were efforts to set the power generation on fire but it was averted. Discontent prevails even after these incidents and subsequent assurance given by the authorities to remove the just grievances of the workers. They are not very very much enthused by the official promises because they have been violated several times. For example — Two years back, the B.S.P. authorities announced that every Normal Master Roll (NMR) staff would be promoted to works-charge category after completing six

months. But even now there are about three thousand N.H.R.s. After these incidents, the general manager announced that those who completing six months on 31st Jan 1960 would be promoted to work charge categories. Such things strengthen the ~~fact~~ feeling of the workers that the management understands no other method except that of blows.

After these incidents, it is necessary to impress upon the authorities that there should be no attitude of revenge towards the workers, and the grievances should be removed as early as possible. This should be done in consultation with workers representatives, and as there is no one union which commands the ~~mass~~ confidence of the mass of workers, the management should provide facilities to workers to elect their representative department-wise.

### Grievances.

#### 1. No Drinking water in the Factory Area:

There is no facility for drinking water in the factory area. During tiffin hours workers have to clean their hands with their kerchiefs.

2. Canteen! — Ten days back all canteen in the factory area were removed by the authorities. There are now only three canteens which serve only tea. There is no arrangement for mid-day ~~with~~ meal.

3. First-Aid! — There are first aid boxes in every departments but they are only for show. First aid is not available when required.

Hospitals 4. There are only two hospitals which are quite inadequate to cater the needs of such a vast area.

5. Continuity of Service! — When NMRs are promoted to work-charge categories, they are admitted as such as a new entrant. The period for which they have served as NMR is not counted. Similar is the case of work-charge absorbed as regular hands.

the employees rightly feel that the total period for which they have served the Company should be counted in their service period. ✓

6. Demotion in grade when absorbed as Regular hands : During the last three or four months work-charge staff have begun to be absorbed as regular hands. But in doing so their seniority is not considered, no test is held. Actually there is demotion in grades of any an employee. e.g.

✓ A 1st grade fitter is asked to accept 3rd grade fitter's job (of course without monetary loss).

The employees are very much discontented over this. They are sometimes made to accept such jobs under threat of discharge in case of refusal.

7. (a) Rights of Work-charge threatened : <sup>Recs</sup> Recruitment <sup>from outside</sup> to of Regular hands <sup>continues</sup> even now. The workers who have contributed their best in erecting the plant rightly demand first preference.

(b) Several work-charge staff have been transferred to the operation section without any interview and appointment order.

8. No proper fixation of pay scale : — In this matter, there is utter chaos. Salaries of workers doing one type of job in the same department differ. There is one pay scale for workers coming from Kullu, another for those coming from the Lata still another for those employed directly.

Even work-charge staff are assigned ~~spec~~ work in the operation and their pay is the lowest of all varying from Rs 75/- to Rs 80/-.

— qualification and experience is not considered while fixing the pay scales of an employee.

9. House-Rent : — If a house is allotted to a worker with a family he has to pay 10% of his pay as house rent. If the same is allotted to four bachelors, all the four have to pay 10% of their salaries as house-rent.

10. Working hours :- Recently the hours of work for the ministerial staff have been fixed from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. These people have to come go from places like Rajnandgaon, Durg and Raipur and distant parts of the township. ~~There~~ As the project vehicles operate only in the project area, there is no proper transport facilities for people living in Rajnandgaon, Durg and Raipur.

11. Construction Allowance :- This allowance is available only to ministerial staff & those employed in operation as on or before May 1959.

12. Annual increment and promotion are not granted ~~at~~ and when they are due. This is <sup>the</sup> main grievance of the work-charges.

Lastly, we should raise the question of wage board for steel workers. They being the hub of national industry should get ~~the~~ priority in matters of pay scales. We should demand Rs 150/- basic minimum for every skilled category <sup>and</sup> proper designation.



- (1) Sabotage ? - What are facts to support it ?
- (2) Why refuse negotiation when the union ~~placard~~ asked for the same - also submitted memorandum to Sardar Saran Singh etc. what are the demands accepted -
- (3) Promotion policy - seniority overruled.
- (4) Construction Allowance - Why not paid to all ? - Operational & Constructional - Why reduced to 12½% from 25%.
- (5) Retrenchment vis-a-vis Recruitment -
- (6) Accommodation - Quarters.  
- Two hospitals only.
- (7) Medical facilities - accident compensation - delay in getting sick benefits
- (8) Transport arrangement for those who come from adjoining areas.
- (9) Schools & Dispensaries in Camp areas
- (10) ~~Diff~~ Different grades when nature of the work is the same - no proper gradation - Equal pay for the same job.
- (11) Delay in payment wages.
- (12) Works Committees -
- (13) More Canteens.
- (14) When workers are ~~promoted to another job~~ transferred to another place after the finishing of a particular work, they are treated as newly employed ones - old service record not taken into account.  
- in Electrical Dept.
- (15) Rent - no uniformity.
- (16) ~~Wages~~ Dresses for workers working in Blast Furnace, Coke oven & byproduct Plants

# TAMASKAR CALLS FOR END OF STRIKE AT BHILAI PROJECT

BY A STAFF REPORTER

BHOPAL, Feb. 18.

"I feel very much grieved" said the P. S. P. leader Mr. Tamaskar when the Bhilai situation was made known to him this afternoon.

Making his stand "perfectly clear" Mr. Tamaskar stated that he felt that it was his duty to advise Mr. Dubey to withdraw his hunger strike immediately and unconditionally and persuade the workers to resume work immediately.

News about the Bhilai strike having taken a violent turn had caused deep concern in the capital.

A P.T.I. message from Raipur adds:

A zonal engineer of the Bhilai Steel Plant was assaulted and two jeeps of the Plant burnt down yesterday by angry workmen who were striking in sympathy with Mr. Deosharan Dubey, General Secretary of the Bhilai Steel Kamgar Union, who has been on a fast since February 11.

Some stray cases of stone throwing were also reported.

Police pickets have been posted at the Steel Plant and the Commissioner for Raipur Division,

M. R. P. Noronha, said this morning that the situation was peaceful.

According to reports received here, the engineer had been to Mr. Dubey where he was mobbed by some workmen. In a state of panic the engineer tried to drive away in his vehicle and knocked down a worker. Following this, the engineer was assaulted and two jeeps were burnt down.

According to a Bhopal message Mr. K. F. Rustomji, Madhya Pradesh Inspector General of Police and the Deputy Inspector General of Police left this morning by plane for Bhilai after being informed of the incident.

## DEMANDS

Mr. Dubey has been on a fast demanding better "safety measures" at the Plant. In a statement which he had issued before going on hunger strike, Mr. Dubey had alleged that there had been a number of accidents at the plant which could have been avoided if better safety measures had been adopted. He had also

(Continued on page 6)

## Bhilai Strike

(Continued from Page One)  
complained that in many cases compensation remained still to be paid.

Mr. Dubey has been fasting at the Coke Oven site in camp number four. Workmen here and in adjoining sites struck work yesterday in sympathy with him partially dislocating the work at the plant.

## OFFICIAL REPORT

There were reports in the local press this morning that the labour trouble had resulted in some damage to the Steel Plant. But these were denied by the General Manager of the Plant, Mr. Nirmalchandra Srivastava. He said that no damage had been caused to the Plant by workmen.

The Divisional Commissioner, M. Noronha contradicted also local press reports that the police had lathi charged the striking workmen. He said that no lathi charge was made. Neither had orders under Section 144 been promulgated as reported in the local press, Mr. Noronha said.

The Commissioner said that all necessary precautions, including the posting of public pickets, had been taken for the maintenance of peace and order and the safety of the Steel Plant.

## MR. TAMASKAR'S STATEMENT

When contacted, Mr. V. Y. Tamaskar, Leader of the PSP group in the State Assembly, said that he felt very much grieved over the situation prevailing at Bhilai and stated that all the disputes would have been avoided only if the Project officials and the Labour Department had been alert to the demands submitted by the Union. It was the contemptuous attitude of the Labour Department which was solely responsible for the situation. He, however, said that he left Durg on February 9, and was not aware of the situation now prevailing.

Still he stated that he felt his duty to advise Mr. Dubey to withdraw his hunger strike immediately and unconditionally and persuade the workers to resume work immediately.

# STRIKERS INDULGE IN HOOLIGANISM AT BHILAI

## Official Version Of The Situation

BHOPAL, Feb. 13

THE Director of Information and Publicity, Madhya Pradesh, issued the following press note late tonight giving the official version of the strike situation at Bhilai:

"On the 3rd February 1960, a notice containing 13 demands was sent to the General Manager, Bhilai Steel Project by the Bhilai Steel Kamgar Union. Thereafter on the 10th February, Shri Devsaran Dubey, General Secretary of the Union started a hunger strike to enforce the acceptance of the demands. On the 17th February, about 300 construction workers of the Open Hearth Section went on strike without notice. The hunger strike and the strike by the workers contravened the Labour Regulations.

"At about 9 a.m. on the 17th, the striking workers forced their way into the room of Shri Prasanna, Zonal Engineer and insisted that some of those whose promotion cases were pending should be promoted forthwith. Shri Prasanna said that he could not pass orders offhand in this manner. At this

the workers surrounded him and threatened him. When he came out of his room they followed him closely and his driver brought his jeep to take him away. At this stage, the workers assaulted Shri Prasanna and bent him till he fell unconscious. They then burnt his jeep which was the property of the Bhilai Steel Project. They also burnt another project jeep which was parked nearby.

### STRIKE SPREADS

"The strikers then moved in various parts of the project area, persuading others to join the strike. On receiving information of these happenings, the D.M., the D.S.P. and the A.D.M. proceeded to the spot and persuaded the mob of striking workers, which had by now swelled to about 5000, to refrain from violence. They were not successful in their efforts.

(Continued on Page Six)

# HOOLIGANISM AT BHILAI

(Continued from Page One)  
The mob then placed obstacles on the various roads.

"The General Manager informed the Commissioner, Raipur, of the situation at about 11 a.m. and the Commissioner ordered police reinforcements to Bhilai. At about 4 p.m. the situation worsened and there was sporadic stone-throwing by the mob of strikers. There were also instances of illegal and forcible entry into the project buildings including the welfare office.

### COMMISSIONER INTERVENES

"When the Commissioner, Raipur, was apprised of the worsening situation, he proceeded to Bhilai himself and reached there at about 6 p.m. By this time, there was comparative peace. The Commissioner, Collector and D.S.P. inspected the trouble spots and contacted Shri Devsaran Dubey. The Commissioner offered to use his good offices in arriving at a settlement of the demands if a more peaceful atmosphere could be created. He also emphasized the need to prevent damage that would be caused to certain installations if they are not kept working. For example, the blast furnaces and coke ovens needed to be kept at adequate temperature. Shri Dubey promised to do his best for reaching a settlement.

### HOOLIGANISM BY STRIKERS

"On the morning of the 18th, the majority of workers went to join their duty. But by 8-30 a.m. the strikers invaded the premises and did everything possible to force them to join the strike. Vigorous and concerted efforts were made to ensure the safety of essential installations. The strikers threw stones and forced their way into buildings and blocked the roads. A wagon was actually welded to the rails to prevent slag moving to the slag dump and thus force a breakdown of the furnaces. The police and the magistrates exercised commendable restraint and repeatedly removed obstructions

and persuaded the strikers to vacate buildings. But by 11 a.m. it became evident that the situation was rapidly deteriorating. The D.M. therefore promulgated an order under Section 144 Cr.P.C. banning the assembly of five or more persons in the project area and imposing certain other restrictions. At about 11-30 a.m. a mob invaded the power generating plant and were bent on destroying vital installations. If they had succeeded, irreparable damage to the project would have resulted.

A.S.P. Shri Janak Kumar rushed to the spot and made every effort to disperse the mob. But since he failed in this he was forced to fire five revolver shots in the air to protect the vital installations. This dispersed the crowd for the time being, and prevented damage to the plant, and no one was injured. A little while later, a large crowd attempted to invade the power house and tear gas shells were fired and a few mild cane charges were made. Similar incidents took place elsewhere in the project area. But gradually the authorities got the situation under control and by about 2 p.m. the situation had improved. There was no serious injury to the police or to the public and damage to essential installations of the Steel Plant has been averted. The I.G. of Police and D.I.G. Raipur flew from Bhopal to Bhilai arriving on the 18th afternoon. Though the atmosphere is still tense, the authorities are now in full control of the situation. Adequate forces have reached the area and more are being sent.

संयुक्त खदान मजदूर संघ

Samyukt Khadan Mazdur Sangh

( Regd. No. 2550 )

Durg District Branch

P. O. RAJNANDGAON (M. P.)

Affiliate to:—

INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Dated 18.2.60 19

Dear Com K.L. Shivaraya

Secy. A.T.U.C

N. Delhi

Dear Com,  
on 9.2.60 I sent you a  
report from Iron Mines Camp, suggesting  
some points, and giving the latest org.  
position. I don't know, that letter you  
received in time or not. At least  
there is no acknowledgment from you  
after 20th January 60.

In my letter of 9.2.60 I had  
mentioned some developments in Bihar  
Steel project - regarding P.S.P union leader  
Shri Duley's Hunger strike and I.N.T.U.C  
quarrel etc.

The enclosed paper callings will  
give you further developments and we d

Know what will be the further  
effect of all these.

What I guess, this will  
have some effect in Miss also  
Auburn's attitude I mean.

I know what you all have  
decided.

With greetings

Prakash Ray

1971

ms 858  
ms 858



# उत्तेजित श्रमिकों द्वारा जीपें जलाई गईं; धारा १७ लागू लाठी चार्ज; सशस्त्र पुलिस तैनात

(हमारे प्रतिनिधि द्वारा टंक से)

मिलाई नगर, बुधवार । आज दोपहर मिलाई इस्पात कारखाने में हुए दंगे ने गंभीर रूप धारण कर लिया जिसके फलस्वरूप मिलाई कारखाना तथा नगर क्षेत्र में दुर्ग के कलेक्टर द्वारा पुलिस एकट की धारा १७ लागू कर मिलाई सुरक्षा पुलिस को क्षेत्र में शांति बनाये रखने के लिए सारे अधिकार सौंप दिये गये ।

ऐसा पता चला है कि मजदूरों की भीड़ ने उत्तेजित हो इस्पात कारखाने की दो जीप गाड़ियां जला दीं। यद्यपि अधिकृत रूप से समाचार की पुष्टि नहीं हुई किन्तु ऐसा कहा जाता है कि मजदूरों को एकत्रित भीड़ को

तितर वितर करने के लिए पुलिस को लाठी चार्ज करना पड़ा। रायपुर तथा दुर्ग से सशस्त्र पुलिस तथा प्रभु गैस पुलिस के दस्ते यहां बुलाये गये हैं।

मिलाई कामगार संघ के महा-मंत्री श्री देवशरण दुबे गत ११ फरवरी से इस्पात कारखाने के मजदूरों की अनेक मांगों को लेकर भूल हड़ताल पर हैं। यह भी कहा जा रहा है कि १२ फरवरी को यांत्रिकों के दुर्व्यवहार के कारण रोलिंग मिल के कुछ मजदूरों ने हड़ताल प्रारम्भ कर दी थी किन्तु पश्चात पुनः काम पर आ गये। मजदूरों में यांत्रिकों व अधिकारियों द्वारा किये जाने वाले दुर्व्यवहार से असंतोष बढ़ रहा था। आज इस्पात योजना के अधिकारियों द्वारा श्री देवशरण दुबे को वहां से हटाने का प्रयत्न किया गया इससे मजदूरों में रोष उत्पन्न हुआ। ऐसा कहा जा रहा है कि सोवियत प्रधान मंत्रों की मिलाई यात्रा के समय श्री देवशरण दुबे पर अधिकारियों ने काफी कड़ी नजर रखी थी।

आज सुबह जब इस्पात योजना के प्रमुख द्वार पर मजदूरों की भीड़ ने अधिकारियों की मोटरों रोकनी प्रारम्भ की तो प्रारम्भ में स्थिति बिलकुल गंभीर नहीं थी किन्तु धीरे धीरे स्थिति गंभीर होते गई और मजदूरों ने कारखाने की दो जीपें जला दीं। ऐसा कहा जाता है कि इस्पात कारखाने के कुछ मालिकों तथा अधिकारियों ने मजदूरों के साथ रोषपूर्ण भाषा में व्यवहार कर उन्हें डांटा जिससे मजदूरों ने उन पर आक्रमण करने का प्रयत्न किया। मजदूर क्षेत्रों द्वारा इस समाचार का पूर्णतः खंडन किया जा रहा है कि मजदूरों ने किसी भी प्रकार का दुर्व्यवहार किया प्रथम अधिकारियों का अपमान किया उनका कहना है कि मजदूर पूर्णतः शांत थे। पुलिस ही उनके साथ दुर्व्यवहार किया और सख्ती की। ऐसा ज्ञात हुआ है कि एम. ए. डी. के एक अधिकारी जीप में जा रहे थे। भीड़ ने जीप को रोक अधिकारी से मजदूरों की मांगे पूरी करने के लिये कहा। अधिकारी महोदय ने मजदूरों पर जीप चलाने का प्रयत्न किया जिससे सारी भीड़ उत्तेजित हो उठी। जीप चलाने से दो मजदूरों की मामूली चोट भी आई। भीड़ को सामने आते देख उत्त अधिकारी जीप छोड़कर भाग गये। भीड़ ने उनकी तथा वहां खड़ा एक अन्य जीप को जला दिया। इसी से दंगा शुरू हो गया।

दंगे की सूचना मिलते ही आयुक्त श्री नरोना, डी. एस. पी. श्री रामसिंह तत्काल रायपुर से यहां पहुंचे। दुर्ग से कलेक्टर श्री रामप्रसाद मिश्रा तथा डी. एस. पी. श्री पांडे भी यहां आ गये। रायपुर से करीब ६० सशस्त्र पुलिस का दस्ता और प्रभु पुलिस का दस्ता यहां आया हुआ है। दुर्ग से भी सशस्त्र पुलिस आई हुई है। विलासपुर से भी सशस्त्र पुलिस बुलाई गई है। आज शाम से रात्रि को काफी देर तक जनरल मैनेजर श्री निर्मलचंद्र श्रीवास्तव के कार्यालय में अधिकारियों की बैठक होती रही। मजदूर क्षेत्रों में आज स्थिति काफी तनावपूर्ण है। यह समाचार

## राणु परीक्षण

### नादल भारत में न्तित न होने की तीन स्थगन प्रस्ताव

नई दिल्ली, बुधवार। आज प्रधान मंत्री श्री नेहरू ने लोकसभा में कहा कि अफ्रीकी देशों के विरोध तथा संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के अनुरोध के बावजूद फ्रांस ने सहारा में परिभारण परीक्षण किया है जो खेद का विषय है। परीक्षण से पुनः संसार में परमाणु परीक्षणों का सिलसिला जारी हो जावेगा श्री नेहरू ने आशा व्यक्त की कि बड़े देशों की बैठक संसार में परमाणु परीक्षणों को रोकने में सफल रहेगी।

श्री नेहरू सदन में अनेक स्थगन प्रस्तावों के विरोध में भाषण दे रहे थे। सर्वश्री एम. जी. गोरे, हेम बरुमा, यादव श्री खाड़ीकर तथा श्री एस. एन. बलजी ने तीन स्थगन प्रस्तावों में कहा था कि सहारा में फ्रांस द्वारा किये गये परमाणु विस्फोट के फलस्वरूप रेडियमघर्मी तत्व के बादल भारत की ओर बढ़े आ रहे हैं। प्रधान मंत्री श्री नेहरू ने बताया कि भारतीय परमाणु अनुसंधान कार्यों के प्रधान डा. भाभा ने आज सुबह ही उन्हें सूचना दी है कि भारत के मानो-टर करने वाले किसी भी केन्द्र को ऐसा संकेत नहीं मिला है। श्री नेहरू ने सदन को आश्वासन दिया कि इस सम्बन्ध में सूचना देते रहेंगे।

### स्थित काबू में शासकीय प्रवक्ता द्वारा घटनाओं पर प्रकाश

मिलाई नगर, बुधवार। एक शासकीय प्रवक्ता ने नवभारत प्रतिनिधि को एक भेट में बताया कि यह समाचार गलत है कि श्री देवशरण दुबे को हटाने का प्रयत्न किया गया। आज श्री दुबे की स्थिति कुछ चिन्ताजनक थी इसी मजदूर वहां एकत्रित हुए। मजदूरों ने मार्गों पर वाहनों को रोकने के लिए पाइप आदि डाल रखे थे। कमिश्नर नरोना तथा प्रमुख प्रशासन श्री श्रीवास्तव ने श्री दुबे तथा अन्य मजदूर नेताओं ने भूखहड़ताल समाप्त करने के संबंध में चर्चा की। वे संभवतः कल पुनः चर्चा करेंगे। पुलिस ने कारखाना तथा प्रमुख कार्यालय के

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ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

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February 16, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress which met in Delhi on February 13-16, adopted the following resolutions:

1. ON THE SHARP RISE IN PRICES

Prices of necessary commodities, specially foodgrains, which were already high, are sharply rising, causing acute distress to millions of workers and other people with low incomes. The price rise is mostly due to artificial causes such as speculation, cornering of stocks, hoarding and inflation of currency.

The unstable price level and the sharp and sudden rises in prices not only hit the poor sections of the population but make planning itself difficult.

Hence a stable price level is necessary not only for the economic well-being of the vast majority of the people but also for planning and reconstruction.

The General Council, therefore, demands that the Government should adopt a price policy which should stabilise prices.

As immediate steps, the General Council demands:

- i) Prices of essential commodities should be controlled.
- ii) Cheap grain shops should be opened in urban and rural areas.
- iii) Dearness Allowance should be everywhere linked with the cost of living indices.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRIPARTITE DECISIONS

This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC notes with deep concern that various decisions taken at the tripartite Indian Labour Conferences have not yet been implemented.

- \* Wage Boards have not been appointed in eight of the eleven industries in which they were scheduled to be appointed, despite repeated demands by the workers.
- \* The norms agreed upon for fixation of minimum wages have been completely ignored by the Central Pay Commission and various Minimum Wage Committees. The Government has taken up the strange position that these norms are not binding.
- \* The agreement regarding rationalisation, retrenchment and closures is being consistently violated by employers.
- \* The Code of Discipline is being enforced only against the workers of their own organisation and is a dead letter, even in the Public Sector where the Government itself is the employer.

These violations of the tripartite decisions are not accidental but represent a retreat by the Government in the face of organised pressure by the capitalists.



The General Council, therefore, feels that the working class must unitedly raise its voice in defence of agreements already arrived at.

It calls upon the Government to take immediate and concrete steps to fulfil these decisions.

To make its protest against the violation of these decisions and the failure of the Government to carry out their obligations accepted by them, the General Council calls upon all workers, irrespective of their affiliation, to observe as a first step from April 3 to 10, 1960 as a Protest Week by holding meetings and demonstrations.

It authorises the Secretariat of the AITUC to review the position after the observance of the Protest Week to decide such further steps as it may think necessary.

### 3. ON SECOND PAY COMMISSION

This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC considers the Second Pay Commission's Report as utterly unsatisfactory in its recommendations and reactionary in its approach.

The Second Pay Commission has upset the positive achievements of the First Pay Commission in the approach to wage norms, wage differentials and dearness allowance.

The Second Pay Commission, at the instance of the Finance Ministry, had reversed the needbased wage norms laid down unanimously at the fifteenth Tripartite Indian Labour Conference in 1957. It has advanced fictitious theories and fallacious arguments concerning the caloric requirements of a worker and the contents of the balanced diet to meet these requirements.

The Commission, by implication, has fallen a victim to the discredited theory of wage-price spiral and attacked the wage-standards of workers.

By refusing to link the Dearness Allowance with the cost of living index, the Commission has thrown the employees to the vagaries of the price market and the mercies of the executive authority.

The Commission has admitted the case of wage rise. But it has conceded little.

The Commission has admitted the contribution of the Central Government employees to the administration of the country, the developing economy and the rise in national income. But it has denied them their due share in it.

Granting only Rs.5 enhancement in the emoluments of the lowest paid employee, in addition to the Rs.5 interim relief granted earlier in 1957, the Commission has directly enhanced the workload by cutting down the existing leave and holiday facilities which in the case of certain sections work out to an enhancement of work by a month and sixteen days.

The Commission has curtailed the pass and the privilege ticket order facilities enjoyed by railwaymen for a long time.

The Government of India have only added insult to injury by a further attack on the rest and leisure by giving only one Saturday off every month as against alternate Saturdays off recommended by the Commission.

In actual practice, in the case of large sections of low paid employees, the take-home pay packet shall be less than the present amount, because of the compulsory and enhanced Provident Fund deductions. In the case of others, the actual rise in emoluments shall be nominal.

The upshot of the recommendation is that the Government earn a lot for developmental expenditure by way of Provident Fund accumulations. But the employees are denied their share of this development.

The AITUC shares the indignation of the Central Government employees and wholeheartedly supports the steps on the part of their organisations to come together in a conference and plan united action to secure their legitimate demands and form a Joint Committee of all their organisations to conduct this struggle.

The AITUC fully supports the demand of the Confederation of Central Government Employees that the Government convene a conference of the representatives of all Central Government employees' organisations to arrive at a settlement on the report, its recommendations and the grievances arising out of them.

The AITUC calls upon the entire trade union movement to mobilise unitedly in support of the Central Government employees not only for solidarity with them but in defence of their own interests, which will suffer a great setback due to the Pay Commission's attack on the gains of the working class in the field of wages and dearness allowance and thus reverse the achievements of the 15th Tripartite.

The trade union movement has to unitedly act to restore these gains of the past and defeat this attack by the Pay Commission.

#### 4. ON INDIA-CHINA DISPUTE AND T.U. UNITY

This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC welcomes the proposals by Prime Minister Nehru to bring about a meeting between him and Prime Minister of China in order to find grounds for settling the dispute on the border question by negotiations and talks.

The efforts to settle this dispute by peaceful negotiations and without any loss to our country's legitimate rights and positions are obstructed by some circles in our country, who stand to gain by keeping up an atmosphere of tension and even war psychosis in the name of national emergency and national defence, though they and everybody else knows for a fact that India runs no danger of war on us from anyone or from us on anyone.

These interests, particularly embedded in the reactionary capitalist landlord circles and their allies or victims, utilise the sentiments of national defence, to call upon the workers to give up their demands of wages and defence of their standards of living, under the plea of the nation in danger.

The AITUC fully shares the view that the nation must always be fully equipped with an efficient heavy industry and it must be quickly built as a base not only for defence but also for achieving economic independence and prosperity. The trade unions of the AITUC and its workers are fully prepared to discharge their tasks in this matter.

At the same time, it is necessary to point out to the ruling circles and the people that those who call upon the workers to do their duty to the nation are themselves endangering the nation's economy and the life of the masses, who are the real backbone and sinews of the nation, by permitting the speculators and hoarders, landlords and monopolists to play with the prices and supplies of food, cloth and other essential goods to the people. If there is a state of national emergency, how are these anti-social activities of the vested interests which only enrich their narrow interests, allowed to continue? Why do the ruling circles resist the exposure and uprooting of corruption in the vital cores of administration and economy of the country? Why are the toiling people subjected to continued attacks on their living and working conditions for the benefit of the profiteers who by their activities do everything to weaken the people and the nation, their will to work, live, and build up the country's economy and strength by their labour and toil of hand and brain.

The AITUC warns the working class of the sinister designs of these vested interests to divide the trade union movement and the unions of the AITUC now with the new plea of the nation in danger.

The AITUC is ever ready to discharge its duty in defence of the country in the protection of its independence and at the same time, protecting the life and work of the toiling masses.

It calls upon the workers to preserve the solidarity and unity of their organisation to fulfil the above tasks.

5. ON THE SITUATION FACING TRADE UNIONS  
IN KERALA

This meeting of the General Council of the AITUC views with deep anxiety the situation that the trade unions in Kerala are facing today and are likely to face in future. Trade union activists, particularly agricultural labour, are being attacked.

It is likely that policies vigorously opposed to the unity and interests of the working people and their organisations shall be adopted and the gains made during the last 2½ years will be attacked.

This Council is therefore of the opinion that it is all the more necessary for the workers and trade unions to hold on firmly and build unity from below to defend their previous gains and make further advances.

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*K.G. Sriwastava*  
(K.G. Sriwastava) *FEB 16*  
Secretary, AITUC

February 16, 1960

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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February 16, 1960

The four-day meeting of the General Council of the AITUC held under the presidentship of Shri S.S.Mirajkar, President, took a serious view of the situation caused by the alarming rise in prices and demanded immediate increase in dearness allowance in organised industries, linking it with the cost of living index and full neutralisation of dearness.

The Council described the report of the Central Pay Commission as retrograde and supported the steps taken by the Confederation of Central Government Employees, All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the All-India Defence Employees Federation, to meet together in a convention and chalk out a united programme and assured support of the AITUC to whatever steps they take to get their demands conceded. By another resolution, it viewed with concern the violation of tripartite agreements on the part of the Government and employers and decided to observe a week from April 3 to 10, 1960, to protest against the same.

The delay in the publication of the reports of the Wage Boards for Textile and Cement Industries and in the submission of the report of the Sugar Wage Board were criticised by the Council.

The Bill to ban meetings and processions in W.Bengal was condemned.

The Council expressed concern at the deteriorating industrial relations in the Public Sector undertakings. Resolutions condemning police firing on Rihand Dam workers, in W.Bengal and Kanpur, were adopted.

Condolence resolutions on the death of P.C.Bose, former AITUC Vice President, Badal Dev, leader of Jamshedpur steel workers, M.V.Wadhavkar, Member of the General Council, and Dr.Joseph of Agricultural Institute were passed.

The AITUC supported the demands of bank and transport workers for acceptance of their charter of demands and introduction and implementation of the new motor transport labour legislation on the basis of Expert Committee report respectively.

The draft Labour Policy in the Third Five Year Plan was also discussed and it was agreed that the policy should be to assure workers rise in wages and D.A., with increase in national prosperity, consistent protection against fall in real wages, for clearly defining and implementing the concept of minimum wages, control on prices and action against hoarders and other anti-social elements and the supply of foodgrains and other essentials at controlled prices, provision of necessary social security and last but not the least, compulsory recognition of trade unions.

The Council took note of the attack on the workers in Kerala and asked them to defend the gains made by them during the last 2½ years.

The Council welcomed the proposal for the meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and China to settle the border dispute. It criticised elements who stood to gain by keeping up an atmosphere of tension and even war psychosis in the name of national emergency and national defence (when there is no danger of war) and are calling upon the workers to give up their demands of wages and defence of their standards of living under the plea of nation in danger. While fully agreeing that the nation

P.T.O.

should remain equipped with an efficient heavy industry not only for defence but also for achieving economic independence and prosperity, and assuring that AITUC and its workers will discharge their tasks in this matter, it warns the working class of the sinister designs of the vested interests to divide the trade union movement and called upon them to maintain solidarity and unity of their organisations to fulfil their duty in defence of the country in protection of its independence and at the same time, protecting life and work of the toiling masses.

It was decided that the 26th Session of the AITUC should be held on its 40th Anniversary falling on 31st October 1960. The venue will be finally decided by the Secretariat.

The Council decided to tone up the organisation at each level and to effect the same, appointed a 4-member Standing Credential Committee consisting of Vice Presidents Dr. Ranen Sen MLA and Mrs Parvathi Krishnan MP and Secretaries K.G.Sriwastava and Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour, M.P.

Shri S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary, reviewed the economic situation in the country and the tasks of the trade unions in this year.

Dr. Ranen Sen, MLA, Vice President, reported on the 18th Session of the Standing Labour Committee. Shri K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, presented a report on the organisational position and the tasks.

Shri T.B.Vittal Rao, M.P., initiated the discussion on Government's proposals on draft labour policy during III Five Year Plan.

135 members out of 155 attended the meeting. Among those present, besides the names mentioned above, are Sarvashri K.T.K.Tangamani, M.P., Homi Daji, MLA (Indore), M.C.Narasimhan, MLA (Mysore), K.L.Narasimham, M.P., Dr.U.Mishra (Jamshedpur), N.K.Krishnan (Coimbatore), Satish Loomba (Jullundur), S.G.Patkar, MLA (Bombay), Shakir Ali Khan, MLA (Bhopal) and S.S.Yusuf (Kanpur)

*K.G. Sriwastava*  
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(K.G.Sriwastava)  
Secretary, AITUC 72316

AITUCONG"

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


February 12, 1960

For favour of Publication  
in "TODAY'S ENGAGEMENTS" COLUMN  
on Saturday, February 13, 1960

"Working Committee meeting of All-India  
Trade Union Congress at Vrihan Maharashtra Bhavan,  
Opp. Paharganj Police Station at 3.00 p.m.

"General Council meeting of All-India  
Trade Union Congress at Vrihan Maharashtra Bhavan,  
Opp. Paharganj Police Station at 4.00 p.m.

Shri S.S.Mirajkar, President, All-India Trade  
Union Congress, will preside."

  
(K.G. Srivastava)  
Secretary

To

The Editor,

T. U. LAW BUREAU:  
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President : S. S. MIRAJKAR.  
General Secretary : S. A. DANGE, M.P.

March 28, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The Secretariat of the All-India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement:

"The AITUC views with concern the large-scale unemployment of workers in the mica mining industry in Bihar, following the suspension of business by dealers in mica protesting against the imposition of multi-point sales-tax by the Bihar State Government.

"The collapse of the mica mining operations following the direct action by the dealers has brought total ruin to nearly 40,000 workers engaged in this industry in Bihar State. The State Government has not made any efforts to bring about a settlement in spite of the grave consequences of stoppage of production and the extremely large number of workers involved.

"The AITUC urges upon the Central Government to intervene immediately and bring about a settlement, and prevent the mass destitution of workers in the mica mines of Bihar."

*VM*  
(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary, AITUC

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

March 9, 1960

ON STRIKE OF STATE BANK EMPLOYEES

Shri S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary, AITUC, has issued the following statement:

"The All-India Trade Union Congress extends its solidarity to the striking employees of the State Bank of India and wishes them success in their struggle.

"As it appears from the statement made by the Finance Minister in Parliament, the Government broke off negotiations which had been going on with the State Bank of India Staff Federation on the ground that their demands were 'fantastic'. If the Government thought that the demands were 'fantastic', the Federation of the employees had offered the alternative that the dispute could be submitted to arbitration. The Finance Minister has given no reason why this offer was rejected and the employees were forced to go on strike.

"Moreover, it would be against the interests of the trade union movement as a whole if the employer - in this case, the Government of India - were to seek the right to determine even the character, tone and pitch of the demands that the employees should formulate.

"The Government of India has all along been preaching that disputes must be settled by direct negotiations between the employees and the employer and failing which, by arbitration. When both these forms were closed by the Government of India, what other alternative had the employees in this particular case?

"The bank employees in the Private Sector led by the All-India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) have also submitted their demands and the Government has been having consultations with them and the bankers on the question of appointment of a Commission to judge those demands and settle them. The Reserve Bank employees also have been having negotiations with the Government on their demands. Thus, all the three sectors are pressing forward their demands and are negotiating for quite a while. The bankers in the Private Sector have refused totally to sit with the AIBEA and negotiate either directly or in a tripartite conference.

"Thus, it seems, despite the great boom that the banking industry is enjoying, with the vast funds put at their disposal by Government's planning activities, they are unwilling to share the profits of this boom with the workers to any extent in order to improve the working conditions of the employees.

"The State Bank strike is an indication that the employees are not prepared to permit the dilatory tactics of the employers, whether in the Private or the Public Sector, to deny them their just dues in the rising prosperity.

"If the Government does not move quickly in this matter, all the bank workers in the country might have to take to a sympathetic action with the striking State Bank employees and later on, for their own demands. Though as at present, the three wings of the bank employees working in the three sectors, namely, the private banks, the State Bank and the Reserve Bank, are pursuing their demands through their own separate organisations, the AITUC hopes that they will in future act together on the basis of joint consultations and face the employers in the banking industry as a whole - both State and Private - on a united basis, though with different demands according to their own working conditions.

"The AITUC requests the Government of India to change its unhelpful approach and open the way for settlement of the issues of the bank workers."

*S.A. Dange*  
(S. A. DANGE)  
General Secretary



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4 Ashok Road,  
New Delhi

April 10, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

MEETING OF PARLIAMENTARY BOARD OF THE  
SAMYUKTA MAHARASHTRA SAMITI

A meeting of the Parliamentary Board of the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti was held in Delhi on April 10, 1960, to consider the question of celebrations in connection with the establishment of the State of Maharashtra.

It was decided that on 27th April, which is the birthday of Shivaji, processions and meetings should be held throughout Maharashtra, to celebrate the birthday and the foundation of the Maharashtra State. It will also point out the pending problems of the border areas.

On 30th April midnight, when the new State comes into existence, homage will be paid to the martyrs who had fallen in the struggle for Samyukta Maharashtra.

The Samiti will also participate in the celebrations organised by the Government to celebrate the birthday of the new State. Programmes will be so arranged that there will be no overlapping between those organised by the Samiti and those organised by the State.



(S.A.DANGE), M.P.,  
President,  
Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti  
Parliamentary Board

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ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

April 13, 1960

Shri S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress, has issued the following statement:

"The oppressed people of South Africa are in revolt against the rule of the racist, white imperialists, who deny them democratic liberties and decent living.

"Millions of Africans are forced to work in conditions of slavery and starvation wages and the White capitalists fattening on their labour in the gold mines, coal mines and plantations, etc.;-are appropriating all the wealth of African labour for themselves.

"Even ordinary human liberties which are available to them in other capitalist countries are not available to the South Africans and millions of other Africans in their own homeland.

"The recent massacre of the fighters for liberation at the hands of the racists has roused the conscience of the world and has made it aware of the great evil that rules South Africa today, when the world is marching towards socialism and uprooting all vestiges of imperialism and slavery.

"The Parliament of our country has declared its solidarity with the struggle of the South African people. The trade unions of India and the working class should declare its solidarity with the African people.

"Hence the AITUC requests all trade unions affiliated to it or otherwise to observe next Sunday, April 17, as a Day of Solidarity with the struggle of the African people and protest against the fascist rule of the racists.

"Meetings, demonstrations, etc., should be held on this day and resolutions sent to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference asking them to put an end to the oppression of the African people."



Office Secretary

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ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

April 20, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

AITUC PROPOSES ALL-NATIONAL STRIKE IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

ON JUNE 14

Shri S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress, has issued the following statement:

"Leading organisers and representatives of cotton textile workers' unions affiliated to the AITUC met at Lonavala near Bombay on April 14 and 15 to discuss the report of the Textile Wage Board and measures to secure its early implementation.

"Despite the fact that the Board and the Government took nearly three years to come to conclusions on the question of the wages of the workers, and despite the fact that the wage increases recommended do not even come up to the level of the minimum standards agreed to in the 15th tripartite conference (Delhi, 1957), the millowners in India do not seem to be in a mood to give early effect to the recommendations contained in the Report on the matter of wage increases.

"From the statements of the leading millowners in the country, it is plain that the millowners will not give wage increase in the near future, until they have succeeded in reducing the number of workers employed and increasing their workload by means of rationalisation and securing from Government large financial assistance for the purpose.

"In view of this, it is found necessary that the textile workers will have to resort to action in order to secure the wage increases recommended by the Board. The meeting, therefore, took the following decisions:

- \* It called upon the workers in the textile industry to observe 6th of May as a Day of Demonstrations for the implementation of the Board's recommendations and securing wage increases.
- \* If the wage increase, with retrospective effect from January 1960, as recommended by the Board, is not included in the payment of the month of May 1960, preparations should be made to carry out a General Strike on June 14, 1960, first as a one-day Token Strike, to be followed by an indefinite General Strike, if the employers by then do not fulfil the demands.

"This is in addition to the action being taken by various unions in their own areas, such as, W.Bengal, Madras, etc.

"The following demands will be the central point of action for their fulfilment:

- (1) WAGE INCREASE - A flat increase of Rs.8 in mills of Category I and Rs.6 in mills of Category II, for all textile workers, including piece-rate workers. In the case of piece-rated workers, the flat increase should be as a lumpsum addition on their piece-rated earnings. The increase being due from January 1960, according to the recommendation of the Board, the arrears of Rs.32 and Rs.24 must be paid to the workers on the Pay Day of May 1960.
- (2) DEARNESS ALLOWANCE - The Dearness Allowance must be linked to the cost of living index immediately and Government must take steps to appoint a National Tribunal referred to in the Government resolution, in order to revise the standards of Dearness Allowance where they are inadequate and/or not linked to the cost of living index; the revision to be based on full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living.
- (3) RATIONALISATION - Tripartite bodies to be set up at the national and regional level in order to work out the norms and process of rationalisation, in terms of the decisions of the 15th Tripartite Convention. All Central TU organisations, through their unions, to be represented in this machinery. Proposed schemes of rationalisation must be suspended and should not be proceeded with until they are judged by these tripartite bodies.
- (4) The Government resolution accepting the recommendations of the Board has tried to cut the wage increase given by the Board by introducing a proviso that any wage increase that may have been secured by the workers by agreement with the employer, since the appointment of the Board, should be deducted from the present wage increase as given by the Wage Board. The Wage Board itself has made no <sup>such</sup> suggestion and the Government's resolution on this matter is, therefore, an unwarranted interference in the wage increase recommended by the Board. This proviso should be withdrawn by the Government.
- (5) Effective measures, including amendment of Company Law to prevent closures and prompt taking over of the closed units by the Government, as envisaged by the Nainital Conference, should be taken.

"The AITUC requests the Government of India to see that the employers meet the above demands.

"The AITUC also requests trade unions of all affiliations to join together for common action without which the vested interests of the textile industry will not implement the wage increases and will resort to dilatory actions on one plea or another.

"The strike action is forced on the workers, which they would have liked to avoid, in order to meet the tactics of the employers."



Secretary, AITUC

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

May 24, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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Shri K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, AITUC, has issued the following statement:

"We congratulate the textile workers of Madras State, particularly of Madras and Coimbatore, on the successful one-day token strike today for the implementation of the recommendations of the Textile Wage Board in this State.

"8,500 textile workers of textile mills in Rajasthan also deserve congratulations for a successful token strike on May 20, for the same purpose.

"Textile workers of W.Bengal will go on a one-day token strike on May 30, for the same reason.

"While the Millowners Association of Bombay has accepted to implement the unanimous recommendations of the Textile Wage Board in textile mills in Bombay, Ahmedabad and certain centres of Madhya Pradesh, employers in other textile centres are not only not falling in line but resisting and in some centres putting new conditions against working class interests.

"In Edward Mills, Beawar, which has been taken over by an Administrator appointed by Government, while workload has been increased and workers have been retrenched with effect from May 14, 1960, the Rajasthan Government is not taking any steps to raise workers' wages and D.A. in accordance with Wage Board recommendations. In Delhi and Punjab region, though negotiations have started, the employers are at present not willing to pay Rs.8 or Rs.6 on flat rate to the piece-rated workers as was done in Bombay, etc. In Kanpur, the employers have not even started negotiations and the U.P. Government is too slow to move in the matter.

"The token strikes are a significant expression of the determination on the part of the textile workers to get tripartite decisions implemented peacefully and at the earliest. Some of the employers are putting the cart before the horse in that they go on introducing rationalisation without implementing the recommendation regarding wage increase and D.A.

"The Central Government has not yet set up the National Tribunal to which the issue of linking D.A. with cost of living index and full neutralisation of dearness has to be referred.

"If the recommendations of the Wage Board regarding rise in wages and D.A. are not implemented by the employers at the earliest and the State Governments do not move quickly to intervene in this respect and if, as is happening at certain centres, rationalisation goes on being introduced, textile workers all over India will unite and as per the decision at the recent Textile Conference held at Bombay, they will fight it out.

"We hope that wise counsel will prevail with the employers and the Government to do the needful before it is too late."

*K.G. Sriwastava*  
(K.G.Sriwastava) 24/5  
Secretary, AITUC

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ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

June 30, 1960

The Secretariat of the All-India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement:

"The Secretariat of the All-India Trade Union Congress notes with concern that following the refusal of the Government of India even to agree to meet the Joint Council of Action of the Central Government Employees, the employees have now been forced to go in for a general strike from July 11.

"The All-India Trade Union Congress expresses its solidarity with the Central Government employees and their trade unions and assures them of its support in their just struggle.

"The AITUC notes that the spokesmen of the Government of India, in an attempt to reject the justified demands of the Central Government employees vis-a-vis the Pay Commission's recommendations, have adduced arguments which are particularly deplorable, not only from the point of view of the Central Government employees but of the trade union movement as such.

"For instance, it has been claimed by official spokesmen that linking the dearness allowance with cost of living index, in order that the employees may be adequately compensated for the rise in prices, would allegedly upset planning, or create 'inflation'. It has also been claimed that if this demand is conceded, Government employees will become a 'privileged class'.

"To reply to such absurd propositions, one may only point out the fact that in organised industries as in textiles, coal, etc., as well as in banking, the principle of sliding scale of D.A. had been long ago accepted. The Wage Boards for Textile as well as Cement Industries have also upheld this principle of linking D.A. with consumer price indices. The working of this principle which is, indeed, a principle which should be made applicable to all organised industries and services, has not created any amount of inflation in this country. Nor has it made any particular sections of workers into 'privileged classes'.

"What the employees have demanded is only that the recommendations made by the First Pay Commission should be continued to be applicable even now and implemented. When the Government had accepted this principle as per the First Commission's Report, one could see no reason why Government should adopt a contrary position in this case today.

"Similarly, the demand for National Minimum Wage to be fixed in terms of the principles enunciated by the 15th Indian Labour Conference, rational and equitable determination of differentials, appointment of Ministry/Department-wise Standing Boards consisting of equal representation of labour and the concerned Ministries/Departments with neutral Chairman, no curtailment of any existing amenities, rights and privileges, reference of disputes for arbitration and provision of ballot for recognition of unions, etc., are only the just and minimum demands of the employees which deserve immediate settlement.

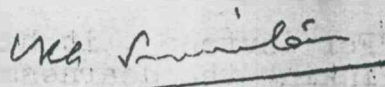
. . . . The outright rejection of the

"The outright rejection of the norms laid down by the 15th Indian Labour Conference by the Second Pay Commission, on the advice of the Government, has justifiably angered the entire working class. The contradictory statements made by Cabinet Ministers, some reiterating and some denouncing the tripartite agreements have not served to reassure the working class on Government's bona fides on this question.

"It has to be pointed out that the Second Pay Commission took incorrect decisions on the basis of wrong information given by the Finance Ministry of the Government with regard to the decision of the 15th Indian Labour Conference on need-based minimum wages. Therefore the revision of the Pay Commission's recommendations could mean no reflection on the Commission, its Chairman or its Members.

"Use of force, repression and declaring a perfectly legal strike as illegal have not in the past served the purpose of either satisfying the workers or terrorising them - rather it has added fuel to the fire.

"The AITUC hopes that the Government will abandon such a policy and will start negotiations with the Joint Council of Action of Central Government Employees for an honourable settlement, before it is too late."



(K.G.Sriwastava)  
Secretary, AITUC.

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An impression has been given by spokesmen of the Government of India, through the press, that the Government has always been willing for negotiations with the Central Government Employees' Unions, to discuss the issues arising out of the Second Pay Commission's Report and Government's decisions thereon. The Joint Council of Action had written to Prime Minister Nehru for interview in early April and was earnestly awaiting an opportunity to present him our case. It is the Government which has closed the door by refusing ~~an~~ interview with the representatives of Joint Council of Action of Central Government Employees saying that "it will serve no useful purpose" (Prime Ministers letter to the Joint Council of Action dated June 10, 1960 - copy enclosed).

The Council has kept its door open. The negotiations will have to be conducted with the Council and meetings in individual capacity of both Shri Nanda and some members of the Council may help him in understanding our viewpoint; But these cannot by any means be negotiations in the real sense of the term, which may be conducive to arrive at a settlement

It has been stated that there is a "national emergency" and then "Plan emergency". We are accustomed to the declaration of "national emergency" whenever our demands have to be backed with struggle against Government's intransigence. But somehow this so-called situation of "emergency" do not seem to have come in the way of important Ministers, notably the Finance Minister, the Railway Minister and the Defence Minister, going on long tours outside the country.

To make the Second and Third Five Year Plans successful, it is essential that Government employees whose contribution to



plan successes is now being recognised in theory, are assured of plan benefits along with the successes achieved, at proper intervals.

Another point has been raised that if Dearness Allowance is linked with the cost of living index, the Central Government employees will stand to benefit as a class. In textiles, banks and some other industries, the Dearness Allowance is already linked with the cost of living index. The Central Wage Boards which have submitted reports on Cement and Textile industries have accepted this demand.

The First Pay Commission had also accepted the demand for linking ~~with~~ the Dearness Allowance with cost of living indices. The Government had accepted this recommendation though for its implementation in 1949, 1951 and 1957, all-India struggles had to be announced, preparations made and at the eleventh hour, Government had partially conceded the demand.

Plan aims at standard of living going up with plan successes. When prices are going up and wages are not raised to compensate them, the Plan may succeed in erection of factories, and even in production, but real wages of the workers - the main factor for success of planning - goes down. It should be the aim of planning to increase real earnings of the masses in general and the working people in particular, and not to reduce it. Working people can sacrifice more in the form of more labour and not in the reduction of already low and fixed wages. The 22 Lakhs of Central Government employees and their dependants are an important section depending upon fixed wages and linking their Dearness Allowance with cost of living indices, as it should be of others also, will not make them a specially protected class.

The INTUC has proved its unreliability in times of strikes by the workers, in many sectors and centres, in the past. The Government will be taking too big a risk in depending on them and their suggestions to weaken the Central Government employees' strike.

The wiser and safer way for the Government is to concede the just demands of the employees and open negotiations with the Council as such.

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

# अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD,  
NEW DELHI

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

109  
June 20, 1960

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

### ON THE STRIKE OF MUSTER-ROLL WORKERS IN ROURKELA STEEL PLANT

"The All-India Trade Union Congress views with concern the labour policy of the Government of India with regard to the workers in the Public Sector steel plants, due to which the steel plant workers have to resort to direct action to get even the most elementary demands conceded by the authorities.

"The strike by muster-roll workers in the Rourkela steel plant from June 16, is a clear illustration of this most callous policy. The demands of the muster-roll workers in Rourkela are almost the same as those raised by the Bhilai workers in the recent strike there, viz., to raise the miserably low minimum wage from Rs.45 to Rs.75 per month.

"After the strike in Bhilai, this demand was conceded to the Bhilai workers. It was expected that the wage rise for the low-paid categories in other steel plants in the Public Sector would also be similarly granted. Apparently this has not been done in Rourkela and the workers have been forced to go on strike - without which, it seems, the workers' grievances will not be attended to by Government.

"The other demands of the workers are also so elementary like water supply, medical facilities, housing, etc. that one is astonished to find that even for these minimum facilities, the workers have to go on strike.

"The AITUC urges upon the Union Steel Ministry to intervene in the matter immediately and concede the demands of the workers and thus avert the fall in production which will follow from a prolonged strike by the workers."

(K.G.Sriwastava)  
Secretary, AITUC

To  
Editor,

17  
Cable : "AITUCONG"

T. U. LAW BUREAU:  
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4, ASHOK ROAD,  
NEW DELHI.

President : S. S. MIRAJKAR.

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

July 31, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

109 ✓

The meeting of the Working Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress which was earlier decided to be held in Delhi on August 6 and 7, has been postponed.

The meeting is expected to be convened later in August.

*K.G. Srivastava*

(K.G. Srivastava)  
Secretary, AITUC

Shri Jatin Chakravarty, M. L.A., Secretary, United Trade Union Congress, and Shri K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress, have issued the following statement:

"The workers and trade unions in our country view with serious concern the mounting attacks by the Government employers on the trade union and democratic rights of the working people. These disturbing trends have become more pronounced and have reached a peak in the all-out attack launched by the Government vis-a-vis the strike by Central Government employees.

"A perfectly legal strike, declared in strict conformity with the requirements of industrial legislation, was declared illegal arbitrarily by Government. The heinous Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance was promulgated for this purpose, arming the Government with Draconian powers.

"Over 16,000 employees were arrested and detained with a view to crush the strike. There were indiscriminate lathi-charges and in police firings ordered on striking workers at Dohad, seven lost their lives and many were injured.

"The vindictiveness which has been exhibited by Government in relation to the trade dispute raised by its employees and the strike that followed, has had no parallel in recent history. About 50,000 employees have been suspended from service, for their participation in strike and thousands of them have been summarily discharged, though the Supreme Court has laid down in a number of judgements that mere participation in an illegal strike should not be punished with dismissals. A large number of employees have been convicted by the Courts under the Draconian ordinance and many hundreds are facing prosecution under all kinds of framed-up charges.

"The Central Government employees fought for the vindication of principles which vitally affect all sections of the trade union movement. These principles involved the sanctity of tripartite agreements on need-based minimum wages and linking dearness allowance to cost of living indices. Should the Government persist in the attitude displayed by it during the recent strike towards these agreements, the trade unions may also be compelled to revise their attitude towards the present tripartite machinery.

"It was because of this that the workers throughout the country, by their General Strike on July 14, expressed their solidarity with the Central Government employees.

"The recent pronouncements of the Government in the matter of the trade union rights of its employees have gone one step ahead in its anti-labour policies. The recognition of trade unions which have the support of the majority of the workers is being withdrawn. Measures are also being contemplated to bring statutory legislation to deprive Government employees of their basic trade union rights of organisation and action.

These attacks on the trade union and democratic rights of the working people have to be unitedly resisted by the entire working class and the trade union movement. We therefore appeal to workers and trade unions, irrespective of affiliation, to observe FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1960, as "TRADE UNION RIGHTS DAY" throughout the country.

. . . . Joint processions

"Joint processions and meetings should be organised that day and resolutions condemning attack on trade union rights and preparation for their defence should be passed and sent to the Union Labour Ministry and the Prime Minister.

"We are glad to announce that this is agreed to by all the three Central trade union organisations, viz., the AITUC, HMS and UTUC."

*Jatin Chakravarty*

(Jatin Chakravarty), MLA,  
Secretary, United Trade Union  
Congress, 780 Ballimaran, Delhi

*K.G. Sriwastava*

(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary, All-India Trade Union  
Congress, 4 Ashok Road,  
New Delhi

New Delhi,

July 30, 1960

ble : "AITUCONG"

T. U. LAW BUREAU:  
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BOMBAY 4 (INDIA)

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस  
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Telephones : 48771  
43414

4, ASHOK ROAD,  
NEW DELHI.

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

July 20, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE:

AITUC WORKING COMMITTEE TO MEET  
IN DELHI ON AUGUST 6 & 7

The Working Committee of the AITUC has been convened to meet in New Delhi on August 6 and 7, 1960.

Among the subjects to be discussed in the meeting are the ~~present situation~~ recent strike of the Central Government employees and its aftermath as well as a general review of the trade union movement in the country.

*K.G.*  
(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary

109  
FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION:

New Delhi,  
July 18, 1960

Shri S.Guruswamy, President, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, and member of the Standing Committee of the Joint Council of Action of the Central Government Employees, Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour, M.P., Shri K.G.Srivastava and Shri A.O.Nanda, met the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, this morning and requested him to release the workers and trade unionists who were arrested during the course of the employees' strike. They also requested him to drop the proceedings against the employees for their participation in the strike.

The Chief Commissioner gave a patient hearing and assured that the Administration will consider the matter sympathetically.

Shri S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary, AITUC, who is now under medical treatment in Poona, had a talk with Shri Guruswamy on phone. Shri Dange, from his sick bed, conveyed his congratulations to Shri Guruswamy on the employees' heroic conduct of the strike and also appreciated the decision of the Joint Council of Action to withdraw the strike. He expressed the hope that unity of the Central Government employees, achieved in this struggle, will be preserved and consolidated.

(K.G.Srivastava)  
Member, Joint Council of  
Action of Central Govt. Employees.



# ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

## PRESS COMMUNIQUE

July 18, 1960

### CAMPAIGN FOR "RELIEF FUND" IN AID OF CENTRAL GOVT EMPLOYEES LAUNCHED

The AITUC, in an appeal to all workers, trade unions and friends of the working class, has called for collecting a "Relief Fund" in aid of the victims of the Government's repressive measures in connection with the recent strike of Central Government employees.

The appeal stated that "the heroic action of the Central Government employees who went on strike from July 11 to 16, in defence of their vital interests, has had wide appreciation and support from all sections of the workers and the people at large."

In view of the large-scale arrests, suspension from duty, dismissals and the hundreds of Court cases and sentences of imprisonment on trade unionists and employees, the question of relief has become extremely important. The appeal stated: "It is therefore the incumbent duty of the organised trade union movement to further strengthen their bonds of solidarity with the Central Government employees and help them in the struggle against mass victimisation."

#### TOKEN RELIEF

The AITUC has also decided to donate a sum of Rs.150 to each of the families of the victims of police firing in Dohad, by way of token relief. Officials of AITUC will shortly proceed to Dohad to pay this money and study the situation on the spot.

*K.G. Sriwastava*  
(K.G. Sriwastava) *imp*

# ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

AITUC's Appeal to All Workers,  
Trade Unions and Friends of  
the Working Class

## R U S H R E L I E F !

The heroic action of the Central Government employees who went on strike from July 11 to 16, in defence of their vital interests, has had wide appreciation and support from all sections of the workers and the people at large. They fought bravely, against great odds, on demands which are common to all sections of the working class. Throughout the country, the workers responded to the call for solidarity, by the token strike on July 14.

The strike of the Central Government employees has now been withdrawn. The Government which left no stone unturned in its effort to suppress the strike by force, armed with Draconian powers, arrested over 15,000 workers. Many hundreds have become victims of vindictive reprisals.

Thousands of employees have been suspended from service. The number of dismissed employees runs into four figures. A large number, especially those who were arrested, await the same fate. Charge-sheets and other disciplinary measures are being taken against the workers who went on strike. Maximum punishment of one year's rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs.1,000 under the hated Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance has been imposed on workers. Over and above this, on the charge of alleged sabotage, several cases are being foisted on workers and trade unionists. Never before has the trade union movement faced such ferocious repression.

It is therefore the incumbent duty of the organised trade union movement to further strengthen the bonds of solidarity with the Central Government employees and help them in the struggle against mass victimisation.

The AITUC appeals to all its affiliated unions to launch a campaign immediately to collect funds for relief and legal aid to the Central Government employees who are sought to be victimised for their heroic action.

The AITUC appeals to all workers, irrespective of their TU affiliation, and friends of the working class, to donate liberally to this Relief Fund.

Rush your contributions (earmarked 'Relief Fund') to:

The Secretary,  
All-India Trade Union Congress,  
4 Ashok Road, New Delhi-1.

*W.K. Suman*  
for AITUC SECRETARIAT 15/7/51

# ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

July 17, 1960

Shri P. Ramamurti, M.P., Vice President, AITUC, and Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour, M.P., Secretary, AITUC, have issued the following statement:

"The All-India Trade Union Congress congratulates the lakhs of Central Government employees who fought so magnificent a strike action in India's trade union history, against heavy odds.

"The entire State machinery of coercion and propaganda was set in motion by the Government against its own employees. Yet they fought, and added a glorious chapter to the annals of working people's movement.

"The Central Government employees were fighting the common cause of Indian working people for preserving their wage standards against the inroads made by rising prices into their pay packets.

"The AITUC congratulates all those workers, trade unions and common people who rose in sympathy with the Central Government employees and went into protest action on July 14.

"The AITUC calls on the Government to reciprocate by dropping and withdrawing the disciplinary measures that are proposed to be taken or already taken against striking employees and their leaders and release all the arrested people.

"The AITUC appeals to the employees to preserve and further develop the unity that has been forged among them."



Office Secretary

FIRST STATEMENT OF AITUC - DELEGATION

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THEIR TOUR IN INDONESIA

We, the members of Indian Workers' Study Tour Team sponsored by UNESCO, representing the All India Trade Union Congress and the millions of workers in India are happy to express our hearty thanks to SOBSI and all the workers of Indonesia for the astounding and rousing reception given to us, from the moment onwards our landing at the air-port Djakarta. On behalf of the AITUC and Indian workers we salute SOBSI and extend our fraternal greetings to the millions of Indonesian Workers.

We had been taken to the most comfortable residence in this beautiful city and SOBSI is looking to our needs and comfort all the day and night. A very valuable programme is offered to us, enabling us to learn all aspects of Indonesian life and culture. We are happy to see the immense strength of Trade Unions in this area under the mighty banner of SOBSI. We were having this occasion to share the vast experiences of the Central Council of Railway Workers Union and SERBUNI. We congratulate this Railway Workers of Indonesia and SERBUNI Workers for their great achievements, under the leadership of SOBSI. We are very much pleased at the unending morale of the workers in this area struggling for the betterment of their living condition.

This is the early days of our tour in Indonesia. We are continuing our tour and we are sure from our experiences up to this time that we will have much to learn from the toiling masses of this country, and their organisations under the great leadership of SOBSI. We are also exchanging our experiences each other and we hope that this will strengthen the Unity and Friendship between Indonesian workers and the Indian workers more and more.

M. C. Cheriyan

Bengraj David

Asha Ram.

Djakarta, July 12th, 1960.

Copy to: AITUC and DPTUC.

pra Mazdoor Ekta Union:000:---

President : S. S. MIRAJKAR.

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

July 12, 1960

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement:

"The All-India Trade Union Congress strongly condemns the ruthless repression that the Government has let loose on the Central Government employees. On the very first day, there was firing on railwaymen in Dohad in Gujerat, killing one, and lathi-charges and large-scale arrests in many places.

"The AITUC warns the Government that it is only gambling with the situation when even now it is not too late to accept the Dearness Allowance formula of the Standing Committee of the Joint Council of Action of the Central Government employees.

"The AITUC urges upon the Government to accept this most reasonable suggestion, release all the arrested leaders and employees and restore peace through settlement."

*Raj Bahadur Gour*

(Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour), M.P.,  
Secretary, AITUC

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस  
**ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS**

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

July 11, 1960

**FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION**

The Secretariat of the All-India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statements:

"Due to the adamant attitude of the Government of India, the talks for settlement between the Standing Committee of the Joint Council of Action of Central Government employees failed. The Government of India is not prepared to meet the representatives of the Central Government ~~employees~~ employees officially, nor concede the demand of payment of D.A. on the higher cost of living index though paying lip service to the principle.

"The Government of India is still relying on repressive measures like ordinances, Criminal Procedure Code, police measures and by spreading false rumours. Shri S.M. Joshi, Shri Nath Pal and host of others are being arrested. Summary dismissals are held as a Sword of Damocles on the head of the employees.

"These repressive measures will not, as usual, damp the spirit of the workers.

"The AITUC protests against these measures and urges on the Government to see reason and settle the dispute by conceding the reasonable demand of the Central Government employees than trying to crush the strike."

*K.G. Srinastava*  
**(K.G. Srinastava)**  
Secretary

FOR PUBLICATION

4 Ashok Road,  
New Delhi,  
July 10, 1960

The Editor,  
LINK,  
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

In your issue of July 10, reporting on the strike decision of Joint Council of Action of Central Government employees, you claimed that "Communist members on the Joint Council of Action had first pleaded against fixation of a definite date for the strike and wanted the Council to consider the situation afresh if the Government banned the strike by ordinance. They were obviously over-ruled."

As the only Communist member on the Joint Council of Action, <sup>present in all meetings</sup> I should inform you that your report is entirely baseless. All decisions of the Joint Council were taken unanimously and there was no occasion when any opinion was over-ruled.

I would request that in your eagerness to decry the decision of the Joint Council, you should not stoop so low as to misrepresent facts.

Yours faithfully,

*Uke*

(K.G.Sriwastava)

**ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS**

4, Ashok Road,  
New Delhi  
Camp Nagar

**A.I.T.U.C. GIVES CALL FOR ALL INDIA GENERAL STRIKE  
ON 14-7-1960**

**Sri K.G. Shrivastava, Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress has issued the following statement to the Press:-**

The All India Trade Union Congress and its affiliated unions have been fighting for the implementation of tripartite agreements and in the face of rising prices, compensation for the same in the form of increased dearness allowance linking it with cost of living index at various centres and industries for the last several years.

It has fallen on the lot of Central Govt. employees, because of the refusal of the Central Govt., to agitate and implement the 15th tripartite labour conference decisions regarding need based minimum wage and the principle of linking dearness allowance with the cost of living index, which was recommended by the first pay commission and accepted by the Central Govt to give a fight by declaring as last resort to go on an indefinite all India strike of all Central Govt Employees including Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Defence and other Departments from the midnight of July 11th -12th.

Policies involved in this strike are of grave application to the workers in the private as well as public sectors. The Govt of India has done added injustice to these employees by refusing to implement what they had time and again assured to the workers in the private and public sectors. A <sup>refusal</sup> personal of Prime Minister Nehru to meet the deputation, Shri Nanda's refusal to discuss anything beyond the recommendations of the second Pay Commission and to take it as sacrosanct, when earlier in the case of Law Commission, Justice Chagla and Vivian Bose's recommendations on Nandra affair, the Government had conveniently ignored the report of the Judges. The A.I.T.U.C. feels that the Central Govt employees have no other avenue left for settlement and therefore, supports their move to go on strike.

Reaffirming their solidarity with the Central Govt Employee's



cause and struggle, the All India Trade Union Congress (A.I.T.U.C.) directs its units all over India to prepare for and to go on one day token strike on Thursday, the 14th of July 1960.

We appeal to all other Central Trade Union Organisation and independent Federations to support the struggle of the Central Government Employees and join in this united solidarity action.

Camp, Nagpur  
the, 6th July 1960

sd/- K.G. Srivastava  
Secretary  
A.I.T.U.C.

A L L - I N D I A T R A D E U N I O N C O N G R E S S

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

July 8, 1960

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement:

"The Secretariat of the AITUC strongly condemns the promulgation of the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance which is a direct attack on trade union rights and democratic liberties of the working people.

"The Government have resorted to such draconian steps instead of favourably considering the just and reasonable demands of the employees, and arrive at a negotiated settlement before it is too late.

"The AITUC demands that the Ordinance be withdrawn immediately and a proper atmosphere created in order to reach an honourable settlement of the dispute raised by the Government employees.

"The AITUC also strongly protests against the misuse of the National Employment Services for the purpose of recruiting blacklegs, to curb the strike of Central Government employees, instead of providing additional jobs to the unemployed people. We call upon our local and State units to requisition emergent meetings of the State and local Employment Advisory Committees and protest against the misuse of Employment Exchanges.

"The Secretariat of the AITUC notes that attempts are being made by Government spokesmen to decry the employees' moves as 'anti-national'. Such abuses are hurled by the employers and Government spokesmen when the working class is forced to take to direct action - whether in the private or public sectors, and therefore, nothing new. If the Government hopes to pit public opinion against the employees by such propaganda, they are sadly mistaken. Such an attitude has never helped Government or the employers to take a realistic approach to workers' demands, which will be conducive to peaceful resolution of disputes. The AITUC hopes Government will desist from hurling such cheap abuses at its employees and the trade unions, learn from the past, and act before it is too late."

*K.G. Sriwastava*  
(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary, AITUC

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Certain reports have appeared in a section of the press today that Shri S.A. Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, has allegedly 'conveyed his view that a strike at this time would be inopportune'. The Secretariat of the AITUC wishes to inform the public that these reports are completely unfounded.

*K.G. Sriwastava*  
(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary, AITUC

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4 Ashok Road, New Delhi

MOST URGENT

July 7, 1960

To All STUCs

Call for General Strike on July 14

Dear Comrades,

Your attention is hereby invited to the statement issued by Com.K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, AITUC, at Nagpur on July 6. The text of the statement is given below. All affiliated unions should be informed about this immediately.

As you might have noticed, the Executive Committee of the HMS which met in Nagpur on July 6 as well as the UTUC have called upon their units to go on a one-day token strike on July 14. Independent trade federations have also been approached to endorse the call..

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

*K.G. Sriwastava*  
Office Secretary

.....  
TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY COM.K.G.SRIWASTAVA,  
SECRETARY, AITUC, ON JULY 6, 1960 AT NAGPUR

"The All-India Trade Union Congress and its affiliated unions have been fighting for the implementation of tripartite agreements and, in the face of rising prices, compensation for the same in the form of increased dearness allowance, linking it with cost of living index at various centres and industries for the last several years.

"It has fallen on the lot of Central Government employees, because of the refusal of the Central Government to agitate for and get the implementation of the 15th tripartite labour conference decisions regarding need-based minimum wage and the principle of linking dearness allowance with the cost of living index, which was recommended by the First Pay Commission and accepted by the Central Government; to give a fight by declaring as last resort to go on an indefinite all-India strike of all Central Government employees including railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Defence and other departments from the midnight of July 11-12.

"Policies involved in this strike are of grave application to the workers in the private as well as public sectors. The Government of India has done added injustice to these employees by refusing to implement what they had time and again assured to the workers in the private and public sectors. Refusal of Prime Minister Nehru to meet the deputation, Shri Nanda's refusal to discuss

anything beyond the recommendations of the Second Pay Commission and to take it as sacrosanct, when earlier in the case of Law Commission; Justice Chagla's and Vivian Bose's recommendations on Mundhra affair, the Government had conveniently ignored the report of the judges - in view of all these, the AITUC feels that the Central Government employees have no other avenue left for settlement and therefore, supports their move to go on strike.

"Reaffirming their solidarity with the Central Government employees' cause and struggle, the All-India Trade Union Congress directs its units all over India to prepare for and to go on one-day token strike on Thursday, the 14th July 1960.

"We appeal to all other Central Trade Union Organisations and independent Federations to support the struggle of the Central Government employees and join in this united solidarity action."

TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY COM. K. D. BHIVARAVA,  
SECRETARY, AITUC, ON JULY 6, 1960 AT MADRAS

"The All-India Trade Union Congress and its affiliated unions have been fighting for the inclusion of public employees in the pay band, in the face of rising prices, cooperation for the same in form of increased business allowed, linking it with cost of living index at various centres and for the last several years. It has failed on the part of Central Government and because of the refusal of the Government to agree to and get the implementation of the tripartite labour cost decisions regarding need-based wages and the principle of linking business expenses with cost of living index, which was recommended by the First Pay Commission and accepted by Central Government to give effect to decisions as laid down to go on an unshakable All-India basis of all Central Government employees including railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Defence and other departments from the midnight of July 11-12. "Policies involved in this matter are of grave importance to the workers in the private as well as public sectors. The Government of India has done added injustice to these employees by stating to implement what they had done and again assured to the workers in the private and public sectors. Refusal of Prime Minister Nehru to meet the delegation Shri Wanda's refusal to discuss

JCA's Call for Strike on July 11

# WHY EMPLOYEES' DEMANDS ARE JUSTIFIED

by K. G. SRIWASTAVA, SECRETARY, AITUC

"Sympathy (for the workers) comes when a strike notice is served, and sympathy is served after at least one firing takes place; otherwise nothing. These are the two pillars on which working class policy of the Government stands. Sympathy in words, no demands to be conceded. It must be argued when strike notice is given, and when strike notice is given, a counter-threat is given, and when strike takes place, fire and shoot. Then consider the demands, give a little and say 'we are conceding; but these people are rather antagonistic or rather hostile and obstinate; so we cannot do anything else'."—That's what Com. S. A. Dange, M.P., Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and General Secretary, AITUC, said on August 3, 1957, about Government's attitude towards strikes in course of his speech on motion for adjournment on police firing in Bhangi Colony, New Delhi.

Even after three years it is clear that the Congress Government has not taken the lesson to heart and, in the present struggle of the Central Government employees for need-based minimum wage, D.A. commensurate with the rise in prices of essential articles and full TU rights, it is behaving in the same-callous and wait and see manner.

The Government is again raising the same old bogey of national emergency and economy of the country being upset if the demands of the employees are conceded.

On July 19, 1957—fifteen days before the Government set up the Second Pay Commission, the Prime Minister had opposed the appointment of the Commission in these words: "Broadly speaking, one has to realise that one cannot in such circumstances go on, much as one might want to go on, in this direction. One simply cannot, because apart from other things, higher wages in these circumstances would lead to more inflation..."

The determination and preparedness for fighting and the spirit of sacrifice displayed by the P & T employees and the Central Government employees through their Confederation, forced the Government to appoint the Pay Commission on August 3, 1957.

In fact, this is the story of every trade union dispute and struggle—when it is in public sector and concerns Government employees, the bourgeois Government paints it as "national crisis". In India, the economy is planned through Five Year Plans and therefore each such "crisis" allegedly signified a danger to the success of the plan.

Occasionally, the bogey of "external danger" is also summoned or created to wean away public sympathy from the workers' cause.

All this happened with the

Railway, P & T, Defence and other sections of Central Government employees' trade union movement in the year 1949, 1951 and 1957 and is being sought to be repeated again in 1960.

Bourgeois papers on the dictation of the Government have already started the game and Prime Minister Nehru himself has come to assume the main role.

The Prime Minister, in his letter of June 10, 1960, gives three reasons for not considering the demands put forth by the Joint Council of

Action, regretting inability to grant interview as "it will serve no useful purpose":

First, the recommendations of the high-powered commission which Government considered as almost tantamount to an award, cannot be reopened for discussion.

Secondly, economic advance of the country in connection with Five Year Plans being the larger issue before the country, the demands of the Central Government employees and their attitude is "unbecoming".

Thirdly, the Prime Minister takes objection to the formation of the Joint Council of Action and says that it would further come in the way of his meeting any deputation on this subject.

The resolution of the Joint Council of Action adopted at its meeting on June 24 adequately replies to each of the above points.

The Central Pay Commission was misled by the Finance Ministry of the Government of India by writing to it that the decisions of 15th Indian Labour Conference regarding need-based minimum do not apply to

Central Government employees. Subsequently, Shri Nanda in the Standing Labour Committee meeting held in January 1960 and also in Parliament has reiterated that all tripartite decisions including the one on need-based wages apply to all workers in private and public sectors.

As the Central Pay Commission has given its recommendations on the basis of incorrect information, there is nothing wrong in revising it, in the light of Shri Nanda's assurances and the decision of the 15th Indian Labour Conference.

It does not cast any reflection on the Commission. Of course, it does cast reflection on the Finance Ministry for giving wrong information to the Commission. The Prime Minister should not stand on false prestige when it is obviously on the face of it wrong—though in this case, it is one of his Ministers (not the Cabinet) who is in the wrong.

If the Government wanted an award, it could very well have set up a Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The terms of reference to the Commission are also not the type as of a Tribunal. No period for which the "awards" are generally given is mentioned in the Commission's recommendations. Awards become operative automatically after its publication and not wait for the consideration of the Government as the Commission's recommendations are still waiting.

The Prime Minister has also used the words "recommendation" and not even "conclusions" or "findings". So from all counts, the results of Pay Commission's labours are purely recommendations and by no stretch of imagination can be treated as an award.

The procedure followed by the Government in dealing with these recommendations further prove that it is not an award. Even till today, after eight months of submission of the report, the Government has not accepted all the findings of this so-called "award".

The Government has itself modified the recommendations, e.g. regarding Saturday working, retirement age, etc., etc. Government has implemented only those items of the so-called "award" which result in curtailment of exist-

## P. M. AND PAY COMMISSION —IN 1957 AND 1960

Addressing a press conference on June 24, Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru was very outspoken in his comments when he referred to the demand made by employees for revision of Pay Commission's recommendations.

He said that not accepting the recommendations by the Government or reopening the whole issue would be "a very very bad precedent". "There would be no pay commission in future. No first class people or Supreme Court judges would ever undertake that duty. Therefore, they would have to rule out that approach to this question." (STATSMAN, New Delhi, June 25).

However, it may be re-

called that the Prime Minister had his own doubts on this score, way back in 1957.

He opposed the very constitution of the Pay Commission in the course of a speech in Parliament on July 19, 1957, on the following ground, among others:

"It is not a question of let us say, a labour tribunal with a very eminent judge sitting and deciding whether this should be paid or that.

"The judge sees only certain things. He does not see, in that limited matter, the ultimate economic consequences which a country has to face, more especially when we are dealing with millions of people."

(Please turn over)

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Telephones : 48771  
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4, ASHOK ROAD,  
NEW DELHI.

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

August 2, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The All-India Trade Union Congress has, in a communication to the Union Ministry of Labour, notified that Shri N. Satyanarayana Reddy, its representative on Minimum Wages Central Advisory Board, shall, as a mark of protest, abstain from attending the Fourth Meeting of the Board scheduled to meet in Delhi on August 4 and 5.

The AITUC contends that the Board has got to adhere to and uphold the minimum wage norms unanimously laid down by the 15th Indian Labour Conference held at Delhi in 1957.

But the Government which was a party not only to the recommendations but which is also represented on this Board has flagrantly violated this in relation to the claims of its own employees. The Government suppressed with unheard of brute force a just struggle of Central Government employees to uphold these principles and norms and to secure a reasonable neutralisation of the rising costs.

The Government have even after the withdrawal of strike resorted to victimisation of thousands and withdrawal of recognition of well-established and fully representative unions of Central Government employees.

It ~~was~~ is as a mark of protest against this that the AITUC is abstaining from this Fourth Meeting of the Board.

*Raj Bahadur Gour*  
(Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour), M.P.,  
Secretary, AITUC

11 AUG 1960

AITUC

S. S. Mirajkar, President, ~~All India Trade Union Congress~~ has issued the following statement on Aug. 9 from Calcutta.

" The strike of the Government employees is over long ago leaving behind its aftermath. I was shocked to learn that as many as 13,000 Government employees had been served with notices of suspension, dismissals etc in West Bengal alone. Nearly 8,000 employees are threatened with the same in the State of Maharashtra. Thousands altogether in other States were dealt with in the same measure. The heads of departments are given a blank cheque to deal with their employees in any way they like. One can imagine how these bureaucratically minded Heads of departments will act. The Government of India desire to cow down the employees and crush their spirit. Recognition of their organisations has already been withdrawn. Here the Government intends to crush their organisation and deprive them of their only weapon for collective bargaining for improving their conditions and for protecting their legitimate Trade Union rights. Government of Russian Czars also did not act against its employees and workers in general as our 'democratic' Government is doing to their employees.

The most ~~offensive~~ offensive Ordinance continues and new legal chains are being forged to further enslave the Government employees in the name of maintenance of essential services. This is the most mischevous move on the part of the Government of India.

The strike which has taken place in India may have been for the first time so far as India is concerned ; but other countries had in the past total general strikes. In 1926 there was such a General Strike in Great Britain which made the life of the nation difficult for nearly a week. Prime Minister Nehru has written very approvingly about that strike when he was not the Prime Minister. Recently there was a total and complete General Strike in France. But neither the British Government nor the French Government of General De Gaulle acted in the manner then as our Government is doing.

By such high handed and vindictive action Government is asking and actually encouraging private sector Employers to follow them in their foot steps. They will be of course, very happy to do so, so far as their employees are concerned. The present attitude of the Government of India will soon create such a condition that industrial peace will be an impossibility which is not realized by them.

Such is, therefore, the situation created by the Government vendetta against their own employees. They should have acted generously towards the employees which would have redounded their credit. While such conditions exist, while the Ordinance continues and threat of draconian legislation is held, all Central Organisations such as A. I. T. U. C., H. M. S., and U. T. U. C. should refuse to co-operate with the Government, should boycott all Tripartite meetings and conferences and thus make it clear to the Government that labour strongly condemns the Government actions. It is a happy sign that Central Labour organisations such as A. I. T. U. C., H. M. S., and U. T. U. C. have already boycotted the meeting of the Minimum Wages Central Advisory Board meeting. Let this policy be further extended and boycott all meetings and conferences until the Government of India give up their present attitude of vengeance ~~know~~ towards Government employees.

It is my view that such a line of action is not only necessary but it is thoroughly justified. This line of action must be carried out fully, completely and unitedly.

I am confident that the Working Committee of the A. I. T. U. C. will consider the serious situation and adopt ~~his~~ this line of Action.

9.8.60.

TO

THE EDITOR, ..... CALCUTTA.

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION.

Copy for  
AITUC office

Sd/- Ranu Sen

Ca : "AITUCONG"

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President : S. S. MIRAJKAR.

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

109  
September 10, 1960

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

## A.I.T.U.C. WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Working Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress will meet in Delhi, tomorrow, September 11, 1960, in a two-day session. The meeting will be held at Maharashtra Bhavan, Paharganj.

Shri S.S. Mirajkar, AITUC President, will preside over the meeting.

The Committee will consider mainly the Central Government employees' strike and its aftermath, labour policy in the Third Five Year Plan and agenda of the forthcoming 18th Indian Labour Conference.

The Committee will also hear a report from Shri S.A. Dange, M.P., General Secretary, and Vice President of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) on the Peking Session of the WFTU General Council held in June last.



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

September 11, 1960

Press Communiqué

The Working Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress began its three-day session today, at the Maharashtra Bhavan, Paharganj, under the presidency of Shri S.S. Mirajkar, President of the AITUC.

The session began with the adoption of three condolence resolutions on the sad demise of Harry Pollitt, renowned working class leader of Britain, and Chairman of the British Communist Party; Wilhelm Pieck, the work- President of the German Democratic Republic and Feroz Gandhi, M.P.

The Committee appointed a Credential Committee to consider the application of unions for affiliation.

General Secretary of the AITUC, Shri S.A. Dange made a report to the Committee in the morning session. Shri Dange mainly dealt with the events which led to the strike of Central Government employees, as well as on the impact of the strike as well as its aftermath. Shri Dange observed that the employees' strike evoked great public sympathy since the main issue posed before the country by the strike was the question of rising prices which hit one and all. The question of prices in a developing economy has never been so sharply posed, he observed, and added that the strike of the Government employees was thus in defence of the vital interests of the entire people.

The Committee will discuss Shri Dange's report as well as the report on organization of the trade unions today and tomorrow. The Labour Policy in the Third Five Year Plan, attitude to tripartite bodies, the 26th Session of the AITUC and the campaign in defence of trade union rights and against victimisation of Government employees are some of the subjects which figure on the agenda of the meeting.

Fortytwo persons attended the meeting, among whom are important leaders of the State Committees of the AITUC in different States and industrial areas.

*K.G. Sriwastava*  
(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary

October 3, 1960

For Favour of Publication

The Editor,  
EASTERN ECONOMIST,  
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

The reference to the stand of the AITUC, in your editorial under the heading 'Compulsory Arbitration', at page 579 of your esteemed journal of September 30, 1960, does not correctly represent the stand of the All-India Trade Union Congress vis-a-vis Industrial Disputes as also regarding the recent Central Government employees' strike. I repeat below, in brief, the stand of the AITUC on these issues, which I hope you will be good enough to publish, in your next issue:

The AITUC has been and is opposed to strike for strike's sake. Often strikes are forced on the unions and workers by the attitude of the employers and the State machinery. The employers refuse to negotiate on the genuine and burning issues of the workers and the State machinery, for various reasons, does not refer the dispute to adjudication/arbitration. The strike, in some such cases, becomes inevitable.

The recent Government employees' strike was as a result of such an attitude on the part of Government who was both the employer and the authority to refer it to adjudication/arbitration. The Government violated ~~itself~~ the Code of Discipline, a product of its own initiative, at every stage.

The AITUC stands for defending working class interests through the recognition of trade unions and collective bargaining. Its two pillar policy, at the same time, envisages support to the national reconstruction plans.

Yours faithfully,

*VMD*  
*2/2*  
(K.G.Sriwastava)  
Secretary

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

November 19, 1960

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Shri Indrajit Gupta, M.P., Secretary, AITUC,  
and Mrs Renu Chakravartty, M.P., President, Colliery  
Mazdoor Sabha (AITUC), have issued the following  
statement:

"The news of police firing and teargassing on workers at the Moder Stagram Colliery, near Assansol, comes as a shocking climax to a prolonged reign of terror unleashed by the management of this mine against normal trade union activities there. Over the last few weeks, repeated representations on behalf of the workers had been made to the Labour Ministry, Government of India and to the State Government, asking for effective action against the mineowners' policy of illegal discharges and victimization of union members. Unfortunately, these representations have gone unheeded despite the obvious threat of dislocation of coal production.

"From the incomplete reports received so far, it appears the police have used bullets and teargas in the employers' interests, when the illegally discharged workers protested against their replacement by new hands imported from outside. The AITUC emphatically protests against this violent suppression of workers and trade union rights by the employers and police. It demands an impartial inquiry into the whole train of events leading up to the firing, punishment of guilty employers and police officials, adequate compensation for the casualties and an end to the attack upon trade union rights in the coal belt."

(Indrajit Gupta)  
M.P.,  
Secretary, AITUC

(109)

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

To

The Editor,  
NATIONAL HERALD,  
Kaiser Bagh,  
Lucknow.

Dear Sir,

A question raised by the Correspondent of Pravda at the last Prime Minister's press conference, regarding unfriendly criticism of a friendly country and its Prime Minister and the measures that would be taken to prevent such publications in future, has become the subject matter of many editorials in our country. The big bourgeoisie's Eastern Economist (October 28, 1960) and Nehru's/Congress' National Herald (October 30, 1960) are on this issue. To criticise on merits is a democratic right.

Very well. What I am unable to understand is why these very papers start howling when any paper in Soviet Union, or any other Communist country writes a critical article about the capitalist structure of society in our country and certain happenings, specially against workers, peasants and the common people. Last year, when a Soviet journal published an article by an Acadamecian in which it was stated that what India is building today is not socialism but capitalism, there was a lot of hue and cry in our bourgeois press. Examples can be multiplied.

There is talk of free press and government-controlled press. Well, we have the experience in the recent Central Government employees' strike, how the bourgeois press lined up behind the Government to suppress the truth. With exceptions here and there, this happens in all people's movements. Yes, there is freedom of press in

capitalist countries to express contradictions among themselves which is inevitable but when issues of their class interest come, they are as regimented as in any fascist country.

Yours faithfully,

*K. G. Sriwastava*

(K. G. Sriwastava)

4 Ashok Road,

New Delhi-1

November 1, 1960

for Moscow Radio

109

On the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the All-India Trade Union Congress is happy to convey its warm fraternal greetings to the trade unions and working people of USSR.

The birth of the first Socialist State 43 years ago heralded a new bright epoch in human history and inspired the oppressed peoples of Asia and Africa *in their* ~~to~~ struggle against colonialist plunder and end it. The year 1960 witnesses the resurgence of liberated Africa and the people of Asia and Africa particularly value in no small measure the ardent support given by the Soviet Union in their liberation struggle. The working class in India warmly applauds the efforts of the Soviet Government, as seen in N.S.Khrushchov's fervant plea at the U.N.General Assembly to act immediately to end all forms of colonialism, here and now.

In the 43 years since its birth, the working people of the USSR have built their Socialist State as the mightiest power on earth. The conquest of space and the miraculous achievements in transporting living beings into space and bringing them back - all these testify to the tremendous flowering of science and culture when the working class takes power into its own hands and shape human destiny.

It is most heartening to see that despite the fact that the Soviet Union has vast superiority even in military might, it is this Socialist State which has emerged as the vigorous fighter for complete disarmament. Only the imperialists desire war to perpetuate themselves; peace is essential for the flowering of socialism and for the onward march to Communism. This was strikingly revealed in the address of the Head of the Soviet Government N.S.Khrushchov, before the recent session of UN General Assembly.

I am, therefore, extremely happy to greet the Soviet Union, once again, on behalf of the organised working class under the banner of the All-India Trade Union Congress and wish them ever greater successes in the tasks of Communist construction, <sup>in the struggle for</sup> complete disarmament and for lasting peace.

It is most gratifying to see that the Soviet Union has come forward with disinterested aid in the economic construction of newly-independent countries. The working class in India valued this aid deeply and express their profound thanks for this fraternal help.

109

December 21, 1960

The Editor,  
SWADHINATA,  
25 Park Lane,  
Calcutta 16

Dear Comrade,

On the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of SWADHINATA, I send you my personal greetings. I also convey to you on behalf of the AITUC, our warmest fraternal greetings.

Swadhinata's unflinching support to the movement of the Indian working class and its relentless efforts to popularise working class struggles with a view to creating public opinion have been of great help.

I also take the opportunity to express my deep appreciation of the comrades who ~~bring~~ help to bring out Swadhinata under difficult conditions.

Swadhinata has done good work and I wish it all success.

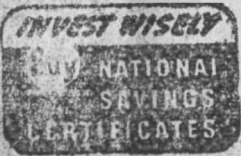
Yours fraternally,



(S. A. DANGE)



21 FEB 1960



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== ALRIGHT DRUG MEETING STATION= RAJAGOPAL

MOITFAD