

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS  
CENTRAL OFFICE  
NEW DELHI

File No. AITUC  
Gen. Council

Subject ~~...~~

Period \_\_\_\_\_

**AITUC DIGITAL ARCHIVE - 2021**



Folder Code: 3 File No. AI-6 S. No. AI-6

Digital File Code: \_\_\_\_\_

File Title: AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING,  
HYDERABAD (3-5 JULY, 1985)

Year: 1985 / 1 Scanned:

Metadata:  Note: \_\_\_\_\_

1969  
3

(CMR)

AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING  
Hyderabad, 3 - 5 July, 1985.

ON OBSERVANCE OF ANTI-WAR DAY,  
SEPTEMBER 1.

September 1st - the Day declared by the 10th World Trade Union Congress as an annual Day for peace and Against War is approaching again. Trade unions and working people of all countries are called upon to prepare for working this occasion through mighty mass mobilisations against the frenzied conspiracies of US imperialism and its partners to dominate the world through the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

During the past one year the US Government has defied public opinion and gone ahead with the process of deploying its first strike missiles in parts of Western Europe and particularly on the soil of the Federal Republic of Germany and Great Britain. These missiles, aimed to reach Moscow within 6 minutes of being fired, constitute a grave threat to the security of the USSR, which has been compelled to take certain counter-measures.

At the same time, the Soviet Government, speaking through its successive leaders-Comrades Andropov, Chernenko and Gorbachyov - continues to announce a series of constructive and positive peace proposals aimed at a freeze of nuclear weapons leading to specific disarmament measures, mutual reduction of NATO and Warsaw pact armed forces, and a number of other confidence building steps - not a single one of which has received favourable response from President Reagan.

On the contrary, and inspite of the welcome resumption of US-USSR negotiations at Geneva largely at Soviet initiative, the US rulers have added a new dimension to the horrifying possibility of nuclear war by going ahead with their "Star Wars" programme of militarising outer space with the aid of laser rays. Enormous sums have been appropriated by the US Congress for funding this diabolical adventure, despite world wide protests and the stern warnings of the USSR.

The US imperialists, made desparate by the aggravating crisis of the US economy, are clearly pushing the world to the brink of catastrophe. This prospect has perturbed even some of Reagan's own NATO partners, notably President Mitterand of France, who has publicly opposed the Star Wars programme. Internationally known scientists, including a large group of Nobel Prize winners in the USA, have spoken up. The Government of New Zealand has refused permission to US warships with nuclear capabilities from entering its parts, thereby throwing the ANZUS military pact into confusion and crisis. The Government of Greece has demanded removal of four US bases from Greek soil.

Thousands of peace-loving people are on the march again. Millions have recently celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the defeat of German fascism and Japanese militarism in World War II. The decisive role of the Red Army and the heroic resistance and massive sacrifices of the Soviet people in the struggle against Nazism have/recalled and hailed in thousands of functions and gatherings.

been/

The only discordant note was struck by the Western Governments of countries which were partners in the war-time anti-Hitler coalition. They refused to celebrate the 40th Anniversary jointly with the USSR and did everything in their power to minimise and distort the Soviet's decisive contribution to the defeat of Fascism. This evidence of their anti-Communist hatred was taken a step further by President Reagan himself who went to West Germany to pay homage at the graves of Hitler soldiers- an act which was universally condemned.

Against this background US aggressive conspiracies continue in different parts of the world. Nicaragua and Cuba are facing growing threats and incidents of US-inspired armed intervention. In the Middle East, Lebanon remains a cockpit of US-Israeli provocations and violent clashes with the RDF lurking nearby. Egged on and abetted by the US, the South African apartheid regime is riding roughshod over UN Resolution on the Independence of Namibia and is committing blatant aggression against Angola and other Frontline States on the plea of hot pursuit of SWAPO fighters. The Indian ocean and the surrounding region are witnessing the are witnessing the build-up of existing US bases in Diego Garcia and elsewhere and search for new ones such as in Sri Lanka. At present there appears not the slightest possibility of any UN-sponsored conference taking place on "the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace", which is due to be held in 1986 in Colombo. The US arms build up of the Pakistani military regime continues unabated, as does the the financing, training, and arming of Afghan counter-revolutionaries operating from bases on Pakistani soil.

A new dimension has been added to the threat to India's own security by the near-certain knowledge that Pakistan is trying to develop its own nuclear weapon with US collusion.

In this situation, the firm stand taken by the Government of India, headed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, in favour of peace and national independence and against the growing war danger is welcome. The AITUC congratulates the Prime Minister for his initiative in convening the Delhi summit of 6 non-aligned states and for sponsoring its New Delhi Declaration including an appeal to the nuclear powers to return to the path of disarmament and detente. It is noteworthy that this appeal was responded to only by the Soviet Union which assured its full cooperation for implementation of concrete measures in this direction.

The AITUC further welcomes the commonly shared ideals reiterated in the recent Indo-Soviet agreement and understanding for strengthening the friendship and mutual cooperation of the two countries with the objective of fighting the forces of aggression and reinforcing the forces of peace and non-alignment. The AITUC also greets Shri Rajiv Gandhi for the bold and forthright stand taken in his public utterances during his recent US tour, opposing the 'Star Wars' military strategy and upholding NAM's positions on the issues of disarmament anti-colonialism and peaceful solution of all disputes, recognition of the sovereign rights and equality of all states, and non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

However, as the AITUC has always maintained, the struggle for peace and against imperialism and war, which is vital for the future of mankind, cannot be left only to governments and official agencies. It is primarily the responsibility of the masses whose not only physical survival but economic betterment and social progress are bound up with stopping the wasteful diversion of enormous funds and resources for the arms race, instead of their being devoted to the urgent tasks of economic development.

This stand point has directed the consistent peace activities of the WFTU, which will also be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of its foundation in October this year. This will be yet another occasion, for the working class the world over to express its solidarity and to reiterate in a fitting manner its commitment to the struggle for peace, national independence and social progress.

The General Council of the AITUC, therefore, calls upon all its affiliated unions, all like-minded fraternal trade unions, and all workers and working people to prepare throughout the country for massive and united mobilisation on September 1, 1985, through rallies, demonstrations, conventions, etc. in defence of world peace and against the war danger, for a nuclear freeze leading to nuclear disarmament and nuclear-free zones, for stopping the arms race and withdrawal of all foreign military bases, for making the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace, and for compelling the US imperialists to desist from arming the Pakistani military regime with offensive weapons, for acceptance of the Soviet peace proposals and saying "NO" to the star wars programme.

\* \* \* \* \*

ON 65th FOUNDATION DAY OF THE AITUC

The 65th Foundation Day of the AITUC falls on 31st October, 1985. On this occasion the General Council of the AITUC meeting in Hyderabad recalls that from the first day of its founding in October 1920, the AITUC has stood for establishment of a Socialist State in India, for an end to exploitation of man by man, for national independence, workers' rights and international trade union solidarity.

In view of imperialisms aggressive war plans, against the arms race and threat of a nuclear Holocaust, the organised working class and the trade unions have to be to-day in the forefront of struggle for peace and disarmament. This urgent task is linked with the struggle of the working class for a better living, the struggle for economic development in the interest of the people, the struggle against the neo-colonialist exploitation by multinationals, the World Bank, the IMF etc., and for a New International Economic Order.

The General Council calls upon all affiliated unions to adopt programme of campaign on the occasion of the Foundation Day on 31st October to educate the workers on these tasks and on the tasks of resisting closures and retrenchments, against the new economic policies of the Government in favour of monopolies and multinationals, and promoting trade union unity and united struggles of the working class.

The General Council calls upon the unions to celebrate 31st October in a fitting manner in keeping with the traditions and history of the AITUC, the militant mass

organisation of the Indian working class.

\* \* \* \* \*

ON THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD  
FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

On 3 October 1985 the world trade union movement will mark a historic anniversary- the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the World Federation of Trade Unions. The WFTU was formed as a result of the efforts of trade unions throughout the world translating into action the sentiments of the working masses for international unity of the working class.

The founding congress of the WFTU, held in Paris, in which the AITUC also participated in full measure, also gave a resounding call to the working class of the world to mobilise their forces in the global struggle for peace, against militarism and war, for upholding trade union rights and democratic liberties and to act with determination in favour of social progress.

Four decades have gone by since that historic event. In this period the imperialist forces, defeated in the second World War, have step by step unleashed an unprecedented arms race. They seek to put nuclear war on the agenda. The Reagan administration has gone so far as to announce a "star-wars" programme. Recognising the force of the working class they sought to divide us on a world scale and succeeded in doing so.

However, the WFTU and its affiliates have throughout this period upheld the cause of working class unity and at every stage have taken measures for unity in action. In one world congress after another one has witnessed the presence of delegates from independent unions and unions of varied affiliations.

The AITUC General Council calls on all its affiliated unions to chalk out a programme to observe the 40th anniversary, to give full publicity to the work of the WFTU in the last 40 years in serving the interests of the working class, in the campaigns undertaken in defence of workers rights, in defence of the right of all peoples to independence, and for peace.

Let all our activities in this year reflect the spirit of unity and unity of action of the first world trade union congress in 1945. Let us strive to strengthen every effort for trade union unity and for unity of action of the working class of our country for peace, social progress and national self-reliance.

ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 1985-1986

The General Council of the AITUC strongly condemns the philosophy and proposals of the central government's budget for 1985-86 as being retrograde, anti-people, blatantly pro-big business, and subversive of the hitherto accepted national principles of planning for social and economic justice based on a strong and expanding public sector. The monopolists and transnational corporations have, not surprisingly, hailed the budget.

The budget's basic philosophy of "spare the rich, soak the poor and freeze the public sector" is fully reflected in its various specific proposals, and the measure announced during the last three months.

The net addition to the tax burden is Rs.433 crores, in which the centre's share is only Rs.311 crores. In this has to be added the increase in railway fares and freight totalling Rs.495 crores. This relatively small mobilisation of additional resources has been made possible by limiting the public sector plan outlay to an increase of only 5.75 per cent over the 1984-85 figures. A wide variety of subheads in the Central Sector including programme for rural development like the NREP, Khadi and village industries, agricultural financial institutions, etc., self-employment schemes for educated youth, village and small industries, tele-communications, petroleum, fertiliser, coal, lignite, drugs and pharmaceuticals, housing, welfare of scheduled castes and tribes, etc. have received lower allotments than the previous year.

Clearly, this is a shift away, a retreat from, the idea so long prevalent in our country since independence, that central planning outlays and public sector growth constitute the engine of self-reliant development.

Instead, the theory has been advanced that a lowering of direct taxes to "reasonable" levels will discourage tax-evasion and ensure better compliance- while it will stimulate production by leaving larger investible funds in the hands of the corporate sector. Apart from this wishful thinking, there is no other concrete proposal to combat the "parallel" economy of black money.

However, the relief in direct taxes, while undoubtedly benefitting the upper middle class and the betteroff sections of the white-collar employees, will mean nothing to 99 per cent of the 350 million income earners in our country, because only 4 million of them are tax-payers, out of them, one million will go out of the tax net and 3 million will pay less than before.

The existing ceiling of Rs.750 for entitlement of bonus has been raised to Rs.1600/- for purposes of calculation but the ceiling of bonus payment has not been increased which deprives a section from getting due bonus. On the other hand, the prices of all essential commodities are bound to rise steeply, hitting the working masses.

It is the industrial houses which will benefit enormously. Not only has the tax on company profits been reduced by 5 per centage points but an assurance is given that after two years the surcharge and surtax on profits will also be discontinued. The benefits from the high level of subsidies will also accrue to the industrial producers and the rich farmers.

On top of this had come the raising<sup>of</sup> the exemption limit for MRTP companies from Rs.20 crores to 100 crores- an unexpected windfall for the beneficiaries. Of the 101 companies which were under the purview of the MRTP Act, 49 will straight way go out. This is an open invitation to big business to amass more assets and profits- in blatant violation of the directive principles of the constitution, Article 39 (c) against concentration of economic power.

The General Council of the AITUC calls upon the people to protest vehemently against these and other fiscal proposals which are meant to lead not to more equitable but to more inequitable distribution of wealth and incomes. The disparities in the countryside will be further aggravated and further concentration of wealth will generate dangerously reactionary political pressures. There is no mention anywhere of completing the unfinished land reforms, without which a stable growth of food production cannot be ensured.

The frightening prospects of inflation arise out of the obviously deflated estimates of the net deficit of Rs. 3,349 crores for 1985-86. More likely, this figure will go up to about Rs. 5,000 crores, taking into consideration the borrowing requirements of the central government in the current year, the higher interest rates on commercial loans from foreign banks, the repayment of the IMF loans, the shrinking of long-term concessional loans from international institutions, the worsening balance of trade deficit, the enormous defence expenditure, and the heavy non-plan outlay on subsidies for fertilisers, exports and food. This huge uncovered deficit will have dangerous consequences.

The prices of essential commodities are already undergoing since the budget, a rapid upswing and the wholesale price index is continuing to scale one peak after another during the last 2½ months.

While a substantial part of this critical situation is undoubtedly due to the highly unfavourable external environment created by the present international economic order which exploits the developing countries, this does not make the crisis less severe in its impact on the economy and the people.

Unprecedented concessions are being given in the budget to the private monopoly sector, while opening new doors for the penetration of multinationals, on the plea of acquiring "high technology" for modernising the economy. Thereby, the public sector is downgraded, the reliance for growth placed on the private sector despite its past record of feeding like a parasite on a protected market, heavy subsidies and public funds. Basic economic goals of self-reliance, social justice, and state control over the commanding heights of the economy are sought to be drastically diluted while heaping new burdens on the common man. Even the small scale sector of industry is exposed to fresh dangers.

The process of liberalisation, further opening doors to monopolies and multinationals continued after the budget. The export-import policy announced after the budget liberalised imports of more items of commodities, the duty on import of inputs of the electronics industry has been substantially reduced, more drugs have been delicensed, foreign brand names will be allowed to be used etc. The new Textile policy announced on June 6 is aimed at strengthening the private textile monopolies who are themselves responsible for rendering hundred of textile mills "sick" by resorting to a variety of fraudulent means and throwing out of job thousands of workers.

The process of liberalisation in the name of competitiveness or modernisation, technological upgradation etc. continues for the benefit of the monopolies and multi-nationals.

The AITUC considers the shift in the budget is in a reactionary direction. The AITUC demands that the economic policy should be reversed in the direction of self-reliance, strengthening of the public sector, curbs on monopolies and MNCs and welfare measures for the people.

The General Council of the AITUC calls on all unions and workers to undertake powerful campaigns against the budget and for a drastic change in economic policies in favour of the common people. The AITUC calls on all trade unions to undertake the widest possible united campaigns against price rise and for extension of a public distribution

system and steps to curb speculation and hoarding in food-grains and other basic necessities.

### ON LOCK-OUTS AND CLOSURES

The General Council of the AITUC notes with concern that there has been a steady increase in the number of closures and lock-outs in the country and particularly so in the jute, cotton textiles and engineering industries. This has resulted not only in throwing thousands of workers out of employment but also constitutes a threat to the economic and social progress of our country.

The government had recently stated during the meeting held by the Labour Minister with representatives of central trade union organisations that "industrial sickness which is inevitable in the process of industrial progress and technological shifts cannot be totally eliminated". From this, one can adduce that, far from intending to take effective measures to prevent closures and lockouts the government expects workers and the toiling masses to learn to "live with it".

The General Council is confirmed opinion that the above theory is fallacious and unacceptable. The crisis in the economic sphere in our country is the crisis of capitalism and can't be solved by the government granting greater concessions to the monopoly houses or placating the corporate sector. In the recent budget, the private sector has been granted liberal terms, as also foreign multinational concerns, and the latter in terms of importing the latest technologies.

A perusal of government statistics further shows that there has been a continuous pandering to the private sector. For instance, loans advanced to sick units, both large and small scale, numbered over 80,000 at the end of 1983. The amount of these loans showed a sharp increase since 1980. While the amount at the end of December 1979 stood at Rs. 1623 crores, at the end of 1983 the figure had increased to Rs. 3101 crores which was an increase of nearly 91%. Government which finds one excuse after another to avoid taking over of "sick" units and running them efficiently does little to monitor the running of the sick units to whom these liberal loans are handed out by governmental financial institutions.

There have been critical conditions in the jute and the cotton textile industry for some years, the position worsening with every year. Crisis exists also in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry, in the engineering and construction industries. In vital public sector industries such as petroleum, the private sector is being allowed to enter. Crisis can be seen also in other public sector industries such as fertiliser, coal, lignite, iron and steel. Outlays on these industries have been drastically cut, and in some cases, frozen.

According to official figures the total number of sick and closed units have reached the alarming proportions. This is a concerted attempt to attack the life and living conditions of the working people. It is clear that this will seriously affect the economic progress of the country as a whole.

The General Council points out that the theory of inevitable sickness in the process of industrial progress is a bankrupt one. The steady progress of all socialist countries in the world after the end of the second world war has illustrated beyond doubt that basic structural changes can create



conditions of uninterrupted progress and development. Particularly so is the example of the Soviet Union which suffered the greatest losses both in men and material in the course of the war and has since made remarkable strides in industrial, economic and social progress.

The General Council of the AITUC<sup>urgesh</sup> on all unions to participate fully in the call given by the national campaign committee to hold state conventions and organise mass agitation and mass actions against closures, lockouts etc. All affiliated units and state committees should take effective steps to prepare for statewide conventions on this vital demand of the toiling masses. Workers have to be mobilised to go into action to bring about a reversal of government policies to serve the needs of national development and strengthen self-reliance.

.....

### ON THE RAILWAY BUDGET

The General Council of the AITUC notes with concern that without increasing passenger amenities and facilities to other rail users, the passenger fares and freight charges have been increased by 10 per cent in the railway budget of 1985-86 to enable the railways to clear in full the dividend liability of Rs.512 crores. On the other hand, the burden on the railway budget on account of social costs is increasing every year, which should rightly be subsidised from the general revenues. The General Council strongly opposes the increase in passenger fares and freight charges and demands that the dividend liability should be adjusted from the loss suffered by the railways on account of social costs.

The General Council also notes that acquiring of new assets like wagons and coaches has been kept at a low level during 1985-86.

As a direct result, thousands of workers employed in wagon manufacturing units are facing imminent retrenchment. This apart, the inadequate number of wagons has already started affecting lifting and carrying of coal, clearing goods from docks, etc.

The General Council further notes that though much is said about the modernisation of railways, the modernisation scheme for railway workshops is hanging fire since long. In the meanwhile, high interest charges are being paid on the unutilised loan granted for this purpose by the World Bank. In the name of economy, there is a ban on recruitment and vacancies are not being filled, resulting in increased workload on the railwaymen, which affects maintenance of track, rolling stock, safety in operations very seriously. The work of track maintenance hitherto being done departmentally is being allotted to contractors which is neither economical nor conducive to the safety of track, though it could lead to corruption on a wide scale.

In the recent period railway accidents due to mechanical and track failures have nearly doubled. The number of accidents has also increased with increasing loss of lives.

The safety of passengers demands that the government takes adequate steps for track and mechanical maintenance and to improve the efficiency.

.....

ON TAMILNADU TEXTILE WORKERS STRUGGLE

The General Council of the AITUC congratulates the Textile Workers of Tamilnadu on the unity achieved including organisation like INTUC, HMS, AITUC, CITU, Janata, DMK, ADMK against the affensive of the mill owners and supports the indefinite strike action proposed from 16.7.85 involving more than 200 thousand workers.

The five year old settlement ended on 16.7.84 and the unions placed new demands. The South Indian mill owners on the other hand on 28.1.85 gave a counter demand virtually denying role of Trade Unions and taking away all the benefits enjoyed so far and putting on end to collectibe bargaining.

The Seven Central T.U.s. on 4.5.85 formulated demands and set up 16 numbers Action Committee. The Bipartite talks proved to be a failure. The negotiation by the Government on 2.7.85 has not improved matters.

The Action Committee has therefore decided to go on indefinite strike from 16.7.85 notices have been served on all units numbering nearly 500 including 14 NTC and 14 Cooperative mills.

The General Council expresses its full solidarity with the Tamilnadu Textile Workers, and wishes their forth coming struggle a complete success.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF XII WORLD FESTIVALS OF  
YOUTH AND STUDENTS AT MOSCOW

General Council meeting of AITUC extend its full support to the XII World Festivals of Youth and Students which is convened at Moscow from 27th July to 3rd August 1985, under the slogan "For anti-imperialist solidarity, Peace and Friendship".

This festival has gained special significance as it is being convened in 1985 i.e. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR proclaimed by United Nations Organisation with the theme "Participation, Development and Peace".

The Festival is being organised when mankind stands on the brink of a thermo nuclear holocaust due to the policies of reactionary and militaristic forces headed by US administration.

The movement of Festivals was always inseparable from the struggle of younger generation for its fundamental rights and vital interests against Unemployment, for the right to work, to education, to participation in Social and Political life.

The World Festival in the capital of the World's first Socialist State, the Country which is carrying out unparalled Socio-economic transformations and waging a tireless struggle for Peace, against the arms race, will enable the younger generation of the World to get better acquainted with the achievements of Soviet Union in building a new Society.

The AITUC wishes the Festival a grand success.

.....

ON THE EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

1. The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress views with grave concern the functioning of the Employees State Insurance Scheme in the Country. In this contributing Scheme it was expected that the Insured Workers would get efficient and good medical treatment, more and more hospitals built, and more and more workers covered under the scheme. While it is true that due to the recent amendment to the Act (by virtue of which those drawing salary of Rs.1600/- per month and below are covered) about 7 lakh workers additionally come under the purview of the Act, the services rendered to the Insured Workers are generally far from satisfactory and dismally poor in some States. States like Bihar, U.P. and West Bengal give reasons of non-completion of medical arrangements, for non-implementation of the scheme to new areas. In West Bengal not all insured workers and their families are entitled to full medical care. The pace of construction and commissioning of Hospitals, and providing them equipment is also very slow.
2. The AITUC considers that there has to be a drastic improvement in the functioning of the Scheme. One of the main reasons for the unsatisfactory implementation of the scheme is the lack of resources. This is because, for this Scheme it is only the employers and employees that are contributing. The Government of India does not contribute a single naya paisa to this Scheme. It is highly deplorable that despite representation by all concerned and several recommendations of the ESIS review Committees, the Government of India has not changed its position regarding contribution to such an important Social Security measure. The General Council of the AITUC strongly urges upon the Government of India to make a substantial contribution towards the ESI Scheme, concerning the Welfare and Health of lakhs of workers.
3. Another reason for the lack of resources is the huge arrears of ESI contributions, to the tune of Rs.57.61 crores both from the Private and the Public Sectors, Even according to the Corporation, in relation to the total contribution recoverable from the day of commencement of the Scheme there is an increased trend in arrears from 2.81% to 2.91%. This position is likely to become worse with more and more factories closing down. The General Council of the AITUC takes strong exception to the lethargy of the bureaucrats in collecting the arrears and urges upon the Government of India to take more stringent and effective measures for collection of the arrears.
4. It is a matter of regret that instead of considering improvement of implementation of the Scheme, substantial grants and collection of arrears from employers, the Government of India is contemplating to cut down even the existing benefits, by denying sickness benefits during strikes and lock-outs and by reducing the quantum of ESI leave to 56 days from the existing 91. The General Council of the AITUC strongly condemns this move and urges upon the Government of India to give up all such retrograde measures.
5. This Council takes note that as a result of the recent amendments to the Act large sections of workers engaged in seasonal and crisis ridden traditional Industries getting only partial employment and who were enjoying the benefits of the ESI Scheme upto recently are being deprived of these benefits. The AITUC General Council requests the Govt. of India to make suitable amendments to the act and the rules to enable these workers to enjoy the benefits due under the ESI Scheme.

6. Because of this highly unsatisfactory position in respect of the service and treatment rendered to the insured workers, there is increasing dissatisfaction among sections of the working class.

7. The General Council of the AITUC calls upon the working class and Trade Unions to take a comprehensive view of this Social Security measure and conduct a powerful Campaign to remove the weaknesses and improve the implementation and functioning of the E.S.I. Scheme.

.....  
ON BONUS

The General Council of the AITUC considers the recent amendment of the payment of Bonus Act raising the upper limit of salary to Rs.1600/- per month for the purpose of calculation of bonus, as totally inadequate and falling short of the long standing demands of the trade unions. As a result of the still retained eligibility limit at the monthly salary of Rs.1600, increasing number of workers in the organised sector, particularly in the public sector will be denied the right and benefit of bonus. This limit should therefore be immediately done away with, and all workmen irrespective of salary and occupation should be entitled to bonus without any restriction.

This apart, during the two decades since its enactment in 1965 the payment of Bonus Act has become totally obsolete due to changes in the intervening period in direct taxes, rate of depreciation, etc. and as a result the question of available surplus for distribution of bonus has largely become a fiction, and for all practical purposes the minimum bonus at 8.33 percent has become the maximum bonus for most of the industries and workers.

The AITUC General Council, therefore demands that the ceiling of 20 percent be abolished forthwith and quantum of bonus above the minimum be allowed to be determined by means of collective bargaining.

.....  
RESOLUTION ON CENTRAL GOVT. EMPLOYEES DEMANDS

The General Council of the AITUC notes that all the organisations of Central Govt. employees have expressed dissatisfaction over the delay in submission of the report of the IV Central Pay Commission and the inadequate amount of second instalment of interim relief which does not take them any where near their demand of wage parity with Public Sector workers. The continued ban on recruitment and increasing assignment of departmental work to contractors has also been opposed with one voice by all the Central Govt. employees.

The General Council expresses its solidarity with all the Central Govt. employees' organisations in their attempt to further intensify their united movement and make it more broadbased to achieve their demands. The General Council extends full support to the demands and united movement of the Central Govt. employees.

RESOLUTION ON AGITATION OF BATA WORKERS OF FARIDABAD (HARYANA)

General Council of the AITUC demands support to the 1½ month old agitation of workers of Bata Factory at Faridabad (Haryana) against intensified retrenchment drive of the management of the notorious multi-national of Batas, concealed behind the so-called "job-combination Schemes". It condemns the blatantly anti-working class policies and ~~fx~~ practices pushed by the Bata management by clamping an undeclared lock-out in the factory in order to browbeat the workers into abandoning their perfectly legitimate agitation.

The General Council deplures the anti-working class and pro-management attitude of the Haryana Govt. in issuing illegal orders banning the Workers' agitation while completely ignoring the action of the management in clamping an undeclared illegal lock-out of withholding the basic inputs required for carrying on production in the factory.

The General Council calls upon the Haryana Govt. to give up its anti-working class attitude and force the Bata management to lift its undeclared lock-out besides banning retrenchment in the factory.

.....

RESOLUTION ON G.I.C.

The General Council of the All India Trade Union Congress strongly condemns the denial of the Right ~~x~~ Collective Bargaining to the General Insurance Employees and arbitrary imposition of Schemes altering existing terms and conditions in force arrived at after serious and purposeful negotiations // the General Insurance Corporation which have and benefited the workers and the Country.

strengthened// The Council demands a reversal of this attitude forthwith and withdrawal of the Schemes unilaterally imposed.

.....