

AITUC - ~~STATE COMMITTEE~~ - '35 B'
GENERAL COUNCIL



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Against the Attack on Iron Mine Workers.

The Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. notes with concern to the growing unemployment of 25000 adivasi workers men and women in the Iron Ore Mines of Barajamda sector consisting of Singhbhum District of Bihar and Orissa. This has not only resulted in the retrenchment and loss of jobs for the above 25000 workers but has also seriously affected the socio-economic life of the people at large in this area. This is caused by the decision of the Mineral & Metal Trading Corporation of Govt. of India to cut down 50% of the off take for export. The refusal of the Govt. of India to connect the Railway link between Barlil and Paradeep Port and to improve the draft in the Paradeep Port has intensified the crisis.

The workers have conducted serious and continuous strikes and struggles and faced the repressive machinery of the Govt. The people at large in this region have resorted to one day's Bundh to voice their protest against the anti-people policies of the Govt. of India. But nothing has been done and the attack on the remaining thousands of workers goes on. The public and private sector mine managements have been taking advantage of the situation to deprive the adivasi workers their benefits and rights earned through long struggle of past.

Therefore, the Working Committee calls upon the Govt. of India to restore the full quota of off take of Iron Ore for export and for steel mills and to take over the private mines and expeditious steps for completion of the aforesaid Railway Link and the improvement of the draft in Paradeep Port.

It calls upon the Mine workers to continue and intensify their struggle against the Govt. policies in cooperation with the people in general in Bihar and Orissa.

D.C.Mohanty.

✓

Thermal & At Power Plants.

A.I.T.U.C. calls upon its affiliates to take cognisance of the need to end Power Crisis in this country for developing the national economy towards self reliance. In this context the setting up of Thermal Power Plants and Atomic Power Plants become very essential. This meeting further takes note of calculated efforts on the part of vested interests and some foreign agencies to thwart and delay the setting up of these plants of national importance whether it is ^{Kaiga} Baleshwar Plant in West Bengal or ^{omc} Plant in Karnataka - or ^{omc} At Plant in Koodangulam and Thermal Plant of 1000 MW in North Madras. This meeting reputes the arguments and reasons advanced by the some reactionary forces against setting up of these nuclear power plants. This meeting urges that these At Plants will have to be set up with necessary inbuilt safeguards.

This meeting urges on the Govt. of India not to hield to the pressure of vested interest and misguide persons in this regard but to expedite setting up of these plants. This meeting calls upon its affiliates to take all necessary steps including campaigns to defeat the game of reaction and see that the power crisis reduced.

Solidarity with the Struggle with Aluminium Workers.

The Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. fully supports the demands and struggle of the workers in Aluminium Industry in the Country for establishment of an industrial bipartite in the industry on lines with the prevailing NTCS in steel industry, for full utilisation of productive capacities of the industry and for the same establishment of captive power plants in Belgaum, Hira Kud and Alupuram smelters of the Indian Aluminium Company for abolition of contract workers system in the industry and against the attack of the managements both Public & Private on the Trade Union rights, as well as against retrenchment, lay-off and closures. It expresses full solidarity with the programme of struggle decided in the United All India Convention organised for All India Aluminium workers Federation last month in Hari. It supports the struggle conducted by the workers of Balco resulting in appreciable gains.

It calls upon the Govt. of India to forthwith accept the demands of the workers and ensure full production and productivity in the industry.

Mover- D.C.Mohanty.

ON EMPLOYEES P. F. ACT

The Working Committee of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in its meeting held in New Delhi on 26th October strongly urged upon the Govt. of India to raise the rate of contribution in the Employees Provident Fund to 10% as per the unanimous recommendations of the Standing Labour Committee and the Central Board of Trustees.

The Committee expressed its grave concern over the rising volume of the arrears under the Employees Provident Fund and Misc. Prov. Act which according to the latest available reports amounts to more than Rs. 300 Crores. This affects lakhs of workers who are not able to get Provident Fund on retrenchment or retirement. Many big employers in the "exempted category" are misappropriating Provident Fund of the workers. The Committee urges upon the Govt. of India to take stringent measures to recover their arrears. The Govt. may pay provident fund to the workers even if the employers have not deposited from its own funds.

The Committee further urges upon the Govt. of India to accept the long standing demand of the workers and all the Trade Unions for introduction of the old age, invalidity and survivors' Pension Scheme for the industrial workers by amalgamating the Family Pension Scheme, Employees Deposit Linked Scheme, the Pensionary Benefits under the Employees State Insurance Scheme and by making contributions by the Govt. If necessary a part of the Provident Fund can also be used for this purpose.

Com. Parduman Singh.

*Reported for
Decision of the committee*



aside all reasonable objections of trade unions is to deny workers their due compensation for actual rise in cost of living.

The Working ^{Committee} ~~demands~~ ^{charges upon} of the Government of India to withhold introduction of the new 1982 series till the objections of the trade unions are met and warn that the trade unions will not accept this fraudulent index and launch ^a countrywide struggle against it.

*Passed,
Union Secy
26/12*

The Working Committee ^{appeal, to} ~~urges~~ all trade unions irrespective of affiliations to organize protest actions against this sinister move of the Government to impose this index which will adversely affect all wage and salary earners, ~~having sliding scale~~

BA.

COM. P. D. 305M/1

Against Increase of Sugar price

The Working Committee of the AITUC strongly condemns the recent increase by 15 paise per kilo of ^{levy} sugar and changing the proportion of levy and free sale sugar to 45-55 in favour of sugar tycoons. This decision of the Government will only fatten the sugar millowners by fleecing the consumers and the sugarcane growers who have been denied remunerative price. This fresh rise in price is all the more condemnable in a year when it is claimed that sugar production has reached record level.

/ The working Committee demands withdrawal of the increase in

price which is totally unjustified ~~and~~ ^{it further demands that the} ~~proportion~~ ^{proportion} of levy to free sale sugar be changed to 70:30 as was before.

The Working Committee reiterates the demand of nationalisation of the sugar industry which will release ~~the~~ ^{which alone can} the industry from the clutches of the sugar barons and ~~will~~ protect the interests of the workers, canegrowers and the consumers at large.

.....

COM. RAM KRANT BASTAI

Against closures, ~~lockouts~~ Lockouts etc.

COM. H. V. ANANTHASUBRAMANIAM

The Working Committee of the AITUC draws attention of the trade unions and workers to the persistent problem of closures, lockouts, "sickness" etc. throwing out ^{2 jobs} tens of thousands of workers which has assumed serious proportions. Reopening of closed mills and factories and restoration of jobs has become an urgent task of the entire trade union movement. Conventions, conferences and various forms of agitations which were conducted so long ~~which~~ have to be continued, broadbased and strengthened.

The Working Committee at the same time deems it necessary to study in depth the problems of closure of industrial units and the factors responsible so as to work out concretely the steps in the sphere of technology, finance, management etc. that can without adversely ~~ix~~ affecting ^{the} ~~workers~~ workers and their conditions of service.

It also notes that this affects many other sections of population.

passed.
Chakrabarti
26/12

and help in restarting closed units.

In respect of lockouts *and* particularly longdrawn lockouts, the Working Committee of opinion that resolute solidarity actions are needed to thwart the employers from using the weapon of lockouts to browbeat the workers and to force ~~them~~ ^{the latter} to accept harsher conditions of work, ^{Charter & Demands of employers} redundancy, even wage cut, etc.

resolve
 The Working Committee ~~directs the Secretariat to~~ evolve such a programme of action in cooperation with other central trade union organisations and autonomous federations.

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IN SUPPORT OF STRUGGLE OF NPCC WORKERS

The Working Committee of the AITUC extends ^{its} support to ^{the} longdrawn struggle being conducted by the workers of NPCC under the leadership of their Federation against retrenchment following extensive contracting out of work to private contractors by this public sector establishment.

These workers have been continuing their dharna ^{for last - 15 months} and other forms of agitation including strike actions to reverse the reactionary policy of NPCC management.

^{The Working Committee demands of the Government to negotiate with the Federation for a satisfactory settlement.} ^{Munir Com. Beshkat}
~~Against the new fraudulent Consumer Price Index~~

Passd.
Chakraborty
Mishra
26/12

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

ON WAGE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The Working Committee of the AITUC is seriously concerned about the inordinate delay in wage negotiations and settlement of the ~~the~~ demands of over 20 lakh public sector ~~wake~~ workers of our country.

Though it ~~is~~ ^{is} more than three years ^{ago} the last settlement was arrived in some public sector undertakings, there is no sight of ~~any~~ ^{any} understanding on the present charter of demands.

While Interim Relief has been granted to the employees it has not helped bringing the solution nearby. The Bureau of public sector enterprises has been ^{going} one directive after another going against ^{the} very principles of proper negotiations and settlement. For example, one of the directives of the Government is that in those Public Sector undertakings where the settlement expired after July 1987 the managements should not pay Interim Relief; and where it has been paid the same has to be recovered. Also, proposals are made to adjust the Interim Relief paid from 1-1-86 upto the settlement in the future agreements which means deduction from their pay, arrears of payment due on settlement. In respect of Dearness Allowance, ^{terms of} the reference to the Tripartite Committee itself is defective and does not mention the concept of

Passed,
Undersecretary
28/12

CN GORBACHEV'S NEW INITIATIVE

Comrade Gorbachev in a new initiative to ensure peace and step by step disarmament, has unilaterally announced that the Soviet Union will withdraw 50,000 soldiers, and, a part of the conventional arms from Europe.

After the I.N.F. Treaty there is an atmosphere in which the demand for disarmament is growing and a number of regional wars are coming to an end.

In this background the announcement of Comrade Gorbachev strengthens the peace forces and demand for disarmament.

Further Comrade Gorbachev has proposed a 100 years moratorium on debts of the least-developed countries. Number of developing countries are also caught in the debt trap which is hampering their economic development and in some cases has shattered their economy. The rescheduling of debts of other developing countries is called for.

The Working Committee hails the announcement regarding partial withdrawal of the conventional arms and urges on the Western Countries and the U.S.A. to negotiate and arrive at an agreement ~~on~~ disarmament. The A.I.T.U.C. urges on the creditor countries and the International financial institutions to agree to the proposal of Comrade Gorbachev and evolve new international monetary and financial order under the auspicious of the U.N.O.. The A.I.T.U.C. further urges upon the Government of India to take initiative ^{through} ~~that~~ the NAM for acceptance of the proposals of Com. Gorbachev by the developed Capitalist Countries and the International Financial Institutions.

COM. BAKSHI.

Passed
Charitram Mishra
28/12

Devastating Earthquake in Armenia

The Working Committee of the AITUC expresses deep shock and sorrow at the devastating earthquake early this month in Armenia in the USSR resulting in tragic death of thousands of people, injuring and rendering homeless several lakhs of people. Several cities have been completely destroyed.

The Working Committee sends on behalf of the Indian Working class deep sympathy to the victims of the tragedy and extends solidarity with the people of Armenia and of the USSR at this hour of tribulation.

The Working Committee ^{appreciates} ~~welcomes~~ the help promptly sent by the Government of India for the earthquake victims.

The Working Committee ^{appeals to} ~~urges~~ all trade unions to donate liberally to the funds sponsored by the All-India Peace and Solidarity Organisation and ISCUS in aid of the earthquake victims.

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Mover: COM. K. L. MAHENDRA

Passed

Chaturam Mishra

26/12

TEXTILES

Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. expresses grave concern at the persistently deteriorating situation in the Textile Industry with closures, lay-off and lock-outs of Mills continuing unabated, swelling the ranks of workers thrown out of job, in most cases without proper compensation and even without statutory retrenchment benefits. The Govt. stubbornly refuses to adopt any remedial action, ^uthis ^tvirtually abetting the criminal activities of the employers. In fact ^zit appears to be setting the ^upace for carrying out mass retrenchment of workers by reducing the working strength in N.T.C. Mills in the name of 'surplus labour'. (2)

What is surprising and shocking is the fact that the 'Review Committee' ^uset up by the Govt. of India to assess the outcome of the implementation of the New Textile Policy, has not even met once even after the elapse of about 6 months of its ^ubrought into existence.

*Leaving
behind)*

While welcoming the initiative taken by the AITUC/CITU with other left-oriented National T.Us in holding, a National Convention of Textile Workers' Organisations in Kanpur recently, the Working Committee calls upon all its affiliates in the Textile Industry to vigorously implement the decisions of the Convention in cooperation with other Textile Workers' Organisations. (1)

① The Working Committee reiterates the demand of nationalisation of the entire Textile industry without compensation.

② The crisis in the industry has been further contributed by the Govt. of India's 1985 textile policy

*Passed
on
26/12*

aside all reasonable objections of trade unions is to deny workers their due compensation for actual rise in cost of living.

The Working ^{Committee urges upon} ~~demands of~~ the Government of India to withhold introduction of the new 1982 series till the objections of the trade unions are met and warn that the trade unions will not accept this fraudulent index and launch a countrywide struggle against it.

The Working Committee ^{appeals to} ~~urges on~~ all trade unions irrespective of affiliations to organise protest actions against this sinister move of the Government to impose this index which will adversely affect all wage and salary earners, ~~having sliding scale~~

~~on.~~

Monet. Com. ~~Chairman~~ B. D. JOSHI

Against closures, ~~max~~ Lockouts etc.

The Working Committee of the AITUC draws attention of the trade unions and workers to the persistent problem of closures, lockouts, "sickness" etc. throwing out ^{of jobs} tens of thousands of workers which has assumed serious proportions. Reopening of closed mills and factories and restoration of jobs has become an urgent task of the entire trade union movement. Conventions, conferences and various forms of agitations which were conducted so long ~~ago~~ have to be continued, broadbased and strengthened.

The Working Committee at the same time deems it necessary to study in depth the problems of closure of industrial units and the factors responsible so as to work out concretely the steps in the sphere of technology, finance, management etc. that can without adversely ~~if~~ affecting ^{the} ~~max~~ workers and ~~their conditions of service~~,

and help in restarting closed units.

In respect of lockouts and particularly longdrawn out lockouts, the Working Committee ^{is} of opinion that resolute solidarity actions are needed to thwart the employers from using the weapon of lockouts to browbeat the workers and to force ~~them~~ ^{the latter} to accept harsher conditions of work, redundancy, ~~and~~ wage cut, etc.

The Working Committee ~~directs~~ ^{resolves to} the secretariat to evolve ~~such~~ a programme of action in cooperation with other central trade union organisations and autonomous federations.

Movet: Com. H.V. ANANTHASUBBARAO

Against Increase of Sugar price

The Working Committee of the AITUC strongly condemns the recent increase by 15 paise per kilo of ^{levy} sugar and changing the proportion of levy and freesale sugar to 45-55 in favour of sugar tycoons. This decision of the Government will only fatten the sugar millowners by fleecing the consumers and the sugarcane growers who have been denied remunerative price. This fresh rise in price is all the more condemnable in a year when it is claimed that sugar production has reached record level.

/The working Committee demands withdrawal of the increase in price which is totally unjustified. ^{It further demands the proposal of levy to free sale sugar be altered to 70-30 as was existing before.}

The Working Committee reiterates the demand of nationalisation of the sugar industry which will release ~~the~~ ^{which alone can} the industry from the clutches of the sugar barons and ~~will~~ protect the interests of the workers, canegrowers and the consumers at large.

.....
Movet: Com. RAMAKANT MATHY

ON PRIVATISATION OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Despite several statements to the contrary, the Government of India is continuing its devine towards privatisation of the Public Sector Units. The Scooters India Ltd. is sought to be sold to the Bajajs. Kaprain Capatains of Industry in the Private Sector are brought on top to merge the affairs of the Air India and Indian ~~AXI~~ Airlines. The Tatoja unit of Bharat Electronics Ltd. and the Premier Electronics industry of our country is sought to be privatised by selling the majority of shares (80 percent) to the multi-national Corvell Engineering Co. and the Indian Samtells.

Number of services in Road Transport, *Airways* such as Canteeng maintenance, security etc. are already handed over to private agencies.

Various projects are sought to be implemented whereby even the Defence sector will be penetrated by the Private enterpreneur.

The AITUC strongly condemns of privatisation of the public sector which is being undertaken by the Government not only to help the monopolists but also the world bank which is pressuring for greater and greater privatisation to help the multinationals. The AITUC considers these measures as totally opposed to nationally accepted policy|self reliance and building and independant economy. ~~END~~

The Working Committee of the AITUC urges upon the Government of India to give up all such measures of privatisation and help the growth and expansion of the public sector.

*Taxas from
has done
fallen in its
management
(to be micro)*

passed

Christina M

26/12

:5:

While congratulating the Public Sector workers who by going on a day strike on January 21, 1988 manifested in a glorious manner their opposition to privatisation of the Public Sector appeals to them to still further step up the campaign against privatisation so that the Government is forced to give up all such retrograde moves. The AITUC wholeheartedly supports the struggle of the public sector workers against privatisation.

full neutralisation and brings into focus irrelevant issues. The D.A. Committee of the Government of India is yet to consider the issues seriously.

It is further [^]matter of regret that though negotiations are being held on and off in the Public Sector, there have been no proper offers on the basis of which an agreement could be arrived at in respect of Minimum ^{wage} ~~case~~, rates of increment, HRA and CCA, period of agreement and other matters. On the other hand, by proposing agreements from prospective dates and ~~by giving a~~ giving a directive limits ^{ing} the ^{wage} ~~case~~ rise upto 12 1/2 percent if the agreement is retrospective and 15 percent if it is prospective, the BPE and the Government of India are not only stalling negotiations but are ^{cutting} at the very roots of collective bargaining.

The A.I.T.U.C. strongly condemns this approach of the BPE and the Government of India which has meant purposeful delay in the wage ^{wage} negotiations in the public sector. It ~~means~~ ^{wage} the Government of India to take note of the mounting ^{ing} discontent ^{among} any the Public Sector workers, and act expeditiously so that ~~a~~ ^a proper and just settlement is arrived at.

In this connection, the Working Committee expresses its solidarity and support to the conclusions of the Committee of Public Sector Trade unions (CPSTU). Which met recently, and to the programme of action including indefinite strike if the wage negotiations are not concluded before the end of January 1989.

... ^{Movers} Com. M.S. KRISHNAN

ON RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA

The Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. is deeply anguished at the continued detention of Nelson Mandela for over 28 years ~~of~~ by the South African Racist Regime. The Botha Government refuses to release him despite his failing health and despite the world-wide public demand to release him.

Nelson Mandela the stoutest leader of the struggle against apartheid and Racism personifies the values of freedom, democracy and human dignity.

The Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. demands the immediate release of Nelson Mandela and expresses the full solidarity of the working class of India with the struggle of the People of South Africa against apartheid.

Passed.
Mahimanan Mohan
26/12

Done: COM. B.S. DAUNG

ON NAMIBIA

The Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. hails the agreement reached on the Independence of Namibia between the Governments of South Africa, ^{Cuba} Angola and U.S.A.

This Agreement not only ensures the independence of Namibia but is also a great victory against Imperialism and for the forces of Anti-apartheid and Peace.

We convey our heartfelt congratulations to the People of Namibia for the success achieved after a long drawn out struggle for independence.

Com. RAT KISHORE SINGH.

Passed,
Chairman, Mison
26/12

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ON PALESTINE

The Working Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. hals the formation of Palestinian State as a Landmark in the struggle of the Palestinian People for an independent State. Inspite of the refusal of visa to ^{Yasser} Arafat the Leader of the P.L.O. to visit New York and address the General Council of the U.N.O.

The U.N.O. Session was held at Geneva and Arafat was enabled to address where he got the whole-hearted support from the U.N.O.

The intransigent U.S. imperialists were forced to change their stand are now prepared to negotiate with the P.L.O.

The A.I.T.U.C. Working Committee greets the Palestinians in the occupied Arab Territories for the heroic struggle they are ^{waging against} demanding the Israeli forces ^{for their} withdrawal and for achieving their cherished Goal.

COM. ABU.

Passed.
Chalim M...
28/12

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ON ELECTIONS IN PAKISTAN

The Working Committee of the AITUC hails ^{the} ushering in ^{of} a democratically elected Government in Pakistan after eleven years of Military Rule. The elections of Benazir Bhutto ^{as} a lady as the Prime Minister has meant a setback for the Muslim Fundamentalists

The Prime Minister of Pakistan desires ~~for~~ ^{for} improvement ^{of} relationships ^{with} India and ^{resolution of} outstanding problems within the frame work of Simla Agreement. While welcoming these declarations the Working Committee urges ^{the} ^{on} Rajiv Gandhi Government to take necessary initiatives ^{to} see that the friendly relations between the two countries are established.

COM. KAMALAPATHI ROY,

Passed -
Chaitanya Ghosh
26/12

Marella Narasimhachari
member G.C. (LAP)

GC
file

KOLKATA
Pm 534.350.
14-10-87

Dear Council,

I regret to inform that I am not able to attend the General Council meeting being held at Calcutta due to sudden sickness.

I request to you to inform this to the Council and obtain permission for absence.

If it is not difficult please send me copy of the report and other documents through Com. Srinivas ~~at the~~ with the meeting every Sunday with greetings.
Yours sincerely
Marella Narasimhachari

Redirections

पते में
पिन कोड लिखें
WRITE PIN CODE
IN ADDRESS

15

भारत
INDIA

Redirections



ATTN: W.B. Chatterjee

To
Cem - Indrajit Gupta MP.
~~ATTN: W.B. Chatterjee~~
144, ~~2A Canning Lane~~
~~Levin Garden~~

RECEIVED

23 OCT 1987

A. T. U. C.

~~X CALCUTTA X~~

New Delhi - 110001
Pin: - 110001

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File
General Council

ON CAMPAIGN CULMINATING IN DECEMBER 9 DEMONSTRATION BEFORE
PARLIAMENT

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The General Council of the AITUC extends its wholehearted support and cooperation to the call given by the meeting of the class and mass organisations, for a countrywide campaign on urgent mass issues affecting our people, which is to culminate in a massive demonstration before Parliament on December 9, 1987.

This campaign is with a view to mobilise all sections of the toiling masses - workers, agricultural workers, Kisans, Youth and Students, women, on issues such as drought and flood relief, price rise, effective public distribution system, closure of industrial units and defence of trade union rights, Central legislation for agricultural workers, minimum wages for unorganised worker, land reform remunerative prices for farmers' produce, education and jobs for all, rights for women, halt to atrocities against weaker sections including women, restructuring of centre - State relations and for electoral reforms, for National Unity and against communalism and separatism, corruption in high places, etc.

The campaign is linked with the demand for Rajiv Gandhi's resignation and a fresh mandate.

The demonstration on December 9, is to be preceded by mazdoor Kisan Jathas which will traverse the entire country from Trivandrum, Bombay, Calcutta, Amritsar, and converge on Delhi, covering hundreds of towns and thousands of villages, addressing numerous public rallies and wayside meetings all along the route.

The General Council considers this a crusade for a new awakening among our people, for uniting the masses against the communal and divisive forces, and for forging the unity of left and secular forces in the struggle in defence of the interests of the masses, and for foiling the game of the rightist forces. In this, the working class has to play its due role.

The General Council therefore calls upon all its affiliated unions, and the entire mass of workers wherever they may belong to apply all their energies in making this campaign a great success. At every place, through which the Jathas pass, they should be in the forefront in setting up broad-based local committees of mass organisations, parties and prominent individuals for welcoming them, for holding meetings and public receptions, for serving food and refreshments to the Jatha Members, for arranging their rest and night halts etc.

All efforts should be made to mobilise the maximum number of participants for the December 9, Delhi demonstration, so that this biggest ever demonstration truly reflects the strength and aspirations of the working class and its allies in the present situation.

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AGAINST THE BARBARIC CUSTOM OF SATI

The General Council of the AITUC expresses its ~~skan~~ strong indignation at the attempts to revive the barbaric custom of Sati as was evident in the burning of a young widow in a Rajasthan village. It is a matter of shame that this system is being glorified by not only some revivalist elements and p forces but also by some leaders of political parties who claim to be secular, and opposed to revivalism - a sharp contrast of 2000 women's demonstration against Chunari Mahotsav.

The General Council of the AITUC is shocked at the failure of ~~the~~ the Rajasthan Government in preventing so-called 'Chunari Mahotsav' taking place even though it had knowledge of it days earlier and despite a highcourt ^{ing} injunction. ^{mk} Its failure is further heightened by not being able to prevent further glorification taking place. The General Council condemns the inaction, and apathy of the Rajasthan Government.

^{Imbued} with the ideas of socialism and social progress and steeled in unity overriding all caste and communal considerations, the working class should take the lead in fighting these obscurantist, feudal customs and practices which are an insult to the dignity of women and which seek to perpetuate such barbaric customs. The G.C. of the AITUC calls upon the working class to rise as one man and conduct a mighty campaign against such feudal revivalist practices and customs and carry forward the task of social reform.

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On Lockout, Closure & Industrial
Sickness.

The General council notes with grave concern ~~to~~ the growing industrial sickness resulting in closure of 1,30,606 units locking up Rs. 4663-23 crores of Bank credit on 30th June 1986 and rendering lakhs of workers jobless.

The reasons for these closures even as per the Reserve Bank of India are mismanagement, transfer of the assets to other concerns, misappropriation of funds and financial mismanagement. The utter failure ^{of the} ~~after~~ Government in checking the same in time and in many cases abetting the conspiracies of the unscrupulous employers as well as the economic and financial policies of the Government ^{and also} ~~as well as~~ ~~to~~ the indiscriminate modernisation and introduction of high technology, ~~as well as~~ import policies of importing even goods and technology which are existence in ~~exclusive~~ in our country have resulted in the mess. There are the corollaries of the capitalist path followed in our country since 1947. The Government is therefore entirely responsible for this situation. It is further to be noted that the refusal of the Government of India to take over the sick units and run the same with cooperation of workers and their participat^{ion} ~~ed~~ in the management has further intensified the crisis.

The present feature of industrial relations ^{is} ~~are~~ the preponderance of lockouts and increasing number of mandays lost on this count which was 60% of the mandays lost in 1986.

Lockouts and prolonged lockouts as well as closures are being increasingly used as a weapon by the employers in their offensive against the workers with a view to brow-beating the workers and forcing them

to accept harsher conditions of work, more workloads, rationalisation, redundancy and even reduction of wage and other benefits etc. The jute mills and cotton textiles are the ^scrashest example of the same.

The General council demands immediate reopening of all closed establishments, banning lockouts, lay-offs and retrenchments, taking over of sick units and make them viable, ^{with} participation of workers in management, for unemployment relief, for right to work, for introduction of modern technology only on the basis of agreement with trade unions. It also calls for a change in the import policy to safeguard and sponsor self-reliance in economic ⁱⁿspheres.

The General council urges upon the workers launch a vigorous militant struggle to force the Government and the employers ^{to accept the demands.}

....

Struggles for Minimum Wages.

Vast millions of workers in the unorganised sector of industries and services including agricultural workers are denied an adequate minimum wage and various other benefits and ^amenities. Even the meagre minimum wages that are notified by the central and state governments are seldom implemented, particularly in the rural areas. Employers are resorting to litigation in High Courts to stall any ~~machinery~~ implementation. Most of the state Governments have neither any machinery for implementation of the notified wages nor have they the political will to force the hostile vested interests to implement the same. On the other hand most of the state Governments and their law and order machinery have been brutally putting down struggles of workers demanding implementation

of the rights and amenities statutorily due and even the notified minimum wages.

The General Council ^{while} ~~which~~ reiterating its position for a payment of need^bbased wages as per I.L.C. formula of ~~April~~ 195⁷, demands that the minimum wages should be fixed not below the poverty level as worked out by ^{The} planning commission at Rs. 7300 in urban and Rs. 6400/- in rural areas annually on the 1984-85 prices. It further demands that the Minimum Wages legislation should be covered under the 9th Schedule of Constitution so that the wages fixed could not be challenged in High Courts.

The decisions^f of the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in May 1987 which was meant to fix a proper minimum wage has ^A prescribed wage of Rs. 11.00 per day which is not acceptable to the AITUC.

The General Council congratulates the workers covered under the Minimum Wages Act of Delhi and other states for united struggles and strikes for an upward revision of Minimum Wages and inclusion^f of all sections of unorganised workers under the Act.

The General Council calls upon the workers to launch united and militant^f struggles for a Minimum Wage not below the poverty line and strict enforcement of the same by ^{The} Government. It calls upon organised working class to assist in organisation of unorganised workers and extend solidarity action.

The General Council further demand uniformity of Minimum Wages in all scheduled employments in a state as well as in a region. The power of the Government to exempt any establishment from implementation of prescribed wages should be done away with.

NOTE FOR MEETING OF WOMEN CADRES

Since the Calcutta session of the AITUC, the problem of working women has been repeatedly raised and discussed but there has been very little progress in dealing with this special problem.

However, during the past few years there have been occasions when some conventions and conferences have been held, and certain problems of urgency such as the modernisation of tobacco industry, specifically affecting employment of women have been taken up.

At the Bangalore and Vadodara session it was again discussed and delegates present there, both men and women comrades who participated in the discussion revealed that the problem was yet one of considerable difficulties. The general feeling was that still greater and special attention should be paid to the problem both at the centre and the state level.

After the Paroda session, at the centre some steps are being taken and comrades inducted for special attention to this work.

This meeting of cadres, immediately following the meeting of the general council is a result of this decision taken at the last meeting of the Working Committee held in Delhi in April.

A circular was already sent to all state committees for the preparation of this meeting. It is urgently necessary to identify the special problems of working women, and to pay greater attention to activate the women cadres at all levels and draw them into the day to day activity of the trade unions. While in many industries where women form a large part the unions are in existence, a qualitative change is required in the functioning of these unions from two angles - to train and educate the women cadres to enable them to participate actively in the work of the union, and to take up the special problems of women workers.

In recent years there has been a change in the employment pattern of women. This needs to be studied in greater depth. This can be done at the level of the state committees particularly. Similarly, more attention should be paid by the state committees to the effective implementation of the legislation specially affecting women such as the Maternity Benefit Act, the Equal Remuneration Act and more particularly the Minimum Wages Act which affects the largest work force of women who are largely confined to the industries covered by this Act. This therefore requires greater activity on the part of the state committees as the Minimum Wages Act falls into the purview of the state governments.

This meeting should be the occasion for state committees to give their reports on what steps have been taken to implement the resolutions passed by the AITUC on working women. We had already requested the state committees to fix a comrade at the state committee level to be in charge

of this work and to send the name of the comrade to the centre. So far there has been no response, but we hope that at this meeting the concerned comrade is present so that a proper organisational form can be given to this work and the communication be established.

At this meeting it is proposed that a programme be adopted for implementation.

The first step is to hold a series of cadre meetings of women cadre of the trade unions, either at the state or at the district level. Recent experience has shown that there has been good response to such meetings where they have been properly planned and carried out. Comrade Bulu Roy Chowdhury, or Comrade Parvathi Krishnan, can be available to participate in these meetings. From such meetings cadre can also be selected to form a nucleus of working women cadre directly in contact with the AITUC centre who could be assigned specific tasks on this front. We hope you have come with your concrete programmes for such meetings as already requested.

We should also discuss the plan for holding special conferences of working women in different states, to be followed by such conference at the regional level.

The World Congress held at Berlin called on the WFTU to take the initiative to organise an international working women's conference as early as possible. At the World Congress of Women held in Moscow in June this year, it was indicated that this international conference is likely to take place in 1989. This conference will discuss the updating of the Charter of Working Women adopted in the year 1979 at the Conference of working women held at Nicosia. The Charter should be discussed at all levels within or country and proposals for improving the same can be forwarded to the WFTU. This is one of the items that can be taken up for discussion at the state conference proposed.

Another point that could be discussed at this meeting is the organising, at the state level, at state capitals, demonstrations of working women in support of their specific demands. Particularly that of Minimum Wages and the need to work towards a national minimum wage and against all discrimination in minimum wages. Other demands would have to be worked out at the local level as they vary from state to state, from region to region. A sub-committee could be set up to work out the common charter for all states, which could then be improved upon for each state as a preparation for the demonstrations proposed.

It is only from such state conferences that the AITUC can then take up the organising of an all-India conference on the problems of working women.

It is necessary at this meeting to take concrete decisions on a concerted programme of organised work amongst all sections of women workers, which will also enable the AITUC as a whole to move forward.

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AMENDMENTS DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
PUBLIC SECTOR.

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1. At page 1 para 2 make correction of year 1986 to 1985.
2. At page 2 para 4, add the following at the end -
" Not only the expansion projects of the existing plants are being delayed, but also it has to be taken note of that there is no allocation of fund for any major project in the 7th 5 years plan."
3. At page 2 para 5, add the following at the end -

" Employment opportunities in the public sector are being throttled thousands of vacancies are left unfilled and the existing workforce is being burdened with extra workload by not filling up the existing vacancies and by introducing multi-trade concept in the name of new work culture in the public sector industries. The bureaucracy is being allowed to reduce the workers participation in management to a mere slogan only. Several important provisions in the Agreements in Public Sector undertakings are being denied to be implemented scuttling the sanctity of collective bargaining."

Amendment proposed by
C.R.Bakshi and others
from U.P.

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AMENDMENT BY K.G.

Page 3 line 2

After the sentence add the following sentence.

" They exploit the workers ruthlessly and cheat the government to earn super profits."

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ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS--GENERAL COUNCIL
MADRAS, JULY 17-19, 1986.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON PUBLIC SECTOR

This General Council of the All India Trade Union Congress expresses its very deep concern at the further drift in the policies of the Union Government towards the Public Sector and the hard earned Trade Union rights of the workers and calls upon the workers to resist these policies and reverse them in the interest of the workers and the country through united action and buidling democratic opinion.

In June 1985 at the Hyderabad Convention of public sector unions and the following General Council meeting we took a serious note of the government policies and its implications and called upon the Unions to launch a campaign for the "Defence, Extension and Democratisation of Public Sector".

The AITUC notes with a sense of appreciation that among the other Central Trade Unions, the CITU has also taken a forthright position almost identical with the AITUC.

The National Campaign Committee has organised public sector convention in the past and has decided that in the present situation another convention and united action is urgently called for.

The Government policy is continuously and dangerously drifting in the direction of denegration of public sector and subordinating it to the interests of national and multinational monopolies. And mere the industrial relations policy of national bipartite settlements, acquired through hard struggles is sought to be abandoned.

A regular campaign is unleashed in the media that public sector is more of a burden than a path finder that it was expected to be by acquiring commanding heights. In the name of efficiency and profitability a series of steps are being taken to scuttle the public sector and open it to the national and transnational monopolies.

Contd...2.

In the name of acquiring technology, the doors are opened to foreign monopolies while our own Research and Development wing is being eroded and scuttled.

Public sector is being denied the country's own market, which is opened to imports and multinationals leading to rising in foreign trade and increasing drain of our own research.

Steps are being taken to privatise the public sector in a number of ways. Financial structure of public sector undertaking is being opened to private investments, to begin with, in the form of debentures. This is only the thin edge of the wedge and will lead to increasing control of private scions on the public sector.

Private Sector both national and foreign is being more and more involved in the so-called "joint sector" ventures which will ultimately cut at our efforts for 'self-reliance' which was the aim of our public sector.

In the name of "reducing costs" more and more work of public sector undertaking is being transferred to private sector, crippling the productive capacity of the undertakings and rendering the workers "surplus". Officers in certain cases, are asked to resign and set up "ancillaries" to produce what the undertaking was itself producing.

Schemes of premature retirement are being introduced in the sugar coated name of "golden Handshake" to get rid of senior workers.

More and more work is being given on contract and more and more "casual" workers are being employed on a pittance of a daily rate. Thus a flogging of existing capacity of public sector is taking place which is fraught with serious consequences to the country's economy.

The Arjun Sen Gupta Report, that was kept a 'secret' for over a year, has blatantly called for tightening up the bureaucratic management and the "remote and rippling control of the administrative ministry, has called for giving up all preferences to public sector and for throwing the public sector to "compete" in the open market with the wolves of private

sector, that undoubtedly possess vast resources and enjoy a lot of government support as at present.

Capitalist press is crying hoarse that public sector be also brought under the prevention of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. It is dangerous because public sector, if any thing, has been along with our trade with Socialist countries, responsible for the growth, what soever, of our economy and has acted as a check on prices, far in the Drug sector to some extent. The two sectors are sought to be equated and given equal status totally ignoring the reality of the two different objectives of theirs in relation to the balanced and equitable development of our economy and self reliance.

There is serious attack on the hard earned Trade Union Rights. Sen Gupta Committee itself has "advised" abandoning of bipartite national wage negotiations and appointment of wage boards. The policy is fought to be reversed in this regard.

The Central Pay Commission has gone out of the way and remarked that the emoluments of public sector employees appeased to have grown at a rate higher than the rate of growth of the economy.

The meaning is clear. The Pay Commission while denying the Central Government Employees Parity with Public Sector has 'built' a case for freezing the emoluments in public Sector.

Steps have already been taken in some units and to amend the standing orders to deny the workers the right to participate in political activities.

Implications are serious for both the public sector and the workers engaged in it.

The AITUC warns the Government seriously that efforts were also made in the past to restrict the revision of wages and allowances. But they were defeated by the united action of workers. The AITUC is confident and makes a fervent appeal to all the

unions in public sector, and for that matter the entire Trade Union and democratic movement to unitedly defeat this policy of subjugating the public sector to private sector and scuttling the Trade Union and Democratic Rights of workers.

This General Council therefore calls upon the Unions to launch a vigorous agitation in defence of public sector as well as the Trade Union and Democratic Rights of the workers, the right to collective bargaining.

On September 9, the Unions should organise demonstration/Dharnas in all major centres and in State capitals where memoranda should be submitted to the Governors.

The General Council directs the AITUC centre to take necessary steps jointly with other centres to call an All India Convention and launch a countrywide united action.

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1st SEPTEMBER - THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TRADE UNION
ACTION AGAINST WAR FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT.

Being the International Year of Peace declared by the United Nations General Assembly, September First this year carries greater significance than ever before.

The General Council of the AITUC hails the numerous constructive peace proposals put forward by the Soviet leader Mikail Gorbachev during the last one year beginning with the moratorium on nuclear test that the Soviet Union unilaterally initiated from August 6 last year which has been extended now upto August 6 this year. This apart, proposals have been put forward Michail Gorbachev for step by step elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2000 A.D. The warsaw Treaty countries have in the recent period proposed concrete measures for mutual reduction of conventional armaments and troop strength in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. All these historic proposals in quick succession during the last one year have in the opinion of the General Council, not only strengthened the forces of peace and the struggle for peace all over the world, but also brought into sharp focus the aggressive character of the imperialists, especially the Reagan administration of the USA.

The response of the USA imperialists to all these numerous peace proposals put forward by the Soviet Union in concrete terms has not only been negative but the US imperialists arrogantly continue to step up the arms race, the "Star wars" plan and their aggressive activities all over the world. In fact, this year alone, the USA has conducted 6 nuclear tests when the Soviet Union extended moratorium on nuclear tests.

The continued arms race and the huge military expenditure which last year amounted to more than 800 billion dollars has aggravated the capitalist crisis with all its adverse consequences affecting the job and living standards of the working people.

The crisis has accentuated in the developing countries with the huge external debt and lack of resources for development. Even a small portion of huge military expenditure of 1.5 million dollars every minute will go along way in solving some of the pressing problems of development and improving the lives of the peoples.

The threat across the borders against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India has intensified during the last one year with the crisis in Punjab worsening, with closer entente of Jaywardhane Government of Sri Lanka with Israel, UK and other imperialist forces, stepped up military aid to the military dictator of Pakistan.

The Diægo Garcia nuclear war base has been further strengthened by the USA with all its consequences for the security of India and other littoral states.

Due to the continued arrogance and aggressiveness of the imperialists, the Reagan administration in particular, the danger of nuclear holocaust has not lessened, although wider sections of peace loving peoples of various walks of life in different countries including top scientists and physicians have come out against the "Star Wars" plan and negative attitude of the USA towards the Soviet Peace initiatives.

The General Council likes to draw attention of the working class and the trade unions that the struggle for peace and against war and arms race, for reduction of military expenditure, is inseparably linked with the struggle for jobs and job security, for improvement of working and living conditions.

On the occasion of 1st September- International day of trade union action, the General Council calls upon all unions to organise united mass rallies and demonstrations to rouse the consciousness and awareness of the working masses to the danger of a nuclear holocaust, the imperialist conspiracies, the threat of India's sovereignty.

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IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA :

Today, the 19th July, falls the Seventh anniversary of the victory of Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua. On this occasion, the General Council of the A.I.T.U.C. meeting in Madras on 17-19th July 1986 extends warm revolutionary greetings and expresses firm solidarity with the people of Nicaragua who are fighting under difficult conditions the intensified aggressive actions of the U.S. imperialists.

Significance of the anniversary this year is all the greater in view of the Reagan Administration's stepped up aggressive activities against Nicaragua and the sanctioning of 100 million dollars worth aid to the counter-revolutionaries, the CONTRAS, by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Defying the Security Council resolution and the recent judgement of the International Court of Justice which indicated the U.S. aggressive activities against sovereign Nicaragua as violative of international law and the U.N. Charter, the Reagan Administration of the U.S.A. continues to step up military and other aids to the counter revolutionaries as a prelude to direct military intervention to destabilise the freedom and sovereignty of Nicaragua. This General Council condemns strongly the U.S. imperialists and their naked aggression against a sovereign state. The General Council calls upon all affiliates and friendly unions and federations to organise solidarity campaign on a wide scale and collect funds as a token of active solidarity with the fighting people of Nicaragua.

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IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

This General Council of the AITUC reiterates the full support and solidarity of the Indian Working Class with the struggle of the people of South Africa against the racist minority regime, and against continued illegal occupation of Namibia.

With the intensified struggle under the leadership of African National Congress, the racist regime with the backing of the Western imperialist countries particularly of the USA and the UK has recently declared emergency in South Africa, suppressing all kinds of civil liberties and trade union rights. Along with thousands arrested and scores killed after the declaration of emergency, hundreds of trade union activists from different industries have been imprisoned. The symbol of African freedom struggle, Nelson Mandela and many of his colleagues are in captivity for more than two decades.

The General Council having noted the heightened world public opinion against the minority racist regime, joins with the almost universal demand, raised unequivocally by India also, of imposing comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa as the only way to end the hated apartheid system, which is being obstructed only by the Reagan-Thatcher administration.

The General Council welcomes the unequivocal stand taken in this regard by India and would hope the Government of India will remain steadfast with the demand for comprehensive sanctions against the racist South Africa at the forthcoming Commonwealth Conference and would reconsider the decision of participating in the Commonwealth Games scheduled to take place later this month in England.

The General Council calls upon all affiliated and friendly unions and Federations to intensify the campaign in support of South African Peoples' Struggle for freedom and against racism, and in support of the people of Namibia for independence, and to carry forward the decisions adopted at the joint convention of all Central Trade Unions held on June 16th last.

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OBSERVE NATIONAL SOLIDARITY DAY ON AUGUST 9, 1986
AGAINST COMMUNAL AND DIVISIVE FORCES

held on 17-19.7.86
"The General Council of the A.I.T.U.C./views with grave concern the fast deteriorating situation in the country due to the increased activities of the forces of communalism, secessionism, religious fundamentalism, insane terrorism and linguistic chauvanism.

Despite assurances and declarations the Punjab accord has not been implemented. Central and State Govts. have failed to restore normalcy and peace in Punjab.

On the other hand shootings and killings of innocent persons by the terrorists has been on the increase posing great danger to the unity and integrity of our country. It has led to migration of sizeable Hindu families from the border areas of border districts of Punjab, i.e., Amritsar and Gurdaspur. The communal carnage in Ahmedabad has taken a death toll of hundreds and still goes on unabated. It has spread to neighbouring areas and towns also. In the name of Rama Janma Bhoomi and Babri Masjid, Krishna Janam Bhoomi and 'Id gah' the evil forces of Hindu and Muslim communalism are not only provoking communal clashes in Uttar Pradesh etc. and also creating tense situation in Bihar and other parts of the country. The pernicious propaganda of the religious fundamentalists is creating a foul and vicious atmosphere throughout the country likely to lead to more and more clashes. There are increasing attacks on Harijans, adivasis and other backward communities in different areas of the country.

The linguistic chauvanism as evidenced in the clashes in Belgaum has also lead to death of innocent persons and a surcharged atmosphere.

The General Council of the AITUC expresses serious concern about the overt and covert activities and assistance by foreign powers and agencies which are inimical to the country such as the Zia ul Huq regime in Pakistan, U.S. Imperialists and CIA, to the religious fundamentalists and secessionists thus constituting a direct threat to the independence and unity of the country. The AITUC strongly condemns such activities and urges upon the Govt. of India to take more stringent and positive steps to put an end to such foreign intervention in the affairs of our country and attempts to destabilise our country.

The General Council of the AITUC is alarmed at the policies of the Govt. of India, as well as the way in which the TV and media is used to propagate religious and obscurantist ideas, which only go to help the divisive and communal forces rather than the unity of India. It is also a matter of regret that the bureaucratic machinery in many parts of the country is either soft pedalling or crippled thus indirectly assisting those very forces which have to be fought and eliminated.

The situation brooks no delay. If these evil forces are not halted, it is the working class and its unity that is going to be seriously affected.

It is the capitalist and exploiter class that is going to be benefitted by these forces. The working class of our country has glorious traditions of fighting against imperialism, combating the forces of communalism, chauvanism, casteism and secessionism. Despite the disruption activities of the extremists in Punjab, the working class, particularly under the banner of the AITUC has gloriously defended the unity of the class by repulsing the attacks of the evil forces. Instances of such heroic actions of the working class for communal unity, and against the forces of chauvanism are not wanting. However, the situation is assuming such serious proportions today, such enormous and dangerous magnitude that it calls for extremely determined, united intervention of the working class in order to beat back the forces of reaction and defend the unity and integrity of the country and in order to march forward to bring about socio-economic transformations which alone can put an end to such forces.

The General Council of the AITUC urges upon the working class to view the situation in all its seriousness and lend all out support to the call of the National Convention held in New Delhi on May 11, 1986, to observe 9th August 1986 as a National Solidarity Day and against communal and divisive forces. It calls upon all its affiliates to respond to this call in a most effective manner and play its rightful role in the present situation.

The General Council appeals to all its affiliated unions to send funds to Punjab State Committee of AITUC who are heroically fighting the terrorist and maintaining Sikh-Hindu Workers' Unity."

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RESOLUTION ON ' BANKING INDUSTRY'

In 1969 on 19th July when 14 major Indian Banks were nationalised in the wake of a countrywide campaign by all progressive sections of our people in which bankmen under the banner of AIBEA played a pivotal role, it was an epochmaking event of tremendous political, economic and social significance. During the last 17 years, banks have made significant strides in the sphere of branch banking with 55% of them being in rural areas, coverage, deposit mobilisation, credit expansion with more than 40% thereof being accounted for by what are called "Priority Sectors". Today, more than 93% of banking is in public sector with 3% and 4% being in private Indian and Foreign Sectors.

In spite of these allround impressive growth of banking, the fact remains that the basic objectives for which banks were nationalised still remain a far cry. Monopoly and big industrial houses still rule the roost with a lion's share of credit cornered by them. In the countryside, the Kulaks and rich peasantry have been the principal beneficiaries of bank credit, while nationalised banking sector and its resources have become virtually an infrastructure for private sector, it has miserably failed to make any noticeable dent in the growing poverty amongst the vast sections of poor in the country. On the other hand, big bank scandals involving hundreds of crores of rupees are being increasingly unearthed. Bank credit and system have become fully politicised. Huge amounts involving more than 200 crores are being every year written off or provided for bad and doubtful debts endangering the very viability of banking system, which is being subjected to a systematic loot of resources.

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In this background, this General Council meeting of AITUC welcomes and wholeheartedly endorses the campaign concerning the "Health of the Banking Industry" launched by All India Bank Employees' Association. The meeting demands of the government of an immediate take-over of all private sector banks, both Indian and foreign and also for immediate restructuring of the banking system. Bank credit to the monopoly and big industrial houses should be drastically reduced so that these scarce resources are made available to the poor and weaker sections of our people, the unemployed and self-employed entrepreneurs. In one word, banks, freed from present day misuse for narrow, partisan, political ends must be made effective instruments of accelerated socio-economic growth consistent with objectives of Bank Nationalisation and self-reliant economy.

This General Council meeting of AITUC calls upon all its unions in particular and the working class in general to lend all out support to the current campaign of bankmen concerning the banking industry, its ills and concrete proposals for remedy thereof.

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RESOLUTION ON FOURTH PAY COMMISSION :

"This General Council Meeting of the A.I.T.U.C. held at Madras from 17th to 19th July 1986 expresses its strong protest against the arbitrary manner in which the basic demand of the Central Government employees for parity in wages with the Public Sector workers has been rejected by the Fourth Pay Commission on flimsy and unfounded grounds. This would result in not only perpetuating the existing disparity at the lowest level but would further widen the gap after the new wage agreements are reached in the Public Sector by the end of this year. The denial of wage parity even at the lowest level has also resulted in depressed wage to all other sections of the employees.

Accordingly to the Pay fixation formula recommended by the Commission, only a pittance has been given at the lower levels and literally a bonanza at the higher level in spite of the Commission waxing eloquent on socialism in the Report.

Percentage-wise even the rate of increments have been substantially reduced in respect of the non-gazetted staff; not content with this, the Commission has recommended abolition of overtime system, increase in office hours, introduction of modern machines in Govt. offices and ~~xxxxxxx~~ contrasting out regular Government work to the Private Sector and thus suggesting indirectly possible reduction in staff strength.

The General Council have noted the sharp reaction of the Central Government employees to the retrograde recommendations of the Pay Commission and notes with satisfaction the efforts of all Central Government Employees organisations irrespective of ideological and political considerations to join together and resist imposition of adverse recommendations of the Commission on the employees. The General Council extends its full support and solidarity to the call given by the organisations of the Central Government employees participating in the Staff Side of the National Council (JCM) to observe 12th August 1986 as an ALL INDIA PROTEST DAY and calls upon all working people to extend fullest support and solidarity to the Central Govt. employees in their struggle against the imposition of unjust recommendations of the Pay Commission and to fight for a better life.

The Commission has not only failed to evolve a reasonable wage system but has recommended the withdrawal of some of the facilities like medical reimbursement scheme etc. With no rationale, the date of effect for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission has been suggested as 1.4.1986 on administrative grounds."

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RESOLUTION ON LONG MARCH OF YOUTH :

"The General Council of the A.I.T.U.C. held at Madras on 17 - 19th July 1986 extends its support to the 'Long March of Youth and Students to save India, change India' with the slogan 'Defend National Security, Integrity, Defend Peoples' unity and communal harmony, Oppose Pro-monopoly and Anti-people New Economic policies, End unemployment and illiteracy, For social progress, Against Social discrimination, for Real Equality etc.'

This Long March is expected to start about 1st January from Kanyakumari and culminate in a rally on March 23, Day of Bhagat Singh's martyrdom in Delhi.

This General Council calls upon A.I.T.U.C. unions and the working class to render help and support to the Youth and Students in this national endeavour."

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IN SUPPORT OF ALLOY STEEL WORKERS' STRIKE AT PATRATU :

"The Alloy steel workers of the Birla owned factory at Patratu in Bihar are on strike for the last one month. The management is refusing even to talk on the demands, and the state government is keeping mum on the issue.

This General Council of the A.I.T.U.C. while expressing its support for the strike, demands that immediate negotiations be initiated, and the strike be settled by conceding the just demands of the workers."

ON MAVOOR GWALIOR RAYONS STRIKE :

"This General Council meeting of the AITUC greets the 4000 workers of Mavoor Gwalior Rayons who are on strike for the past one year since 7th July 1985.

The strike started on the refusal of the management to negotiate and settle the Bonus for the year 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85, and in refusing to negotiate and settle wages and D.A. and to renew the long term agreement which expired on December 1981.

This General Council demands of the State and Central Governments to intervene in the matter and settle the one year old strike.

This General Council appeals to all Unions to help the striking workers of Mavoor Gwalior Rayons."

ON STRIKE OF COMMONWEALTH TRUST LTD.
TILE AND HANDLOOM WORKERS :

"This General Council of the AITUC held at Madras on 17 - 19 July 1986 greets 3000 Tile and Handloom workers of 5 factories of the Commonwealth Trust India Ltd., spread over Malabar and South Kanara for their just demand of 20% bonus and 5% leave travel allowance.

For the past 9 years the bonus of the Commonwealth Trust India Ltd. employees was production related bonus as per Section 31A of the Bonus Act and not on the basis of allocable surplus.

The strike was necessitated on the refusal of the management to pay bonus for the year 1984-85 on the basis of productivity and only granting 8.33% minimum bonus.

This General Council demands of the Commonwealth Trust management to concede the demands of the workers, and demand of the government to intervene and settle the issue."

ON U.P. POWERMEN'S STRIKE :

"The General Council of the A.I.T.U.C. expresses its wholehearted support to the total strike by nearly 70,000 employees of the U.P. State Electricity Board from Class IV to Diploma Engineers, led by the Joint Front of all unions.

Only recently the Government and the Board have conceded big wage hikes to the higher officials and engineers amounting in all to about Rs.21 crores. However, it is refusing to revise the wage scales of the mass of the employees. A paltry offer of Rs.8 crores is being made in their case.

The A.I.T.U.C. condemns this attitude of giving big hikes to the higher paid officers while reluctantly offering paltry increase to the poorly paid staff.

The A.I.T.U.C. strongly condemns the inducting of military engineering personnel in a bid to break the strike.

Since negotiation is in progress, the A.I.T.U.C. urges upon the authorities to concede the just demands of the employees including the Diploma engineers for a wage rise ~~proportionate~~ proportionate to that given to the top echelons of the Board."

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ON LOCKOUTS, CLOSURES, "SICKNESS" etc.

This meeting of the General Council of AITUC expresses its grave concern at the fantastic increase in a number of sick units, increasing incidence of lock outs, in number of workers retrenched and laid off throughout the country.

Number of sick units rose from 22,366 at the end of 1979 to 93,282 at the end of 1984. Trickling news says that it has reached near about a lakh and about 7000 crores of rupees of money of nationalised banks, IDBI, IFCI, LIC and other Government financial institutions are locked up in them - apart from workers Provident Fund and ESI contributions eaten up. In fact industrial sickness has become a profitable business for the employers of our country for minting money.

According to Government statistics which are of course gross understatement, number of workers retrenched during the period 1980-85 are about 2 lakhs, number of workers laid off in the same period are about 14 lakhs, the percentage of mandays lost due to lock out during the period varies from 45% to 68%. According to Union Labour Ministry 90% of the 93,282 sick units are non-viable and 75000 units should be treated as virtually closed. All these are a direct consequence of bankrupt capitalist path pursued by the ruling class and naked attempt of the monopolist and multinationals to maintain and increase their super profits and to pass on the burden of the capitalist crisis on to the shoulders of the working class. It has created a grave situation of insecurity in the lives of lakhs and lakhs of workers. Several lakhs have already lost their jobs and many more are counting the days. Massive attack of the big houses in the form of lock outs, closures, retrenchment and lay off are to force the workers to accept more workload and to break their resistance to maintain their standard of living and restricting intensification of their exploitation.

Of late the Public Sector units are employing more and more of these dirty tricks, sometimes veiled, sometimes naked in the form of golden handshake, reducing and restricting manpower specially permanent hands through forming out components that can be produced in the unit itself, employing more and more contract labour in jobs of perennial nature and indiscriminate use of automation and computerisation. The government policy of import liberalisation, privatisation, allowing monopolies and multi-nationals to enter more and more the sector till now reserved for public sector and small scale sector are accentuating the crisis, increasing industrial sickness and bringing untold miseries to the working class by throwing workers out of jobs and more so creating a situation where lakhs and lakhs of workers and other toiling people would join the army of unemployed. All these must be viewed in the background of 26.5 million youths being in the live register of the Employment Exchanges, half of whom are educated.

All these are creating a sense of frustration and helping religious fundamentalists, obscurantists, regionalists and casteists, separatists, in a word all dark forces of reaction and the Imperialist Masters to weaken our country and divide our class and making them helpless in front of above mentioned attacks.

The Government of India while extending lavish concessions to the employers has adopted a callous attitude to the miseries and sufferings of the workers and has openly refused to nationalise the textile, jute, sugar, tea and chemical industries which constitute the bulk of sick units. They are refusing to nationalise big and prestigious units which have been closed and/or going to be closed. They refuse to understand the grave social consequence of the situation.

The General Council opines that in such a situation when lakhs of our brethren are under severe concerted attack by monopolists, multi-nationals and the ruling class, it is of utmost importance to develop a combined united and militant counter attack by the entire working class in solidarity of workers who have fallen victim of above mentioned attacks of our class enemy. The sense of unity and united actions has grown throughout the country as revealed in joint actions including strikes and bundhs that are taking place at plant, industrial and even statewide bundhs on these issues, the 12 September bundh of West Bengal involving even INTUC workers.

The General Council demands stringent action against the employers who are responsible for making these units sick and deny them any financial help and new licence and force them to reopen the closed units.

The General Council demands that closures, lockouts, retrenchment be banned and Industrial Disputes Act be suitably amended incorporating deterrant punishment against the guilty employers.

The General Council is of the firm opinion that giving financial help to private big employers in the name of reviving sick units is a drain of public money and only helps to fatten and satisfy their greed to make the richer at the expense of the nation but is of no help to the units, industry and workers.

The only way out to save such important industries as jute, cotton, sugar, tea, chemical etc. and big sick industrial units is to nationalise them and a planned diversification of production and renewal, replacement and upgradation of worn out and outdated machineries.

The General Council demands of the Government of India to adopt such a policy and for taking concrete steps in this direction.

The General Council directs all its state units to take up this issue in right earnest and build up a sustained, broadbased and militant solidarity movement to beat back the combined offensive of the capitalist class and to force the government of India to accept the above mentioned demands.

The General Council of AITUC appeals to all Central Trade Unions to build up united solidarity movement on an All India Plan in the interests of our class and the nation.

~~SECRET~~

ON LOCKOUTS, CLOSURES, "SICKNESS" etc.

This meeting of the General Council of AITUC expresses its grave concern at the fantastic increase in a number of sick units, increasing incidence of lock outs, in number of workers retrenched and laid off throughout the country.

Number of sick units rose from 22,366 at the end of 1979 to 93,282 at the end of 1984. Trickling news says that it has reached near about a lakh and about 7000 crores of rupees of money of nationalised banks, IDBI, IFCI, LIC and other Government financial institutions are locked up in them - apart from workers Provident Fund and ESI contributions eaten up. In fact industrial sickness has become a profitable business for the employers of our country for minting money.

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140/50
233/-
373/50
60/-
433/50

File
Circular - General Council

Cable : "AITUCONG"

Tele : 386427/387320

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24, CANNING LANE, NEW DELHI - 110 001.

President : CHATURANAN MISHRA M.P

General Secretary : INDRAJIT GUPTA M.P

19 May, 1986.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Dear Comrades,

A meeting of the AITUC General Council will be held at MADRAS on 17, 19 July 1986.

The meeting on 17 July will start at 4.30 p.m.

The places of accomodation, of the meeting and other details will be intimated in due course.

Agenda of the Meeting

- (a) Condolence
- (b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting.
- (c) Report by General Secretary on the developments since the last General Council meeting and the tasks in the coming period. Tasks arising from the National Convention on communalism.
- (d) ~~Payment of Affiliation fees~~
- (e) AITUC Building Fund
- (f) Verification of Membership
- (g) Finalisation of the Venue and Dates of the 33rd session of the AITUC
- (h) Any other matter with the permission of the chair.

Address of the Tamil Nadu State Committee, AITUC:

Cable : "THOZHISANG" Madras

Phone: 560869

Com. A. M. Jopu, General Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Committee, AITUC,
25 Kovoor Vaithianatha Malali Street,
Chintadripet, Madras - 600 002.

With greetings,

Yours Comradely
Indrajit Gupta
(INDRAJIT GUPTA)
General Secretary.

P. T. O.

INFORMATION ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING OF
THE GENERAL COUNCIL

1. Accomodation for all comrades is arranged at the place of meeting : THE KALANA MANDAPAM OF THE STANDARD MOTOR PRODUCTS OF INDIA EMPLOYEES' UNION. 29 KRISHNA ROAD, PUDUPERUNGALATHUR, MADRAS 600063.

Volunteers will attend trains on 17 July from the morning at the two main stations to guide members of the general council.

2. Council members will be charged Rs. 15.00 per head towards food expenses for all three days of the meeting.

3. As no bedding is provided, comrades are requested to bring their own bedding.

4. Comrades who require railway reservation for their return journey should send the requisition and the money to reach the Tamilnadu Committee at least twenty days before the due date of the journey. These should be sent to COMRADE T.R.S. MANI, Treasurer, Tamilnadu AITUC, 25 Kovvoor Vaidyanatha Mudali Street, Madras 600002. Telephone : 560869.

5. Any comrade who requires separate hotel accomodation should inform the Tamilnadu State Committee well in time and send Rs. 100,00 towards advance booking. They should also note that they will have to bear the conveyance to and from the meeting place themselves.

~~DRAFT~~ RESOLUTION

ON MINIMUM WAGES

The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress expresses its strong protest against the Policy and Central and most of the State Governments of virtually neglecting proper fixation, revision and enforcement of statutory minimum wages even in the scheduled employments.

In terms of Supreme Court Judgement, non-payment or less payment of wages amounts to extracting "Forced Labour."

The Government of India is avoiding the question of determining the Criteria for fixation of minimum wages, despite the unanimous demand of all Central Organisations. The wages fixed for certain employments in Orissa are as low as Rs. 6/- per day for 6 days in a week. This anarchy can go only if proper criteria are fixed.

The Government is ^{refusing} ~~referring~~ to adopt ^{ILO} ~~the~~ convention ~~no.~~ 131 laying down an obligation for fixing a national minimum below which no ~~such~~ employer will be able to pay to his workman.

The question of protecting the wages from erosion due to price rise is also not receiving the attention it ought to. Certain State Governments like Punjab, West Bengal, Bihar, U.P. and Kerala do have arrangements to pay Dearness Allowance at varying rates upto Re. 1/- per point. In Tamilnadu the D.A. rate for Bidi workers is as low as a miserable amount of 2 paise for every five points on 1000 Bidis made. But the sector covered by the Central Minimum Wage determination machinery is not covered by any such scheme and some states also do not have any D.A. formula.

The Schedule employments covered by the law is also to be expanded. Even the recommendations of Government Secretaries in this regard are ~~fixx~~ just put in cold storage.

The problem of safety from accidents as, for example, in Brick Kiln employment, of protection from occupational disease

like say, pneumoconiosis in Metal Ware industry in Moradabad are totally ignored. There is no law and no arrangement to protect these workers and in some cases even the environment.

This General Council calls upon the Central Governments to -

- 1) immediately lay down the criteria for minimum wage fixation through the Central minimum wages advisory Board;
- 2) The Schedule of employments should be expanded
- 3) Uniform D.A. formula should be enforced to neutralise the rise in prices,
- 4) ILO Convention 131 should be endorsed and a national minimum wage should be fixed.
- 5) Effective enforcement machinery should be constituted and defaulting recalcitrant employers should be given exemplary punishment. It should be provided in the law that tripartite implementation committees ^{will be} ~~are~~ constituted in every district to over see enforcement of wages and safety conditions.
- 6) Steps should be taken to protect the health of workers and the environment from pollution in such industrial centres.

The General Council of the AIFUC calls upon all the State and District Councils to make determined efforts to defend these most down trodden workers and mobilise other workers and public opinion to win the above demands.

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Continued.....P/2

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.....

AITUC rejects new textile policy

Express News Service

Hyderabad, July 6: The General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) has rejected the Centre's new textile policy as it is contrary to the public opinion in favour of nationalising the textile industry.

The CPI-affiliated body which concluded its two-day deliberations on Friday, said the policy exposed the Central Government's anxiety to appease the textile monopolies and multinationals. It had turned a blind eye to the record of the textile magnates' fleecing the common man through heavy price hikes and their relentless exploitation of textile workers.

Briefing newsmen on the resolutions adopted by the General Council, attended by 40 members from different States, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, MP and AITUC general secretary, observed that placing the burden of producing controlled cloth on the nationalised mills was bad enough, but shifting this burden to the handloom sector would virtually spell its doom. The price factor would weigh heavily against the handloom sector which lacked economies of scale, he said.

In a separate resolution, AITUC characterised the 1985-86 budget as one "soaking the poor and sponging on the rich" and called upon trade unions to launch a vigorous campaign against the pro-private sector philosophy.

Mr. Indrajit Gupta said that despite the claim of the Congress-I leaders, there was a major shift in the economic policies of the Rajiv Gandhi government. The main instrument of the country's growth earlier was the public sector but the latest Central budget had transferred this role to the private sector.

This was evident from the recent changes the Government had made in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTP Act) and the new policies governing the electronic industry and imports and ex-

ports, he charged and added that the nation's heavy machinery industry would suffer with the inclusion of nearly 100 items in the Open General Licence (OGL).

Mr. Gupta also regretted the Centre's decision to allow import of an additional 90 drugs instead of stipulating their purchase from the public sector Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL).

The AITUC leader questioned the propriety by Union Finance Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh announcing that he would reduce the corporate taxes further in the next financial year.

He said the Centre's policies were so lopsided that a well-known economist and one-time Congressman Mr. V. K. R. V. Rao had commented that the new strategy of economic growth instead of reducing economic disparities would increase them.

In another resolution, the Council expressed deep concern at the continuing after-effects of the Bhopal gas tragedy, the inadequacy of medical and other relief and called upon unions to observe Bhopal Day on December 3 to highlight and expose the harmful activities of the multinationals especially in the developing countries.

He said the general council, among other things, directed the State committee to take the initiative in holding joint conventions against high prices, closures, "sickness" retrenchment and other pressing issues as decided by the National Campaign Committee.

AITUC campaign for disarmament

By a staff reporter

HYDERABAD, July 6.

The general council of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) has expressed concern over the growing menace of divisive and communal forces endangering the integrity of the country and unity of the working class.

The general council concluded its three-day meetings here yesterday. The resolutions adopted

by the Council were released at a news conference today, by Mr. Indrajit Gupta, M.P. and General Secretary of AITUC. Mr. Gupta called upon all the trade unions to observe September 1, as the International Day of Trade Union Action Against War and Peace and Disarmament.

The Council directed the State committees to take initiative in holding joint conventions against high prices, closures, industrial 'sickness', retrenchment and other pressing issues, as decided by the National Campaign Committee.

Mr. Gupta stated the Council, in a resolution, rejected the new textile policy announced by the Government recently giving all kinds of concessions to private mill-owners when all sections of democratic public opinion and the trade unions had been demanding nationalisation of textile industry.

The General Council also directed the trade unions to launch a vigorous campaign against the "pro-private sector philosophy"

of the budget which would further enrich the monopolies and multinationals.

BHOPAL TRAGEDY

He said, the general council expressed deep concern at the continuing after effects of the Bhopal gas tragedy and called upon the unions to observe December 3 as 'Bhopal Day', to highlight and expose the harmful activities of the multinationals, especially in the developing countries.

Mr. Gupta said the 40th anniversary of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the 65th foundation Day of the AITUC would be observed on October 3 and 31, respectively.

Campaign to defend public sector

Newstoday

Hyderabad: The public sector trade unions will launch a nation-wide campaign to arouse public opinion to "defend, extend and democratise public sector" and stop the Central Government's attempts to privatise these industries. Announcing this at a press conference here on Saturday, Mr Indrajit Gupta, MP, and the general secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) alleged that there was a shift in the Centre's policies in favour of private companies and described it as "anti-public sector and pro-private sector."

Mr Gupta said that the public sector was considered as the main instrument of growth all these years but the Central Government was using the private sector as the main instrument of growth. Elaborating on this aspect, Mr Gupta said that during the next plan period many taxes were expected to be abolished for the benefit of the private industries.

Mr Gupta criticised the recently declared delicensing policy and said with the liberalisation of the Open General Licence (OGL) policy, the importance of the public sector machine building would come down. He said that no one should be surprised if some of the units of IDPL in the

country were closed in the near future. The recent textile policy and the electronic policy were also benefiting to the private industries. He called the textile policy harmful and added that the handloom sector would be unable to shoulder the heavy responsibility thrust upon it.

According to Mr Gupta, the Centre had no specific strict policy with regard to the sick units and the mismanagement of them. He said that the Central Government should debar the managements of the sick units from securing loans from banks. He also questioned the Union Finance Minister's authority to make an announcement this year that he would reduce further the corporate taxes next year. In Mr Gupta's view, the recent Union Budget brought in more inequalities in the society than ever before.

With reference to the recent attempts by the Central Government to acquire high technology, he said that it should suit the Indian conditions and should create more job opportunities. The idea of workers' participation in management "was a big hoax" said Mr Indrajit Gupta. According to him, this policy could not be legalised, for there would be stiff resistance from the management.

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*File
h.c. file*

New Delhi,
July 25, 1955

DRAFT

RESOLUTION ON "RESERVATION"

~~(Draft for circulation to all STUCs)~~

1. The General Council of the AITUC expresses grave concern over the fact that the issue of reservation has led to bitter conflict and division among sections of our people, especially students, youth and government and semi-government employees. In Gujarat, the stir unleashed by the anti-reservationists has fuelled a state of tension and riot for over five months, during which communal conflicts, clashes between armed gangs of criminal elements, attacks by landlords and land-grabbers against poor slum-dwellers and squatters, closure of all educational institutions, police brutalities against citizens, protest bands by traders and strikes by sections of employees have disrupted civic life, destroyed social peace and harmony, ~~caused~~ caused the death of over two hundred persons, rendered thousands of people ~~and~~ homeless, deprived tens of thousands of their daily livelihood and caused immense loss of property. Following the change of Government, efforts have been made to persuade the anti-reservationists to call off their agitation. It has met with qualified success. But the agitation continues yet in sporadic form, showing how deeprooted the points of conflict are in the present social set up.

2. The worst affected places ^{in the Gujarat stir} have been the industrial centres of Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, etc., though it is a matter of some satisfaction that the industrial workers belonging to all communities have generally kept away from the riots and have ~~not~~ by and large kept the wheels of industry running. But events have shown that what is at stake is the unity and integrity of the country, social peace and amity among different communities and the unity of the common masses, which alone can pave the way for development and social progress and safeguard the country's freedom and independence.

3. The issue of reservation in all its aspects is not confined to Gujarat alone. It concerns the whole country and tomorrow it can come up in similar form in other states. As seen in Gujarat, the anti-reservationists, emboldened by their five-months' old stir, have gone so far as to demand the scrapping of all reservations. The working class movement has, therefore, to take note of it in time so as to ensure that vested interests and reactionaries- both local and foreign- are not allowed to utilise this and 'play politics' with it for their narrow partisan interests. A principled attitude has, therefore, to be adopted and the AITUC has to play a major role in educating the mass of workers and employees on that basis.

4. The Indian Constitution has proclaimed the principle of equality of all citizens irrespective of caste, creed, race, religion or sex. But the stark social reality is that due to age-old discrimination and socio-economic oppression, those whose roots are in the downtrodden masses and especially belonging to certain castes and tribes, are unable to get into services and administration, on the basis of real, and not just formal, equality. The policy of reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes for a length of time has, therefore, been provided in the Constitution. Also, commissions ~~known~~ appointed under the provisions of the Constitution have recommended that a certain percentage be also reserved for the socially and educationally backward classes.

5. Note has to be taken that 35 years after the promulgation of the Constitution, the percentage reserved for the SCs and STs in jobs and higher educational institutions has not been fulfilled. As to the OBCs, various state governments have resorted to ad hoc decisions and sections of the ruling classes have sought to utilise the issue for reaping political gains. In some states, a broad consensus exists on this vexed question and the arrangement works successfully. But in other states, this has become an issue of discord.

6. The deepening crisis of the capitalist path of development and the vast reserves of unemployed that have accumulated and are further growing in our country, in the context of deep caste prejudices and rivalries, has created a dangerous situation in which agitation and counter-agitation can degenerate into caste riots and pit one section of the masses against another. Gujarat can be repeated elsewhere.

7. The General Council of the AITUC is, therefore, of the opinion that serious efforts have to be made for arriving at a national consensus on the issue of reservation, based on the following:

- (a) The statutory reservation for the SCs and STs should be fully and faithfully implemented;
- (b) A suitable percentage, depending on the specific condition of each state, should be reserved for the backward castes, but subject to an agreed income limit;
- (c) A certain quota be reserved for those whose family income is below a certain limit, even if they belong to the so-called upper-castes;
- (d) A suitable percentage from the reserved and the general pool be set apart for women;
- (e) The total reservation quota on all counts should be decided on the basis of consensus so that at

no point or level, merit or seniority is entirely shut out.

8. The General Council of the AITUC insists that special steps for pre-professional and in-job training and for qualifying the youth among the SCs, STs and the backward classes be undertaken so as to equip them suitably, upgrade their level and bring them on par with the rest.

9. The most heart-burning and divisive issue connected with reservation among the mass of employees is that of promotion on the basis of the so-called roster system, while recognising that reservation in jobs does not merely mean inducting them at the lowest echelons, but also presumes that the hitherto deprived sections are enabled to get into responsible positions and at decision-making levels in the administration through promotion in the course of service, note has, however, to be taken that the present ^{roster} system has proved to be iniquitous and has led to serious anomalies. It favours the lucky ones, but shuts off promotions for other senior employees and also for those among the SCs and STs who are at the bottom. What has to be kept in view is that while doing social justice to the SCs, STs and the OBCs and providing accelerated promotion to some among them, the fraternal unity of the mass of employees is not broken. With this in view, a package formula has to be worked out on this question, which takes care of the following, among other things: (a) A proper and agreed proportion between direct recruitment and promotion to higher posts, the former being higher where the job is of a qualitatively different nature; (b) Accelerated promotion to SCs and STs to fill the reserved quotas in higher posts. In cases where both direct recruitment and promotion are permitted, the total posts filled by SCs and STs ~~and~~ under both heads not to exceed the reserved quota, except where an incumbent is eligible to be recruited or promoted, on merit or seniority itself; (c) Where higher posts are to be filled solely by promotion, accelerated promotion to SCs and STs may be compensated by creating an equal number of higher grade posts for other senior employees; (d) Every employee to get at least two or three promotions on a time-bound basis during his span of service, if necessary, by creating supernumerary posts; (e) In all cases of accelerated promotions, necessary training to be given to the incumbents so as to qualify them; (f) Benefit of accelerated promotion to SCs and STs to be availed of only once or twice during the span of service, depending on the opportunities available in that service. Such

employees being, of course, entitled to further promotion on the usual basis on par with the rest. A promotion policy has to be worked out concretely, wherever necessary, by the trade unions in agreement with the concerned authority, based more or less on the above broad guidelines.

10. The General Council of the AITUC calls upon the workers and their trade unions to see that TUs unify the workers belonging to every caste or religion, and to oppose separate caste trade unions. They must fight casteism in every form by upholding the socialist ideal of casteless, classless society and the perspective of radical social transformation, as well as the egalitarian teachings of our saints and mahatmas, the traditions of our freedom struggle, etc. They must oppose all caste discrimination and inequality, carry on an ideological struggle against all obscurantist ideas and intervene whenever and wherever atrocities against the downtrodden castes take place. They must strive strenuously for building up unity of the workers, agricultural labourers, peasants, as also of students and youth in order to fight caste disruption. In our specific conditions, the struggle against casteism and caste exploitation has to be conducted simultaneously with the struggle for economic emancipation. While educating the upper castes to come out in support of their weaker brethren in the struggle for real equality, they must also bring home the point to all sections that reservations by themselves do not bring about equality. It is only through a prolonged and tenacious struggle, coupled with basic structural changes and revolutionary social transformations, which socialism alone can herald, that the groundwork will be laid for the elimination of casteism and the caste system in course of time.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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 of 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^{urgesh} 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.

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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 utilised 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.

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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 millowners 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 collective bargaining.

The Seven Central T.Uns. 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 unparalleled 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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 Bata, concealed behind the so-called "job-combination Schemes". It condemns the blatantly anti-working class policies and 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.

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RESOLUTION ON G.I.C.

The General Council of the All India Trade Union Congress strongly condemns the denial of the Right of 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.

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ON CONTRACT LABOUR

The General Council of the AITUC draws pointed attention to the fact that years after the passing of the Abolition and Regulation of Contract Labour Act, contract labour ~~is~~ far from being checked and abolished, has actually multiplied and proliferated in most industries. The State Governments who are charged ~~with~~ with implementing its provisions are doing vitually nothing in this regard.

Today, not only in the construction industry, or in work of seasonal or occasional nature, but even in work of perennial nature, connected with the regular work of the industry or establishment concerned, contract labour is being increasingly introduced, taking advantage of the loopholes in the aforesaid Act. The system is becoming rampant even in such sophisticated fields as lower generation power, and heavy engineering, oil, steel, railways etc., including in operation and maintenance work. In a number of cases, contract labour have been brought into replace regular workers who have been traditionally doing the job, rendering many such workers ~~redundant~~ redundant, and discontinuing fresh recruitment to such jobs.

This is being done in the context of growing unemployment, where a vast mass of not only unskilled but skilled and highly skilled workers are forced to offer themselves for casual jobs or jobs on contract.

Contract Labour is being deliberately resorted to by both private and public sector managements, not with the stated objective of reducing costs, but of by passing labour legislations, wage agreements, etc. and depriving the workers of the fruits of their hardwon struggle, and frustrating their on-going movements. It is to be noted that contract workers are some of the most exploited section of the working class, and their induction in any industry serves to depress the wages and working conditions within that industry.

Contract system is also a breeding ground for rampant corruption, arising from the collusion of management with contractors linked to high sources in government and administration. It is one of the fountain sources of black money in our economy. A "contractor culture" based on a hierarchy of commission agents is coming into being, resulting in waste of resources coupled with bad quality work.

The General Council of the AITUC therefore calls for a united struggle against the system of contract labour, and against its extension into spheres where there is work of a perennial nature, and work connected with the regular processes of production, etc. Concrete and militant actions for putting an end to the contract system, and regularising and departmentalising workers who are thus employed, should be undertaken by the unions.

State-level conventions against the contract system should be organised. The General Council directs the AITUC Centre to make strong representations on the issue, in all forums, such as parliament, tripartite labour conferences, etc.

DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC SECTOR TRADE UNIONS

This Convention of unions in the Central Public Sector undertakings convened by the All-India Trade Union Congress at Hyderabad on June 30, and July 1, 1985 takes serious note of the shift in the Government of India's Policy with regard to the role and the Content of Public Sector and the calculated attack on it by the national and multinational monopolies and calls upon the Trade Unions to note that the struggle to defend their wages and Service Conditions has to be combined with the struggle to defend the public sector and to expand it.

This is an integral part of the struggle for self-reliance, for independent economic development, and for preventing dangerous inroads of the multinational Corporations into a developing Country like ours .

Public Sector was conceived to meet the demands of Social Justice and the need of rapid development. The All-India Trade Union Congress had no illusion that this State Sector was a 'Socialist element' in our economy as was paraded by the Government. The AITUC took it to be State Capitalism, part of the Capitalist economic Structure of our Country, which in turn operated within the constraints of the World Capitalist System.

However the declared aims of the Public Sector that it was (1) to help rapid industrialisation of our Country, "especially by laying the foundations of basic and heavy industries". (2) to earn returns for reinvestment and growth, (3) to promote redistribution of wealth and income, (4) to create employment opportunities, (5) to promote accelerated development of backward regions, (6) to assist the development of small scale units and ancillaries and (7) to promote import substitution, self reliance and save and earn foreign exchange for the Country indicated its positive anti-Imperialist edge and the direction and pace of development that it was to determine. Another most significant and welcome feature was the massive assistance given to the Public Sector by several Socialist Countries, and particularly by the USSR .

This made the AITUC adopt a 'two pillar' Policy towards the Public Sector, of (i) defending it from the motivated attacks of foreign and native monopolies, their efforts to encroach on it, use it for themselves and ultimately aim at taking it over and (ii) to defend the rights and Working Conditions of workers, to see that it acts as a Pace setter for wage standards in the Country.

But slowly and steadily the Government Policy towards the Public Sector is changing for the worse. The twin slogans of modernisation and export orientation are being used as a mask to change the role of Public Sector.

Modernisation and headlong rush for technology are walking into the trap of multinationals and Imperialists who use both collaboration and technology export as Political weapons of neocolonialist exploitation and draining out of our resources, of weakening our

independent role in the World, and of dumping on us obsolete technology, or one that is on the way to go obsolete, or technology that we possess already or which we can develop with our indigenous R & D efforts .

This Convention Warns that this way lies the goal of Strangling our Public Sector and defeat our strivings for a new international economic order, for an independent Foreign Policy of Peace and anti-Imperialism, and for our own growth and development.

This Convention considers the attacks against Public Sector as motivated and meant to first denigrate it and later privatise it.

Privatisation of Public undertakings has already been going on. During the last few years a number of undertakings, specially those owned by the State Governments have been denationalised.

Some undertakings taken over under the Industries Development Regulation by the State or Central Governments, have been nursed back to health and returned to their erstwhile owners who had brought them to the brink of union.

Now Privatisation is sought to be pushed ahead in a variety of ways. Public Sector is being opened up to multinationals in the name of technical collaboration.

Officials and even ministers, not to speak of the knights of Private Sector, are openly demanding that the Private Sector be associated with the management of Public Sector undertakings and even be allowed to have equity participation therein.

The achievements of Public Sector are deliberately under-played and weaknesses are exaggerated.

The "losses" of Public Sector are loudly talked about while the contribution of Public Sector to the State exchequer and excise duties and even dividends in Project-making undertakings are ignored.

Public Sector contribution in providing vital infrastructure and opening up of backward areas is lost sight of.

That Public Sector is earning Foreign exchange is not talked about.

Nevertheless the Convention does not wish to conceal the weaknesses of the Public Sector undertakings, the management defects, the failure to give workers a sense of participation and such other matters.

These deficiencies mainly arise from Government's own wrong policies.

The entire management ethos of our Public Sector is highly bureaucratised with remote Control of the administrative ministry.

The management is over burdened with non-technical number of Officer Cadre, with corruption and wasteful expenditure. The vast cadre thrown up by our Public undertakings is getting frustrated because of the lack of a policy to identify them, train them and place them in positions of responsibility.

Management of Public undertakings has to be liberated from the crippling influence of bureaucracy, made autonomous, and accountable. There should be in built provision for cost account orientation and accountability to the people and the parliament.

Marketing must be streamlined.

Pricing Policy should be rational. Public undertakings buy in a sellers' market paying high Prices for their inputs and sell at administered prices. They must be protected from being exploited by Private Sector and where they have to sell at lower Price, this should be taken into account and either State should reimburse the difference or this should be accounted as Public Sector contribution to the Society.

The system of giving out works on contract and appointing Casual and nominal muster roll workers both to feed the Contractors and starve the workers should be given up.

It is found that former officials of Public undertakings set up industries and supply products to the undertaking costing it both in quality and in capacity utilisation.

Research work done in Public undertakings is sometimes misused to set up benami units and make money. A policy of encouraging ancillaries and small-scale units should be pursued, but not by corrupt methods at the cost of the Public Sector.

All this must be curbed with a heavy hand.

The Workers in Public undertakings are facing new problems. Indiscriminate and thoughtless modernisation and import and deployment of technology may spell ruin of the undertaking, damage the interests of small scale units and even cause redundancy of employment threatening retrenchment. Already recruitment and promotion are under ban in a number of Govt. undertakings.

The Public Sector Workers are subjected to severe restrictions of their Trade Union rights and the right of collective bargaining. The Bureau of Public Undertakings has grown into a Frankenstein Super-Management. Workers' strikes are increasingly met with repression and the use of National Security and Essential Services Maintenance Acts. Workers' Political rights are sought to be curbed. Attempts are being made to prohibit Public Sector Workers from even participating in meetings and processions of political Parties, and standing Orders are sought to be amended accordingly.

In the circumstances, this Convention demands that

1. Public Sector should be expanded by nationalising the entire organised cotton and Jute Textile industry, the Foreign drug companies, the automobile and multi-national Tyre industry, the vegetable oil industry, the Iron Ore mines, Sugar and Cement industries.
2. Workers' Participation in management at all levels through elected representatives should be ensured. It should be full and unfettered.
3. Public Distribution system should be ensured and made effective by taking over wholesale trade in food, essential consumer goods and inputs for agriculture and industry.
4. Full and unfettered Trade Union and Political rights should be guaranteed.
5. Collective Bargaining should be ensured and BPE overlordship should go and the reported scheme of Wage Boards should be abandoned and all agreements should be fully and properly implemented.
6. Contract system should be abolished and Casual Workers and NMR Workers should be regularised.
7. Dearness Allowance should guarantee full neutralisation of rise in Consumer Price Index.
8. Bonus should be paid to all Public Sector Workmen and without any ceiling conditions.
9. Protection of women's employment in Public Sector and their rights and Working Conditions.

This Convention calls upon the unions in Public Sector to take up the challenge and strive unitedly to achieve the above objectives.

This Convention calls upon the All-India Trade Union Congress Centre to set up a mechanism to coordinate the work of AITUC unions in Public Sector, render assistance to promote united action of unions belonging to various Centres, or independent unions, specially unions that agree with our objectives and to coordinate with the work in the Parliament in order to use that forum for effective defence of Public Sector and in the interests of the workers.

This Convention calls upon all Public Sector Unions to observe the week from August 3th to 15th, 1985, for launching a widespread explanatory campaign on the slogan "Defend, Extend and Democratise the Public Sector".

Hyderabad,
July 1, 1985.

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24, Canning Lane, New Delhi-110001

President; Chaturanan Mishra MP
General Secretary. Inderjit Gupta MP

17th May, 1985

CIRCULAR GC/1/85

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Dear Comrades,

The next meeting of the General Council of the AITUC will be held at Hyderabad on 3rd to 5th July, 1985. The meeting on 3rd July, 1985 will begin at 10 AM.

The agenda of the meeting will be :-

1. Condolence resolutions
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Report of the General Secretary and discussion thereon
4. Programmes for :-
 - (a) Celebration of 40th anniversary of WFTU and
 - (b) 65th anniversary of AITUC
 - (c) Unorganised workers
5. Verification of membership
6. AITUC Building Fund
7. AITUC Sambat (Hindi)
8. Any other business

Please note that it has been decided to hold a convention of Public Sector Trade Unions affiliated (and friendly) to AITUC at Hyderabad on June 30, 1985 to July 1, 1985.

ADDRESS ONLY

Sri Visamodh Gowbhuja Samaj
Giriraj Bhawan, Gulbagh, Street No.1
Sultan Bazar - Hyderabad

Accommodation will be provided without charge. There are a number of hotels nearby where comrades can take their meals according to choice. Members who want return journey reservations from Hyderabad should inform their requirements and send Railway fare money before 15th June, 1985 (15.6.1985) to :-

Com. K. Srinivas Rao (Secretary)
AITUC Andhra Pradesh Committee
Satyanaraina Reddy Bhawan
3-5-912 Makhdoom Mohiuddin Marg
Himayat Nagar - Hyderabad-500029

With fraternal greetings,

Inderjit Gupta

(Inderjit Gupta)
General Secretary

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24, Canning Lane New Delhi-110001

TO ALL STUC GENERAL SECRETARIES

17th May, 1985

CIRCULAR No. 56/2/85

Dear Comrades,

A convention of Public Sector Trade Unions will be held at Hyderabad on June 30 and July 1, 1985. This convention is open to AITUC affiliates and other Unions which are friendly to AITUC. The convention will start on 30th June 1985 at 10 AM. Each Union should send two or three delegates to the convention, which is only for Central Government Industrial Enterprises (not for departmental undertakings or services organisations)

The main purpose of the convention is to formulate the tasks of the Trade Unions in the face of shifts in Government policy, the danger of privatisation, denial of workers rights, poor performance and mismanagement of many units etc.

You are requested to ensure that competent representatives from AITUC affiliated Public Sector Unions in your state attend the convention positively. Please inform us by June 15, 1985 how many comrades to expect and from which Unions.

For other technical details please ^{see} the circular for AITUC General Council meeting.

With fraternal greetings,

Indrajit Gupta
(Indrajit Gupta)
General Secretary

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

24, CANNING LANE, NEW DELHI - 110001

President : ~~S. A. DANGE~~ Chaturanan MishraGeneral Secretary : ~~K. C. SHIVASTAVA~~

General Secretary : INDRAJIT GUPTA M.P.

22/4/84

AITUC General Council meets

After the workers' March to Parliament on April 18, the General Council of the AITUC met in New Delhi on April 19-20 with ~~the~~ president Chaturanan Mishra in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the March to Parliament of April 18 and the participation of workers and unions from different states and industries in the demonstration and rally, and emphasised the necessity of strengthening the campaign at state levels in order to involve larger segments of mass of workers and for their increased participation.

The General Council was meeting for the first time after the Bangalore Conference held in December, 1983.

The meeting as enjoined by the 32nd Session, almost entirely devoted to the question of strengthening the organisation of the AITUC at all levels - Centre, State, District and Unit. On the basis of discussions held in which about 35 members participated, the organisational tasks on priority basis will be evolved by the secretariat.

Earlier, the General Council adopted resolution condoling the passing away of S. Narayanan, General Secretary of the ISCUS, Srinivas Godi, veteran leader of Cement workers of Karnataka, K.P. Tripathy, former president of ITUC, S.P. Sharma, Central Government Employees' leader at Raipur (M.P.), Krishna Prasad Pattanayak, R.M. Chatterjee, ^{for} T.U. leader of Pune. The General Council also condole the death (which was adopted earlier by the working committee meeting held in March, 1984) of Yuri Andropov, Bavin Choudhury, Unalal Sirva, Babindranath Mishra, Abdul Rezzak Khan, Sharda Mitra, Mikhail Spokov, Sumir Singh, Bhupal Roy, P.K. Karan, D.D. Washist, Sachin Mikhooti, Chittesh Das Gupte.

The General Council adopted a resolution hailing the Indo-Soviet joint space flight and congratulating the first Indian Cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma and his Soviet colleagues and also the stand-by Indian Cosmonaut, Ravish Malhotra.

Several other resolutions were also adopted by the General Council congratulating the Jute, Port Dock and Kerala Power workers for their successful strike actions. The meeting reiterated the demand for

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
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General Secretary : ~~INDRAJIT GUPTA M.P.~~

General Secretary : INDRAJIT GUPTA M.P.

-2-

takeover of closed and locked out textile mills whose number is now 46; extended support to the Hosiery workers' strike in West Bengal which is still continuing. The meeting extended support to the Central Government employees agitating for the remaining three instalments of DA and for other demands; support to the GIC employees. The General Council deplored the rigid stand of the Government delaying the work of the DA revision committee for public sector undertaking workers.

The General Council recorded its appreciation of the work done by the AITUC delegation led by the General Secretary, Indrajit Gupta which visited ~~the~~ Punjab on March 31 and April 1st according to the earlier decision of the Working Committee.

The General Council included the following members in the General Council from ~~the~~ Punjab ~~whose~~ names were inadvertently left out at Bangalore:

1. Jaswanta Singh Samra
2. G. Prakash

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ATTUC GENERAL COUNCIL
WHICH MET IN NEW DELHI ON APRIL 19-20, 1984

Greetings To Sqn. Rakesh Sharma & The Soviet Cosmonauts.

.....

The General Council of the ATTUC sends its warmest greetings to Sqdn. Leader Rakesh Sharma and his two Soviet colleagues, Commander Yuri Malyshev and Flight Engineer Gennady Stekalov for the successful space mission conducted recently. The working class of the country is proud that an Indian Cosmonaut was enabled by the Socialist Soviet Union to go to space and conduct the scheduled experiments. The General Council also congratulates Ravish Malhotra, the stand by Indian Cosmonaut. At a time when Reagan and his Military advisors are attempting to threaten the world into catastrophe by use of the neutron Bomb Missilies etc., at a time when they are attempting even to use the space for military purposes and bring holocaust to the world, the space mission of the three cosmanauts including an Indian for conducting experiments for peaceful purposes comes as a welcome contrast and pointing to the world the necessity to halt the nefarious attempts of Reagan and the U.S. war maniacs to use space for military purposes. The flight to space of Sqn. Ldr. Rakesh Sharma and his two Soviet cosmanauts once again emphasises the close co-operation and developing friendship between India and USSR in all spheres of life such as Trade, Commerce, Technology, Culture, Science, Defence etc., The General Council welcomes this increasing friendship and pledges to continue its efforts to further strengthen this friendship between the two countries in the interest of peace and progres.

For Takeover of Closed Textile Mills

The General Council of the AITUC notes with concern that the incidence of closures of textile mills in different states continues unabated and at least 46 textile mills are now under closure throwing out of job thousands of workers.

The General Council deplures the Governments in different attitude in the matter of taking effective steps to reopen the closed mills. There are also several mills in various states which are locked out by their owners, depriving several thousands of their jobs.

The General Council reiterates the demand for immediate takeover of these closed and locked out mills.

The General Council congratulates the textile workers who came from different states to court arrest at the call of the all-India Textile Workers' Federation demanding takeover of closed textile mills.

The General Council is also of the opinion that such patch work solution can not be the final solution for the ills of the industry and the hardships of the workers. It therefore demands immediate nationalisation of the entire industry without compensation and its reorganisation on a democratic basis.

In Support of the Strike of Hosiery Workers of West Bengal

The General Council of the AITUC reiterates into firm support to the long drawn strike of 50,000 Hosiery Workers of West Bengal on the demand of minimum wage and other benefits.

The General Council calls upon the workers and unions of other industries to extend all support and help to the striking Hosiery workers who are naturally in great hardships with their families.

D.A. to Central Government Employees

The continuous default by the Central Government to pay instalments to its employees as and when they fall due, is justifiably causing serious discontent among the employees- The recent belated release of 3 instalments falls short by another 3 instalments which have fallen due. Such withholding virtually amounts to wage freeze by the backdoor. The A.I.T.U.C., strongly condemns such withholding of D.A. which has almost become a regular practice.

The Central Govt. Employees including AIRF, NHR, NFPTF, FNPTO, AIDEF, INDEF and Confederation of CGE and are holding a massive Dharna on 24.4.84 at Finance Minister's residence. As demand the immediate release of the further three instalments which have fallen due.

This meeting of the General Council fully supports this just demand. The General Council further demands strict adherence to the Pay Commission's recommendation and the commitment of the Government of payment of dearness allowance as and when it falls due ~~is~~ without any delay.

March to Parliament.

The General Council meeting of the All India Trade Union Congress greets & the vast masses of workers for their glorious march to Parliament on April 18, 1984 under the banner of the National Campaign Committee. These thousands upon thousands of workers only reflected the deep ups and unrest of the lakhs upon lakhs of Indians industrial and agricultural workers, the urban and the rural, the organised and the unorganised.

The General Council calls upon the Government to take a warning from this demonstration and make amends to its promonopoly and anti-labour policies, and take firm steps specially against the lock-outs, closures and 'sickness' offensive of the managements.

Delay In The Report of The Committee For
Revision For D.A. Rate of Neutralisation

The Committee for the Revision of D.A. payable to Public Sector employees have reached a virtual deadlock. The T.U. representatives have sealed down their demand to Rs.2/ pointwhile the Government and the Public Sector management representatives refuse to go beyond Rs.1.50/ per point of rise in the cost of living index. This offer is rightly not acceptable as it fails to fully neutralise the rise in ~~the~~ the living index even for the lowest paid workers - a principle which the employees succeeded in winning in 1973. Therefore all the T.U. representatives including the INTUC wrote a protest letter to the Govt. Later on the call of NCC the Public Sector employees widely observed a protest day. The employees are becoming increasingly restive. The General Council of the AITUC calls upon the Government to take a realistic and reasonable view of the matter and concede the just demand jointly put forth by the representatives of the T.U.s on the committee. It further appeals to the workers of Public Sector to come together to unleash a united mass movement so that the Govt. of India is forced to concede to the just demands of these workers.

Greetings To Jute And Port Workers

The General Council of the AITUC warmly greets the Jute and Port and Dock Workers and Power workers for their magnificent united strike actions and the victories achieved by them.

The significance of these strikes behind these successful strikes lies in the fact that all the Unions and Federations, affiliated to AITUC, CITU, HMS and INTUC and others were fighting together. This unity in action from the stage of formulation of demands to the strike and the settlement is an inspiring feature of these glorious actions.

The Jute strike included the demand of Nationalisation of Jute Mill Industry.

The Jute Workers of almost all affiliations fighting for the democratic demand of nationalisation of Jute mills is again an important feature of the working class struggle of our country in present times.

The General Council of the AITUC takes particular note of this phenomenon and calls upon all the Unions in general and the left led Unions in particular to take this new development into account and work for consideration of this unity trend and carry it forward.

GIC Workers

The General Council congratulates the GIC workers for fighting doggedly for the last 3 years a legal battle and trade union struggles resulting in the unanimous judgement delivered by the Supreme Court on 1st March 1984 in upholding the right to collective bargaining in General Insurance industry invalidating an arbitrarily introduced scheme of service conditions in the year 1980 by notifications. Regretably, the judgement goes out of its way to term the workers in the industry as High Wage islanders and indicates a possible wage freeze. Under such circumstances the struggles are inevitable jointly by Banks, LIC, and GIC employees.

The Government has yet not implemented the Supreme Court judgement ~~giving~~ giving rise to apprehensions of an ordinance to supercede the right to collective bargaining with the result that the workers in the industry are driven to avoidable strike actions. The General Council congratulates the joint struggle launched by the workers, TUs in the industry and warns the Government that delay in implementing the Supreme Court judgement will invite not only contempt of Court but also destroy the good industrial relations in the public sector industry. The AITUC fully supports the struggle of the GIC employees and calls upon the Central Finance Ministry to open dialogue with the workers, trade unions and arrive at a settlement under the ID Act and alleviate the apprehensions of destroying the process of collective bargaining process.

On The Situation In Punjab

1. The General Council of the AITUC expresses its deep anguish and concern about the developments in the sensitive border state of Punjab and severely condemns the killings that are going on. The General Council offers its condolences to all the bereaved families.
2. The General Council strongly condemns the role of Hindu Communalists and other mischievous elements in the neighbouring state of Haryana for harrasing and killing the Sikhs and descerating the Gurdwaras thus further complicating the situation.
3. However, the working class and secular and partriotic forces amongst Hindus and Sikhs in both the States have stood up against communalism of every variety and moved in big numbers in various cities, towns and even billages to preserve and promote communal peace and unity. The General Council greets them for their courageous intervention to defuse the situation. The General Council specially greets the Unions and workers of the AITUC who have valiaubly stood up against heavy odds against the retrenchment x communal violence.
4. The General Council is of the opinion that the Union Government is only drifting and has failed politically to solve the problems and administratively to curb the extremists. The Government should take up the proposals of the 1983 Delhi meting of opposition Parties as a basis to settle the Punjab tangele. This step will isolate the aggressive communalists and knock out from under their feet the soil on which they hope to thrive.
5. The General Council also feels that the equivocal positions taken by the Akali Party are only encouraging the extremists, and also preventing a settlement. They say that they are not for "KHALISTAN" and separatism and are also against violence and killings. But in practice they do nothing to mobilise healthy forces against them and even allow the communal elements

and such leaders like Sant Bhindranwale to take shelter in the holy Gurdwara, which is considered a holy place of worship by both Hindus and Sikhs. They are carrying on their aggressive plans from within the Golden Temple and other Gurdwaras. Their decision to burn Article 25 of the Constitution amounts only to ~~xxxx~~ playing into the hands of those who wish to divide Sikhs as a separate nation and resort to anarchism and killings. The AITUC General Council urges upon the Akali Party to unequivocally against the killings, declare that holy Gurdwaras and religious places of worship cannot be used as hide outs for criminals and anti-social elements, and rally together with all other secular and democratic forces to preserve the unity of the Punjabi people and the integrity of our country. They should return to negotiating table.

6. The General Council warns all the secular, patriotic and democratic people of our country to take note of the game of Imperialism and the other ~~enemies~~ enemies of the country within and abroad to destabilise our country and create chaos by encouraging all such anarchic, extremist, communalist and separatist forces. The General Council calls upon the working class and all T.Us to run a sustained campaign to rouse the working class of the country against the machinations of the communalists and the extremists.

7. The General Council appeals to the Union Government to take necessary political and administrative steps to settle the Punjab tangle and restore peace and order in the troubled towns of the State. The Punjab economy is suffering and cannot be allowed to suffer any more.

8. The General Council hails the initiative taken by the AITUC in sending a delegation to Punjab and places on record its appreciation of the good work done by the delegation.

Time is past running out. The General Council fervently appeals to the Government and all concerned to act quickly to solve the Punjab tangle by arriving at a just and democratic solution. and put an end to the orgy of criminals and extremists the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.

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ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24, Canning Lane, New Delhi-1
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President: Chaturanan Mishra
General Secretary: Indrajit Gupta, M.P.

Tele: 387320/386427
Cable: "AITUCONG"

Circular /GC/1/1984

16 March 1984

To All Members Of The General Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the General Council of the AITUC will be held in New Delhi at the central office, 24 Canning Lane, from Thursday 19 April to Friday, 20 April 1984. The agenda of the meeting is as follows :

1. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
2. Review of the march to Parliament
3. Organisation-report, discussion & decisions
4. Resolutions
- 5.. Any Other business.

The meeting will commence at 4 p.m. on 19 April 1984. If required the meeting may continue on the morning of 21 April

All members should note that if they require return bookings they should inform this office well in time and send the money for their tickets. No reservation will be made unless the money is received.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

(INDRAJIT GUPTA)
General Secretary.

✓

The General Council of the AITUC is shocked at the brutal murder Com. Laxman Mahapatra, a prominent leader of the Orissa working class movement and a former member of Rajya Sabha.

Com. Mahapatra was brutally murdered at Berhampur in broad day light by a group of anti social gangsters when he was leading a procession of MES workers.

The council condemns the callousness of the police and the Congress(I) State Government in protecting law and order and allowing the anti-social hoodlums to carry on murder and attacks.

While conveying condolences to the workers of this state and the members of the Com. Laxman Mahapatra's family the council deeps its red flag in honour of this deceased Comrade.

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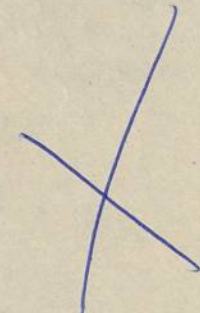


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 a prominent leader of the Orissa working class ^{movement} and a former
 member of Rajya Sabha.

Com. Mahapatra was brutally
 murdered at Berhampur in broad day
 light ~~while he was leading~~ by a group of
 anti-social gangsters ~~while~~ ^{where} he was leading
 a procession of MES workers -

The council condemns the
 callousness of the police and the Congress (i)
 State Government in protecting law and order
 and allowing the ^{anti} social hoodlums to
 carry on ~~and~~ ^{as} murder in public streets ~~attacks~~.

Which conveying condolence to
 workers of the State and ^{the} members of the Com.
 Laxman Mahapatra, the council deplores its
 sad flag in honour of the deceased Comrade.



On the ~~murder~~ ^{of} Laxman Mahapatra

The General Council of the AITUC is shocked at the brutal murder ^{of} Com. Laxman Mahapatra, a prominent leader of the Orissa working class movement and a former member of Rajya Sabha.

Com. Mahapatra was brutally murdered at Berhampur in broad day light by a group of anti social gangsters when he was leading a procession ⁱⁿ MES workers.

The council condemns the callousness of the police and the Congress(I) State Government in protecting law and order and allowing the anti-social hoodlums ^{to} to carry on murder ^{and} attacks.

Which conveying condolences to the workers of this state and the members of ~~the~~ Com. Laxman Mahapatra's family the council ^{deep} ~~deep~~ its red flag in ^{his} honour, ~~at~~ ~~this deceased Comrade~~

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AITUC Flag

In view of the changed situation and in order to avoid any confusion arising out of multiplicity of central trade unions, the General Council of the AITUC meeting in New Delhi on August 22-24, 1983, resolves to change the flag of the AITUC from the existing emblem of 'TUC' to 'AITUC' written on a reactangular red cloth back ground.

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RESOLUTION ON SRILANKA

The General Council of All-India Trade Union Congress vehemently condemns the massacre of Tamil People in the island republic of Srilanka. Apart from the large number of Tamils People killed, even by ~~army~~ army men in plain clothes in the jail, over 250,000 have been rendered homeless, 150,000 are job less as the factories are not working and loss of property is estimated any thing between 1000 to 2000 crores.

Tamils in Srilanka are of two types. One ~~is~~ the old Tamil indentured plantation labour brought to Srilanka by the British planters. They are Srilanka Tamil labour. There are other Tamil People of Indian Origin.

The problem has been under discussion between the Government of India and that of Srilanka. An agreement has also been reached in 1966 that expired in 1981 and further discussions were to continue.

Neither this agreement was fully implemented, nor is present Srilanka Government of Jayawardane prepared to sort out the issues with the Government of India or with the Tamil People of Srilanka, as promised by him in his election manifesto.

Jayawardane's bureaucracy and even army is poisoned with anti-Tamil Chauvinism and is playing havoc.

Jayawardane's policies have landed Sri Lanka's economy in a total mess.

Jayawardane is totally in the grip of USA and has virtually handed over Trincomalee to US to put up their fuel base for Diego Garcia and "recreation ground" for the US men in that Indian Ocean base. Tamil people were mercilessly ~~evicted~~^{evicted} from Trincomalee to clear it for the Americans.

It is in this context that Jayawardane's policies and practices have to be seen. He has taken out a leaf from Hitler's book of strategy and is fanning racial hatred, encouraging discrimination against and even massacre of minorities; and resorting to ban on left and democratic parties and suppression of all democracy. He is even seeking military assistance from foreign countries.

The ALTC General Council demands of the Government of Sri Lanka to

- (i) immediately lift the ban on the left and democratic parties,
- (ii) release all the leaders arrested,
- (iii) clean the administration and army of Chauvinist divisive elements,
- (iv) and Convene a conference of all concerned to find a just and democratic solution of the Tamil people's grievances.

Ceylon belongs to both the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils. The ALTC General Council calls upon both the Sinhalese and Tamil Workers to unitedly strive for a democratic settlement and see that extremist killers and destroyers of democracy and all civil life are totally isolated and Jayawardane Government is forced to respect world opinion and human rights, and democracy is fully restored in Sri Lanka.

RESOLUTION ON PAKISTAN

The General Council of the AITUC severely condemns the barbarous repression let loose by the Zia military dictatorship on the people of Pakistan who are heroically fighting in defence of their democratic rights and the establishment of a popular civilian Government in their country.

The Zia dictatorship during the last six years has deprived the people of their democratic and human rights. Political parties have been outlawed, trade unions and other mass organisations have been banned, and even the cultural and peace organisations which stood for democratic values have been suppressed. The most inhuman tortures have been inflicted on imprisoned leaders of the popular movement and some of the leaders of the working class have even been killed in prison. Even women leaders who opposed the suppression of rights of women and fought for the democratic rights of the people have been thrown in prison and subjected to ill-treatments and harsh punishments, processions and protest demonstrations have been fired upon leading to over a dozen deaths and arrested demonstrators have been subjected to barbarous forms of punishment including flogging.

General Zia is smarting under U.S. arms and converting Pakistan into a prison of peoples, in a seat to ~~escalate~~ escalate tension in the sub-continent and aggression against neighbours and a base for US designs in this area of ~~our~~ ^{the} world.

But the people of Pakistan demand peace in the world and specially with neighbours like India and Afghanistan, they want restoration of democracy and rapid social progress.

The General Council of the AITUC expresses its whole hearted support to and solidarity with the fighting people of Pakistan in this their holy struggle.

OBSERVE SEPTEMBER 1st AS ANTI-WAR DAY

1. The General Council of the AITUC views with serious alarm the unprecedented escalation of the arms race which is threatening the whole world with a nuclear catastrophe and destruction of humanity. This danger has been increased manifold by the decision of the U.S. imperialists to deploy new nuclear missiles in five West European countries by next December. These missiles are aimed at the Soviet Union and can strike ^{their targets} ~~Moscow~~ within six minutes of being launched.

2. The Government of the USSR, while being forced to take necessary measures for the defence of its own country, has made, and continues to make, repeated offers and constructive proposals for a negotiated settlement in favour of freeze on nuclear weapons, disarmament, and all-round relaxation of tension. To all such proposals the Reagan administration has so far turned a deaf ear. The AITUC expresses its full support for the Soviet peace initiatives which are in the interests of entire mankind.

3. At the same time, extremely serious developments are taking place in Central America and the Caribbean, in the Middle East, South Africa, the Indian Ocean and South East Asia. The US imperialists and their allies are carrying on a series of provocations and conspiracies combined with military threats, against the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba, of the Lebanon, of South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Vietnam, Kampuchea and North Korea. New hotbeds of war are being created on a wide scale.

While the Pakistani military dictatorship continues to be feverishly armed by Washington, and the Diego Garcia base is being strengthened and extended, the US imperialists are also trying to fish in the troubled waters of Sri Lanka and to secure military and naval bases there. All this constitutes a threat to India's security and to the peace of the entire region.

4. In this grave situation, the call to observe September 1st, as a world-wide "Anti-War Day", originally given by the World Federation of Trade Unions, has been repeated by the World Assembly for Peace and Life, against Nuclear War held in Prague last June, in which about 500 trade union delegates from 82 countries participated.

The General Council of the AITUC wholeheartedly supports this call, and calls upon all its State units and affiliated unions to observe September 1st in cooperation with other trade union organisations and mass organisations and political parties, by organising meetings, demonstrations, conventions and Peace marches on an extensive scale throughout the country, to demand:

= No nuclear war

= No deployment of US missiles in Western Europe

= Stop arms aid to Pakistan

= Defeat imperialist conspiracies in Indian Ocean

= Defeat conspiracies against peoples of Africa, Middle East and South-East Asia

= Support independence and sovereignty of Nicaragua and Cuba

= Defend India's national security and independence

= Long live World Peace

Lockouts, Closures and "Sickness"

The General Council of the AITUC expresses grave Concern at the alarming increase in the incidence of lockouts and closures in the recent period resulting in loss of employment of thousands of workers besides loss of production.

The employers in different industries are often unscrupulously using lockouts and temporary closures to build pressure on the workers to force them to accept increased workload and other harsher conditions of service, and also as a means to extract more concessions, credits from the Government and financial institutions.

During the last two years mandays losses on account of lockouts have doubled, while in West Bengal the losses have increased three times. The number of lockouts also is steadily increasing and in some cases, as in jute mills in West Bengal are prolonged for months together.

Industrial "sickness" also has become for employers indulging in fraud and malpractices, a profitable business due to various concessions made available by the Government to "sick" units including finances. It is not therefore surprising that the number of industrial units becoming "sick" are steadily increasing including big units run by the monopolies. According to the latest information supplied to the Parliament, there were 28,360 sick industrial units as on June 30, 1982 with bank credit to the tune of Rs. 2,299 crore blocked up by them.

The Government besides setting up ^{Committees} ~~committees~~ periodically to look into the "sickness" problem, has not taken

any effective steps as yet to stem this rot and ^{the} robbing ^{or} huge amount from the public exchequer.

The General Council of the AITUC demands institution of thorough probe into the affairs of all such units showing signs of sickness and deterrent punishments of those of the management responsible for fraudulent practices. The General Council also demands that all dues of the workers of such units must be treated as first charge and to that end, if necessary, relevant laws have to be amended, and the amount of bank and other credits including workers' dues be realised by attaching the personal properties of the ^{members of} Board of Directors.

With regard to increasing incidence of lockouts and closures, the General Council demands the banning of lockouts and closures as conditions laid down prior to declaring lockout or closure are flouted by the employers with impunity.

The General Council calls upon unions concerned to organise spot resistance against lockouts and closures and to secure democratic public opinion in support of such action.

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Com. Dhume
Secretary — Nihar

Withdraw the anti-labour Bills

The General Council of the AITUC reiterates the demand for withdrawal of the anti-labour Bills that are still pending in Parliament viz., the Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 1982 and the Hospitals and other institutions (Settlement of Dispute) Bill, 1982.

Barring the INTUC, all other central trade union organisations have already made known to the Government their opposition to these Bills as well as to the recommendations of the Sanat Mehta Committee which are equally anti-working class.

The AITUC and other central trade unions have already explained to the Government that these Bills including the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill already passed by the Parliament last year, seek to impose more and more curbs on the workers and their trade unions, on the trade union and democratic rights, on the functioning and activities of trade unions.

These Bills which were introduced without any prior consultations with the Trade unions, coupled with the ESMA and National Security Act already in the Statute book, are designed to throttle the trade union movement in the country and rob workers of their basic trade union rights.

The General Council therefore urges upon the Government not to proceed with the Bills pending in the Parliament and instead, evolve a democratic industrial relations system on the basis of consultations with the trade unions.

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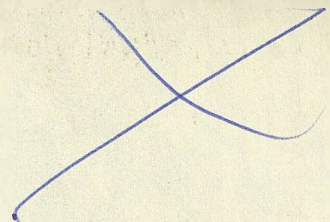
On Rising Prices

The General Council of the AITUC expresses concern at the galloping rise in the prices of essential commodities, more especially ~~fast~~ during the last six months of this year. The uptrend in the wholesale as well as the working class Consumer price indices have acquired faster rates this year.

The wholesale price index numbers increased at a faster rate of 7.4 percent between January and June 1983 compared to 2.1 percent in the corresponding period of 1982.

The consumer price index has gone up by as much as 38 points between January and June 1983. The biggest rise in one month in the index during the last ten years has taken place in May 1983 by 13 points and again in June by further 12 points. This gives a lie to the tall claims of the Government of arresting price rise and containing inflation. The price situation in reality is far more alarming as the consumer price index continues to be defective the Government having refused to rectify, and the actual ~~by~~ price rises in the retail markets donot ~~reflect~~ ^{reflect} in the CPI. The working class thus continues to suffer from erosion of their real wages firstly, due to denial of full neutralisation in the rise ~~of~~ ⁱⁿ prices and secondly due to the defective computation of the index.

While reiterating the demand of full neutralisation of the rise in prices and rectification of the defective index compilation, the General Council demands effective measures to check the price rise of essential commodities by means of expansion and strengthening of the public distribution system and with that end in view to take over the wholesale ^{trade} ~~in~~.



foodgrains and nationalisation of major consumer industries
like textiles, sugar, ^{drugs} etc.

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ON NEW HYDEL PROJECTS IN H.P.

The General Council of the AITUC demands that all the three hydel projects viz., Chamera Project in Chamba Distt., Nathpa-Jhakki Project in Simla Distt. and Kol Project in Mandi Distt. of Himachal Pradesh, are started without delay. Investigations with regard to these projects are reported to have been completed. These Projects will go a long way in mitigating the unemployment problem in Himachal Pradesh and in easing the energy crisis.

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ON RESTORATION OF TU RIGHTS IN H.P.

The General Council of the AITUC protests against the repressive measures taken by the management of the public sector concern, the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation to curb trade union rights and victimisation of union leaders.

The General Council demands the revocation of the unjustified dismissal and reinstatement of Surjit Singh Dogra, President of the NHPC Workers' Union of Himachal Pradesh and T. B. Hardwaj, General Secretary of NHPC Staff Association.

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Draft Resolution On Old Age, Survivors &
Invalidity Pension Scheme

The General Council of the All India Trade Union Congress views with satisfaction the recommendation of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund for evolving a new scheme for old age, survivors and invalidity pension by combining the Family Pension Scheme, Employees Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, Pensionary benefits in the E.S.I. Scheme and if need be a small rise in the rate of contribution.

The General Council of the AITUC strongly opposes the proposed splitting of the Provident Fund Organisation in order to handover the management of P.F. scheme to the employers in case of all establishments employing more than 500 workers. The employers will be provided with large amounts from P.F. deductions to settle the claims of workers.

This is being done in pursuance of the ~~Recommendations~~ Recommendations of Ramaoagan Committee. The AITUC has already communicated its opposition to this proposal.

Employers who are known to have defaulter and misused workers' contribution to P.F. to ^{the} a tune of Rs. 40 crores cannot be given huge amounts to misuse.

The A.I.T.U.C. has been demanding a comprehensive Social Security Scheme for a long time.

The General Council calls upon the Government of India to accept the recommendation of the ~~the~~ Central Board of Trustees and to immediately set up a tripartite committee with a time bound programme to evolve this new scheme which must be put into practice at the earliest.

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ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24 Canning Lane, New Delhi 110 001

Telephone 386427/387320
Telegrams AITUCONG

President : S.A. Dange
General
Secretary : Indrajit Gupta M.P.

17 June 1983

To
All Members of the General Council

Dear Camrades,

1 A meeting of the general council will be held in New Delhi from 22-24 August 1983. The meeting will commence at 4 p.m. on the 22 August 1983.

The following will be the agenda :

1. Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting
2. Report on developments since the last meeting.
3. Dates and venue of the AITUC congress.
4. Matters connected with the congress : agenda, delegates, etc.
5. Campaign following NCC convention on 21 August 1983
6. Finance and organisational matters
7. Any other business

2. The National Campaign Committee has now decided to hold an all-India convention on the lines of the Bombay convention of 1981 on 21 August 1983 at New Delhi. The actual venue and other details such as number of delegates, etc. will be finalised at a meeting of the NCC with industrial federations to be held on 15 July 1983 at New Delhi. The details will then be sent to you. But comrades should take steps to ensure that the full complement, and a fully representative delegation comes from their respective states, so that AITUC is present in full strength.

3. Comrades who will be attending the conference in Baroda on 27 & 28 August on minimum wages can proceed to Baroda after the general council meeting.

4. Comrades should note that this will be the last meeting of the general council before the AITUC congress to be held in December and they are requested to attend positively.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Indrajit Gupta
(INDRAJIT GUPTA M.P.)
General Secretary

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
24 Cannon Lane, New Delhi 110 001

Telephone: 386427/387320
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PRESIDENT : A. DANGE
GENERAL
SECRETARY : INDRAJIT GUPTA M.P.

17 June 1983

To
All members of the Working Committee

Dear Comrades,

A meeting of the working committee will be held in New Delhi on 22 August 1983 at 2.30 p.m.

The agenda will be as follows :

1. Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Dates & Venue of the AITUC congress and other details regarding congress.
3. Agenda for the general council meeting.
4. Any other business.

All members of the working committee are also reminded that the NCC convention will be held on 21 August 1983 at New Delhi and they should attend positively as the AITUC leadership should be fully represented.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Indrajit Gupta

(INDRAJIT GUPTA M.P.)
General Secretary

P.T.O.

RECEIVED

दुनियाँ के मजदूरों एक हो !

आदर्श चीनी मिल श्रमिक संघ, पडरौना

(ए० आई० टी० यू० सी०)

रजिस्टर्ड नं० ४१२०

कार्यालय : कनौजिया वार्ड पूर्वी (रामधाम) पडरौना, जिला देवरिया यू० पी०)

पत्राङ्क

दिनाङ्क

१६८



प्रिय कौनो मजदूरों

ए० आई० टी० यू० सी०

नयी दिल्ली -

मैंने ट्रेड-यूनिपन मोर्चा पर कार्य
 करना बंद दिया है। अब मैं ऑल इंडिया ट्रेड
 यूनियन काँग्रेस के जेनरल को मिल की मददपर
 से इतिहास दे रहा हूँ। कृपया इसे स्वीकार करने
 का कष्ट करें।

आपका साथी -

नरेश सिन्हा

उत्तर-प्रदेश

१०५, अलीगढ़

गोरखपुर

२३/१/८३