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Folder Code: 5 File No. AI-78 S. No.

Digital File Code:

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Note:

REPRESSION IN ANGOLA

The brute Salazar regime in Angola has resorted to extreme repression action to quell the popular mass upsurge. According to the correspondent of London Observer, till the third week of May, more than fifty thousand people have been killed in Angola by Portuguese fascist actions.

Almost all educated Africans have been arrested. In Lobito area alone, the number of arrests exceeds 1,500. There is no prisoner camp in that area and following arrests, the prisoners are no longer traceable. It is reported that even the owning of a wireless set or a cycle is considered to be enough ground for the removal of the owner.

The Salazar regime in Angola is crumbling down and last attempt is being made to prop up Portuguese rule and sustain it somehow.

Throughout the world, solidarity has been expressed in favour of the heroes of Angola. The General Secretary of the Kenia African Democratic Union (KADU) has called for volunteer in support of the struggle of the people of Angola against Portuguese fascist regime. He has also demanded the closure of US Embassy in Keniya as: "the US embassy is a menace for the African nationalism and unity."

Africa is in turmoil. Resurgent Africa is shaking off its shackles of slavery and colonialism. Our country has to express its unqualified support and solidarity with the fighting Africans. It has to be done now and immediately.(S.M)

DELHI TEXTILE WORKERS CONDEMN NEW BILL.

The Working Committee of Kapra Mazdoor Ekta Union Delhi in its working committee meeting held on May 8 protested against the reactionary provisions of Cotton Textile Workers (Central Wage Board Recommendations) Bill.

While criticising the provision of banning the strike on the demandregarding increase in the basic wages it appealed the workers to raise voice in unison against these provisions of the bill.

~~For~~ Delhi Textile workers

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TUR

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COIR FACTORY UNEMPLOYMENT AGITATION COMMITTEE FORMED IN ALLEPPEY.

More than 34,000 workers in cor factories in Kerala have been thrown out of their jobs during the last 12 years and the conditions of the unemployed workers are growing from bad to worse every day. To fight against this serious unemployment a Coir Factory Unemployment Agitation Committee has been formed in Alleppey under the chairmanship of P.T. Punnoore M.P. A meeting held on April 24 under the auspecis of this committee demanded inclusion of coir factories into the development schemes under Five Year Plans and taking over the management of coir factories that have been closed down and for their proper conduct by forming co-operative societies.

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T.U.R.

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MAY DAY REPORTS:

DEHRA DUN:

May Day was celebrated in Dehra Dun under auspecis of United May Day Committee consisting of all major unions in the city. In the evening small processions organised by different unions paraded the streets and joined in Municipal Maidan which culminated in a rally addressed among others by Parvathi Krishnan, Vice-President AITUC.

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Seven hundredworkers belonging to Chikhla Branch of Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh marched the streets to celebrate the May Day. A mass meeting was held in the evening which was addressed by D. Meshram and others.

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STAND BY OUR AFRICAN BROTHERS

Ruthless repression and throttling of all means of expression mark the regime of South African Government today. Even minimum freedom to hold meetings have been banned in South Africa. A Ban has been imposed on South African Congress of Trade Unions prohibiting them to hold any meeting anywhere from March 31 to June 31; they have been debarred from agitating for better living and working conditions; task of organising the workers and winning a national minimum wage.

The Draconian ban was imposed on the same day of the dramatic collapse of the trial for high treason, with the acquittal of all accused - most of whom were people who fight for the cause of workers, peasants and middle-class.

The South African Government prohibited the S.A.C.T.U from holding its 6th session scheduled to be held at Durban by imposing ban on assemblies but the SACTU did hold its conference predating it on March 30.

The denial of fundamental rights in South Africa is eloquent of the drastic measures the Government has adopted there.

Meetings have been stopped in places through armed police interventions; offices and houses of trade union functionaries have been raided and on lodging of protest, the Minister of Justice in the South African Government unabashedly ~~repkied~~ described these raids as routine and assured their continuance. Government has even brought tanks and armoured cars on the streets to put on a show of strength to terrorise the workers.

During the period of last six years, the SACTU had to

face numerous bans, arrests, deportations, savage fines and prison sentences but despite all these, the SACTU has grown in strength day by day. With a begining of only 12 affiliated unions, today SACTU stands as the major coordinating body of workers in South Africa with 51 affiliated unions with a membership of more than 53,000 workers.

The present spate of attacks on trade union rights and democracy is only the prelude for a more concerted and atrocious attack by the Government of South Africa.

With the support of the people of the world, the South African people can beat back the henious attack of the Government. It is the responsibility of the organised working class to rally behind their African brothers. Already in many areas protest meetings have been held and protest resolutions have been sent to South African Minister for Justice.

The issue of violation of fundamental rights should be brought up before the United Nations and the International Labour Office.

The Indian working class has to take immediate action in the matter. Our link and relation with South Africa exists over a long period. We must demonstrate our solidarity with our suffering brothers.

Our workers must hold demosntrations, meetings, adopt resolutions, send copies of their protests to the Minister ofr Justice in South Africa, to All-Africa Trade Union Federation of which SACTU is a member, to International Confederation of Trade Unions to which AATUF is affiliated. Inform the World Federation of Trade Unions what you are doing and send your expression of solidarity to the International Commission for solidarity with the Workers and people of South Africa. Let us stand by South Africa.

POLICE ATROCITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

The All-India Trade Union Congress had sent a letter to the South African Congress of Trade Unions last month expressing solidarity with the struggle of South African workers in defence of their trade union rights. T

L. Massina, General Secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, sent us the following letter in acknowledgement of ours. This letter is important from many aspects and we are reproducing it here for ~~our readers.~~ obvious reasons.

P.O.Box 6781

JOHANNESBURG

May 7, 1961

Dear Brother,

Three month ban on meetings of SACTU

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of April 25, 1961, enclosing a copy of the letter of protest which you sent to the Minister of Justice in South Africa.

Please convey to your members our sincere appreciation of their support and their promt action on our behalf.

We wish to advise you that since our letter of April 10, 1961, the position has seriously ~~changed~~ deteriorated. In evidence of this, we quote the following:-

1. Though the ban on meetings applies only to our Congress, a General Meeting of the Match Workers Union in Durban (one of our affiliates) was surrounded by armed police, backed by riot vans and the meeting was closed.

2. At dawn of the morning of 3rd May, there were massive police raids, on offices and homes of trade unionists and democrats of all races in every major urban centre in South Africa. The total number of people affected is not yet

available, but not a single SACTU office nor the home of a leading official was left unscathed. (In fact, the office of our Durban Local Committee was raided five times in a week prior to the mass police action). Our Minister of Justice has stated that these raids are 'routine' and will continue. While the raids were taking place in the Townships where the non-white workers live, Saracen tanks and armoured cars put on a show of strength.

This is the prelude to an all-out attack to smash our Congress and we appeal to you most urgently to remain alert on our behalf.

With many thanks again for your support and solidarity.

~~With xxxx

Kerala State TU Conference

A call to further carry forward the powerful sweep of united action built among wide sections of workers in Kerala was made by the Conference of the Kerala Committee of the AITUC which met at Quilon on May 13-14.

The united strikes of the workers in the British-owned tile factories of Commonwealth Trust, the cashew factories of Piece Leslie & Co., ~~which~~ have won wide popular support. These struggles which have prolonged over six weeks have sharply posed the insolence of the foreign monopolists and the need the wipe them out of our national economy.

The conference was attended by 460 delegates. It was significant that for the first time, ~~an~~ representative of an INTUC affiliate, Balan Nair, participated in an AITUC Conference in Kerala. The INTUC leader represented the INTUC affiliate in the Commonwealth Trust Ltd., Kozhikode, where the workers both of AITUC and INTUC affiliations are jointly struggling against the British management.

~~Sx Ax Dx~~ R.Sugathan, MLA, presided over the Conference.

General Secretary of the AITUC, S.A.Dange, M.P., participated in the conference. In his speech at the conference, he explained AITUC policy at length on the question of industrialisation of the country and defence of workers' interests.

The conference paid tributes to Rabindranath Tagore and Motilal Nehru. Speaking on the occasion, S.A.Dange said that Tagore is a revolutionary democratic poet and the workers should read and popularise his works. Dange also referred to the support given by Motilal Nehru when the working class and Communist leaders were implicated by the British imperialists in ~~the~~ Meerut Conspiracy Case.

V.V.Giri, Governor of Kerala, in a message to the conference, said that the State Government has a proposal to set up an Industrial Relations Bureau to help growth of new fa[illegible] as well as to protect the in[illegible]

the working class.

A report, reviewing the developments over the last three years and laying down tasks, was made to the Conference by P.Balachandra Menon, MLA, General Secretary, KSTUC. A report on organisation was also discussed by the conference.

Balachandra Menon said that the working class in Kerala should take the initiative in promoting industrialisation of the State and should demand that the Central Government does justice to Kerala by allocating industrial projects.

Major industries in Kerala - coir and cashew - are in crisis and only by a programme of new and large-scale industrialisation could the immense problem of unemployment in the State be solved.

The report detailed at length the achievements made by the working class movement when the Communist-led Government was in office. As for the present Governmemt's policies, even the INTUC has admitted that the interests of the workers are not safe under the Coalition Government of Congress and PSP.

Reviewing the struggles, Balachandra Menon referred to the unity built in action from below. The struggles of the 60,000 cashew workers and the workers of the Commonwealth Trust were jointly led by unions of all affiliations.

Another aspect of these struggles was that these were mostly waged for the actual implementation of agreed decisions in tripartites on minimum wages and bonus.

The report particularly referred to the policy of the British monopolists who have a stranglehold in Kerala's economy, particularly in plantations. The managements of the British companies, the Malayalam Plantations, Pierce Leslie & Co., and the Commonwealth Trust have downright refused to abide by tripartite decisions.

It was noted that while united actions for workers' vital demands were developing on a wide scale, efforts are also made with the help of official support to

to create disruption. Since the formation of the coalition government, unions of the INTUC ~~xxxxxx~~ are sought to be imposed on the workers.

The organisational report stressed the need for greater industrial unity, by formation of ~~xx~~ industrial federations. Centralised functioning on industry and State levels were becoming ~~xxxxxxx~~ essential since collective bargaining at industrial and State levels has come to assume major proportions.

Certain weaknesses of the unions were also highlighted in the report. Insufficient attention being devoted to raising active membership, day-to-day functioning and the maintenance of rolls, education, etc., on the part of the unions was sharply criticised in the report.

The need for raising TU consciousness of a high order and the building up of trade federations, district TU councils and the State TU centre was specially stressed. The AITUC has a pre-eminent position in Kerala. However, the shortcomings prevented the further onward growth of the movement for unity and united action.

The conference decided to raise a fund of Rupees One Lakh to be presented to R.Sugathan, a veteran pioneer of the TU movement in the State, on his 60th Birth-day on December 25,1961. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ This fund would be earmarked to the building of a Trade Union College and central office of the KSTUC.

The conference unanimously elected T.V.Thomas, former Labour Minister of Kerala, as President of the KSTUC. R.Sugathan, K.V.Surendranath, K.P.Gopalan, Rosamma Punnose~~x~~ and P.Gangadharan were elected Vice Presidents. P.Balachandra Menon was re-elected General Secretary. As Joint Secretaries, Kallat Krishnan, J.Chittaranjan, George Chadayammuri, K.A. Rajan and C.K.Vishwanathan were elected, with N.S.Menon as Treasurer.

The conference sharply criticised the working of the ESI scheme in Kerala and demanded immediate improvements, ~~xxxxxxx~~ coverage of families of insured workers, separate ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~

The conference culminated in a mass rally attended by nearly a lakh of people. Earlier, there was a two-mile-long colourful procession which paraded the main thoroughfares of Quilon Town. Large number of women workers participated.

Addressing the mass rally, S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary, AITUC, referred to the Janus-faced policies of the Government. From one face came forth dissertations on socialism; from the other came orders to attack the workers' living standards.

In the name of socialism, they are building capitalism, said Dange.

He called upon the working people to unite as a class forgetting caste, religious and other differences which are sought by the capitalists to split the power of the working class. If workers failed to build their unity, they may lose their legitimate share of the benefits derived from national development.

Referring to communal riots in Jubbalpore, Dange said that it was the workers of Jubbulpore, without any consideration of caste and religion, who boldly came forward to give protection to the hunted minority community.

He urged that the workers should stand together and fight the communal danger, which was trying to raise its ugly head in some parts of the country.

T.V.Thomas, the newly-elected President of the Kerala STUC, referred to the united action of the cashew workers for minimum wages, led by the AITUC, UTUC and INTUC, which ended in victory. He called upon the workers to stand united in raising their voice against the policies of the State Government which were hitting the working class.

The KSTUC President also dealt in detail with the crises affecting the important industries of Kerala, namely coir, handloom and cashew and the casual manner in which the coalition government dealt with the crisis. He welcomed [illegible] act that the INTUC in the State has come to admit this [illegible] anti-labour policies of the coal [illegible] government. led to the INTUC to put [illegible] tion in[illegible] by united action.

2. LINKING OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE PAID TO WORKERS WITH CONSUMER PRICE INDICES

No problem has merited the universal attention of everyone in the working class movement and the people in general, as the steep rise in prices of essential commodities. During the Second Plan period, side by side with the increase in production, the increase in prices has gone along unhindered. The All-India Consumer Price Index Number with Base 1949 - 100, went up from 105 in 1956 to 124 in 1960. With 1939 - 100, the rise has been from 374 in 1956 to 441 in 1960.

With such a steep increase in prices, whatever little the working class obtained by way of wage increases has been completely wiped out. As per the Labour Bureau's Index Numbers of Real Earnings of Persons in Factories, the real earnings of workers (1947 - 100) have sharply dropped from 144.9 in 1955 to 123.9 in 1959 (Indian Labour Statistics, 1961, p.107).

It would thus appear that after completing two Five Year Plans, the workers in our country have only that much real earnings as they had before the Second World War. To a large extent, the share of the workers in the gains of development, has been sought to be denied by the price policies of both the Government and the employers.

The most elementary protection to the workers, to defend their wages from the rising prices, is the provision for linking of Dearness Allowances with Consumer Price Indices. This has been done, to some extent, in a few centres and industries but leaves out much of the organised industries. Consequently, the workers were forced into direct actions on the question of D.A. and it will be recalled that one of the main demands of the strike of Central Government employees of July 1960 hinged on this issue.

It would therefore be apparent that any rational wage policy during the Third Five Year Plan should have as its core the implementation of the principle of linking of D.A. paid to workers with consumer price indices. The 19th Session of the ILC should discuss this subject and adopt a recommendation.

3. LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR DEMOCRATIC BALLOT TO DETERMINE REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER OF TRADE UNIONS FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING THEM RECOGNITION

In 1958, the 16th Session of the Indian Labour Conference ratified the Code of Discipline in Industry, which contained provisions for the recognition of trade unions which satisfy a certain criteria. In order to determine the representative character of trade unions, verification of trade union membership by an agency of the Government (which was made more elaborate by the Conference)was proposed.

Ever since, the procedure of verification of trade unions for recognition under the Code of Discipline, had continued to be an item of discussion at several tripartite conferences. The revised procedure which was circulated an year before has not yet been finalised. Meanwhile, the disputes regarding recognition of union have dragged along, prolonging the industrial tension. There have also been instances where the membership of a union was verified thrice and it has now been asked to prepare for verification under the revised procedure, all over again. (Case of Coal Workers' Union (AITUC), Giridih, in respect of collieries under National Coal Development Corporation in Bihar).

In view of the above, it would appear that the procedure of taking a ballot of workers, to ascertain the representative character of the union, would be a better method, less cumbersome and a speedier one. The Conference may, therefore, consider this question de novo and recommend that legislation may be introduced to provide for democratic ballot to determine representative character of trade unions for purposes of granting them recognition.

4. WORKING OF THE EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

Following criticisms from the trade unions and insured workers, the working of the ESI Scheme was reviewed by a one-man Commission (Dr.A.L.Mudaliar), as per a decision of the Standing Labour Committee. The Commission has brought out several serious shortcomings in the working of the Scheme and has suggested measures for improvement of the Scheme. In view of the importance of the issue, it is desirable that the Report of Dr.Mudaliar is discussed by the 19th Session of the Indian Labour Conference. The following pressing issues which require immediate attention will have to be borne in mind while discussing the Report.

(Items i to xiii of Resolution on Social Security - 26th Session of the AITUC)

5. SETTING UP OF TRIPARTITE INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

Government policy with regard to setting up of Industrial Committees on the ILO pattern was stated at the 16th Session of the Standing Labour Committee. It was that industrial committees would be set up for the following industries: (1) Plantations (2) Coal Mining (3) Cement (4) Cotton Textiles (5) Tanneries and Leather Goods Manufactories (6) Jute (7) Building and Construction (8) Mines other than Coal (9) Iron and Steel (10) Chemicals (11) Engineering and (12) Transport Services.

However, it is noted that during the last four years, none of the following committees were convened: (1) Cotton Textiles (2) Tanneries and Leather Manufactories (3) Building and Construction (4) Iron & Steel (5) Chemicals (6) Engineering and (7) Transport Services.

It cannot be said that there were no urgent issues relating to these industries which required discussion at tripartite central level, during this period. The question of implementation of the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Textile Industry could have been fruitfully discussed at an Industrial Committee meeting. Similarly, a Wage Board was announced for Iron & Steel, but it would have facilitated discussion of the problem in greater detail if a tripartite industrial meeting was convened. In Tanneries, Building and Construction, chemicals, engineering and transport services, as in most other industries, various State Governments pursue divergent policies in relation to industrial relations. The anarchy in policies could be rectified to a great extent if thex common problems are discussed at national tripartite level. The Indian Labour Conference should therefore review the question regarding setting up of Industrial Committees and recommend that Industrial Committees, at least those which Government have agreed to set up, should be convened at regular intervals in the interest of healthy development of industrial relations.

6. REDUCTION OF HOURS OF WORK IN HAZARDOUS OCCUPATIONS

Surveys conducted by Government with regard to occupational hazards in some industries have brought forth the gruesome reality that workers are subjected to excessive exposure to gases, fumes, dust, etc., even within the normal working-day of eight hours.

For instance, the Survey conducted by the Chief Adviser, Factories, in relation to hazards in viscose rayon industry has recommended that the working hours should be limited to not more than five, to be within safe limits of exposure hazards. Similarly, the survey on manganese poisoning has brought out the severity of occupational hazards.

With the growing industrialisation in the country and the setting up of various branches of industry, new occupational hazards are coming to light and these are yet to be surveyed. The Government should therefore take up specific projects to conduct surveys regarding occupational hazards in different industries.

Reduced working hours in hazardous occupations have been provided in all industrially advanced countries. We, in India, who are attempting to build up our industries should lay down a similar policy. The effective implementation of this policy should follow scientific surveys which should be conducted into hazardous occupations, particularly in chemical, synthetics, and mining industries. To begin with, the Government should take steps to implement the recommendations of the Survey on Viscose Rayon Industry.

The 19th Session of the Indian Labour Conference may therefore discuss this subject and adopt a recommendation for reduction of hours of work in hazardous occupations.

Box

WITHOUT COMMENTS.

The following is an excerpt from the Chairman's speech in the meeting of the Kohinoor Mills Company Ltd, published in the EASTERN ECONOMIST of May 19, 1961. ~~We~~ leave it to our readers to have their own conclusions:

8 pt. ital
9 ems
8×9
40

" Our relations with the Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh, (an affiliate of INTUC - ~~our explanation~~ Editor, TVR), which is the recognised Labour Union for our Mill, were most cordial, and with their help rationalisation and standardisation measures were introduced in various sectors. In all 785 posts were reduced and this without any deterioration in our labour relations. Out of this, retrenchment compensation and gratuity was paid to 547 persons and we took advantage of natural wastage to abolish the balance 238 posts. The R.M.M.S. gave us their full cooperation during this period and assured us of their complete assistance in future."

(23)

TVR Box

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10pt. x 10ems

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Meetings have been stopped in places through armed police interventions; offices and houses of trade union functionaries have been raided and on lodging of protest, the Minister of Justice in the South African Government unabashedly ~~replied~~ described these raids as routine and assured their continuance. Government has even brought tanks and armoured cars on the streets to put on a show of strength to terrorise the workers.

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The present spate of attacks on trade union rights and democracy is only the prelude for a more concerted and atrocious attack by the Government of South Africa.

With the support of the people of the world, the South African people can beat back the heinous attack of the Government. It is the responsibility of the organised working class to rally behind their African brothers. Already in many areas protest meetings have been held and protest resolutions have been sent to South African Minister for Justice.

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strike in Commonwealth Tile factories

.....

A UNIQUE STRIKE AGAINST FOREIGN MONOPOLISTS

~~The strike of the workers~~ In

The arrogance of a British monopoly is being met in a dogged united action by the workers and people of North Kerala.

10 × 10 / 11 lines

The strike of 1400 workers began on April 10 in the British-owned Commonwealth Trust in three tile factories at Feroke, Puthiyara and Olavakkot. It is a total strike ~~by all 1,400 workers~~.

The workers demanded bonus. The management refused.

It was not just a refusal of a demand on plant-level made by 1400 workers. The British monopoly, whose tile factories made the highest profits, had the arrogance to refuse to implement the agreement on bonus payment reached at the tripartite Industrial Relations Committee set up by the State Government.

8 × 9 / 11

There was agreement at the tripartite that the workers would be paid a minimum bonus of 4 per cent. Most of the Indian-owned factories have in fact paid this bonus.

When such gross instance of non-implementation of tripartite agreements by such a foreign monopoly is leading to one of the longest strikes in recent days, the State Government could do nothing. The Union Labour Minister who swears by the Code of Discipline day in and day out, did nothing.

But the people of Puthiyara, Feroke and Olavakkot have to a man rallied behind the striking workers, in holy anger against the foreign monopolists.

On May 12, the entire activity in the busy commercial and industrial centre of Feroke, came to a complete standstill. The workers in all the factories went on a day's General Strike in solidarity. All shops, offices and establishments remained closed.

was called by the Strike Aid Committee

consisting of representatives of AITUC, INTUC and HMS and leaders of the ~~ERIXXRSR~~ Congress, Communist Party, PSP, Muslim League, Jan Sangh, ISP, Progressive Muslim League and Harijan Samaj.

The unity forged in action was reflected in the presence of an INTUC representative, for the first time attending an AITUC conference, when the Kerala Committee of the AITUC held its session at Quilon on May 13-14.

Popular committees have been set up to support the striking workers and to render relief.

In neighbouring ~~Mangalore~~ Mysore State, in Mangalore, where the Commonwealth Trust has another tile factory, 800 workers struck work in sympathy with their brethren in Kerala, on April 21.

A European owner, all workers united, all citizens united, Indian owners paying, Government's policy also for payment to be done but do not want to go further than indicating their policy - such a combination of circumstances~x~ ~~xxxRXXXRXXXX~~ is rarely found.

~~Thexxffairs~~ The AITUC has sent a sum of Rs.300 as token of solidarity with the striking workers and has appealed to all affiliated unions to render solidarity and support ~~to~~ the Commonwealth Trust workers. (Remittances to be made to: Secretary, Joint Action Committee, Commonwealth Trust Workers' Unions, Pootheri Buildings, Kozhikode 4, Kerala).

SHADY PAST

The affairs of the Commonwealth Trust which some Britishers managed to establish, after acquiring a German concern, during the days of the first world war, have been a good deal shady in the recent past. The attention of the Government of India, including the personal attention of Prime Minister Nehru, was drawn to the shady activities of the Trust by senior Kerala Congressmen themselves. The very manner in which the Trust acquired the German concern, the Basel Mission Trading Co., in 1920 has been challanged as unlawful.

The Commonwealth Trust has had some notoriety in the anti-labour policies they have freely pursued. The workers had to go on 97 days' strike in 1951 for getting bonus and there was another prolonged strike for 47 days in 1957 for realisation of certain other pressing demands.

It is therefore a national demand that the Government of India immediately probes into the affairs of the Trust, besides asking the insolent Britishers who manage the Commonwealth Trust to fall in line with popular interests immediately.

In another British-owned factory, the cashew processing plant of Pierce Leslie & Co., at Karaparamba, the workers and the local population are engaged in a prolonged struggle against lock-out.

The rapacious foreign monopolists should be made to quit - the workers who are leading the action in North Kerala should have the support of all.

In this connection, a Congress M.P. and INTUC leader Kuttikrishnan Nair was arrested recently for leading the workers' struggle.

~~Spotlight on Korba~~

MINERS OF KORBA

by Our Special Correspondent

National Coal Development Corporation's (NCDC) Korba coalfields in Madhya Pradesh has a strategic place in the development of coalmining industry in the State Sector.

It is a coalfield with a great promise, well laid-out and almost well-mechanised. The field employs over 1800 workers.

The miners and the machines put together ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ did deliver an output well over the targets some time past in this colliery.

The bosses of the NCDC at Korba were rewarded magnificently for the turnout of the workers. But these high targets have since dropped. The workers who gave the record production got nothing more than a cup of tea and ~~one laddu~~ some boondi (sweet). None of the workers' demands were conceded by the management.

The sheer disgust of the workers expressed itself in production figures.

What were the workers' demands?

Korba is a newly-developed area and when the NCDC planned the colliery, planned the purchase of machines and planned construction of officers' quarters, no plan was there for constructing workers' quarters.

The bosses didn't even ~~xxxxxxx~~ plan for providing wholesome drinking water to the miners. The workers, most of whom are housed in unhygienic thatched structures, depend on dirty steamlets which flow by for the water to keep them alive. The "pipe water" given in some areas is unwholesome. ~~And they see~~ before their eyes the workers see the water-tank fitted trucks serving the needs of officers' quarters.

And there are no pit-head baths, no canteens, no sheds for shelter - and no creches, of course. Medical facilities are extremely deplorable.

The workers in the excavating section have not as yet been paid their increments which was due on December 19, 1960. The new scales which were to be implemented from December 1, 1960 have not yet been implemented.

There is no proper categorisation and loaders are being cheated of their legitimate earnings by arbitrary rate-setting.

In the excavating section, while the workers are actually engaged in jobs of hammerman, cableman, ~~xx~~ pitman, dumpman, etc., none of them are ~~xxx~~ categorised properly. ~~xxx xxxx~~ According to the Korba management, they are all "general mazdoors", getting a basic wage of Rs.1.06. Thus the workers are outright denied of their grades, which would have brought them at least double the wages.

On a dispute about categorisation, the workers in one section had refused to do the job of the cableman recently. They said they are not supposed to work on a job for which they are not paid for.

Thereupon, ~~And,~~ it is reported, the Head Executive Engineer ~~and the charge-man~~ challenged the workers and proceeded to work on the cable ~~with great xxxxxxx gusto.~~ ~~He~~ The great engineer realised to his cost that it wasn't that easy and fell back greatly embarassed. One of the 'general mazdoors' ~~thereupon~~ came forward and showed the boss the skill needed for the job ~~and humiliated~~ The boss, went back greatly ashamed.

The workers of Korba are not interested in humiliating the bosses in this manner. They are interested in production, to bring out the coal from the pits, which our industries direly need. ~~x~~ The top bosses of NCDC and their bosses in Delhi should know that by their cupidity and bureaucratic callousness, not only the men in Korba and other NCDC fields not given a fair deal but ~~xxxxxxx~~ the national industry is starved of fuel. And if the bureaucrats do not know this as yet, it is the job of the people of this country to make them know it to their cost.

~~M.A.~~

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

May 12, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

STATEMENT BY THE W.F.T.U. ON THE VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN IRAQ

The Secretariat of the W.F.T.U. has ~~today~~ issued the following statement on May 12, in connection with the violation of trade union rights in Iraq.

The attacks on trade union rights and freedoms are growing worse in the Republic of Iraq. The trade union elections have been openly falsified, the headquarters of many trade unions closed, strikes suppressed by force and hundreds of trade union leaders have been dismissed, detained, imprisoned or killed. This repression was even worse during the peaceful May Day demonstration of the workers, the great day of international working class solidarity. Many trade union leaders were arrested and warrants for arrest issued against ALI SHOKOR, President of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Iraq, ARA KHACHADOOR, General Secretary, SADIK EL FALAHI and KULIBAN SALIH, members of the Executive Committee of this organisation. The Federation's headquarters were occupied by force.

All those who rejoiced at the victory won by the united democratic forces in July 1958 strongly condemn these flagrant violations of trade union and democratic liberties. By attacking the workers of Iraq and their trade union organisations which have always been in the forefront of the popular forces for the defence of the Republic and for a better life, the government of Iraq is weakening the struggle of the people for these noble aims. It is thus encouraging imperialist plans to restore in Iraq the rule of the oil companies at a time when all the national forces should be mobilised so that these negotiations between these companies and the government should have favourable results for the people of Iraq.

.../

The W.F.T.U., which has on two occasions in vain approached the authorities of Iraq with the demand to respect trade union rights and freedoms, raises a vigorous protest against this new wave of repression against the trade unions. It appeals to all workers and trade union organisations to protest to the government of Iraq and to demonstrate their complete solidarity with their brothers and sisters in Iraq.

The W.F.T.U. demands the release of imprisoned workers and trade union leaders and the respecting of trade union rights and freedoms, which are the only way of guaranteeing a truly independent and democratic development in Iraq.

It expresses its complete support and its fraternal solidarity to the workers of Iraq and to their trade unions who, in struggling for their class aims, are defending the interests of the nation.

Published by the Press Dept.
of the W.F.T.U.
No.224

A.I.S.U.C.
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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

May 10, 1961.

Protest to I.L.O

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

LETTER FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE I.L.O.

On May 6, Ibrahim ZAKARIA, W.F.T.U. Secretary, sent the following letter to Mr. David MORSE, Director-General of the I.L.O. regarding the violation of trade union rights in Iran:

Sir,

The World Federation of Trade Unions has the honour to draw your attention to the recent violation of trade union rights in Iran and begs you to convey this complaint to the Committee on Freedom of Association.

When 13,000 Iranian teachers observed May 2 as a day of action for higher wages, the police used arms against the 4,000 teachers on strike who were demonstrating outside the Teheran Parliament. Many strikers were wounded, one of them, ABDEL HUSSEIN KHAN ALI, died as a result of wounds.

It is not the first time that the most elementary trade union rights have been violated in Iran. In January, to quote only one example, some workers from the SHAHBAZ, VATAN and PASHMBAF factory in the town of Isaphan and some workers from other regions were arrested and tortured because of their trade union activities.

The Iranian press is unanimous in recognising the low wages of the workers and especially of the teachers, as well as the continuous rise in the cost of living. Official circles and even officials acknowledge these facts but the Government of Iran can only respond to the workers' claims by police repression as on May 2.

These violations of trade union rights are part of the general wave of repression.

In February, students, workers and tradesmen who were protesting against the falsification of the election results were beaten up and even arrested.

In 1960, 10 active workers and students were arrested and later condemned to death. Five of them were executed.

.../

The facts which we have quoted are a serious violation of the principles of trade union rights contained in the I.L.O. Conventions, especially in Convention 87 on Freedom of Association.

As a result, the World Federation of Trade Unions demands that the I.L.O. takes effective measures in order to punish those responsible for the repression and for the murder of ABDEL HUSSEIN KHAN ALI, to ensure respect for trade union rights in Iran and to obtain the release of active trade unionists and of patriots in prison.

We remain, yours respectfully."

Issued by the W.F.T.U.
Press Department.
No.223

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SETTEMENT IN BALMER LAWRIE, BOMBAY

A bipartite settlement has been arrived at between the Balmer Lawrie Employees Union, Bombay and the Bombay branch of the ~~said~~ company. The settlement was signed on May 13, by Ramachandra S. Naik, President of the Union and C.W.J. Biddolph, Branch Manager of the Company.

According to this settlement, the grades and pay scales have been revised and an unskilled worker will now get Rs.40 as minimum basic wage, which with dearness allowance as per rates of D.A. will be Rs.137.00 per month with 26 working days. The dearness allowance will be according to the revised textile scale prevalent in Bombay.

Bonus will be paid to the workers at the same rate as in ~~1960~~ the Calcutta office of the company for the years 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963, on the same terms and conditions.

Besides earned leave as per Factories Act, workers will now get 15 days sick leave with half pay and 7 days casual leave with full day in a year. Over and above these, there will be six paid festival holidays in a year.

Outdoor allowance at the rate Re.1 per day will be given to workers if they are required to work outside the factory during lunch recess. Besides that they will have free uniform and served with free tea.

The agreement is binding on the parties for a period of 3 years from the date of signing and shall continue to be binding if not terminated by a two month notice after the expiry of three years.

The agreement has retrospective effect in the matter of wages scales with effect from January 1, 1961 and all dues arising out it will be paid by the company within one month from May 13.

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ANDHRA JUTE WORKERS STRIKE.

When almost all the Jute Mills in India implemtned the interim relief as per recommended by the Jute Wage Board, the management of Eluru Jute Mill refused to pay the interim relief inspite of repeated requests by Jute Labour Union, Eluru.

Five members of the Working Committee of the Union went on hunger-strike from May 8 just opposite the mill gate. The hunger-strike was withdrawn on May 14 under the advice of the Labour Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh, with the hope that the management would come to its senses.

However, instead of accepting the genuine demand of the work-ers, the management came forward with the proposal that unless the workers forgo the customary benefits of yearly clothes given to workers on Pongal Festival free of cost, and night shift allowance and agree for re-fixation of work load, they cannot implement the recommendations of the Wage Board.

Disappointed and enraged at the suggestion of the management, the workers 1400 in number did not attend work from May 15.

Negotiations are going on between the Union and the Management for the settlement of this dispute. (May 23)

(~~23.5.1961~~.

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WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAHA GUJERAT TUC.

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The Working Committee meeting of Maha Gujerat Trade Union Congress was held on April 20 in Ahmedabad. It decided to hold the Second State Conference in Jamnagar on June 17 and 18. The meeting nominated Bhalchandra Trivedi on the Labour Advisory Board to be constituted by Gujerat Government.

The meeting also discussed organisational questions and took some important decisions.

Victimised Albert was thus refused conciliation and adjudication by the State labour relations machinery, not to speak of the 'justice' under Modi's own laws.

Albert then tried to seek relief under Sec.11 A of the U.P. Industrial Disputes Act, which entitles a workman to approach a Labour Court directly for the interpretation and application of Standing Orders.

The long arm of the Modi's didn't allow him to go very far. Modi management got a temporary injunction issued by the Civil Court. The stalemate continued for long. When the stay was vacated by the Civil Court finally, Modi's went in appeal to the Sessions Court and again poor Albert was "restrained" from to seek justice.

Representatives of AITUC raised this issue at the Evaluation and Implementation Board of the U.P. Government. Modi's, of course, won. The E&I body did not even bother to discuss it.

In the Standing Labour Committee, AITUC delegates demanded immediate inquiry into Modinagar affairs. This was agreed to be done but in fact, was never done.

By the agreement with the INTUC union, sanctified as law by the U.P.Government, the workers of Modi Textiles do not know for years what is a Sunday rest. Nor an interval recess. By application of some mysterious rules, Modi's textile factory is decreed as a "continuous process factory" and thus exempt from Factories Act.

Young Albert tried his best to fight for justice. He worked in hotels, pulled rickshaws and did odd jobs for a living, till he could square up his case with Modi's. But it was a hard battle. One day Modi's agents caught him and managed to put him in prison.

But - the odds were too much for him. The police could not proceed against him, because by then - he had gone INSANE!

Albert, out of his mind, is still in Modinagar. Workers of Modinagar gather around him, with great feeling - their faces sad and bitter.

They are citizens of the Indian Republic. So is young Albert, who has a whole life before him, a future of sweet dreams and aspirations.

But Citizen Albert D'Souza is mad! Capitalist cruelty drove him mad. In the eleventh year of the Republic of India, where the Congress Government is building a socialist pattern of society!

(Ram Asrey)

Kerala State TU Conference

A call to further carry forward the powerful sweep of united action, ~~built among~~ wide sections of workers in Kerala was made by the Conference of the Kerala Committee of the AITUC which met at Quilon on May 13-14.

The united strikes of the workers in the British-owned tile factories of Commonwealth Trust, the cashew factories of Pierce Leslie & Co., ~~xxxxx~~ etc, have won wide popular support. These struggles which have prolonged over six weeks have sharply posed the insolence of the foreign monopolists and the need the wipe them out of our national economy.

The conference was attended by 460 delegates. It was significant that for the first time, an representative of an INTUC affiliate, Balan Nair, participated in an AITUC Conference in Kerala. The INTUC leader represented the INTUC affiliate in the Commonwealth Trust Ltd., Kozhikode, where the workers both of AITUC and INTUC affiliations are jointly struggling against the British management.

~~xxxxxxxx~~ R.Sugathan, MLA, presided over the Conference.

General Secretary of the AITUC, S.A.Dange, M.P., participated in the conference. ~~In his speech at the conference,~~ he explained AITUC policy at length on the question of industrialisation of the country and defence of workers' interests.

The conference paid tributes to Rabindranath Tagore and Motilal Nehru. Speaking on the occasion, S.A.Dange said that Tagore is a revolutionary democratic poet and the workers should read and popularise his works. Dange also referred to the support given by Motilal Nehru when the working class and Communist leaders were implicated by the British imperialists in the Meerut Conspiracy Case.

V.V.Giri, Governor of Kerala, in a message to the conference, said that the State Government has a proposal to set up an Industrial Relations Bureau to help growth of new factories in Kerala as well as to ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ protect the interests of

the working class.

A report, reviewing the developments over the last three years and laying down tasks, was made to the Conference by P.Balachandra Menon, MLA, General Secretary, KSTUC. A report on organisation was also discussed by the conference.

Balachandra Menon said that the working class in Kerala should take the initiative in promoting industrialisation of the State and should demand that the Central Government does justice to Kerala by allocating industrial projects.

Major industries in Kerala - coir and cashew - are in crisis and only by a programme of new and large-scale industrialisation could the immense problem of unemployment in the State be solved.

The report detailed at length the achievements made by the working class movement when the Communist-led Government was in office. As for the present Government's policies, even the INTUC has admitted that the interests of the workers are not safe under the Coalition Government of Congress and PSP.

Reviewing the struggles, Balachandra Menon referred to the unity built in action from below. The struggles of the 60,000 cashew workers and the workers of the Commonwealth Trust were jointly led by unions of all affiliations.

Another aspect of these struggles was that these were mostly waged for the actual implementation of agreed decisions in tripartites on minimum wages and bonus.

The report particularly referred to the policy of the British monopolists who have a stranglehold in Kerala's economy, particularly in plantations. The managements of the British companies, the Malayalam Plantations, Pierce Leslie & Co., and the Commonwealth Trust have downright refused to abide by tripartite decisions.

It was noted that while united actions for workers' vital demands were developing on a wide scale, efforts are also being made with the help of official support to

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to create disruption. Since the formation of the coalition government, unions of the INTUC ~~xxxxxx~~ are sought to be imposed on the workers.

The organisational report stressed the need for greater industrial unity, by formation of ~~xx~~ industrial federations. Centralised functioning on industry and State levels were becoming ~~xxxxxxxx~~ essential since collective bargaining at industrial and State levels has come to assume major proportions.

Certain weaknesses of the unions were also highlighted in the report. Insufficient attention being devoted to raising active membership, day-to-day functioning and the maintenance of rolls, education, etc., on the part of the unions was sharply criticised in the report.

The need for raising TU consciousness of a high order and the building up of trade federations, district TU councils and the State TU centre was specially stressed. The AITUC has a pre-eminent position in Kerala. However, the shortcomings prevented the further onward growth of the movement for unity and united action.

The conference decided to raise a fund of Rupees One Lakh to be presented to R.Sugathan, a veteran pioneer of the TU movement in the State, on his 60th Birth-day on December 25,1961. ~~xxxxxxx

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The conference culminated in a mass rally attended by nearly a lakh of people. Earlier, there was a two-mile-long colourful procession which paraded the main thoroughfares of Quilon Town. Large number of women workers participated.

Addressing the mass rally, S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary, AITUC, referred to the Janus-faced policies of the Government. From one face came forth dissertations on socialism; from the other came orders to attack the workers' living standards.

In the name of socialism, they are building capitalism, said Dange.

He called upon the working people to unite as a class forgetting caste, religious and other differences which are sought by the capitalists to split the power of the working class. If workers failed to build their unity, they may lose their legitimate share of the benefits derived from national development.

Referring to communal riots in Jubbalpore, Dange said that it was the workers of Jubbulpore, without any consideration of caste and religion, who boldly came forward to give protection to the hunted minority community.

He urged that the workers should stand together and fight the communal danger, which was trying to raise its ugly head in some parts of the country.

T.V.Thomas, the newly-elected President of the Kerala STUC, referred to the united action of the cashew workers for minimum wages, led by the AITUC, UTUC and INTUC, which ended in victory. He called upon the workers to stand united in raising their voice against the policies of the State Government which were hitting the working class.

The KSTUC President also dealt in detail with the crises affecting the important industries of Kerala, namely coir, handloom and cashew and the casual manner in which the coalition government dealt with the crisis. He welcomed the fact that the INTUC in the State has come to admit this fact of anti-labour policies of the coalition government. He appealed to the INTUC to put this realisation into practice by united action.

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COIR FACTORY UNEMPLOYMENT AGITATION COMMITTEE FORMED IN ALLEPPEY.

More than 34,000 workers in ~~cor~~ Coir factories in Kerala have been thrown out of their jobs during the last 12 years and the conditions of the unemployed workers are growing from bad to worse every day. To fight against this serious unemployment, a Coir Factory Unemployment Agitation Committee has been formed in ~~Xpp~~ Alleppey under the chairmanship of P.T. Punnoose M.P. A meeting held on April 24 under the auspices of this committee demanded inclusion of coir factories into the development schemes under Five Year Plans and taking over the management of coir factories that have been closed down and for their proper conduct by forming co-operative societies.

MAY DAY REPORTS:

DEHRA DUN:

May Day was celebrated in Dehra Dun under auspices of United May Day Committee consisting of all major unions in the city. In the evening, small processions organised by different unions paraded the streets and joined in Municipal Maidan which culminated in a rally addressed among others by Parvathi Krishnan, Vice-President AITUC.

CHIKHLA.

Seven hundredworkers belonging to Chikhla Branch of Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh marched the streets to celebrate the May Day. A mass meeting was held in the evening which was addressed by D. Meshram and others.

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DELHI TEXTILE WORKERS CONDEMN NEW BILL.

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The Working Committee of Kapra Mazdoor Ekta Union, Delhi, in its ~~working committee~~ meeting held on May 8 protested against the reactionary provisions of Cotton Textile Workers (Central Wage Board Recommendations) Bill.

While criticising the provision of banning the strike on the demand ~~regarding increase in the basic wages it~~ appealed the workers to raise voice in unison against the~~se~~ detrimental provisions of the bill.

REPRESSION IN ANGOLA

The brute Salazar regime in Angola has resorted to extreme repression action to quell the popular mass upsurge. According to the correspondent of London Observer, till the third week of May, more than fifty thousand people have been killed in Angola ~~under~~ by Portuguese fascist actions.

Almost all educated Africans have been arrested. In Lobito area alone, the number of arrests exceeds 1,500. There is no prisoner camp in that area and following arrests, the prisoners are no longer traceable. It is reported that even the owning of a wireless set or a cycle is considered to be enough ground for the removal of the owner.

The Salazar regime in Angola is crumbling down and last attempt is being made to prop up Portuguese rule and sustain it somehow.

Throughout the world, solidarity has been expressed in favour of the heroes of Angola. The General Secretary of the Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU) has called for volunteers in support of the struggle of the people of Angola against Portuguese fascist regime. He has also demanded the closure of US Embassy in Keniya as: "the US embassy is a menace for the African nationalism and unity."

Africa is in turmoil. Resurgent Africa is shaking off its shackles of slavery and colonialism. Our country ~~country~~ has to express its unqualified support and solidarity with the fighting Africans. It has to be done now and immediately. (SM)

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SWADESHI MILL DISPUTE SETTLED

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The month-long lock-out in the Swadeshi Mills, Kanpur was settled on May 23, when the employers agreed to lift the lockout, pay back wages to workers that they had illegally deducted and accept the arbitration of UP Labour Minister in respect of nine hour working of the mill on every Saturday and Monday.

It may be pointed out that since ~~April~~ March 24, the mill workers had refused to work the extra one hour unilaterally enforced by the management. As a retaliation to workers' refusal to work extra hour, the management cut ~~eleven~~ seventeen days wages of workers as fine and later clamped lock out since May 1.

According to the settlement, the management will pay back 15 days' wages, suspend 35 workers for 4 days ~~only instead of terminating their services~~ whom they had earlier discharged, and abide by the decision of the arbitrator in respect of nine hour working of the mill.

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DWR

OBSERVE GOA WEEK
JUNE 11-18

Box.

Aruna Asaf Ali, Chairman, National Campaign Committee for Goa, in a statement issued on May 17, has ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ expressed the whole-hearted support of the Campaign Committee to the call for unity, solidarity and cooperation between the people struggling against Portuguese colonialism.

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Box

On behalf of the Committee, she has appealed to all patriotic Indians, irrespective of their political views, to observe a Goa Week from June 11 to 18. During the week, the entire people of India should come forward and express their determination through public meetings and mass demonstrations ~~xxxxxx~~ to free and unite Goa, Daman and Diu.

~~xxxxxxxx~~ The AITUC appeals to all the trade unions in the country to rise ~~xx~~ to the occasion by organising demonstrations and public meetings condemning the Portuguese atrocities in Angola, Mozambique, St. Tome, Principe, Cape Verdo, Guinea and Goa. The trade unions must in a united voice demand the immediate liberation of Goa and support the struggle of the Goan people.

Secretariat, AITUC

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FRATERNAL VISITORS

A delegation of Japanese trade union leaders consisting of five members and headed by ~~Kaoruxoxx~~ Kaoru Ota, President of General Council of Japanese Trade Unions (SOHYO) visited the AITUC office on May 15. The delegation was on their way back to Japan after attending May Day Celebration in Moscow.

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of Trade Unions,

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M. Blatin, Chief Editor, of the TRUD, the central organ of the Soviet Trade Unions, and Vadim Chulitsky, of the International Department of All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, visited AITUC office on May 17. They were on their way back to Moscow after attending the May Day celebration in Djakarta, Indonesia.

MORE MAY DAY REPORTS:

DIGBOI

A huge procession was organised ~~here~~ in Digboi by the Assam Oil Company Workers Union, which paraded the streets of the town, ~~and~~ later ~~joined~~ a mass rally ~~that~~ was held & it was addressed, among others, by N.B.Chattri, and M.S.Hussain.

TINSUKIA

A big mass rally was held at Gandhi Park on May Day and it was addressed, among others, by Barin Chowdhury.

DIBRUGARH

Workers from various tea gardens, electric supply corporation and other industries jointly celebrated May Day at Dibrugarh. A mass rally was held on the occasion which was addressed by, among others, Moni Bhowmick.

DUMDUMA

Workers from Rupai Siding and other factories marched in processions to Dumduma to participate in the Central rally organised on May Day. The rally was presided over by Jyotish Chandra Barua, a local school teacher.

AGARTOLA

A joint rally was organised here under the auspices of various trade unions and among others who addressed the rally were Saroj Chanda and Dwijen Dey. The rally was preceded by a big procession that paraded the streets headed by a batch of women participants.

CHITTARANJAN

More than ten thousand workers attended a mass rally that was held on the occasion of May Day. The rally was held within the "prohibited" zone. Among many demands voiced

in the rally was the demand for reinstatement of victimised workers.

SUNDERBAN

A rally of agricultural labourers was held at Nandkumarpur on May Day which was presided over by Harekrishna Jana. One of the resolutions adopted in the rally was regarding greater unity between the workers and peasants.

NAIHATI

A rally was organised here on May Day under the Presidentship of Purnendu Bhattacharya, which was preceded by a big procession that marched various areas of Naihati and Gouripur.

NABADWIP

Seen in Nabadwip in recent times

One of the biggest processions ~~of town~~ was organised ~~here~~ on May Day. The procession was jointly organised by the local unions. Thousands of people cheered the procession when it passed through the residential areas. The procession was headed by a group of musicians playing various instruments and the processionists carried festoons and banners.

BIRBHUM

A rally was organised here by the Maharaja Kasimbazar Stone Quarries Mazdoor Union on May Day. The rally was presided over by Moslem Shaikh.

~~KALMGHAT~~

KOTHAGUDIUM

May Day was observed in the Kothagudium collieries in a grand manner. The preparations for celebration of May Day started from April and slogans were formulated on this occassion to reflect the demands of the workers.

A central rally was organised on May Day and ~~even the~~ the INTUC ~~fakka people also~~ joined it. A similar mass rally was also held at the Godavari mines.

HUTTI

May Day was celebrated here under the auspices of the Hutti Gold Mines Labour Union. The management of the mines declared holiday on that day at the instance of the union. ~~The INTUC elements tried to creat disaffection among the workmen and resist the declaration of holiday but without any result.~~ A mass rally was held on this occasion.

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AIR EMPLOYEES UNITED DEMAND

Since 1953, the Air Transport Employees organisations were jointly demanding nationalisation of air transport. A lead in this direction has been taken by Air Transport Employees ~~Organisation~~ Unions, Calcutta, through intitiating mass campaign to this effect. They have also demanded the establishment of a manufacturing unit for air crafts, spare parts and other allied equipments under direct control and ownership of Government of India.

On May 3, to a question asked in the Lok Sabha jointly by S.M.Banerjee, Prabhat Kar, T.B.Vittal Rao, Dasarath Deb, Arvind Ghosal and Tridib Chowdhury, the Civil Aviation Minister replied that the question of starting a manufacturing unit was under consideration of the Government of India. He also said

that the question of completion of the nationalisation programme of the Air Transport Industry ~~also~~ was under the consideration of Government.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

May 20, 1961.

ALGERIAN PEACE TALKS

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., Louis SAILLANT, sent the following message to the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA) and the French General Confederation of Labour (C.G.T.) on May 19, 1961:

On the occasion of the opening of negotiations at Evian, the World Federation of Trade Unions sends its fraternal greetings to the General Union of Algerian Workers and to the Confederation of Labour, which have worked unrelentingly for the holding of these talks. The resumption of negotiations between the French Government and the Provisional Government of the Republic of Algeria is a great success for the Algerian workers and the French working class, and for the national liberation movement of the peoples and all workers throughout the world.

This success is the outcome of the heroic struggle waged for six and a half years by the Algerian workers and people for their independence and their national dignity, and of energetic action by the French workers as recently illustrated by the general strike on April 24, 1961. It is one of the results of the powerful movement of international working class solidarity to which the W.F.T.U. and its organisations have given all their support, especially in the International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with the Workers and People of Algeria.

On this occasion the W.F.T.U. expresses its admiration for the solid and determined struggle waged by the Algerian and French trade unions to force the French Government to begin negotiations on guarantees for self-determination with the authentic representatives of the Algerian people. It especially welcomes the joint statements signed last February 21 by the

.../

UGTA and the French trade union organisations, which constitute an important stage in this struggle.

Reaffirming its complete support for the struggle and for the common aims of the French and Algerian workers, the W.F.T.U. appeals to all its organisations to develop even further their solidarity with their Algerian brothers so as to defeat all the manoeuvres of French colonialism, which are aiming at prolonging its domination in other ways. It invites them to demonstrate in the most varied ways during the Evian negotiations their desire to see the loyal application of the Algerian people's right to self-determination and complete independence, with full respect for the integrity of their territory.

Published by the W.F.T.U.
Press Department.
No.225

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FORWARD TO FIFTH WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS

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A Conference open to all workers, to discuss all questions of concern to all workers, in all countries — peace, better economic and social conditions and the ending of colonialism — has been convened in Moscow from December 4 to 16, 1961.

It is the Fifth Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

It is a meeting place for workers the world over, for exchange of experiences, the widest possible discussion on all problems affecting workers throughout the world, with the overall aim of giving a new and decisive impetus towards united action, on the basis of decisions adopted in common agreement.

Just imagine what irresistible strength, in the literal sense of the word, would lie in united action between the 107 million workers affiliated to the WFTU and the workers either affiliated to other international organisations or to none!! Just think what an extraordinary change has come about in recent years in the balance between, on the one hand, the forces of progress, peace and happiness, and on the other hand, the forces of reaction, exploitation and war-minded imperialism. The scale could be tipped sharply on the side of the former by the world-wide unity of the workers.

The World Trade Union Congresses organised by the WFTU are Congresses which draw their strength and inspiration directly from the working class, the struggles of the working class, the reality at places of work. The Fifth Congress will be what the workers themselves and their trade unions make it during the preparations.

Trade Unions of the AITUC will take the message of the Congress to all working class centres and elect delegates for the Fifth World Trade Union Congress, collect money to send their delegates.

But the Fifth ~~Congress~~ World TU Congress is open to all - to workers and trade unions affiliated to INTUC, HMS, UTUC, independent trade federations and unions. Everyone is welcome to the Congress.

FORWARD TO THE FIFTH WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS!

Bhilai

GAINS OF RAJHARA IRON ORE MINERS

The disputes raised in conciliation by the Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (AITUC) on behalf of the workers of Rajhara iron ore mines, with the management of the Bhilai Steel Project were settled, in many cases, in favour of the workers.

The wages of 14 sweepers employed in Rajhara mines were raised from Rs.55 to Rs.70, with effect from February 1, 1960. The scale of pay for female workers was also decided and orders were issued to grant new scale instead of the present consolidated wage.

Increments due to 14 workers of the Mechanical Equipment department of the mines were paid.

The bonus dispute was kept pending, till opinion of the Union Labour Ministry in this connection is received by the management.

As regards complaints regarding breach of Code of Discipline, it was agreed that (a) the Bhilai Steel Project authority will display on notice boards a copy of the Code as well as the grievance procedure and forms; (b) A Special Labour Welfare Officer for Mechanised Mines will be posted at Rajhara for speedy disposal of grievances.

A CORRECTION

('Hunger Strike at OPMO Mines'—page 7)

In our issue dated May 5, it was wrongly reported that Mrs Sona Bai, who went on hunger-strike at Tirodi on April 5, was the wife of Nutaneshwar, Branch Secretary of Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh at Tirodi. Mrs Sona Bai is a leading activist of the union.

We regret the error.

Editor, TUR

Plantations (10-12) Missing

(13)

ONCE AGAIN HATABAHAR ?

HATABAHAR is a term used in tea plantations in Eastern India, which means eviction of workers and their families from the tea garden premises, ~~if any member of the family involves the~~ thus In the days of British Rule, this was just a common practice and hundreds of workers were thrown out of gardens every year.

10 & 11

Not necessarily the workers who suffered in such evictions were guilty of misconduct or any offence which required their removal from the garden areas. If anyone in the family has fallen off from the rolls of the garden, that was enough a reason for hatabahar. The rule of jungle was simple — either sever all connections with the persons concerned or lose your employment and be thrown out of the garden with one and all.

8 & 9

If any member of the family involves the displeasure of the planters ⊙

If, ~~xxx~~ for example, the wife ~~has been~~ is dismissed by the employers, then the husband has no right to keep his wife in his residence at the garden; sons or father, mother or wife, all are subjected to this rule. If any one ~~xxx~~ wants to continue in employment, then he must sever all his connections with the deliquent relatives or just "get out".

Since ~~after~~ independence, attempts were made at various levels to stop this practice, ~~The West Bengal Government,~~ following the sustained agitation by trade unions ⊙ The Central Government and the W. Bengal Government were forced adopted certain measures to arrest this heinous practice. ~~Various Ministers and important officers of Governments took the matter up with~~ the employers were told ~~and tried~~ to ensure that the workers' ~~will be safe and that their~~ should be respected ~~and that~~ fundamental right to live as they like ~~or that they may have their own family ralations, will not be encroached upon.~~

Finally, at the 8th Session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations at Shillong on January 21, 1958, a decision was taken that there should be no such discharge or evictions of tea garden workers following dismissal of the head of the family ⊙

(14)

But despite all these, the employers have not fully subscribed to stoppage of this practice and very recently a few cases have come up which show that the practice still continues unabated in certain areas.

We are citing some specific instances here. These are the cases of Jasbir Rai, Gambirmaya Kamini, Simma ka Amma, Sanja Tamangeni, Moti Raini, Bishnu Kamini, and Batuli Chhetrini. All these workers are employed with the Darjeeling Consolidated Tea Company Ltd., in their Balasun Tea Estate and all of them have been served with notices in April, which inter alia direct them to sever their connections with their delinquent relatives, failing which they will be discharged and evicted from the garden.

The notices, are by themselves, quite interesting to read. For example, let us take the case of Gambiramaya Kamini. Her husband was dismissed by the management. The notice, among other points, directs her: " As he cannot be denied access while you reside on the estate, it will be necessary to terminate your services with this company. However, before any final orders are issued, I will be pleased to hear anything you may wish to say why your services should not be terminated, and I will therefore grant you an interview for this purpose.." The notice is signed by the Manager. Similar is the case of Sanja Tamangeni and of all others with little variations.

The Darjeeling District Chia Kaman Mazdur Union has taken up the matter with the State as well as Central Government but their representation has not so far yielded any tangible result.

If things do drift in this manner, it is inevitable that the plantation workers will have to find out some means to end

this system. It is time for the authorities to take note of this situation and end this impasse, lest there be any untoward situation created which may not be conducive for the industrial peace and harmony. (S.M.)

SOME ASPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE

LEGAL NOTES

BY SADHAN MUKHERJEE

(16)

10 x 10 / 22 ems

What is an "Industrial Dispute" ? Can an industrial dispute, which was originally an individual dispute, be again coverted into an individual dispute ? This is a very important aspect of the concept of the genesis and continuity of industrial disputes.

Let us ~~try to~~ examine the issue.

8 x 9 / 41

The definition of an industrial dispute according to Section 2(k) of the Industrial Disputes Act ~~xxxxx~~ is a very wide one. According to this definition, industrial dispute means any dispute or difference between employers and employers, or between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen, which is connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of employment or with the conditions of labour, of any person.

~~This means that~~ Section 2(k) of the Act requires ~~three things:~~

(i) There should be a dispute or difference.

(ii) The dispute or difference should be between employers and employers, or between employers and workmen or between workmen and workmen.

(iii) The dispute or difference must be connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of employment or with the conditions of labour, of any person. The first part thus refers to the factum of a real and substantial dispute, the second part to the parties to the dispute, and the third to the subject-matter of the dispute.

[1960 (11) LLJ 233]

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For the purpose of discussion of the subject, we shall restrict ourselves to cases where the dispute is clearly between the workmen and the employer.

In such cases, if two ~~f~~ requirements, namely, (i) and (ii) are fulfilled, the hurdle coneerning the subject matter of the dispute has to be crossed. In order to have the character of an industrial dispute, the dispute or difference must be with regard to the items mentioned in (iii). The term "any person" ~~doesx not x refer~~ has ~~not~~ been used to mean "the person regarding whom the dispute is raised must be one in whose employment, non-employment, terms of employment or conditions of labour (as the case may be) the parties to the dispute have a direct and substantial interest." [1958(I) LLJ 500]

Along with this aspect of the matter arises a very vital question, i.e., who shall raise an industrial dispute or when a dispute or difference between the workman/workmen and the employer becomes an industrial dispute ?

In matters where the workers as a whole are affected, no question arises as to the validity of the dispute being an industrial dispute but where a single workman is involved only then argument starts whether the dispute is an industrial dispute or an individual dispute.

~~According x to x the x latest x decision x on x the x subject, x it x is x now x settled x that x "It x is x not x necessary x that x a x registered x~~

~~u~~

The commonly understood position in this regard is that in order to transform an individual dispute into an industrial dispute, a union or a substantial body of workmen employed in the same concern should espouse the cause of the

aggrieved workman.

According to a further interpretation given by the Supreme Court lately, the matter has been further clarified. It has been held: ~~there:~~ " It is not necessary that a registered body should sponsor a workman's case to make it an industrial dispute. Once it is shown that a body of workmen, either acting through their union or otherwise, had sponsored ~~the~~ a workman's case it becomes an industrial dispute." [1960 (II) LLJ 37]

Apropos this interpretation, a question came up whether the body of workmen/has to be the majority of the workmen employed in the establishment. But this question has already been answered in negative by the Supreme Court earlier. [1960 (I) LLJ 491]

The only question that remained to be answered in this respect was: what happens when a union or a body of workmen espouse the casue of a workman, obtain a reference to an Industrial Tribunal or Labour Court for adjudication of the dispute and then withdraw their support to the case ?

So long no such case came up in the proper manner and there was no clear-cut answer available on the point. One opinion was prevalent that the dispute continues to remain an industrial dispute and that the Industrial Tribunal or the Labour Court has to pass its award ~~and~~ the other opinion held that the moment the support to the dispute is withdrawn, it transforms its character, ceases to be an industrial dispute and the Tribunal or the Labour Court is divested of its jurisdiction to proceed with the reference.

Recently such a case has been decided by ~~the~~ a division

(19)

~~[illegible]~~

Bench of the Madras High Court.

In this case, the individual dispute of a workman was taken up and espoused by a substantial section of the concerned workers in the establishment and at their instance, the dispute was referred to adjudication. Pending adjudication, substantial section of the workers who supported the cause of the concerned workman withdrew their support. The question arose, whether the Labour Court, in the circumstances, became divested of its jurisdiction to proceed with the reference and whether continued support of the substantial section of the concerned workers in such a case, was a sine qua non for the subsistence of an industrial dispute to enable the Labour Court to proceed with the reference.

The High Court ruled: "Though the definition of an 'industrial dispute' in Section 2(k) of the Industrial Disputes Act does not in so many words state that a dispute of a difference between an employer and an individual employee of his in connection with his employment or the conditions of labour of any person is not within its scope, it is well settled that it is only a collective dispute that can constitute an industrial dispute.

"A collective dispute does not, of course, mean that all the workmen or a majority of them of the establishment concerned should sponsor and support the dispute; all that is necessary is that the dispute in order to become an industrial dispute should have the support of a substantial section of the workmen concerned in the establishment.

"What a substantial section of workmen may mean will depend upon the particular facts of each case. If such a

collective dispute exists in relation to the matters specified by the definition of an industrial dispute, then the conditions required on the appropriate Government to make a reference of the dispute for adjudication are satisfied.

"The proceeding which starts upon a reference, continues and shall be deemed to have concluded only when the award becomes enforceable under Section 17 A. The sub-section does not contemplate that the proceeding so started can conclude or can be concluded at an earlier time. It seems to follow from sub-section (2) that the only way by which the proceedings started on a reference can conclude is by making an award.

"Actually the point of time at which the proceeding concludes is even later, namely,the date on which the award becomes enforeeable under S.17A. Sub-section (3) of Section 10 which states that where an industrial dispute has been referred to a Labour Court, the appropriate Government may by order prohibit the continuance of any strike or lockout in connexion with such dispute, which may be in existence on the date of the reference shows again that the industrial dispute which is the basis for reference and adjudication, is the industrial dispute existence on the date of the reference.

" The contention that the Labour Court ceases to have jurisdiction to proceed further the moment, pending the reference, the industrial dispute loøses its character as such (by a substantial section of the concerned workmen withdrawing their support to the individual cause referred for adjudication) would be contrary to and even in conflict with the statutory provisions referred above.

" Any other interpretation of the statutory provisions referred above will lead to startling results and will hardly be in consonance with the object and policy of the Act, namely, to conserve and promote industrial peace and welfare. Further it will be subversive to industrial justice, labour relations and fair play, if the jurisdiction of the Labour Court to proceed with the matter referred to it for adjudication, is to depend on the shifting convictions, exigencies and strength of the rival parties to the industrial dispute.

"Hence it must be held that the jurisdiction of the Labour Court to proceed with the matter wholly depends on whether the industrial dispute referred to it for adjudication existed or was apprehended on the date of reference and not on any subsequent date. Having regard to the relevant statutory provisions, it must be held that the jurisdiction of the Labour Court to proceed with and adjudicate upon an industrial dispute stems from and is sustained, until it makes an award and the same becomes enforceable, by the reference itself which has been made on the basis of an industrial dispute existing or apprehended on the date of the reference and that the jurisdiction of the Labour Court to proceed in the matter is not in any way affected by the fact that subsequent to the date of reference, the workers or a substantial section of them, who had originally sponsored the cause, had later resiled and withdrawn from it." [1960 (I) LLJ 491]

The decision alongwith other earlier decisions, has covered almost all questionsconcerning the purport and meaning of industrial dispute. Any further interpretation will be of great interest.

1. 1960(II) LLJ 233; 2.1958(I) LLJ 500; 3.1960(II)LLJ 37
4. 1960 (I) LLJ 491; 5.1961(I) LLJ 288

(22)

Another aspect of this matter in a completely reversed situation is:what happens when a workman whose individual dispute was espoused by the union, and a reference was made to an Industrial Tribunal, during the proceedings, refuses to be represented by ~~the~~ the office-bearer of the union and demands to be represented by another person ?

In such a case, the Supreme Court has held that " As trade unions developed in the country, and collective bargaining became the rule, the employers found it necessary and convenient to deal with the representatives of workmen, instead of individual workmen, not only for the making or modification of contracts but also in the matter of taking disciplinary action against one or more workmen and as regards all other disputes.

" The necessary corolary to this is that the individual workman is at no stage a party to the industrial dispute independently of the union. The union or those workmen who have by their ~~xxxxxxxx~~ sponsoring turned the individual dispute into an industrial dispute, can therefore claim to have a say in the conduct of the proceedings before the Tribunal.

"While it will be unwise and indeed impossible to try to lay down a general rule in the matter, the ordinary rule should be that such representation by an officer of a trade union should continue throughout the proceedings in the absence of exceptional circumstances which may permit the Tribunal to permit other representatives of the workmen concerned." In the instant case no such exceptional circumstances were found to justify the prayer of the concerned

workman to be represented by a representative of his own choice. [1961 (I) LLJ 504]

All these decisions taken together appear to have covered the questions that generally arise day to day with regard to correct interpretation of "industrial Dispute". ~~and~~ Any other question concerning the purport and meaning of "industrial dispute" will be of great interest to those who deal with Industrial Disputes Act at various levels.

1 1960 (II) LLJ 233
2 1958 (I) LLJ 500
3 1960 (II) LLJ 37
4 1960 (I) LLJ 491
5 1961 (I) LLJ 288
6 1961 (I) LLJ 504

Bombay

STRIKE IN ESTRELLA BATTERIES CALLED OFF

The strike by 200 workers in Estrela Batteries in Bombay which began on April 15 was called off on May 25, following a settlement.

All the workers on the strike will be paid Rs.50 each on account so that there was some relief in the economic difficulties caused due to the 40-day strike.

It was agreed that there would be no victimisation and that the management would reconsider their decision regarding dismissed worker, Padwal.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Kerala

COIR WORKERS STRIKE IN

ALLEPPEY, SHERTALLAY

Workers of coir industry in Alleppey went on strike on May 20, protesting against the Kerala Government's attacks on coir cooperatives. The call for the strike was given by the Travancore Coir Factory Workers Union.

A similar strike was called in Shertallay, another centre of coir industry.

The workers protested against the nomination of persons unconnected with the industry by Kerala Government to fill the posts of Directors of the Coir Cooperative Societies.

STRIKE IN HEAVY ELECTRICALS, BHOPAL

In the second half of May 1961, the Heavy Electricals Plant at Bhopal (one of the key units in India's plan for industrialisation) witnessed the third serious strike: it was the third time that the workers, trainees and artisans, had to go on strike in protest against the highhanded and bureaucratic policies of the management.

The young men who were being trained to man the giant machines ~~and trained to make the giant~~ in this heavy industry project machines were thrown out of their quarters - their personal belongings strewn all over.

The Bhopal events show that the Managers of Public Sector enterprises have to learn a lot - and should be taught a lot - on how to behave with the workers.

The immediate issue relating to the strike in the plant in May was the ~~insist~~ refusal of the management to absorb the trainees in the second batch in the regular cadre. The trainees were asked to appear for a trade test all over again and the sinister move of the management was to detain the majority of the trainees and thus deny them absorption in the regular cadre.

It is rumoured that the management do not wish to absorb all the trainees because due to faulty planning, they are unable to provide jobs to all the workers trained. It is reported that many components of the switch-gears and transformers could not be manufactured because the machines to manufacture the same have not been received.

In order to hide the scandalous situation with regard to production programmes, the management ~~xxxxxx~~ have precipitated a crisis in respect of the absorption of the trainees.

As for the trainees, it is a human problem. As a trainee, the worker gets only Rs.70 to Rs.80, while in the regular cadre, the minimum is Rs.155 per month.

Nearly 50 per cent of the trainees are married men, with families to support.

The sequence of developments in the Bhopal strike is reported to be as follows:

Following the announcement about trade tests before absorption in regular cadre, the trainees and workers held protest demonstrations. A huge procession was taken out on May 17. On May 18, there was a strike by the majority of the trainees in the Second Batch.

On May 19, one worker went on hunger strike.

The management dismissed 16 trainees on May 24 and notices were served on 600.

This led to a complete strike from May 24 by the trainees and artisans who number about 3000.

The management took more vindictive measures. The trainees were thrown out of their quarters, with their personal belongings strewn all over. A large police force has been deployed in the area to terrorise the workers.

Following this, other workers in the plant came out on sympathetic strike.

On May 26, K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, AITUC; S.M.Banerjee, M.P., and Ram Asrey, General Secretary, UPTUC, met L.N.Mishra, Deputy Minister for Labour and Planning, in connection with the situation in Bhopal, and requested the Government to intervene in the matter.

(May 29)

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OBSERVE GOA WEEK
JUNE 11-18

Aruna Asaf Ali, Chairman, National Campaign Committee for Goa, in a statement issued on May 17, has ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ expressed the whole-hearted support of the Campaign Committee to the call for unity, solidarity and cooperation between the people struggling against Portuguese colonialism.

On behalf of the Committee, she has appealed to all patriotic Indians, irrespective of their political views, to observe a Goa Week from June 11 to 18. During the week, the entire people of Indiax should come forward and express their determination through public meetings and mass demonstrations ~~xxxxxx~~ to free and unite Goa, Daman and Diu.

~~xxxxxxxx~~ The AITUC appeals to all the trade unions in the country to rise ~~xx~~ to the occasion by organising demonstrations and public meetings condemning the Portuguese atrocities in Angola, Mozambique, St. Tome, Principe, Cape Verdo, Guinea and Goa. The trade unions must in a united voice demand the immediate liberation of Goa and support the struggle of the Goan people.

More than 16 lakhs of workers, alongwith all people from all walks of life joined the general strike in West Bengal on May 24, in a great protest against the brutal police firings in Silchar that killed 11 persons. Factories, jutemills and other industrial undertakings came to a complete stop in the vast and concerted action of workers.

The workers, as the conscious section of the people expressed their solidarity with the general people. The all-embressing general strike once again proved that the brute repression of monsters cannot be a permanent feature of history; civilization does not tolerate barbarous atrocity. The mamoth protest of West Bengal was a definite protest but it was not an anarchic protest but a restrained one; it was the announcement of the victory of humanity but not in pandemonium but in expression of consolidated discipline. We congratulate the heroic workers of West Bengal who have risen to the occasion.

TRADEUNIONIST MURDERED

Paresh Chandra Chakravarty, Assistant Secretary of the Cossipore Plywood Workers Union, was brutally murdered in a suburb of Calcutta on May 10. His body was found in a drain at a secluded spot.

An Employees' State Insurance Scheme card, a napkin and a refugee certificate were found near the spot where his body was found. It is presumed that while he was returning home from the factory of Andaman Timber Co., where he was an employee, he was waylaid, assaulted and murdered.

Paresh was the leader of the ~~plywood~~ workers of that area and had created a sure place in their hearts through his undaunted organisational activity and devotion to the cause of improving workers living and working conditions.

Only a few weeks ago, the plywood workers subitted their charter of demands to the management and consequently on May 13, the management served charge-sheets on Paresh and 15 other workers. The workers resented the action and were preparing for a strike action under the leadership of Paresh.

The ghastly crime points out clearly a fact that interested parties even stoop to the extent of doing away with lives of men who fight for a cause and that in our socialistic pattern of society, the State affords no protection to these fighting men.

Our readers will remember that only a few days ago attempts were made to kill Purnendu Mazumder, the leader of the iron and manganese mines workers of Gua(Bihar) and the police, according to reports, have not taken adequate steps against the culprits.

We demand of the West Bengal Government that the police machinery which is so often used to quell the ~~workers~~ struggle of the workers, be immediately used to apprehend the culprits and/be punished according to Law. they

Meanwhile, we pay ~~tribute~~ homage to the memory of ~~him~~ Paresh who has sacrificed his life for the cause of the working class and join his bereaved family with our deep feeling of grief and sorrow.

The Additional Mushif, Jamshedpur, in his judgement delivered a few days ago in a Title Suit against the Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd., held that the dismissal of Dr. U. Misra, a former Assistant Medical Officer of the Tata Iron & Steel Company., was illegal and wrongful.

The suit was filed by Dr. Misra, who is a Vice President of the Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union (AITUC), following his dismissal in June 1958 from the services of the TISCO on alleged charges of aiding, abetting in calling, promoting and carrying out the strike in TISCO on May 12, 1958 and from May 15, 1958 onwards, inciting and abetting workers to strike and engaging in acts of insubordination and activities subversive of discipline in regard to press interviews and hand-outs given to the press by him between May 20 and May 25, challeging the company's stand poith in respect of the strike.

The court held that "Dr.Misra did not commit the acts of misconduct which were levelled against him." On the point of insubordination resulting from Dr.Misra's press interviews contradicting company's stand, the court held that it did not amount to insubordination. The court held: "the relationship of the superior and the inferior does not travel beyond the course of duty and everywhere" and that Dr. Misra's statement " was made in the interest of the general people." The court also held that "the acts of the defendant company was not bona fide."

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GOONDAS ATTACK COMMITTEE MEETING OF COLLIERY MAZDOOR SABHA

According to a report received here, it is learnt that on May 21, while the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Colliery Mazdoor Sabha was in progress in Chapui Khas colliery, a gang of goondas consisting of about 50 persons raided the place and assaulted the committee members. Mathura Singh and Uma Singh were immediately removed to hospital in serious condition. Several others were injured in the attack.

It is reported that no first aid was given to the injured although informations were sent and so far police has arrested only one person in this connection. Detail informations are not available.

WAGE BOARD DAY OBSERVED

Wage Board day was observed on May 21, in all the steel plants of the country. Mass rallys were held in Durgapur, Burnpur, Jamshedpur, Rourkela.

From all the mass rallys various resolutions were adopted which among others, included the following demands: i) immediate announcement of the personnel of the Wage Board; ii) publication of the terms of reference; iii) interim relief pending final recommendations and iv) submission of the recommendations by the Wage Board within a period of six months.

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NC

ONCE AGAIN HATABAHAR ?

One of the most disgraceful terms that are in use at the tea gardens is "hatabahar", which means eviction of workers from the premises of gardens. From the days of British dominance this practice was in vogue and hundreds of workers were thrown out of gardens every year.

Not necessarily, the worker involved in such evictions were guilty of misconduct or any such thing. Any thing done by anyone of the family was enough a ground for the hatabahar. The rule of jungle was simple - either sever all connection with the persons concerned or loose your employment and be thrown out of garden one and all.

If the wife had been dismissed by the company, then the husband has no right to keep his wife in the residence alloted to him by the employers; sons or father, mother or wife, the rule was applicable for anybody and everybody. If you want to continue in employment, you must sever all connection with relatives or just "get out".

Since after independence, the national administrators felt that the practice is too disgraceful and too eloquent of subjugation and that it presupposes the authority of the employers supreme in their own premises more than the State. Obviously the new administrators could not shun their responsibility in the matter and they themselves are involved in it. The years that followed therefore saw various attempts by the Representatives of the State Machinery to brush up the systems. They could not afford to allow the employers

actions to continue to be so blatant.

Various Ministers and important officers of Governments issued statements, made declarations on the floor of the assemblies, took the matter up with the planters and assured the workers no more such a practice would be allowed. The workers will be safe and shall have the right to enjoy their fundamental rights to live as they like and that there would be no encroachment on their family relations.

The plethora of platitudes and pious hopes did not take much time to prove their ineffectiveness. After all, the employers are not bound to follow what the Ministers and the administrators say. To them its their sovereign right to treat the workers as they like and so followed the inevitable.

The system continues unabated. Quite a number of workers have become victims of Hatabahar. More recently a few cases have come to us. These are the cases of Jasbir Rai, Gambirmaya Kamini, Simma ko amma, Sanja Tamangeni. Moti Raini, Bishnu Kamini, Batuli Chhetrini and a few others.

All these workers are employed with the Darjeeling Consolidated Tea Company Ltd in their Balasun Tea Estate and all of them have been served with notices to sever their connections with delinquent relatives, failing which hatabahar action will be resprted to by the employers.

The Darjeeling District Chia Kaman Mazdur Union has taken up the matter with the State as well as Central Government but their representation has so far failed to

elicit any reply or any action.

If things are allowed to drift in this manner, it is inevitable that the Plantation workers shall have to take some decisive action to end this system once for all. They can no longer take things lying down.

It is high time for those persons in authority to take note of this situation. It is their responsibility to take note and act, lest there arises an untoward situation which may not be helpful for anybody concerned.

(Sadhan Mukherje)

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IN MEMORIUM

V.D. CHITALE

TRADE UNION RECORD expresses it great sorrow at the sad demise of V.D.Chitale on May 20, in Poona. He was only 55.

V.D.Chitale, a well known Communist leader, a hero of Goa liberation movement, moving spirit behind the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti, was also associated with a number of trade unions in Poona. He was associated with the Primary Teachers Association for a long time.

When the news reached Bombay, a meeting of the activists of Maharashtra Trade Union Congress was in session. The meeting was immediately adjourned and the MRTUC leaders headed by S.A.Dange, General Secretary of the AITUC left for Poona. S.A.Dange, in a meeting held after the cremation of Chitale, paid glowing tributes to the tireless activity that marked all along Chitale's life.

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Spotlight on Korba

National Coal Development Corporation's (NCDC) Korba coalfields in Madhya Pradesh has a strategic place in the development of coalmining industry in the State Sector.

It is a coalfield with a great promise, well laid-out and almost well-mechanised. The field employs over 1800 workers.

The miners and the machines put together did deliver an output well over the targets some time past in this colliery.

The bosses of the NCDC at Korba were rewarded magnificently for the turnout of the workers. But these high targets have dropped. The workers who gave the record production got nothing more than a cup of tea and one laddu (sweet). None of the workers' demands were conceded by the management.

The sheer disgust of the workers expressed itself in production figures.

What were the workers' demands?

Korba is a newly-developed area and when the NCDC planned the colliery, planned the purchase of machines and planned construction of officers' quarters, no plan was there for constructing workers' quarters.

The bosses didn't even plan for providing wholesome drinking water to the miners. The workers, most of whom are housed in unhygienic thatched structures, depend on dirty steamlets which flow by for the water to keep them alive. And they see before their eyes the water-tank fitted trucks serving the needs of officers' quarters.

And there are no pit-head baths, no canteens, no sheds for shelter - and no creches, of course. Medical facilities are extremely deplorable.

The workers in the excavating section have not as yet been paid their increments which was due on December 19, 1960. The new scales which were to be implemented from December 1, 1960 have not yet been implemented.

There is no proper categorisation and loaders are being cheated of their legitimate earnings by arbitrary rate-setting.

In the excavating section, while the workers are actually engaged in jobs of hammerman, cableman, pitman, dumpman, etc., none of them are categorised properly. According to the Korba management, they are all "general mazdoors", getting a basic wage of Rs.1.06. Thus the workers are outright denied of their grades, which would have brought them at least double the wages.

On a dispute about categorisation, the workers in one section had refused to do the job of the cableman recently. They said they are not supposed to work on a job for which they are not paid for.

And, it is reported, the Head Executive Engineer and the charge-man challenged the workers and proceeded to work on the cable of the R.B.Shovel with great gusto. The great engineer realised to his cost that it wasn't that easy and fell back greatly embarassed. One of the 'general mazdoors' thereupon came forward and showed the boss the skill needed for the job and humiliated the boss.

The workers of Korba are not interested in humiliating the bosses in this manner. They are interested in production, to bring out the coal from the pits, which our industries direly need. The top bosses of NCDC and their bosses in Delhi should know that by their cupidity and bureaucratic callousness, not only the men in Korba and other NCDC fields not given a fair deal but the national industry is starved of fuel. And if the bureaucrats do not know this as yet, it is the job of the people of this country to make them know it to their cost.

M.A.

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WITHOUT COMMENTS.

The following is an excerpt from the Chairman's speech in the meeting of the Kohinoor Mills Company Ltd, published in the EASTERN ECONOMIST of May 19, 1961. We leave it to our readers to have their own conclusions:

" Our relations with the Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh, (an affiliate of INTUC - our explanation), which is the recognised Labour Union for our Mill, were most cordial, and with their help rationalisation and standardisation measures were introduced in various sectors. In all 785 posts were reduced and this without any deterioration in our labour relations. Out of this, retrenchment compensation and gratuity was paid to 547 persons and we took advantage of natural wastage to abolish the balance 238 posts. The R.M.M.S. gave us their full cooperation during this period and assured us of their complete assistance in future."

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The internal dissention and bickerings of the INTUC-affiliated Tata Workers Union is learnt to be increasing day by day. Two top leaders of this union, Mr. M.John, President and Mr. R/L/Verma, Vice-President are now at loggerheads with their daggers drawn.

It is learnt that on April 28, Mr. John called a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Union and in that he had a no-confidence resolution passed and adopted against Mr. Verma. Mr. Verma refused to abide by this resolution of the Executive Committee.

According to Mr. Verma, the meeting in which this so-called no-confidence resolution was passed was not a meeting of the Executive Committee of the union. He has also said that Mr. John with the help of some of his stooges has done this mischief and he could not take it lying down.

Mr. Verma, even after the adoption of no-confidence motion against him continued to go to the union as susual and tried to exter his rights in the capacity of a Vice President of the Union. In course of this, it is reported, that situations tending to an open clash inside the office of the union had arisen at times.

Mr. Verma is supported by a section of the members and executive members of the union and that has proved to be a great impediment on the way of taking any action against him.

It is learnt that Bihar Chief Minister Mr. Binodanand Jha who is also the Labour Minister, called these two rival leaders to Patna and tried to reconcile the pastion and cement the breach that has taken place. The State Congress

and the Government want to somehow resolve this internal dispute of the Tata Workers Union. They are aware of the fact that if the situation continues to remain what it is, then inevitably the union will loose all support from workers and the Congress will have to sustain a loss in its influence.

This situation is likely to prove to be suicidal in view of the coming general elections when it is known that the Communist Candidates had polled far larger number of votes in Jamshedpur during the last general election. Out of the two constituencies, one was won by Communist Candidate by a big margin of votes and the other was won by the Congress candidate with a gap of a few hundred votes. If a situation of internal crisis continues then it will be imppssible for the Congress to win any seat in the entire area. That is understood to be the main reason as to why the Bihar Chief Minister took special initiative to resolve the dispute between these two fighting leaders.

The Bihar Chief Minister is reported to have suggested to effect solution of this dispute through an arbitrator and the two leaders, Mr. John and Mr. Verma, are reported to have agreed to accept arbitration of any one from among Messrs. Lal Bahadur Shastri, Jagjiwan Ram and Abid Ali.

But Mr. Joh demanded that till the decision of the arbitrator, Mr. Verma must abide by the decision of the Executive Committee and stop doing any activity in the capacity of a vice president of the union. Mr. Verma refused to accept the proposition and on that the conciliation meeting failed. Further attempts are reported to be afoot to explore possibilities of a solution.

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The All-India Trade Union Congress had sent a letter to the South African Congress of Trade Unions last month expressing solidarity with the struggle of South African workers in defence of their trade union rights. ✝

L. Massina, General Secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, sent us the following letter in acknowledgement of ours. This letter is important from many aspects and we are reproducing it here for our readers.

P.O.Box 6781
JOHANNESBURG
May 7, 1961

Dear Brother,

Three month ban on meetings of SACTU

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of April 25, 1961, enclosing a copy of the letter of protest which you sent to the Minister of Justice in South Africa.

Please convey to your members our sincere appreciation of their support and their promt action on our behalf.

We wish to advise you that since our letter of April 10, 1961, the position has seriously ~~changed~~ deteriorated. In evidence of this, we quote the following:-

1. Though the ban on meetings applies only to our Congress, a General Meeting of the Match Workers Union in Durban (one of our affiliates) was surrounded by armed police, backed by riot vans and the meeting was closed.

2. At dawn of the morning of 3rd May, there were massive police raids, on offices and homes of trade unionists and democrats of all races in every major urban centre in South Africa. The total number of people affected is not yet

available, but not a single SACTU office nor the home of a leading official was left unscathed. (In fact, the office of our Durban Local Committee was raided five times in a week prior to the mass police action). Our Minister of Justice has stated that these raids are 'routine' and will continue. While the raids were taking place in the Townships where the non-white workers live, Saracen tanks and armoured cars put on a show of strength.

This is the prelude to an all-out attack to smash our Congress and we appeal to you most urgently to remain alert on our behalf.

With many thanks again for your support and solidarity.

~~With warm greetings from the Trade Union Congress~~

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KOZHIKODE

May Day rallies in Kozhikode district in Kerala expressed solidarity with the striking workers in Commonwealth Trust and several other factories. The strikes have been continuing for over 100 days.

The workers went in a procession in Kozhikode Town with folk dancers and musicians leading.

Speakers at mass rally pointed out that in Kerala State alone, new taxation to the tune of Rs.158 lakhs has been imposed on the working people. With the steep rise in taxation, the conditions of the workers were becoming intolerable and hence the workers have been forced into action.

CANNANORE

The workers in Cannanore took out a cycle procession in the morning on May Day and in the evening there was a demonstration by uniformed volunteers.

Mass meetings held in different centres in the district adopted resolutions on pressing problems of workers and the struggle for peace.

May day reports
Kerala

TRIVANDRUM

May Day was celebrated in Kerala, in the background of growing united actions and struggles the working class in the State was waging to improve their working conditions.

The central rally at Trivandrum was addressed by S.S.Mirajkar, President, AITUC.

The AITUC President said that May Day was first observed in India in 1926. Since then the trade union movement in India has grown in sweep and strength and a force to be reckoned with.

In the continents of Asia and Africa, several oppressed nations have liberated themselves. A third of humanity is now under socialism. The crushing of the imperialist intervention in Cuba and the solidarity expressed by the workers the world over are significant events.

Referring to the economic development, the AITUC President demanded that planning should devote attention to development of backward regions particularly. In this light, the demand that there should be no discrimination against Kerala is justified, he said.

ALLEPPEY

The workers of Alleppey, the first to get themselves organised in trade unions in Kerala, celebrated May Day in a grand manner. The rally held in the evening was addressed among others by E.M.S.Namboodiripad, former Chief Minister of Kerala. He said that the trade unions should lay special stress in developing national unity.

ERNAKULAM

Demand for public inquiry into the police firing in Otayam (Kerala) was made at may day rallies held in different centres in Ernakulam district, in Kerala State.

The Cochin Port workers held a mass rally to celebrate May Day. 13 unions in Mattancherry jointly celebrated May Day.

"MAY" DAY REPORTS.

BOMBAY:

"The fact that in our country the state power vests with the capitalist class, deprives the working class and the common people the benefits of the achievement of the international working class movement." With these words S.A. Dange, General Secretary, AITUC characterised the present day situation in the country while speaking in a May Day rally held at Kamgar Maidan under the auspices of Maharashtra Rajya Trade Union Committee of AITUC and Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti.

Dange recalled the stupendous progress made by the Soviet Union and other Socialist States in the field of Science and Culture, and above all in the field of production of material wealth. These achievements, he continued, further strengthened the struggles for liberation of theAfrican and other colonial countries. "Capital is forced to play a defensive role and is struggling for survival" he said.

Referring to economic development in India he elaborated that during the last two plan periods industry had progressed and the country had become richer, but the paradox of the situation was that "the rich have become richer and the poor the poorer" This was so because the class in power have so distributed the national wealth that gains had gone to the captains of industry. Under these circumstances the workers had to close their ranks and unitedly fight their exploiters.

Dange made a pointed reference to the menace of communism and called upon the workers to fight it to the bitter end and thus consolidate the national unity. Charya Atre and B.S. Dume also addressed the meeting.

Earlier two processions starting from Bori Bunder and Worli joined the rally after parading the important thoroughfares of the city.

In the morning flag salutation ceremonies were organised in different parts of the city.

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The MRTUC decided to observe a week from April 24 as a "T.U. Rights Week" by holding meeting in various parts of the city. During this period more than 20,000 May Day Budges were sold.

GIRIDIH:

Coal workers Union and Bihar Mica Mazdoor Sangh squads of uniformed volunteers paraded the workers bustees along with flags and festoons in the morning.

In the evening a mass rally adopted resolution demanding T.U. and democratic rights. The meeting was addressed by M. Bharati, S.K. Roy, Chaturanan Mishra and others.

TINSUKIA (ASSAM).

Workers of Veneer Mills held a meeting at Gandhi Park which was addressed by Dr. Binesh Bal, Barun Ghose and Barin Chowdhury. Another meeting of motor workers and employees of the National Saw & Plywood Works was addressed by J. Chakroborty, R. Sarma, H. Borthakur and Barin Choudhury.

In both the meetings resolutions were passed condemning discrminatory policy of the Government towards AITUC unions and demanding proper safeguards for genuine T.U. and democratic rights of the workers.

MAKUM (ASSAM).

The workers of the Assam Forest Products came out of the Factory two hours earlier and paraded the streets shouting May Day slogans. They were later on joined by the workers of Bharat Engg. Works, Assam Veneer & Saw Mills. The procession ended in a meeting addressed among others by Kalyan Bhattacharjee and Dular Dey.

...3

CHHEHARTA - PUNJAB GOVT'S ATTEMPT TO
THROTTLE DEMOCRACY

The ~~Working Committee of~~ Punjab State Committee of the AITUC at its meeting held in Jullundur on May 7, noted with concern the attack launched on the Municipal Committee of Chheharta by some disgruntled persons, led by the INTUC and the leadership of the Congress Party in Amritsar.

The resolution adopted by the Committee stated:

"The Municipal Committee of Chheharta has the unique privilege in our State of being manned totally by the elected representatives of organised working class. It is a committee in which Communists, Congressmen and independents have been functioning jointly and unanimously for the good of the common citizens of Chheharta for the last three years.

"This Municipal Committee in which all the nine members belong to the Mazdoor Muhaz has a glorious record of honest and devoted service to the people and has been a pinneer in taking measures which have assured cheap and good administration to the Citizens. It has improved the conditions of service and wages paid to its employees. Therefore, it has served as a beacon light to all those who have everywhere looked for a regime without corruption and in the interest of the people.

"This is its real crime. Some selfish and disgruntled politicians who suffered an ignominious defeat in the last municipal elections ha e launched a campaign of vilification. It is a matter of deep regret that the INTUC and the leadership of the Amritsar Congress Committee have also become party to this dirty game.

"The Government's anti-labour policy has aroused deep resentment in vast sections of the working class throughout Punjab. Now the Government has given another proof of it, if one were still needed. The notice served on the municipality, preparatory to its proposed supersession is not only anti-labour but is anti-democratic in the extreme.

"All the citizens of Chheharta, barring a handful of disgruntled and defeated elements are fully rallied in support of the Municipal Committee."

The Punjab Committee of the AITUC called upon the Government to immediately withdraw the notice served on the Chheharta Municipality and desist from the reported step of ordering supercession of the Municipal Committee.

The Committee appealed to the INTUC not to play a disruptive game and act as the tool of a few discredited elements. The AITUC assured the citizens and members of Chheharta of its full support in their determination ~~of~~ to safeguard their democratic rights and called upon all unions to act vigorously in defence of the only working class municipality in Punjab by holding mass meetings, rallies and demonstrations.

By another resolution, the Punjab Committee of the AITUC also protested against the notice for removal from membership of Khanna Municipal Committee served upon Bharat Parkash, President of Labour Union, Gobindgarh, on the charge of having been imprisoned twice. Both these sentences related to incidents arising out of TU disputes.

The Committee also congratulated the working class of Punjab in responding magnificently to the call of the AITUC to launch five-day hunger-strikes against the anti-labour policies of the Punjab Government.

May Day Report

KENDUA (JHARIA)

Under the joint auspices of the Bihar Koyla Mazdoor Sabha and other trade unions affiliated to the AITUC, May Day was observed with great enthusiasm at Kendua. About 3,000 workers coming from adjoining collieries and Loyabad coke-plant, colliery and workshop assembled at the Kendua Bazar in the mass meeting.

The rally was addressed by Lalit Burman, Anant Sharma, Prasanta Burman and Purnendu Mazumdar.

The meeting criticised the Government's policy of discrimination against AITUC unions and suppression of TU rights and civil liberties.

The meeting greeted the people of Congo and Cuba in their struggle against imperialist machinations.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COOPERATION

A tripartite inquiry to go into the failure of the scheme of joint management council in Hindustan Machine Tools, Bangalore, was demanded by AITUC representative, M.S.Krishnan, at the first meeting of the Committee on Labour-Management Cooperation held in Delhi on May 1.

It was the experience of the trade unions, M.S.Krishnan said, that employers liked the scheme only as long as increase in production and productivity are assured by the workers but when workers raise their demands, managements immediately recoiled and then Joint Councils are shelved.

The proposal made by the Government that "in case it is not possible either for the workers or employers to accept a unanimous decision of the Joint Management Council, there should be a practice that at the next meeting, the party concerned should place before the Management Council the reasons why it is not possible for it to give effect to Councils' decisions," was opposed by the AITUC representative. It was pointed out that this would give room for employers not to implement the decisions of the Council.

G.L.Nanda, Union Labour Minister, who presided, said that in regard to Hindustan Machine Tools, a report would be called for and only later could the necessity for inquiry be considered.

The Labour Minister stated that the proposal was not happily worded. However, it was necessary to be more flexible and allow the employers to explain why decisions are not implemented.

Although reports on the working of Joint Management Councils in the different units where they have been established were submitted to the Committee, these were not considered by the meeting.

Jatin Chakravarty (UTUC) said that small brochures in all regional languages should be brought out in order to popularise the scheme.

C.H.Desai, employers' representative, stated that TU representatives in his factory, belonging to INTUC are saying that the scheme is a first step to ousting the employers from their positions. He said that if this was the opinion of the Government, the employers would have to reconsider their position.

The Union Labour Minister explained that this ideological question was settled in the First Seminar. According to him, Government believed in evolution and not revolution.

question is taken up, namely, the question of what measures Government is going to take beyond subsidising and beyond just giving the monetary assistance that they can give. What further measures are going to be taken to guarantee that this work is undertaken in a proper manner so as to see that these accidents that have been taking place as a result of the absence of this work are rapidly brought down and are finaly eliminated altogether?

For instance, during last year (1960) there were a number of serious accidents. What usually happens is that only such accidents hit the public eye, or are immediately taken note of, where there is fatality. As far as the coal industry is concerned, it is necessary that we should look to the number of serious accidents which lead to serious injury. In 1960 the number is by no means a small one. The number of serious accidents was nearly 3,000 and the number of seriously injured is nearly 3,000. This is no small figure. When we are discussing a Bill that concerns the xonservation and safety, we would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps that are going to be taken to see that these accidents come down. Stowing, as I said, is an important thing. We would also like to know from him what else is being down in this regard.

We are told that the entire coal area of Raniganj and Jharia is becoming unsafe. Underground fires there, it is said, are widespread and the villagers are becoming panicky. We would like to know what steps are being taken by the Ministry and the Coal Board to check this, and also to tell us the exact position, so that we may know how far these reports are true and whether this panick is justified or not. There are reports that even cinema houses are being closed down and that whole villages are wondering whether they should move or not. They do not know where to go. It is said that smoke is seen emerging from many areas and the suspicion is that there are underground fires and there are a large number of gasy mines there. Whar are the steps that the Ministry propose to take not only under the provisions of this measure, but also under the powers they have already to see that adequate measures are taken to prevent any major disaster in that area and the coal production that we have targeted is achieved. They should also see that the mine-owners do not play with the lives of our mine-workers, with the prosperity of our country, and with the production of coal, without taking into consideration the wider national interests, particularly when they are being given these concessions, when they are being given an increased price and subsidies by Government.

PARVATHI KRISHNAN'S SPEECH ON COAL-MINES AMENDMENT BILL

New Delhi, May 5: Given below is the text of the speech of Parvathi Krishnan in the Lok Sabha debate on Coal Mines (conservation and safety) Amendment Bill delivered on Wednesday, May 3:

The object of this Bill seems to be three-fold; firstly, to erect aerial ropeways in the Jharia and Raniganj coal fields for supplying sand to the private mine-owners for stowing in the interests of safety of life and property and also in the interests of conservation of our coal resources; secondly, to subsidise coastal shipping and, thirdly, to finance the mine-owners for the compulsory execution of protective measures.

According to the provisions of this Bill, if this Bill is passed, the result will be that there will be an increase in the price of coal and we will find thatimmediately steel, railways and so on will be the major sufferers. What I would like the hon. Minister to tell us, therefore, is this. How far is this increase going to be justified because we have seen how during the past few years many concessions, particularly with regard to price, have been given to the mine-owners? In fact, if one looks into the recent speeches of the Chairmen of the Mining Association and of the Federation at the annual meetings, one will find that there is a mention in a very appreciable manner of how these concessions have been given to them. Therefore while this increase and this concession is being given, we would like to know as to what exactly are the safeguards to make sure that the production of coal goes up and that at the same time the various other measures with regard to safety and conservation are also really adhered to by the mine-owners. This, to my mind, is one of the most important aspects of this Bill.

Secondly, we find that there is going to be a subsidising of coal that will be transported by sea. Is this the only way in which the question of transport of coal can be answered? It is true that there has been a bottleneck and a scarcity of wagons to move the coal. Therefore it is necessary to find out other methods and routes for transporting coal from one area to another and particularly to down south. But why is it that we have to rush in to subsidise the private sector once again? I would like the Government to consider the wider aspect of taking over coastal shipping and seeing how much Government itself will bear so that it becomes a more integrated policy and an integrated financial scheme of the Government itself and how far this could be taken up.

Then, with regard to the question of assistance to be given for stowing, apart from actually supplying the sand by the ropeway, we find that it is a question of the mines being in a state that is far from happy. When we read in the newspapers and also when time and again we find the question of accidents and so on being raised on the floor of the House, the question arises whether it is that no proper check and supervision is there to see as to how far the safety and precautionary measures are being taken by the various private mine-owners. Under the regulations, as they exist, and under the practice it is for the Coal Board to see to it whether the stowing operations and so on are there andhow far the subsidy that is given by the Government is being put to a proper use. In so doing it is not only the question of the lives of mine workers, which is, of course, of primary importance, but it is also the question of conservation of coal and of seeing that we nurture the coal resources that exist in our country.

We find that during the last so many years with all the assistance that has been given for stowing only, about one-tenth of the mines have really taken up stowing. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify the difficulties that are being countered whenever this

question is taken up, namely, the question of what measures Government is going to take beyond subsidising and beyond just giving the monetary assistance that they can give. What further measures are going to be taken to guarantee that this work is undertaken in a proper manner so as to see that these accidents that have been taking place as a result of the absence of this work are rapidly brought down and are finaly eliminated altogether?

For instance, during last year (1960) there were a number of serious accidents. What usually happens is that only such accidents hit the public eye, or are immediately taken note of, where there is fatality. As far as the coal industry is concerned, it is necessary that we should look to the number of serious accidents which lead to serious injury. In 1960 the number is by no means a small one. The number of serious accidents was nearly 3,000 and the number of seriously injured is nearly 3,000. This is no small figure. When we are discussing a Bill that concerns the xonservation and safety, we would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps that are going to be taken to see that these accidents come down. Stowing, as I said, is an important thing. We would also like to know from him what else is being down in this regard.

We are told that the entire coal area of Raniganj and Jharia is becoming unsafe. Underground fires there, it is said, are widespread and the villagers are becoming panicky. We would like to know what steps are being taken by the Ministry and the Coal Board to check this, and also to tell us the exact position, so that we may know how far these reports are true and whether this panick is justified or not. There are reports that even cinema houses are being closed down and that whole villages are wondering whether they should move or not. They do not know where to go. It is said that smoke is seen emerging from many areas and the suspicion is that there are underground fires and there are a large number of gasy mines there. Whar are the steps that the Ministry propose to take not only under the provisions of this measure, but also under the powers they have already to see that adequate measures are taken to prevent any major disaster in that area and the coal production that we have targeted is achieved. They should also see that the mine-owners do not play with the lives of our mine-workers, with the prosperity of our country, and with the production of coal, without taking into consideration the wider national interests, particularly when they are being given these concessions, when they are being given an increased price and subsidies by Government.

GENERAL STRIKE TO SEEK END OF
POWER CRISIS

The working class and the industries affected should think in terms of a general stoppage, to end the bungling and callous policies of the Government which have resulted in serious shortage of power supply to industries in India.

This call was given by S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, while addressing the concluding open session of the UPTUC Conference held at Ferozabad on May 7.

Nearly all the industrial centres in India are affected by power shortage. In Ferozabad, a centre of bangle industry, nearly one-half of the factories are idle because of short supply of coal.

The crisis of fuel, both of electric power and coal, has reached critical dimensions and in several industries, thousands of workers have been laid off.

S.A.Dange said that the shortage of coal has been artificially created by the sabotage by the coalmine owners in the Private Sector, who have refused to raise adequate supplies of coal. The Public Sector collieries, because of bad planning and bad labour relations, could not also step up production.

Added to this, there was utter lack of coordination between the Railway Ministry and the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel. And each Ministry is blaming the other for the crisis.

But while the Ministries and employers engage in wordy duels as to who is responsible, it is the working class which bears the brunt of the crisis - they lose their livelihood.

The trade unions should therefore take the initiative to mobilise all other sections and think in terms of a general hartal, to force the Government to act to end the power crisis, said S.A.Dange.

TRADE UNIONS MOVE IN CALCUTTA

The May Day rally held in Calcutta under the auspices of the W.Bengal Committee of the AITUC and UTUC adopted a resolution on the serious power shortage in Greater Calcutta and Howrah regions.

The resolution said that the power shortage has resulted in huge loss of production, layoff and unemployment of workers, interruption of suburban train services, and threat of disruption of water supply system.

It was demanded that an inquiry into the reasons and circumstances of this abrupt and somewhat mysterious coincidence of simultaneous failure and breakdown at the CESC generating station and the DVC should be conducted.

The may day rally demanded that the Government should take over the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (CESC) which holds monopoly in power supply in Greater Calcutta industrial areas. The working class is firmly of opinion, said the resolution that "in national interest, this vital sector supplying motive force for running of industries cannot be allowed to be kept in the grip of a foreign monopoly concern."

The rally demanded of the Central and State Governments to shed their complacency and take immediate steps for full restoration of power supply and to take steps for augmenting power generation in the State Sector.

The resolution stated that the worst sufferers of this scandalous state of affairs have been the working class. The workers are undergoing losses in earnings as a result of heavy reduction in working hours, are being laid off and badli, casual and temporary workers are being thrown out of employment, other inconveniences and hardships are being imposed on the workers.

It was demanded that full compensation of loss in earnings of the workers should be ensured and the Government, the CESC and the employers should take responsibility in this regard.

suffered."

He informed the house that the machinery on the basis of Whitley Councils, their scope etc. were being defined and a very big new element in the situation was arbitration. "You cannot have both arbitration and strike" he said.

With regard to recognition he stated that the withdrawal of the rights of recognition cannot be permanent, he had been asking the Ministries about it and had been getting reports from time to time about the progress of action regarding various cases, etc. "The Labour Minister cannot be a dictator in the Government", he went on, "He is, along with others, trying to work and to function in the best manner possible."

ban the strike as it was "thoroughly incompatible with the principles of arbitration".

"In disputes between Government and Government Servants, Government is a party to the dispute. Therefore, a party to the dispute cannot pronounce judgement on the strike, saying that it is illegal " he said. He called on the Government to understand the implications of why a strike was resorted to.

He appealed to theGovernment to reconsider their policy towards recognition of unions. "Are you going to hang a union indefinitely" he asked, "Surely, there must be some method and sense of proportion even in victimisation or giving out punishment".

Dr. Melkote while discussing the question of victimisation suggestion that government should take things in a lenient manner and view them more sympathetically.

N.K. Menon criticised the delay in implementing the decisions of the tripartite conferences.

Nath Pai once again refuted the claim that the strike of the CentralGovt. employees was a political one. With regard to the question of recognition he said,

> "This is chocking, this throttling, this is the cruelest thing in democracy, to deny the right of defending themselves, of ventilating their grievances."

G.L. Nanda, Union Minister for Labour & Employment agreed that he could not identify a definite political intention behind the Central Government Employees Strike. "There was a certain ~~xxxxxxx~~ unrest" he said, "and there was a certain discontent which had to express itself". However, according to him the strike could have been avoided and he blamed the labour leaders for their failure to stop the strike from commencing "I think it was failure of the leadership at that juncture and the working class

PARLIAMENT.

MOTION RE: 17TH AND 18TH SESSIONS OF INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE.

S.M. Banerjee, M.P., while initiating a discussion on May 2 on a motion regarding Seventeenth and Eighteenth Sessions of the Indian Labour Conference strongly opposed the bill to ban the strike and criticised the failure of the Government in introducing grievance procedure and providing machinery for joint consultation. He also drew attention of the Labour Minister on the victimisation of the 640 Central Govt. employees in spite of earlier promises of liniency towards them. He suggested constitution of a tribunal to go into the cases of victimisation.

He requested the Labour Minister to reconsider the question of restoration of recognition to the unions.

Referring to the lockout ofSwadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur he sharply criticised the Government's machinery which failed to come to the rescue of the suffering workers and demanded efforts from the Central Government to end this dispute amicably as early as possible.

He then dealt with the Whitley Councils and pointed out that they would not function correctly unless some protection is given to the Central Government employees. "In the command workshop at Kirkee" he gave an instance, "Seven people have been dismissed from service after the strike; four of them are on the Works Committee was formed they raised this question and they took protection under the rule of the Labour Ministry that for one year the Labour representative should be the Chairman of the Committee.... Those people who raised this issue were also unfortunately involved in the strike and have been removed".

Naushir Bharucha resolutely opposed the move to

SWADESHI MILL DISPUTE

The dispute in Swadeshi Mills, Kanpur, over the introduction of 9-hour shift working and lock-out by the management since May 1, was referred to arbitration by the U.P.Labour Minister, Sucheta Kripalani.

The Swadeshi Mills in Kanpur employ 12,000 workers in three shifts, for manning (over 2,000 looms and one lakh spindles). In 1953, under the plea of financial stringency, the management played off one shift, then changed to a four-hour shift system calling workers to attend twice in a day, The workers had gone on strike against this system.

At that time, there were many unions. Most of the non-INTUC union leaders were put behind bars. After 35 days of heroic struggle, the workers were forced to enter into a compromise through the INTUC to work four hours extra in a week: Saturday shift with nine hours each and one nine-hour shift on Monday. The compromise was accepted expressly as an experiment to be tried for "some time".

A committee of three (manager, labour officer and Arjun Arora) was made to review the financial stringencies of the mill after some time. But that "some time" did not end for more than seven years.

Meanwhile, the Suti Mill Mazdoor Sabha (SMMS) was formed; the 80-day strike took place in 1955 wherein abolition of the nine-hour shift was demanded. Arjun Arora, the then SMMS Secretary, had repeatedly demanded a meeting of the three-man committee but in vain.

After having waited for seven years, the workers gave notice on March 2, 1961, to the effect that they will work according to the normal shift hours even on Saturdays and Mondays from March 25, 1961.

Seeing the mood of the workers, the three-man committee meeting was called hastily, negotiations followed and the millowners offered to stop one extra hour on Monday. There was scope for further negotiations but the management refused.

Since March 25, Swadeshi workers have been refusing to work the extra four hours, with exemplary unity, discipline and peace. This struggle has become a source of inspiration for all sections of Kanpur working people. The JK Rayon factory workers went on strike on April and won a partial victory. The Jajmau tannery workers also went on strike.

On the wage day, April 20, the Swadeshi management deducted 11 days' earned wages out of 13 as fines. Most of the workers received nothing. The workers raised the slogan: "Do not take the meagre wages", "work according to amount of wages paid." Production went down. The management tried its best to provode the workers into a clash inside the mill or a strike but in vain. Finally, the management abruptly declared lock-out of the Mills on May 1.

A militant procession of over 5,000 textile workers was taken out on May Day, expressing the solidarity of all textile workers in Kanpur, with the Swadeshi mill workers.

~~The Swadeshi workers have also taken strike on June 5~~

A Citizen's Committee has been formed to render relief to the workers affected by the lock-out.

The AITUC has donated a sum of Rs.500 as a token of solidarity with the Swadeshi Mill workers' struggle and to help the relief work.

Following negotiations, the dispute was finally left to the arbitration of the U.P. Labour Minister, on May 12.

Delhi

LUMUMBA FILM SCREENED AT NEW AGE
PRESS WORKERS MAY DAY MEETING

The workers of New Age Printing Press (where the Trade Union Record is printed) observed May Day in a grand manner.

Among those who were invited to participate were prominent Members of Parliament and leaders of the Delhi State Committee of the AITUC.

The programme of songs, of labour and struggle, in which many workers and guests participated, in almost all the languages of India, was symbolic of the solidarity of the proletariat which transcends race, religion, language or territory.

The documentary film on Lumumba was screened at the meeting. Lumumba, the man and the martyr, stood out in the film in all his glory. It was a most moving experience to all those who saw the film.

COIMBATORE'S MAY DAY IN VILLAGES

This year's May Day celebrations by AITUC-led unions in Coimbatore had an entirely new feature. Instead of one central rally, villages in four firkas of Perianaickenpalayam, Sarkar Samakulam, Sulur and Madukkarai were covered. Red Flag was hoisted in 35 villages in Perianaickenpalayam and in 50 villages in Sarkar Samakulam.

This was possible because of the peculiarity of Coimbatore's working class, the bulk of whom live in the neighbouring villages and only come for work in the factories.

Mass rallies were held in the town and also at Perianaickenpalayam, till recently an INTUC-stronghold. Besides, dramas were staged and meetings were held at a number of places.

May Day Report

CALCUTTA

May Day was observed in Calcutta this year jointly by the AITUC and UTUC. The central rally held at the Monument Maidan was presided over by Dr.Ranen Sen, MLA, Vice President of the AITUC. Among others who addressed the meeting were Monoranjan Roy, Mohd. Ismail, Ananadi Das and Sailen Paul of the AITUC and Nepal Bhattacharya and Sudha Roy of the UTUC.

Despite the thunder-showers, a large number of processions even from far off places came to the Central rally.

The rally adopted a resolution on the serious shortages in power supply, affecting a large number of industries.

The rally, in the main resolution adopted, stated that an essential prerequisite for the success of the struggle for demands is the realisation of trade union and democratic rights. The meeting demanded:

1) Repeal of Section 107, 151 and other punitive sections of the Cr.P.C. as well as Preventive Detention Act, Public Security Act, etc., which are used to crush all TU and democratic movements.

2) Amendment of Police Acts and Police Code.

3) Repeal of Section 4(a) and 4(b) of the Central Civil Services Conduct Rules and similar provisions of the Railway Establishment Code and the Standing Orders; repeal of the Safeguarding of the National Security Rules.

4) All Government employees who fall in the category of 'workman' under the Industrial Disputes Act should have the right to form trade unions.

5) Right to hold meetings and access to workers and for trade unionists in all colonies of workers and townships.

6) Recognition of trade unions on the basis of secret ballot of all workers of the undertaking concerned.

7) An end to discrimination against militant trade unions.

The rally greeted Yuri Gagarin, "the Columbus of Space Flight" and the Scientists, technicians and all Soviet people who made the Space flight possible.

PARVATHI KRISHNAN'S SPEECH ON COAL-MINES AMENDMENT BILL

New Delhi, May 5: Given below is the text of the speech of Parvathi Krishnan in the Lok Sabha debate on Coal Mines (conservation and safety) Amendment Bill delivered on Wednesday, May 3:

The object of this Bill seems to be three-fold; firstly, to erect aerial ropeways in the Jharia and Raniganj coal fields for supplying sand to the private mine-owners for stowing in the interests of safety of life and property and also in the interests of conservation of our coal resources; secondly, to subsidise coastal shipping and, thirdly, to finance the mine-owners for the compulsory execution of protective measures.

According to the provisions of this Bill, if this Bill is passed, the result will be that there will be an increase in the price of coal and we will find thatimmediately steel, railways and so on will be the major sufferers. What I would like the hon. Minister to tell us, therefore, is this. How far is this increase going to be justified because we have seen how during the past few years many concessions, particularly with regard to price, have been given to the mine-owners? In fact, if one looks into the recent speeches of the Chairmen of the Mining Association and of the Federation at the annual meetings, one will find that there is a mention in a very appreciable manner of how these concessions have been given to them. Therefore while this increase and this concession is being given, we would like to know as to what exactly are the safeguards to make sure that the production of coal goes up and that at the same time the various other measures with regard to safety and conservation are also really adhered to by the mine-owners. This, to my mind, is one of the most important aspects of this Bill.

Secondly, we find that there is going to be a subsidising of coal that will be transported by sea. Is this the only way in which the question of transport of coal can be answered? It is true that there has been a bottleneck and a scarcity of wagons to move the coal. Therefore it is necessary to find out other methods and routes for transporting coal from one area to another and particularly to down south. But why is it that we have to rush in to subsidise the private sector once again? I would like the Government to consider the wider aspect of taking over coastal shipping and seeing how much Government itself will bear so that it becomes a more integrated policy and an integrated financial scheme of the Government itself and how far this could be taken up.

Then, with regard to the question of assistance to be given for stowing, apart from actually supplying the sand by the ropeway, we find that it is a question of the mines being in a state that is far from happy. When we read in the newspapers and also when time and again we find the question of accidents and so on being raised on the floor of the House, the question arises whether it is that no proper check and supervision is there to see as to how far the safety and precautionary measures are being taken by the various private mine-owners. Under the regulations, as they exist, and under the practice it is for the Coal Board to see to it whether the stowing operations and so on are there andhow far the subsidy that is given by the Government is being put to a proper use. In so doing it is not only the question of the lives of mine workers, which is, of course, of primary importance, but it is also the question of conservation of coal and of seeing that we nurture the coal resources that exist in our country.

We find that during the last so many years with all the assistance that has been given for stowing only, about one-tenth of the mines have really taken up stowing. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify the difficulties that are being countered whenever this

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FRATERNAL VISITORS

A delegation of Japanese trade union leaders consisting of five members and headed by ~~Kaoru Ota~~ Kaoru Ōta, President of General Council of Japanese Trade Union (SOHYO) visited the AITUC office on May 15. The delegation was on their way back to Japan after attending May Day Celebration in Moscow.

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M. Blatin, Chief Editor, TRUD, the central organ of the Soviet Trade Unions, and Vadim Chulitsky, visited AITUC office on May 17. They were on their way back to Moscow after attending the May Day celebration in Djakarta, Indonesia.

MADRAS.

About 20,000 industrial workers and commercial employees in Madras participated in half a dozen rallies held throughout the city on May Day. AITUC, HMS and INTUC organised rallies independently.

Under the auspices of theMadras District Council of the AITUC a mass rally was held at Jesudasan Ground which was addressed among others by Mohan Kumar Mangalam, A.S.K.Iyangar and Krishnamurthy. Earlier there was a procession full of festivity.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam also held a rally to observe May Day which was addressed by V.R. Nedunchezhian.

DELHI.

Five thousand strong colourful procession was taken out through the main streets ofDelhi which ended in a Public meeting at Gandhi Grounds.

A guest speaker from Indonesia Iskandar Kaman, member of the Provisional People's Assembly and a leader of the Indonesian Peace Movement who along with three other delegates was going to Moscow addressed the gathering.

The Meeting passed eleven resolutions including those on 'Declaration of Solidarity with Cuba', 'WFTU manifesto' and 'Support to the struggle for Peace, disarmament and ending colonialism'. Resolutions paying homage to martyres, on victimisation of Central Government Employees, Trade Unions and Democratic rights and 'Communalism' were adopted. By another resolution the meeting demanded Wage Boards in Transport, Engineering and Newspaper industries, Yuri Gangarin, the First Soviet Cosmonot was invited to visit India by a special letter adopted by the meeting.

R.C. Sharma, B.D. Joshi, Y.D. Sharma, Romesh Chandra, P.S. Gupta and K.L. Kapur spoke on various resolutions.

H.M.S. and UTUC organised another meeting in Dangal grounds to observe the May Day.

JAY ENGINEERING WORKERS UNION, CALCUTTA.

In response to the appeal made by Utkal State Committee of AITUC, Jay Engineering Workers Union, Calcutta donated Rs.50/- as a token help to meet the legal defence expenditure of T.U. leaders imprisoned on charge of murder in Barbil.

BIKANER.

All the major Trade Unions in Bikaner celebrated May Day jointly. A procession of about 3000 workers marched the thorough-fares of the city which ended in a rally at Ratanbehari Park. The rally was addressed by Roshan Lal (AITUC), Murlidhar Vyas (HMS) Srikishan and Bharat Bhushan.

Resolutions on Cuba, Price Line, Labour Policy in Rajasthan was passed in the meeting. It expressed sympathy with the striking workers of P.W.D. and water-works of Kotah.

BHOPAL.

A procession paraded main streets of the city in the morning. A public meeting was held in Itwara Chowk presided over by G.P. Sriwastava and addressed by Jagat Singh Lyalpuri, S.V. Parulekar and Shakir Ali.

RAIPUR (M.P.)

Eleven T.U.s. in the city formed a joint committee to observe the May Day. Three thousand workers participated in the demonstration which culminated in a mass rally. Sudhir Mukherjee, Phadke, Vyas and Sharma addressed the meeting.

BARODA.

All AITUC Unions jointly celebrated May Day by organising meetings in different parts of the city. The main rally held in Jubilee Bag was addressed by Vasant Mehendale, Bhalchandra Trivedi and Maganbhai Desai.

SAHARANPUR (U.P.)

Two thousand workers participated in a demonstration

jointly organised by various trade unions. A largely attended public meetint was held in the evening under joint auspices of District T.U. Congress and the Joint May Day Committee which was addressed by Pritam, Angresh, Verma, Kalu Ram,Darshan Lal and others.

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A.I.T.U.C.

All out unity on the national demand.

Since 1953 the Air Transport Employees' Organisations are demanding complete nationalisation of Air Transport. The Co-ordination committee of the Air Transport Employees' Organisation, Calcutta has initiated a very good mass campaign in support of the demand for complete nationalisation of Air Transport and starting a manufacturing unit for Air Crafts, spares and all other allied equipments at Dum Dum (West Bengal) under direct control and ownership of Government of India.

All the employess prominent personalities and MLAs of West Bengal Legislative Assembly have already suhmitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister in support of the demand.

It is a great news of unity that all the MPs irrespective of political parties from West Bengal have also submitted the identical memorandum to the Prime Minister in support of the demands initiated by the workers organisation.

In reply to the question of Shri S.M. Banerji, Prabhat Kar, T.B. Vittal Rao, Desarath Deb and Arabinda Ghosh and Tridip Chowdhry MPs the Civil Aviation Minister, 23.5.67 replied that the demand of starting manufacturng unit is under consideration of Govt. of India.

To complete the programme of nationalisation of AIr Transport industry is also awaiting for Govts. consideration. The MPs of West Bengal united requested the Prime Minister to concede the demands of complete nationalisation of Air transpor through a memorandum where they have rightly straised that the industry policy resolution of Govt. of India of 1956 should be implemented.

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ONCE AGAIN HATABAHAR

HATABAHAR is a term which means eviction of workers and their families from the tea garden premises. In the days of British Rule, this was just a common practice and hundreds of workers were thrown out of gardens every year.

Not necessarily the workers who sufferred in such evictions were guilty of misconduct or any offence which required their removal from the garden areas. If anyone in the family has fallen off from the rolls of the garden, that was enough a reason for hatabahar. The rule of jungle was simple - either sever all connections with the persons concerned or lose your employment and be thrown out of the garden with one and all.

If, ~~the~~ for example, the wife has been dismissed by the employers, then the husband has no right to keep his wife in his residence at the garden; sons or father, mother or wife, all are subjected to this rule. If any one ~~xxx~~ wants to continue in employment, then he must sever all his connections with the deliquent relatives or just "get out".

Since after independence, attempts were made at various levels to stop this practice. The West Bengal Government, The Central Government adopted certain measures to arrest this practice. Various Ministers and important officers of Governments took the matter up with the employers and tried to ensure that the workers will be safe and that their fundamental right to live as they like or that they may have their own family ralations, will not be encroached upon.

Finally, at the 8th Session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations at Shillong on January 21, 1958, a decision was taken that there should be no such discharge or evictions.

But despite all these, the employers have not fully subscribed to stoppage of this practice and very recently a few cases have come up which show that the practice stil continues unabated in certain areas.

We are citing some specific instances here. These are the cases of Jasbir Rai, Gambirmaya Kamini, Simma ka Amma, Sanja Tamangeni, Moti Raini, Bishnu Kamini,and Batuli Chhetrini. All these workers are employed with the Darjeeling Consolidated Tea Company Ltd., in their Balasun Tea Estate and all of them have been served with notices in April, which inter alia direct them to sever their connections with their delinquent relatives, failing which they will be discharged and evicted from the garden.

The notices, are by themselves, quite interesting to read. For example, the case of Gambiramaya Kamini. Her husband was dismissed by the management. The noticex, among other direct here " As he cannot be denied access while you reside on the estate, it will be necessary to terminate your services with this company. However, before any final orders are issued, I will be pleased to hear anything you may wish tc say why your services should not be terminated, and I will therefore grant you an interview for this purpose.." The notice is signed by the Manager. Similar is the case of Sanja Tamangeni and of all other with little variations.

The Darjeeling District Chia Kaman Mazdur Union has taken up the matter with the State as well as Central Government but their representation has not so far yielded any tangible result

If things do drift in this manner, it is inevitable that the plantation workers will have to find out some means to end

this system. It is time for the authorities to take note of this situation and end this impasse, lest there be any untoward situation created which may not be conducive for the industrial peace and harmony. (S.M.)

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MORE MAY DAY REPORTS:

DIGBOI

A huge procession was organised here by the Assam Oil Company Workers Union, which paraded the streets of the town and later joined a mass rally that was addressed, among others by N.B.Chattri, and M.S.Hussain.

TINSUKIA

A big mass rally was held at Gandhi Park on May Day and it was addressed, among others, by Barin Chowdhury.

DIBRUGARH

Workers from various tea gardens, electric supply corporation and other industries jointly celebrated May Day at Dibrugarh. A mass rally was held on the occasion which was addressed by, among others, Moni Bhowmick.

DUMDUMA

Workers from Rupai Siding and other factories marched in processions to Dumduma to participate in the Central rally organised on May Day. The rally was presided over by Jyotish Chandra Barua, a local school teacher.

AGARTOLA

A joint rally was organised here under the auspices of various trade unions and among others who addressed the rally were Saroj Chanda and Dwijen Dey. The rally was preceded by a big procession that paraded the streets headed by a batch of women participants.

CHITTARANJAN

More than ten thousand workers attended a mass rally that was held on the occasion of May Day. The rally was held within the prohibited zone. Anong many demands voiced

in the rally was the demand for reinstatement of victimised workers.

SUNDERBAN

A rally of agricultural labourers was held at Nandkumarpur on May Day which was presided over by Harekrishna Jana. One of the resolutions adopted in the rally was regarding greater unity between the workers and peasants.

NAIHATI

A rally was organised here on May Day under the Presidentship of Purnendu Bhattacharya, which was preceded by a big procession that marched various areas of Naihati and Gouripur.

NABADWIP

One of the biggest procession of town was organised here on May Day. The procession was jointly organised by the local unions. Thousands of people cheered the procession when it passed through the residential areas. The rpocession was headed by a group of musicians playing various instruments and the processionists carried festoons and banners.

BIRBHUM

A rally was organised here by the Maharaja Kasimbazar Stone Quarries Mazdoor Union on May Day. The rally was presided over by Moslem Shaikh.

~~RAIMANGHAT~~

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ANDHRA JUTE WORKERS STRIKE.

When almost all the Jute Mills in India implemtned the interim relief as per recommended by the Jute Wage Board, the management of Eluru Jute Mill refused to pay the interim relief inspite of repeated requests by Jute Labour Union, Eluru.

Five members of the Working Committee of the Union went on hunger strike from May 8 just opposite the mill gate. The hunger strike was withdrawn on May 14 under the advice of the Labour Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh with the hope that the management would come to its senses.

However, instead of accepting the genuine demand of the work the management came forward with the proposal that unless the workers forgo the customary benefits of yearly clothes given to workers on Pongal Festival free of cost and night shift allowance and agree for re-fixation of work load they cannot implement the recommendations of the Wage Board.

Disappointed and enraged at the suggestion of the management, the workers 1400 in number did not attend work from May 15.

Negotiations are going on between the Union and the Management for the settlement of this dispute.

23.5.1961.

A bipartite settlement has been arrived at between the Balmer Lawrie Employees Union, Bombay and the Bombay branch of the said company. The settlement was signed on May 13, by Ramachandra S. Naik, President of the Union and C.W.J. Biddolph, Branch Manager of the Company.

According to this settlement, the grades and pay scales have been revised and an unskilled worker will now get Rs.40 as minimum basic wage, which with dearness allowance as per rates of D.A. will be Rs.137.00 per month with 26 working days. The dearness allowance will be according to the revised textile scale prevalent in Bombay.

Bonus will be paid to the workers at the same rate as in the Calcutta office of the company for the years 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963, on the same terms and conditions.

Besides earned leave as per Factories Act, workers will now get 15 days sick leave with half pay and 7 days casual leave with full day in a year. Over and above these, there will six paid festival holidays in a year.

Outdoor allowance at the rate Re.1 per day will be given to workers if they are required to work outside the factory during lunch recess. Besides they will have free uniform and served with free tea.

The agreement is binding on the parties for a period of 3 years from the date of signing and shall continue to be binding if not terminated by a two month notice after the expiry of three years.

The agreement has retrospective effect in the matter of wages scales with effect from January 1, 1961 and all dues arising out it will be paid by the company within one month from May 13.

KOTHAGUDIUM

May Day was observed in the Kothagudium collieries in a grand manner. The preparations for celebration of May Day started from April and slogans were formulated on this occasion to reflect the demands of the workers.

A central rally was organised on May Day and even the INTUC people also joined it. A similar mass rally was also held at the Godavari mines.

HUTTI

May Day was celebrated here under the auspices of the Hutti Gold Mines Labour Union. The management of the mines declared holiday on that day at the instance of the union. The INTUC elements tried to creat disaffection among the workmen and resist the declaration of holiday but without any result. A mass rally was held on this occasion.

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AIR EMPLOYEES UNITED DEMAND

Since 1953, the Air Transport Employees organisations were jointly demanding nationalisation of air transport. A lead in this direction has been taken by Air Transport Employees Organisation, Calcutta through intitiating mass campaign to this effect. They have also demanded the establishment of a manufacturingunit for air crafts, spare parts and other allied equipments under direct control and ownership of Government of India.

On May 3, to a question asked in the Lok Sabha jointly by S.M.Banerjee, Prabhat Kar, T.B.Vittal Rao, Dasarath Deb, Arvind Ghosal and Tridib Chowdhury, the Civil Aviation Minister replied that the question of starting a manufacturing unit was under consideration of the Government of India. He also said

that the question of completion of the nationalisation programme of the Air Transport Industry also was under the consideration of Government.

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PERSPECTIVES OF A NEW WORLD ~~AND THE TASK OF THE WORKING CLASS.~~ AND THE WORKING CLASS

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Adressing a huge gathering of workers on May 5, at the Subodh Mullick Sq, Calcutta on the occassion of the open session of the ninth annual Conference of ~~the~~ tramway workers, S.A.Dange, General Secretary of the AITUC exhorted the workers saying: " Today is the day of establishing unity of all and forging of greater consolidation of the workers and ~~of~~ the people. The whole world is before the working class; let the working class win it through their own might."

S.A.Dange explained the new perspectives of the present day world and the academics of various socio-economic systems and posed a question as to which way shall our country adopt in the situation obtaining today in the world.

Following are ~~the~~ extracts from his address:

CALCUTTA TRAMWAY WORKERS CONFERENCE

Following detailed discussions regarding the problem of transporation in Calcutta and allied problems, the ninth conference of the Tramway workers in Calcutta, held on May 4 and 5, adopted resolution to remove this bottleneck through workers concerted contribution. To ~~xxxxxx~~ solve these problems from the side of the workers, resolution was adopted to form a Transport Workers Federation which will effectively deal with these aspects.

In the open rally on May 5 at the Subodh Mullick Sq, S.A.Dange, Somenath Lahiri, MLA, Dhiren Mazumder, Sisir Mitra and Ramaprasad Bagchi, addressed a big gathering of workers, and exhorted them to establish unity among the transport workers and forge mutual collaboration between ~~themselves and the public at large.~~

~~Speaking on this occasion, S.A.Dange, General Secretary of the AITUC, said:~~ " Before the workers today remains only one ~~xxxx~~ path; the path towards progress with universal fraternity with the people in the world over. The old world exists no more, ~~no~~ more can one remain dissociated. The old world has ~~xx~~ changed to a new and from the old remnants has emerged an epoch of new consciousness. Humanity, so long tied with the earth, has today won the sky and the space. This is a victory of mankind, victory of the workers, of socialism and of the Soviet Union.

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S.A.Dange said: " Capitalism has immense resources wealth but what capitalism does with that wealth ? Its only endeavour is to ignite flames of war; to prohibit others from achieving sovereignty. That's the only reason why a puny Cuba had to face the American invasion. But the real joke of it is that despite all its wealth and resources, capitalism is actually powerless; the giant America could not inflict serious wound on puny Cuba by its attack, just as before the Anglo-French concerted attack on Egypt ended in a fiasco.

" The reason for all these is the existence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic. In its mighty strength, imperialism is bewildered; through its strength resurgent Africa- the land of former slaves, rises up with head held high; our India achieved freedom as a consequence of this strength.

He said: " The Soviet Union is a great protector for the preservation of independence of the newly liberated countries. But despite that certain countries try to keep the old order of the old world by selling out its own independence. One example of this is Pakistan, where America has established it base resulting in the weakening of the country. What shall our country do ? Should we by our own choice loose freedom ?

Deatiling the various trends in different fields of economic activity in our country, S.A.Dange said: " In Bombay, the transportation and electric supply systems are national properties. What couldn't Calcutta do what Bombay could do ? Why till today in Calcutta, electric supply, tramways etc., still are in foreign hold ? control?

Referring to one ~~of the various~~ trends he said: During the period of First Five Year Plan, the Congress Government had immense confidence ~~regarding~~ in England and America. But through the lesson learnt by experience, they had to change their mind during the Second Plan. The Soviet aid came ~~in~~ and we got ~~the form of~~ Bhilai. Immediately thereafter the ~~other~~ Western countries came forward with offers of help but the character of these types of help differed a lot.

Today we can see, production is steady in Bhilai and fetching profits, whereas the Rourkela plant built by the West German firms is suferring from impediments of constant faults and mechanical disorders. Failure of power generator in the Durgapur Thermal Power station has become rule.

The situation is so because the Soviet Union assists and renders aid to consolidate the economic strength and independence while behind the Western aid smirks the mentality of profits. For this profit, the Western capitalists sabotage the industrialisation of our country in various ways. In this connection, we should learn a great lesson from the crisis of power failure in Calcutta.

Similar example can be had in the ~~fixed~~ field of oil production. In the interest of profits, the vested interest even goes to the extent of distorting science. The ~~Brit~~ British-US-German concerns so long had been telling us in the name of science that there is no oil in the sub-terranean level of our country. This was pure lie and it has been so proved in the discovery of immense oil wealth through the help of Soviet Union in our country.

~~S.A.Dange said:~~ " This is the pattern of the new world. One country achieves independence; Soviet Union renders assistance towards development of its strength ~~of~~ and economic base - a new country is born with new people, new strength and new industry. The working class welcomes the birth of these new countries, new people and new industry and furthers its struggle ~~for~~ the interest of its class and through that wins recognition and respect. The Indian working class also through its struggle and sacrifice has ~~obtained~~ established the respect and human dignity.

"~~The problems that~~ It is no use to go about weeping over the problems that exist today. Its not the day to weep. Today is the day of establishing unity of all and forging of greater consolidation of the workers, ~~of~~ and the people. The whole world is before the working class; Let the working class win it through their own might."

TUC

CALCUTTA TRAMWAYMEN'S CONFERENCE

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The ninth annual conference of the Calcutta Tramway Workers was held in Calcutta on May 4 and 5, followed up by an open rally at the Subodh Mullick Sq after the conclusion of the delegate session.

The conference was significant from many ~~xxxxxx~~ sides and one of the most important gains achieved in it was the resolution adopted thereat for the formation of a federation of all transport workers in Calcutta and West Bengal to defend the rights of the workers employed in various transport services run by Government, semi-Government or private organisations.

The conference by a resolution also requested the West Bengal Government to take over the tramways from the foreig hands in the interest of the improvement of the city transport system.

The resolution pointed out that despite the increase in fares, the maintenance of the tramway system and its efficiency had failed to register any improvement. There were reasons to ~~xxxxxxx~~ apprehend that in the year 1972, when the State Government would be entitled to acquire the undertaking, a large majority of the tramcars would be reduced to scraps.

The conference demanded a thorough enquiry into electricity crisis and pointed out that Government and Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation were responsible for it.

The open rally at the Subodh Mullick Sq was addressed by S.A.Dange, Somenath Lahiri, Dhiren Mazumder, Sisir Mitra and Ramaprasad Bagchi.

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TAGORE CENTENARY AND LATHI CHARGE

" As much as their pressure will be stronger
So much so our bonds will break."

According to an information received in the Central Office of the AITUC, it is learnt that the workers of South India Rubber Works, Calcutta, had to face police lathi charge when they demanded a holiday on the occasion of Tagore Centenary. 38 workers were arrested. It is learnt that the employers had called police and with their help started to leave the premises of the factory. The workers demanded of the employer a settlement of the demand following which lathi-charge was resorted to. Further details are not available. It may be stated here that throughout West Bengal, public holiday was declared on account of Rabindra Centenary.

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TRADEUNIONIST MURDERED

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Paresh Chandra Chakravarty, Assistant Secretary of the Cossipore Plywood Workers Union, was brutally murdered in a suburb of Calcutta on May 10. His body was found in a drain at a secluded spot.

An Employees' State Insurance Scheme card, a napkin and a refugee certificate were found near the spot where his body was found. It is presumed that while he was returning home, ~~from the factory of Andaman Timber Co., where he was an employee,~~ he was waylaid, assaulted and murdered.

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Paresh was the leader of the ~~plywood~~ workers of that area and had created a sure place in their hearts through his undaunted organisational activity and devotion to the cause of improving workers living and working conditions.

Only a few weeks ago, the plywood workers subitted their charter of demands to the management of Andaman Timber Co. Paresh was also an employee of this Company. ~~and consequently~~ On May 13, the management served charge-sheets on Paresh and 15 other workers. The workers resented the action and were preparing for a strike action under the leadership of Paresh.

The ghastly crime points out clearly to the fact that interested parties even stoop to the extent of doing away with lives of men who fight for a cause and that in our socialistic pattern of society, the State affords no protection to these fighting men.

Our readers will remember that only a few days ago attempts were made to kill Purnendu Mazumder, the leader of the iron and manganese mines workers of Gua(Bihar) and the police, according to reports, did not take adequate steps against the culprits.

TUR

We demand of the West Bengal Government that the police machinery which is so often used to quell the ~~workers~~ struggle of the workers, be immediately used to apprehend the culprits (who murdered Paresh) and/~~they~~ they be punished according to Law.

Meanwhile, we pay ~~homage~~ homage to the memory of ~~the~~ Paresh who ~~has~~ sacrificed his life for the cause of the working class and join his bereaved family with our deep feeling of grief and sorrow.

TUR

Workers' Solidarity in West Bengal

(4)

More than 16 lakhs of workers, alongwith ~~all~~ other people from all walks of life, joined the general strike in West Bengal on May 24, in a great protest against the brutal police firings in Silchar that killed 11 persons. Factories, jutemills and other industrial undertakings came to a complete stop in the vast and concerted action of workers.

8x9
11

The workers, as the conscious section of the people, expressed their solidarity through the strike. ~~with the general people~~. ~~The~~ all-embressing general strike once again proved that the brute repression of monsters cannot be a permanent feature of history; civilization does not tolerate barbarous atrocity. The mamoth ~~protest~~ action of West Bengal was a definite protest but it was not ~~xxd~~ an anarchic protest; ~~but~~ it was a restrained one; it ~~xxx~~ was the ~~announcement~~ expression of ~~the victory of~~ humanity but not ~~in~~ through pandemonium but in expression of consolidated discipline. We congratulate the heroic workers of West Bengal who have risen to the occasion.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

"12.3"

TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

DECISION ON PAY COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

New Delhi, Vaisakha 24, 1883
May 14, 1961

The Government have decided to extend certain facilities to recognized trade unions to carry on their activities. The Pay Commission had recommended that reasonable facilities should be provided by Government for trade union activities of their employees.

A Memorandum circulated by the Union Ministry of Labour & Employment to the various Central Ministries states that recognized associations and trade unions should normally be permitted to hold meetings on open land outside the security zone of office and factory premises. At his discretion the Head of the Department could permit the meeting to hold within the premises.

It has also been decided that the facility for display of notices of specified non-controversial nature in office premises might also be granted to recognized associations and trade unions. Such facility is already allowed by some of the Ministries and Departments. Associations and unions which display notices in contravention of the specified provisions would be liable to be debarred from availing of this privilege without prejudice to any other action that might be taken under the rules.

Another important decision relates to the grant of special casual leave to union office bearers for attending executive meetings, conferences etc. The Government have decided that special casual leave to office bearers of recognized trade unions up to 10 days in a calender year might be allowed for participation in the activities of the unions. Similar facility is already available to the office bearers of recognized service associations.

Regarding the.....

Regarding the release of Government employees to work as full-time union functionaries, it has been decided that Government employees for whom recognized trade unions make a request might be released on foreign service terms. The final decision as to whether a particular Government employee could be released and the period for which deputation might continue would, however, rest with the competent authority. An employee who is placed on deputation could revert to regular Government service whenever he so desired. The concerned association or union would, however, have to bear the full cost of deputation including leave salary and pension contributions.

As it was felt that service associations and trade unions should be self-supporting, the Government has not considered it necessary to meet the travel costs of Government employees attending trade union meetings in their capacity as union functionaries. (PIB)

UCT/Gandhi

PRM:

1050/12.5.61/10.40/350/2.

TVR

GOONDAS ATTACK COMMITTEE MEETING OF COLLIERY MAZDOOR SABHA

According to a report ~~received, here~~, it is learnt that on May 21, while the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Colliery Mazdoor Sabha was in progress in Chapui Khas colliery, a gang of goondas (about 50) ~~consisting of about 50 persons~~ raided the place and assaulted the committee members. Mathura Singh and Uma Singh were immediately removed to hospital in serious condition. ~~They sustained wounds due and~~ Several others were injured in the attack.

8 & 9/11

It is reported that no first aid was given to the injured although informations were sent and so far police has arrested only one person in this connection. Detail informations are not available.

WAGE BOARD DAY OBSERVED

Wage Board day was observed on May 21, in all the steel plants of the country. Mass rallys were held in Durgapur, Burnpur, Jamshedpur, Rourkela and Bhilai.

From all the mass rallys various resolutions were adopted which among others, included the following demands: i) immediate announcement of the personnel of the Wage Board; ii) publication of the terms of reference; iii) interim relief pending final recommendations and iv) submission of the recommendations by the Wage Board within a period of six months.

Bombay

STRIKE IN ESTRELLA BATTERIES CALLED OFF

The strike by 200 workers in Estrela Batteries in Bombay which began on April 15 was called off on May 25, following a settlement.

8 & 9
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All the workers on the strike will be paid Rs.50 each on account so that there was some relief in the economic difficulties caused due to the 40-day strike.

It was agreed that there would be no victimisation and that the management would reconsider their decision regarding dismissed worker, Padwal.

[illegible]

Kerala

COIR WORKERS STRIKE IN
ALLEPPEY, SHERTALLAY

Workers of coir industry in Alleppey went on strike on May 20, protesting against the Kerala Government's attacks on coir cooperatives. The call for the strike was given by the Travancore Coir Factory Workers Union.

A similar strike was called in Shertallay, another centre of coir industry.

The workers protested against the nomination of persons unconnected with the industry by Kerala Government to fill the posts of Directors of the Coir Cooperative Societies.

Saharanpur, U.P.

TEXTILE TU LEADERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

8&9
11

Leaders of textile workers of Saharanpur went on hunger strike in May, demanding implementation of the Textile Wage Board Report. Shiva Charan Gupta (HMS) began his fast on May 8 and T.S.Pritam (AITUC) went on hunger-strike from May 20.

The Cloth Mill Karmachari Union (AITUC) has given a strike notice.

Ram Asrey, General Secretary, UPTUC, met the leaders on hunger strike on May 28.

On May 26, K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, AITUC, S.M.Banerjee, M.P. and Ram Asrey, met L.N.Mishra, Deputy Labour Minister, in connection with the hunger strike. The Minister assured that the Government of India stood by its commitment of implementing the Wage Board recommendations and that the Government would do their best to ensure implementation in U.P. too.

S.S.Yusuf, President and Ravi Sinha, Secretary, UPTUC, along with Vimal Mehrotra, General Secretary, UP HMS, met U.P. Labour Minister, Sucheta Kripalani. They were told that the dispute could be referred to arbitration or adjudication if workers gave up the hunger strike.

(246)

AITUC BUILDING FUND:

The General Secretary of Goodlass Nerolac Paints and Elephant Oil Milss Employees Union, Bombay, has sent a cheque for Rs.101 towards the Building Fund of the AITUC.

Earlier, the Jay Engineering Workers Union, Calcutta has contributed a sum of Rs.500 towards the Building Fund.

COURT OF INQUIRY

L.P.Dave, Presiding Officer, Central Government Industrial Tribunal, Calcutta has been appointed by Central Government as the Sole Member of the Court of Inquiry constituted by Government of India for enquiring into the employment of contract labour in the coal mining industry.

DURGAPUR WORKERS PROTEST STRIKE:

Workers of Durgapur steel plant struck work from the night of May 27 in protest against the unprovoked lathi charge by the police on them, resulting in injuries to many workers.

The workers returned to work the next night only after the General Manager of the Steel Plant assured consideration of their demands which included withdrawal of all cases, no victimisation and payment of wages for the strike day.

According to reports, the police had attacked the workers in the evening of May 27, when about 500 workers were returning to their quarters after the day's work in the plant in the buses of the steel project.

The buses were held up by a huge police cordon on a road near its crossing with another that leads to the venue of the AICC Pandal. When the workers were held up by police, they resented to the action of the police and demanded clearance. The workmen were coming back from work and were exhausted.

The police then charged the workers with lathi and battered one of the buses. The news of the lathi-charge spread fast and there was wide-spread dissention. Many workers sustained injury as a result of the attack.

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AITUC BUILDING FUND:

A couple of days ago, the General Secretary of the Goodlass Nerolac Paints and Elephant Oil Mills Employees Union, Bombay, has sent a cheque for Rs.101 towards the Building Fund of the AITUC.

Earlier, among other contributions received, were the contributions of the Madras Harbour Workers Union (Rs.1000) and Jay Engineering Workers Union, (Rs.500), Calcutta.

...

Saharanpur, U.P.

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Saharanpur.

TEXRILE WORKERS' LEADERS ON HUNGER STRIKE.

SARVASRI Shiva Charan Gupta and T.S. Preetam leaders of Sharanpur Textile workers are on fast for the last 22 and 9 days respectively. They are demanding implementation of the recommendations of the Textile Eage Board. The Cloth Mill Karmachari Union (AITUC) has given a strike notice. If the efforts to settle the matter donot succeed then the workers are scheduled to go on strike from June 2, 1961.

Ram Asrey, general secretary of the State Trade Union Congress visited Saharanpur on May 28 and discussed matters with the hungerstrikers. The negotiations between the management and the workers'unions, HMS and AITUC have been resumed through the good offices of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Meerut Region. The main demand that has emerged during negotiations is that of interim relief in the matter of dearness allowance pending the decision of the arbitrator or the adjudicator to whom the Unions are prepared to refer the matter for final settlement.

Earlier, Comrades, K;G; Srivasrava, Secretary AITUC, S.M. Banerjee, M.P. and Ram Asrey met Sri L.M.Misra, Deputy Labour Minster who assured them that the Government of India stood by its commitment of implementing the Wage Board Recommendations and shall do its best for its implementation in U.P.too .

Comrades S.S.Yusuf, Ravi Sinha, President and Secretary UPRUC along with Sri Vimal Mehrotra, general SecretaryHMS,U.P. had discussions with U.P.Labour Minister, Smt Sucheta Kriplani and she also assured that the matter of dispute could be referred to arbitration or adjudication if the workers gave up hunger strike.

LEGAL NOTES (246) By Sadhan Mukherjee

SEC.25 C of the I.D.Act, 1947

...

Sec. 25 C of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 provides right of workmen laid-off for compensation. As it is lay-off presupposes a fact that for certain cogent reasons the employer is unable to provide employment to his workmen. Obviously he has to compensate the worker for his temporary unemployment.

The provision in the Industrial Disputes Act enjoins that the lay-off compensation shall be equal to fifty per cent of the total of the basic wages and dearness allowance that would have been payable to the workman had he not been so laid-off.

But this compensation is only payable whenever a workman is laid-off provided the workman concerned is not a badli or casual workman and his name is borne on the muster rolls of the establishment. Besides this, he must have completed not less than one year continuous service under the employer. The days of lay-off also do not include weekly holidays as may intervene during the period of lay-off, and the compensation payable to a workman during any period of twelve months shall not be more than 45 days.

We are presently concerned with the interpretation and application of the words: "completed not less than one year of service." Sec. 25 B defines one year of continuous service as " actual work by a workman for not less than 240 days in an industry during a period of twelve calender months. From this definition read with Section

25 C, arises a question as to whether a workman who is in the service of the employer for a number of years is entitled to lay-off compensation if he has not completed 240 days actual work during the preceding twelve calender months.

According to the management of a State Sector undertaking this clause applies to all workmen irrespective of service i.e., to say even if the workman has worked for more than ten years, he will be entitled to lay-off compensation only if he has actually worked for 240 days or more during the preceding twelve calendar months.

Since there is no judicial pronouncement available on the point, the AITUC opined that the term "continuous service" is just a qualifying clause providing the minimum that is required for the claim of compensation. The AITUC Held that the period of one year continuous service is required for those workmen who have not put in more than one years of service.

There were controversies over this issue and the Industrial Relations Machinery failed to appreciate this point. Finally on specific request the opinion of the Ministry of Labour & Employment was available on this score and they opined that " Prima facie, it would appear that a workman's entitlement to lay-off compensation in cases where he has completed a number of years of service would not be affected by the fact whether or not he has worked for at least 240 days in a period of preceding twelve months."

It is understood that the question of amending the Act suitably to liberalise the provision is under consideration of Government.

East Kajora Colliery

FIVE KILLED IN
MINE ACCIDENT

Five workers lost their lives and one injured in a tragic accident which occurred on April 22, ~~x~~ in the East Kajora colliery, near Asansol.

The accident was due a roof-fall in a depillaring area in which extraction of pillars had been completed and which had been fenced off after withdrawal of the roof supports.

~~According to a statement read by L.N. Mishra, Deputy Labour Minister, in the Lok Sabha, six miners who were to work on a new pillar, left off their leg~~

It will be recalled that in similar roof-falls in the Simlabahal and Badruchuk collieries on February 27 and March 5, nine miners were killed.

~~CONFERENCE~~

ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE OF WORKERS
IN MINES OTHER THAN COAL

At an informal meeting of the representatives working in mine workers' unions from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, it has been decided to convene a conference of the workers employed in the mines other than coal in Tirodi (M.P.) by the third week of June 1961.

It has been decided to extend an invitation to all miners' unions affiliated to the AITUC.

Following is the text of documents referred to by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, and by S.A.Dange and others, relating to the adjournment motion.

I

Copy of D.O.No.18-13/60-SR dated 17.4.61 from Director-General, Posts & Telegraphs, to Madan Kishore and copy to all Circle Heads:

"Kindly refer to your D,O. letter No.~~X~~ PMG-255/VI/60/UOB dated 15th April 1961. There cannot be any question of any informal di cussions with any one supposed to represent a derecognised union.

"No such informal discussions h ve been allowed as a matter of a system at the Directorate. But one or two interviews were granted to some persons in the capacity as private citizens. No minutes of discussions were recorded. Therefore, there cannot be any question of any informal discussion being permitted at the circle level on the analogy of what has been described as informal discussions at the Directorate level.

"Kindly acknowledge receipt."

II

Copy of Memo No.10-1/60-SR dated ~~xx~~ April 17, 1961 from office of the Director-General, P&T, New Delhi, to all Heads of Circles and all Administrative Offices, etc.

"Sub: Publication of objectionable news and letters by Union Members and other employees in the Press.

"It has been noticed that Union office-bearers and other employees approach the press to ventilate their grievances ~~xxxdemandsx~~ and also use objectionable language. At times, their resolutions or demands appear in the Press as a news. Another method availed of by the unions and other employees is 'Letters to the Editor'.

"The author of objectionable letter or news can be proceeded against for breach of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules. In view of this, it is requested that

whenever such a case comes to your notice, first of all, the Editor of the Newspaper concerned may be requested to confirm that the news or letter in question has been signed by the person in whose name it has been published and or the paper on which the communication was sent to the newspaper office, bears the printed letter-head and other particulars of the organisation or office to which the writer belongs. Papers and records are destroyed in the Newspaper Office after a comparatively short period of preservation and the official concerned may deny authorship. After receipt of the confirmation about the authorship, further action may be taken against the official in accordance with the C.C.S.(C.A.& A.) Rules. If action is contemplated, it may also be seen if efforts may be made to indice the Editor to preserve the relevant papers in his office so that authorship may be proved. If some Editor does not like to comply with the request, it may be tactfully explained to the Editor that his paper may also be interested to ensure that a person who sent matters for publicity does not disown authorship.

"Receipt of this letter may be acknowledged."

industrial committee on coal

.....

The representatives of mineowners' and workers' organisations clashed sharply on all the 15 items included in the agenda of the eighth session of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining.

The meeting held on April 25 and 26 at New Delhi failed to break through the two-year deadlock in the industrial relations in the coal industry - a deadlock created by the straight refusal of the mine barons and the Government to settle any of the major disputes ranging from bonus, housing, water supply to safety matters.

The most important issue before the Committee was the question of revision of the wage structure, workload, D.A., etc., which was kept hanging since the Labour Appellate Tribunal Award expired on May 1959. In pursuance of the decision of the Seventh Session of the Industrial Committee, the unions refrained from giving notice of termination and submitted memoranda for a revision of wage structure and it was expected that a final decision would be taken on the matter.

The demand for wage revision was strongly opposed by the employers with the backing of the Government. The representatives of the unions refuted the arguments of the employers and the Government by pointing out to:

(a) rise in productivity per worker from 0.34 tons in 1953 to 0.44 tons in 1959;

(b) a great rise in profit as shown in the latest index which has jumped to 141 in 1957 (1950 = 100). In 1958, the index jumped to 151.4;

(c) rise in production from 39.43 million tons in 1956 to 51.77 in 1960 without any appreciable increase in the number of workers, on the one hand, and fall in real wages, dangerous and hazardous nature of work, low earnings of piece-rated workers who constitute 80% of the labour force on the other.

The workers' representatives also pointed out that while the mineowners in India are getting all kinds of assistance and subsidy from various quarters, the miners who draw highest wages in other countries get much less than even textile workers of this country.

After a heated debate, the workers' representatives agreed to the proposal of Union Labour Minister, G.L.Nanda, to refer the whole matter of wage increase and allied questions to a bipartite committee which would examine its various aspects and attempt to come to an agreed conclusion within two to three months.

This, he said, would be a kind of industry-wise collective bargaining at the top which has not been attempted anywhere and therefore, a new experiment which should be tried before resorting to either Wage Board or Tribunal.

If the proposed committee fails to reach a settlement, then the dispute could be referred to appropriate machinery, the Union Labour Minister assured.

The representatives of employers' organisations agreed to this suggestion, after some hesitation.

Regarding other items and issues which came up for consideration at the meeting, no headway was made. Neither was there any assurance from the Government, when and how the major grievances of the workers would be settled. Before the uncomprimising hostility of the employers, the Government retreated, ignoring the warning of the labour representatives that infinite postponement of settling the grievances would seriously threaten peace in the coal industry, so vital for the success of the Third Plan.

BONUS

The employers refused to introduce weekly payment of bonus which was suggested by the Steering Group on Wages, on the basis of the report of the Director of the Labour Bureau. The workers' representatives supported the Steering Group's suggestion, as an improvement on the present

system of quarterly payment which enables the employers to deprive over 50% of the workers their due bonus through various dubious means.

Pressed further, the employers at last agreed to introduce Bonus Cards where attendance of workers would be recorded to prevent malpractices. The employers supported by ~~xxxx~~ Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Abid Ali, also turned down the suggestion of the AITUC to remove the present anomalies of the Bonus Scheme which was framed before the annual leave was increased.

A very large number of workers today are being deprived of bonus because of not calculating earned leave and 14 days' sick leave as attendance, the labour representatives pointed out.

HOUSING & HOUSE-RENT

The report submitted by the Coal Mines Welfare Fund disclosed that nearly 80% of coal miners are without houses and the rest are crowded and packed in suffocating ~~xxxxx~~ dhowras. Even this position is going to deteriorate in the course of the Third Plan, the report warned. The mineowners, as the report indicated (and this was amply revealed in the discussions), have no intention to build houses nor take any responsibility on this question. Nor did they take advantage of the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme. Under the scheme, the owners get a subsidy of construction or subsidy-cum-loan scheme under which colliery owners are getting a subsidy of 25% and a loan of 37-1/2% of the cost of construction or even the new Housing Scheme under which they get cent per cent subsidy for building workers' houses.

Besides the thirtythousand houses which the Welfare Department proposed to build in future, there was no promise from the owners ~~x~~ about what they are going to do.

While the demand of the unions to give house-rent was summarily rejected by the owners, the suggestion of the Welfare Department to increase the cess to Re.1 per metric tonne was not opposed and the matter will be considered by

Government.

The condition of water supply which is still worse and a subject appearing on the agenda of all the Industrial Committee meetings, held out no prospect of immediate or even distant solution. G.L.Nanda, Union Labour Minister, however, assured the workers' representatives that it would be given a top priority.

SAFETY MATTERS

While the employers remained silent, the Government had no answer to criticisms of the union representatives that the Mines Department generally ignore the workers' organisations in relation to safety matters and even results of inquiry on complaints made by the unions are not supplied to them.

The owners seldom take any action on the circulars issued by the Mines Department on the recommendations of the various Safety Committees and the Unions are kept in the dark about them. They worker representatives suggested proper and systematic functioning of the various Safety Committees and immediate implementation of the agreed decisions of the Safety Committees.

DELINKING OF C.M.P.F.

Regarding de-linking of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme from the Coal Mines Bonus Scheme, it was agreed, after some opposition from the owners that it will be delinked and qualifying attendance will be changed from quarterly to half-yearly basis. The attendance qualification for becoming members of the Provident Fund will be 105 days (two successive quarters) for underground workers and 130 days for surface workers.

The proposal of the AITUC to enhance the rate of the P.F. contribution from 6-1/4% to 8-1/3% was rejected by the mineowners although they agreed that it would cost them only 19 nP per ton.

C.R.O.LABOUR

With regard to CRO labour, it was agreed to try and see the results of the implementation of the recommendations of

the tripartite meeting held in ~~x~~ January 24, 1961, which envisaged the removal of all separate supervision on the CRO workers and end of all discrimination between them and non-CRO. In reply to apprehensions of union representatives that owners would keep the CRO workers under their firm control in some other form, the Union Labour Minister assured that the matter will be reviewed in the light of experience.

Regarding free supply of hurricane lanterns to underground workers, it was agreed that the owners would be bound to supply them free and refund all money so far deducted for that purpose.

The employers assured that they would seriously consider the suggestion to pay gratuity or find alternative jobs for those workmen who will be compulsorily retired under the Coal Mines Regulations.

The AITUC and the Indian Mine Workers' Federation (IMWF) were represented by T.B.Vittal Rao, M.P., President and Kalyan Roy, General Secretary, IMWF.

McCARTHYITE MOVES AGAINST GOVT EMPLOYEES AND PRESS?

An adjournment motion was moved in the Lok Sabha on April 26 on the serious situation arising out of the latest instructions from the Director-General, Posts & Telegraphs, preventing the staff and the trade unions from representing their grievances even informally. This contravened the right of representation both individually and collectively especially in the absence of any machinery and delay in the introduction of the bill governing trade union relations in Central services, the motion stated.

The motion was moved by Rajinder Singh, Braj Raj Singh, Aurobindo Ghoshal, K.T.K.Tangamani and Indrajit Gupta.

Speaking in support of admission of the motion for adjournment, S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, quoted the Circular No.10-1/60-SR dated April 17, issued by the Director-General, P&T, New Delhi to all heads of circles and all administrative officers, etc.

The circular was stated to have been issued to prevent union office-bearers and other employees from approaching the press to ventilate their grievances and the publication of "letters to the editor" sent by employees or union leaders.

The circular is reported to have maintained that the author of what it calls objectionable letter or news can be proceeded against for breach of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules.

S.A.Dange said: "This is preventing the employees from ventilating their grievances even to the officers: it is carried on to such an extent that a circular has now been issued by the Director-General to the lower officers that if any news appeared even in a newspaper about the grievance, the editors should be visited by these officers and asked to divulge as to who wrote the

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letter and if the editor shows unwillingness, then it should be brought to his attention that it is not in the interest of healthy journalism to decline to do so."

"A witch-hunt about the expression of discontent of employees is going on to a very serious extent because if editors are also going to be followed like this, what will be the position?" - asked Dange.

He added:

"If the open expression of certain grievances which the officers are not willing to take notice of appears in the press and if they are sought to be prevented, this would be - may I call it, Sir - McCarthyism - in India!"

S.A.Dange quoted from the circular:

"If action (against the employee who send letters or material for publication - Ed. TUR) is contemplated, it may also be seen if efforts may be made to induce the editor to preserve the relevant papers in his office so that authorship may be proved. If some Editor does not like to comply with the request, it may be tactfully explained to the Editor that his paper may also be interested to ensure that a person who sent matters for publicity does not disown authorship."

He observed: "If 'tactful' explanations come from the Government officers, we know what it means."

Nath Pai, M.P. stated that this circular might undermine the current negotiations between the Government and the representatives of the employees for setting up a joint consultative machinery on the model of Whitley Councils. So far, he said, negotiations had gone on smoothly and there were reasonable prospects of success. But a circular like this would only cast doubts about the seriousness of these talks.

The adjournment motion was however ruled out. Giving his ruling, the Speaker observed that there was no bar to individual employees making representations. But they could not make representations on behalf of unions whose recognition had been withdrawn.

Adjourn Motion On Postal Chief's Circular Barred

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, April 26—Several opposition members voiced concern in the Lok Sabha today over the recent circular reported to have been issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to the departmental heads not to entertain any complaints or grievances from their subordinate employees.

The issue was raised in the House through an adjournment motion tabled by the Opposition parties. It was disallowed by the Speaker after Dr P. Subbaroyan, Minister of Transport and Communications, had explained the position.

The Minister said that while it was open to the employees to make individual representations to the officers and seek redressal of their grievances, they could not meet them on behalf of unions whose recognition was withdrawn following last year's general strike. He refuted the charge that any legitimate right of the employees to make representations was being taken away.

According to Mr S. A. Dange, leader of the Communist group, and other members, the circular also instructed the departmental heads to see that the employees did not go to the newspapers for ventilation of their grievances. The offi[illegible] had been asked to approach the editors of the papers and request them not to entertain complaints from employees. If the editors declined, they should be tactfully told that it was not in their interest to do so.

Mr Nath Pai (PSP) feared that this circular might undermine the current negotiations between the Government and representatives of the employees for setting up a joint consultative machinery on the model of Whitley Councils. So far the negotiations had gone on smoothly and there were reasonable prospects of success. But a circular like this would only cast doubts about the seriousness of these talks.

Giving his ruling the Speaker said there was no bar to individual employees making representations. But they could not make representations on behalf of unions whose recognition had been withdrawn.

extracts from discussion on adjournment motion - 26.4.61

S.A.DANGE: This is preventing the employees from ventilating their grievances even to the officers; it is carried on to such an extent that a circular has now been issued by the DG to the lower officers that if any news appeared even in a newspaper about the grievance, the editors should be visited by these officers and asked to divulge as to who wrote the letter and if the editor shows unwillingness, then it should be brought to his attention that it is not in the interest of healthy journalism to decline to do so. A witchhunt about the expression of discontent of employees is going on to a very serious extent because if editors are also going to be followed like this, what will be the position? If the open expression of certain grievances which the officers are not willing to take notice of appears in the Press and if they are sought to be prevented, this would be - may I call it, Sir - McCarthysm in India. And if discontent will not be openly ventilated, it will go underground. Will the hon. Minister look into this and not pursue the employee for a thing that has appeared in the Press? That is apart from the question whether informal discussions with officials are going to be prevented.

MR.SPEAKER: I have got very great respect for the words of the hon. Leader of the Communist Group. I am to dispose of the adjournment motion. On what authority does he say that this kind of witch-hunting is going on?

S.A.DANGE: I have got a copy of the circular issued by the D.G. It is No.10-1/60-SR dated at New Delhi, the 17th April, 1961 from the office of the Director-General, P&T, New Delhi to all heads of circles and all administrative officers, etc. The subject is: "Publication of objectionable news and letters by Union ~~and~~ Members and other Employees in the Press". It says, inter alia:

> "If action is contemplated it may also be seen if efforts may be made to induce the editor to preserve the relevant papers in his office so that authorship may be proved. If some Editor does not like to comply with the request, it may be tactfully explained to the editor that his paper may also be interested to ensure that a person who sent matters for publicity does not disown authorship."

If "tactful" explanations come from the Government officers, we know what it means.

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS (DR P SUBBARAYAN): Sir, this is a matter concerning me. As a matter of fact, these unions were derecognised. The hon. gentleman was asserting that they were not communist-controlled. As far as we are aware, they are completely communist-controlled and...

RAJENDRA SINGH: That is not the point at issue.

MR SPEAKER: He is only answering the points raised.

S A DANGE: Shri Ramamurthy is one of the responsible officers of the federation; he has nothing to do with communism; in fact, he may even be anti-communist.

DR P SUBBARAYAN: You may assert so; I do not accept that.

MR SPEAKER: Let them belong to the communist group or the non-communist group. The main point here is: have any instructions been issued by the DG P&T, preventing any member of the staff from having access to any of the authorities for legitimately representing his grievance?

That is the only point. I do not know whether any action may be taken independently: that is another matter altogether. No employee should normally be prevented from ventilating his grievances in the proper manner before the parties from whom he can seek redress. That is the point here.

DR P SUBBARAYAN: That has not been taken away at all. What we say is this. They cannot come as representatives of the federation concerned. If there are individual grievances, our officers are willing to listen to what is said and also try to find out a remedy for it.

(incomplete)

later:

S A DANGE: May I point out that in the very circular which, Sir, you have got, and about which the Minister says that an employee has the right to approach and negotiate, it is said that the Directorate did have talks with them but they had a talk with them as "private citizens" and not even as employees. One or two interviews were granted to some persons "in the capacity of private citizens, and no minutes of the discussion have been recorded." It is so clear. So, where is the contradiction?

TUR

PLANTATION BONUS AGREEMENT

8 pt. tel + 11 cas

The following statement was issued at Calcutta on April 28, jointly by Dr.(Mrs) Maitreyee Bose (INTUC), Monoranjan Roy (AITUC), J.N.Mitra (HMS) and M.N.Sarma (INTUC) with regard to the agreement on bonus signed by them with the employers:

Phone : 46-2561.
62-B, Southern Avenue
Calcutta - 26
Dated 28th April 1961

The
News Editor,
Calcutta.

For favour of early publication, please

Dear Sir,

" The very brief news that appeared in the Calcutta Press yesterday regarding the Tea Plantation Bonus Agreement covering 8 lacs of workers for 3 years created certain confusion in the minds of workers and employees concerned regarding the scope, terms and conditions of the bonus. The four labour representatives on the Bonus Committee [namely Dr. Mrs. Maitreyee Bose (INTUC), J. N. Mitra(HMS), Monoranjan Roy(AITUC) and M. N. Sarma(INTUC,Assam)] have, therefore, jointly issued the following statement to the Press dealing with the important clauses of the said Bonus Agreement to clarify the position:

After a year-long negotiation, the plantation Bonus Agreement covering about eight lakhs of all categories of tea plantation workmen of Assam, West Bengal and Tripura was signed late in the evening of April 26. The essential features of the Agreement are :

(i) The same Agreement covers the manual workers, the subordinate staff and other monthly-paid workers and the clerical, medical, technical and other supervisory employees, with the exception of managerial personnel, all in one ;

(ii) For each of the three years of 1959, 1960 & 1961, 14% of the profit of all companies will be distributed among the workmen, profit being specially calculated for the purpose of this Agreement, as the profit earned by a company less the depreciation and other chargeable expenditure on the revenue as permitted by the Income-tax Authorities but without any deduction for payment of income-tax, previous losses, capital expenditure including that for new extension of an estate and for all the bonuses paid on account of a previous year ;

(iii) Out of these 14% of the profit, in West Bengal and Tripura 11% will be distributed among the manual workers according to stipulation for entitlement and based on pro-rata individual earning; and 1½% will be distributed accordingly among the sub-staff and other monthly rated workers; and remaining 1½% will go to the clerical, medical, technical staff and teachers of the garden

Primary School, pro rata on the basis of individual basic salary. In the case of Assam Valley and Cachar, where some of the sub-staff are included in the category of the manual workers and others in the category of clerical employees, the percentage allocation shall be 12% for the manual workers' category, and 2% for clerical & medical staff;

(iv) A Pool-fund, under the Agreement, has been provided and will be formed out of 1½% of the profit of 1959, 1% of the profit of 1960 and ½% of 1961 profits. The fund will be under the control and supervision of a Board constituted of the present members of the sub-Committee and shall be administered, in West Bengal by the Agency Houses, by Companies which are not under Agency Houses and by a Trust in the case of individual and proprietory gardens which latter will form a central fund. In Assam, the Fund will be administered by the Companies for the present. Out of this Pool-Fund, payments will be made to the workmen of an estate making a loss during any of these years @ Rs. 10/-, Rs. 15/- and Rs. 25/- to the manual workers, sub-staff and clerical, medical and technical staff respectively. In the case of an estate making inadequate profit so as not to be able to pay the above minimum bonus, amount equal to the difference between these amounts and available funds will be paid out of the pool-fund. At the end of these three years covered by the Agreement, the residue, if any, of these funds will be disbursed as decided by the Board.

The workmen of a Company in Assam Valley making a loss or inadequate profit in 1959, shall receive a recoverable advance equal to the above minimum amounts of Rs. 10/-, Rs. 15/- and Rs. 25/-.

The creation of this pool fund to enable payment of this minimum bonus to all the tea plantation workers of North-East India has been regarded as a significant achievement particularly as this fund has been created entirely by the workers' own contribution.

Another inportant clause in this Agreement which has been incorporated provides for any company selling out its estate to intimate the purchasing company of the amount of bonus which would be payable but not paid so far on account of the profits during a relevant period and the purchasing company obviated such payments ;

(v) The Agreement also provides for the supply of a statement of accounts in relation to the bonus to the representatives of the workmen before bonus payment is made and that no disbursement of the fund will be made without

the sanction of the Board.

(vi) The Agreement also provides that this Agreement shall not prejudiceally affect any clerical, medical staff already governed by a company scheme of bonus providing higher payment; and it was also provided ~~w~~ that any doubt and difficulty that may arise in future shall be resolved by this Bonus Committee."

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- J. N. MITRA
Sd/- Maitreyee Bose
Sd/- Monoranjan Roy
Sd/- M.N. Sarma.

TUR

CUBAN VICTORY HAILED

Bop

The ~~victory~~ General Secretary of the WFTU, Louis Saillant, sent the following message on April 25, to the Revolutionary Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC):

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BASIC WAGES FOR TEXTILE WORKERS: BILL INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT

A Bill to secure the implementation of the Textile Wage Board's recommendations regarding basic wages or salaries payable to manual workers and clerks employed in textile establishments was introduced in Rajya Sabha on May 1.

The bill prescribes a procedure for the recovery as arrears of land revenue of the amount due to the workers and clerks under these recommendations.

Any strike on lock-out for the revision of the basic wages and salaries within a period of five years from January 1, 1960 would be illegal according to the bill.

==*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*

LOCK - OUT IN KANPUR.

The management of the Swadeshi Cotton Mills to-day declared a lock-out rendering 10,000 workers without any work. The mill workers had been striking every Saturday and Monday against increased shift hours and the management laid off 1200 workers in the winding and reeling departments.

The district authorities have banned meetings, processions in the vicinity of the mill area.

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Cable: "AITUCONG"

Telephones: 48771
43414

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE April 24, 1961

SHRI DANGE'S EVIDENCE IN BANK DISPUTES

The National Tribunal on Bank Disputes, now sitting in Bombay to adjudicate upon the demands of the Bank employees, examined Shri S. A. Dange, MP., General Secretary of the AITUC on April 22 and 23, at the Central Office of the AITUC, through a Commission. The examination and cross-examination of Shri Dange took about 15 hours in ~~total~~.

Two other witnesses are yet to be examined in the matter of Bank Disputes and they are Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, Minister for Labour & Employment, and Shri S.R.Vasavada, General Secretary of the INTUC.

Shri Dange in his evidence explained the position of the recommendations and decisions of various tripartites with particular reference to 15th Indian Labour Conference and its decision with regard to the concept of minimum wage based on "need". He also elaborated the scope of applicability of the tripartite decisions on the parties concerned as also the background to the development of economic demands over the period of last four decades in the country and the labour-management relations in various fields of economic activity.

Shri Dange pointed out that although the trade union movement earlier had the doubt that the Government was trying to resile from the bindings of the tripartite recommendations, it was now clear that the Government wants to abide by them despite certain reservations in regard to their implemention in practice.

On being cross-examined as to whether the Government had not repudiated the tripartite recommendations and conventions, and that the tripartite convention was applicable only industrial employers, Shri Dange replied that although the Government earlier showed some vacillations to abide by the tripartite conventions, yet the recent pronouncements of the Labour Minister in the Parliament and in the 18th Indian Labour Conference have made it clear that the Conventions were binding on the Government. He also said that the conventions were binding on all employers and industries including the Banking industry.

The Commissioner of this Commission was Shri Amar Raj Lal, Bar-at-Law, Delhi, and the Counsels on behalf of the Bankers were Shri S.D.Vimadalal, Shri Setlur, Shri Phadke and Shri Bhise, while the Counsels on behalf of the Bank employees were Shri K.T. Sule, Shri Narasimham, Shri Nargaolkar, Shri Sovani, Shri Dudhia, assisted by Shri H.L.Parwana and other leaders of Bank employees.

(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary

Uttar Pradesh

TUR

SUGAR MILLOWNERS AGREE TO IMPLEMENT WAGE BOARD REPORT

TU Leaders' Hunger Strike Ends

Following the announcement by the Indian Sugar Mills Association that the sugar mills would begin paying the enhanced wages and other benefits awarded by the Sugar Wage Board from May onwards, the hunger-strike by TU leaders in different centres in U.P. ended on April 28.

Shibban Lal Saxena, M.P., President, United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation, along with Shukla, Madan Pandey and Harsahay Singh had gone on an indefinite hunger strike on April 25, at Lucknow. Simultaneously, trade union leaders in other sugar centres in U.P. had also gone on hunger strike. 35 workers had gone on strike in Bulandshahr.

The TU leaders had demanded that all arrears due to sugar mill workers from November 1, 1960 should be paid as far as possible before the pay day in May.

In a notification issued on April 27, by the U.P. Government, sugar factories in U.P. were asked to implement immediately the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Sugar Industry with retrospective effect from November last year.

Implementation of this order will mean an immediate minimum increase of Rs.18 in the monthly wages of nearly 80,000 workers employed in seventy sugar factories in the State.

Other important recommendations of the Central Wage Board enforced are introduction of gratuity and D.A. The factories have been ordered to start making payments of the regular wage increases as well as arrears from the first pay day in May. The arrears from November 1960 to March 1961 will be cleared off in two successive monthly instalments.

The U.P.Government order allows relaxation in payment of D.A. upto 50 per cent to those factories which went into production in 1959 or later and also those "uneconomic" units which have a daily crushing capacity of below 800 tons and have suffered loss for two successive years immediately preceding November last year. The relaxation has been allowed only for a period of two years.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association on April 27, sent telegraphic instructions to all the sugar factories to implement the Wage Board report.

The TU leaders withdraw their hunger strike on April 28 following this announcement.

TUR

PLANTATION WORKERS ON PROTEST STRIKE IN DEHRA DUN.

Over 3000 plantation workers of Dehra Dun district went on one-day token strike on April 26 against the employers policy of non-fulfilling their demands.

8-9/4

A procession was taken out by the workers through the streets of the town. A similar demonstration was held at Chiharpur.

MASS HUNGER STRIKES IN PUNJAB AGAINST LABOUR POLICY OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Mass hunger strikes were organised in 27 centres in Punjab from April 17 to 21, to protest against the State Government's labour policy.

The mass hunger strikes in which hundreds of workers participated were organised as per the call given by the Punjab Committee of the AITUC.

On April 21, public meetings were held in Amritsar, Ludhiana, Hissar, Jullundur, Sonepat and other places where workers demanded that the labour portfolio should be taken away from Manoharlal, the State Labour Minister. These meetings also demanded withdrawal of cases launched against AITUC workers in connection with the demonstration in Chandigarh on March 22.

THREE YEAR BONUS AGREEMENT FOR TEA - PLANTATION WORKERS.

An agreement has been signed in Calcutta on April 26 between the representatives of employers and workers of the whole of tea plantation area of North East India for the payment of bonus for three years in respect of 1959, 1960 and 1961.

By this agreement, all categories of workmen will receive 14 per cent of the Gross profits of the company as bonus per year. A further 1.5 per cent for 1959, 1 per cent for 1960 and 0.5 per cent for 1961 will also be paid to different pools for the purpose of payment of bonus in the years when there will be no profit or inadequate profit.

The agreement was signed at a meeting of the Bonus Sub-Committee of the ~~Industrial Committee of the~~ Industrial Committee on Plantations and ~~which~~ covers 8 lakh Tea plantation workers, in North East India.

On behalf of the workers M.N. Sarma and Dr. Maitrayee Bose (INTUC) Monoranjan Roy (AITUC) and Jatin Mitra (HMS) signed the agreement.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 25, 1961.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

MESSAGE FROM THE W.F.T.U. TO THE REVOLUTIONARY CONFEDERATION OF CUBAN WORKERS (C.T.C.)

The General Secretary of the W.F.T.U., Louis SAILLANT, has sent the following message to the Revolutionary C.T.C.:-

Dear Brothers,

Workers throughout the world were thrilled at the news of the magnificent victory of the Cuban people over the counter-revolutionary hordes in the pay of American imperialism.

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10 cms

Speaking on their behalf, the World Federation of Trade Unions wishes to convey the warmest congratulations to the Revolutionary C.T.C. and, through its intermediary, to the workers and the entire people of Cuba who, closely united around their revolutionary government, have routed the imperialist aggressors.

It pays tribute to the unshakeable courage shown by the Cuban revolutionary fighters. Workers all over the world pay homage to the memory of the heroic sons of the democratic and popular revolution in Cuba, who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of independence and freedom in their country and for the cause of all peoples.

The victory of the Cuban workers and peasants is the victory of all workers and democrats throughout the world. The defeat of their aggressors is a bitter defeat for American imperialism and for all forces of reation and subservience.

The W.F.T.U. hails the powerful international solidarity movement in Latin America and all other continents which has vigorously supported your struggle and helped to bring about victory.

In hailing your victory and the preservation of your revolutionary achievements, the W.F.T.U. urges the workers and trade unions throughout the world to remain on guard so as to deal successfully with any further plot by the imperialists who have not abandoned their aggressive plans.

Long live the Cuban Revolution and its valiant defenders !

Long live international working class solidarity with the workers and people of Cuba !

Published by the
W.F.T.U. Press Dept.
No. 222

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

SOLIDARITY WITH FRENCH WORKERS ~~xxxxxx24,xx1961~~.

The following message was sent, on April 24, by the World Federation of Trade Unions.

MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

to the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), to the French Confederation of Christian Workers (CFTC), to the CGT-Force Ouvrière (CGT-FO), to the National Teachers' Union (FEN), to the National Union of French Students (UNEF) and to the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA).

The W.F.T.U. expresses its own solidary and that of the 107 million workers it represents to all trade union and democratic organisations, to all the workers and people of France who have risen in the face of the military and fascist attack in Algiers.

The W.F.T.U. calls on all trade unions and workers in all countries to demonstrate their solidarity with the working class and people of France, fighting against the threat of fascism and for negotiations with the Provisional Government of the Republic of Algeria. It furthermore, expresses its solidarity with the Algerian people fighting for independence.

The W.F.T.U. reaffirms that under the present circumstances the strengthening of fraternal contacts between the French and Algerian trade union organisations and the expansion of friendly relations between the French and Algerian people is one of the most important ways of defeating all military and fascist plots in Algiers.

The W.F.T.U. is confident that the working class and people of France, fortified by their tradition in anti-fascist and united struggles, will deliver a fatal blow to the seditious groups.

It assures all workers and democrats in France of international working class solidarity in their campaign for the defence of the Republic and democratic liberties, and for an end to the war in Algeria by way of negotiations with the Provisional Government of the Republic of Algeria. It, moreover, assures the Algerian workers of its full solidarity in the face of the growing threats directed against them by the seditious operation by the 'ultras'. The mustering of all French, Algerian and international forces, without discrimination, against the 'ultras' will lead to the defeat of the enemies of a negotiated peace in Algeria.

Louis SAILLANT
General Secretary of the W.F.T.U.

TUR

AGREEMENT ON COMPOSITION OF BONUS COMMISSION

At the 19th Session of the Standing Labour Committee which met in Delhi on April 28, it was agreed that the Bonus Commission may include two representatives each from employers' and workers' organisations also.

The employers' organisations withdrew their initial objection to the composition of the original three-man commission. One of the employers' organisations, the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation, which could not agree to the proposal at the meeting, was to communicate its views within a week.

The Bonus Commission will now have seven members, presided over by M.R.Meher, who was the Chairman of the Cement Wage Board. The other members originally nominated were B.K.Ganguly, economist, and M.Govinda Reddy, M.P. The representatives of workers and employers (two each) are yet to be nominated.

It was agreed at the Standing Labour Committee meeting that the terms of reference of the Bonus Commission should be finalised by a sub-committee of the SLC.

The sub-committee will be composed of four worker representatives (one each from AITUC, INTUC, HMS and UTUC), three employer representatives (one each from EFI, AIOIE and AIMO) and representatives of as many State Governments as may desire to participate. The sub-committee is to meet by the middle of May.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

It was also recommended by the SLC that tripartite Safety Councils should be set up at State and Central levels, to reduce the incidence of industrial accidents. The Councils would cover all industries expect mining, and including building and construction.

The SLC also decided to keep the status quo regarding Works Committees since no agreement could be reached on the scope, composition and functioning of these committees.

TUR

WAGE BOARD FOR IRON ORE AND MANGANESE
MINING INDUSTRY DEMANDED

Industrial Committee Meeting

...

10&C0/22

At the Second Session of the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal which met in New Delhi on April 24, the AITUC delegation demanded that the question of appointment of a Wage Board for iron ore and manganese mining industry should be discussed by the Committee.

8.9/4

The long delay of three years in convening the Second Session of the Committee was criticised by all worker delegates. As they pointed out, the convening of the Second Session was as though for declaring iron ore mining as 'public unity' and thus impose further curbs on workers' rights.

And in spite of the lapse of three years, it was noticed that two of the major recommendations of the last session remained unimplemented. These were, firstly, the extension of Minimum Wages Act to iron ore and other mining operations, and, secondly, the constitution of the Manganese Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

According to the Government, the delay has been due to the administrative and other preliminary arrangements involved. Due to these difficulties, Government decided to extend the Minimum Wages Act by stages to cover iron ore, manganese, gypsum, barytes and bauxite mines during the first phase.

The AITUC delegates pointed out that at the Industrial Committee, it was agreed in 1958 that there should be no phasing in extending the Minimum Wages Act. The workers concerned were the worst exploited. The INTUC representative referred to the contract system continuing in these mines, the contractors paying such low wages as eight annas per day.

The Union Labour Minister assured that a time-limit

would now be set to ensure speedy implementation.

With regard to the constitution of Manganese Mines Labour Welfare Fund, it was stated by Government that the Orissa Government had waived their earlier objection but it was, however, decided not to proceed with it until the economic position of the industry improved.

The worker delegates criticised this decision. The AITUC delegate said that the contention that collection of the cess should be dependent on the "economic position" of the industry was illogical. Besides, there was no serious crisis at any time during the last two years for the upgrade ores.

WELFARE CESS ON IRON ORE

The Committee considered the introduction of legislation for welfare measures for workers in iron ore mines and the proposal for the levy of a welfare cess on iron ore. The employer representative (from TISCO) suggested that the cess should be only 16 nP instead of the proposed 50 nP. The levy was opposed by some State Governments on the plea that there were State levys in Orissa and Maharashtra.

The Government of Rajasthan said that mines in the State produce low-grade ores and hence should not be saddled with additional levy or cess. The AITUC representative refuted this statement. He said the mine-owners in the State were fairly prosperous and were wasting money on bribery and attempts to throttle legitimate TU activities.

The AITUC and INTUC representatives expressed the view that the scheme should be worked on a national scale and no step to better the working conditions could be taken if the smaller units became the ceiling. Other mines as dolomite and mica should also be included in this scheme.

G.L.Nanda, the Union Labour Minister, summing up the discussions, said that on a national scale, it was

necessary to guarantee welfare measures to iron ore miners and to levy a cess. A major portion of the fund would be utilised for housing and medical services. The AITUC delegates had earlier demanded that three-fifths of the Fund should be earmarked for housing, one-fifth for hospitals including maternity wards, and the rest for recreational activities.

The proposal to declare iron ore mines as "Public Utility Service" under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, was dropped following the effective opposition to the move from all worker representatives.

The AITUC delegate said that if the Government were serious about the importance of labour in iron ore mining, measures should have been taken to ameliorate the miserable conditions of the workers. A Wage Board for Iron and Steel Industry has now been announced but the iron ore mines have been left out.

The Union Labour Minister while agreeing to drop the proposal, said that he would, however, insist on the trade unions giving a fortnight's notice for strike, under the Code of Discipline.

MANGANESE POISONING

The Committee discussed the report of the Manganese Poisoning Enquiry Committee. The contention of the TISCO representative that wet-drilling could not be undertaken due to non-availability of equipment was refuted by the Chief Inspector of Mines. He said that wet-drilling involved no serious modification to the present operation and could be easily undertaken.

The AITUC delegate welcomed the report and made suggestions for making its recommendations more positive. The Labour Minister assured that suitable measures would be taken to implement the recommendations in the light of suggestions made.

The AITUC was represented at the Industrial Committee meeting by S.K.Sanyal and Prakash Roy (Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra), Nakul Guha (United Mineral Workers' Union, Gua iron ore mines, Bihar) and D.P.Shirali (Rajasthan Mineral Workers Union).

Tirodi

HUNGER STRIKE AT CPMO MINES

Branch Secretary of the Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh, Nutaneshwar, went on hunger strike on April 4, to press for immediate settlement of the demands of the manganese miners in Tirodi.

The demands include re-allocation of old job to an employee, ~~grant of~~ continuance of ration facilities to local labourers, payment of gratuity, permanency of job, equal pay to contractor workers, etc.

Nutaneshwar was arrested on April 5. But his wife, Shrimati Sanabai continued the hunger strike.

DECORATORS ~~W~~WORKERS UNION FORMED

The workers employed in furnuture and decoration trades in Calcutta have organised themselves in a trade union, to improve their miserable working and living conditions.

The union was formed with Sudhir Ghose, ~~Secretary~~ Vice ~~Working Committee of the~~ President, W.Bengal Committee of the AITUC.

The union organised a procession of over 500 workers in support of the workers victimised by a firm, Bengal Decorators.

ASSAM COAL WORKERS' DEMANDS

At a meeting held in Ledo on April 14, under the auspices of the Assam Coal Mine ~~Labour~~ Mazdoor Union, concern was expressed at the methods adopted by the management of the Assam coal mines to retrench permanent workers.

The workers apprehended that permanent workers are being replaced by casual labour and thus deprive them of benefits of labour legislation. The meeting condemned such tactics of the management. The meeting was addressed by Barin Chowdhury, General Secretary, Assam Committee, AITUC, and Aslam Khan, Vice President of the union.

DELHI GYMKHANA CLUB STRIKE ENDS IN VICTORY.

The six-day-old strike of the Gymkhana Club employees in Delhi in protest against the decision of the club management to close down the primary school run by it ended in victory on April 27 night.

8+9/41

The General Body of the Club in a resolution assured the Hotel Workers Union that the primary school would not be closed down and no worker would be victimised for participating in the strike.

The management agreed to withdraw the notices served on the teachers of the school.

The dispute over other demands of the workers would be considered by the Conciliation Officer of the Delhi Administration.

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SECURITY STAFF OF HEAVY ELECTRICALS ON STRIKE.

The members of the Security staff of the Heavy Electricals Bhopal went on strike on April 27. The strikers had been served with notices asking them to unconditionally resume work failing which action would be taken against them.

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system of quarterly payment which enables the employers to deprive over 50% of the workers their due bonus through various dubious means.

Pressed further, the employers at last agreed to introduce Bonus Cards where attendance of workers would be recorded to prevent malpractices. The employers supported by ~~Skkk~~ Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Abid Ali, also turned down the suggestion of the AITUC to remove the present anomalies of the Bonus Scheme which was framed before the annual leave was increased.

A very large number of workers today are being deprived of bonus because of not calculating earned leave and 14 days' sick leave as attendance, the labour representatives pointed out.

HOUSING & HOUSE-RENT

The report submitted by the Coal Mines Welfare Fund disclosed that nearly 80% of coal miners are without houses and the rest are crowded and packed in suffocating ~~dowrk~~ dhowras. Even this position is going to deteriorate in the course of the Third Plan, the report warned. The mineowners, as the report indicated (and this was amply revealed in the discussions), have no intention to build houses nor take any responsibility on this question. Nor did they take advantage of the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme. Under the scheme, the owners get a subsidy of construction or subsidy-cum-loan scheme under which colliery owners are getting a subsidy of 25% and a loan of 37-1/2% of the cost of construction or even the new Housing Scheme under which they get cent per cent subsidy for building workers' houses.

Besides the thirtythousand houses which the Welfare Department proposed to build in future, there was no promise from the owners ~~w~~ about what they are going to do.

While the demand of the unions to give house-rent was summarily rejected by the owners, the suggestion of the Welfare Department to increase the cess to Re.1 per metric tonne was not opposed and the matter will be considered by

Government.

The condition of water supply which is still worse and a subject appearing on the agenda of all the Industrial Committee meetings, held out no prospect of immediate or even distant solution. G.L.Nanda, Union Labour Minister, however, assured the workers' representatives that it would be given a top priority.

SAFETY MATTERS

While the employers remained silent, the Government had no answer to criticisms of the union representatives that the Mines Department generally ignore the workers' organisations in relation to safety matters and even results of inquiry on complaints made by the unions are not supplied to them.

The owners seldom take any action on the circulars issued by the Mines Department on the recommendations of the various Safety Committees and the Unions are kept in the dark about them. They worker representatives suggested proper and systematic functioning of the various Safety Committees and immediate implementation of the agreed decisions of the Safety Committees.

DELINKING OF C.M.P.F.

Regarding de-linking of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme from the Coal Mines Bonus Scheme, it was agreed, after some opposition from the owners that it will be delinked and qualifying attendance will be changed from quarterly to half-yearly basis. The attendance qualification for becoming members of the Provident Fund will be 105 days (two [illegible] successive quarters) for underground workers and 130 days for surface workers.

The proposal of the AITUC to enhance the rate of the P.F. contribution from 6-1/4% to 8-1/3% was rejected by the mineowners although they agreed that it would cost them only 19 nP per ton.

C.R.O.LABOUR

With regard to CRO labour, it was agreed to try and see the results of the implementation of the recommendations of

the tripartite meeting held in ~~x~~ January 24, 1961, which envisaged the removal of all separate supervision on the CRO workers and end of all discrimination between them and non-CRO. In reply to apprehensions of union representatives that owners would keep the CRO workers under their firm control in some other form, the Union Labour Minister assured that the matter will be reviewed in the light of experience.

Regarding free supply of hurricane lanterns to underground workers, it was agreed that the owners would be bound to supply them free and refund all money so far deducted for that purpose.

The employers assured that they would seriously consider the suggestion to pay gratuity or find alternative jobs for those workmen who will be compulsorily retired under the Coal Mines Regulations.

The AITUC and the Indian Mine Workers' Federation (IMWF) were represented by T.B.Vittal Rao, M.P., President and Kalyan Roy, General Secretary, IMWF.

East Kajora Colliery

FIVE KILLED IN
MINE ACCIDENT

Five workers lost their lives and one injured in a tragic accident which occurred on April 22, ~~x~~ in the East Kajora colliery, near Asansol.

The accident was due a roof-fall in a depillaring area in which extraction of pillars had been completed and which had been fenced off after withdrawal of the roof supports.

~~According to a statement read by L.N. Mishra, Deputy Labour Minister, in the Lok Sabha, six miners who were to work on a new pillar, left off their leg~~

It will be recalled that in similar roof-falls in the Simlabahal and Badruchuk collieries on February 27 and March 5, nine miners were killed.

~~CONFERENCE~~

ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE OF WORKERS
IN MINES OTHER THAN COAL

At an informal meeting of the representatives working in mine workers' unions from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, it has been decided to convene a conference of the workers employed in the mines other than coal in Tirodi (M.P.) by the third week of June 1961.

It has been decided to extend an invitation to all miners' unions affiliated to the AITUC.

TAGORE'S BIRTH CENTENARY | PAID HOLIDAY IN WEST BENGAL.

The West Bengal Government has requested the Central organisations of employers in the State to declare the Rabindranath Tagore's Birth Centenary Day as an additional paid holidy to enable all industrial workers to participate in the celebrations.

Cable : "AITUCONG"

Telephones : 48771
43414

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE — May 4, 1961

AITUC PROTESTS AGAINST RETROGRADE PROVISIONS IN COTTON TEXTILE WORKERS (CENTRAL WAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS) BILL, 1961

The Secretariat of the AITUC has issued the following statement on May 4:

"The Cotton Textile Workers (Central Wage Board Recommendations) Bill, 1961, introduced by Government in the Rajya Sabha on Monday is claimed to be to enforce the implementation of the recommendations of the Textile Wage Board. But under this garb, a virtual ban is sought to be imposed on the right of the textile workers in this country to the right of collective bargaining and the right to raise disputes in regard to wages and to go on strike in support of any such demand.

"The Report of the Textile Wage Board was presented over sixteen months ago and the recommendations have yet to be implemented in many centres. Even those millowners who have implemented them have done so only after strike or threat to strike had taken place. In face of this recalcitrant attitude of the millowners, the Standing Labour Committee and other tripartite committees decided to make the recommendations statutorily binding upon all employers. But there was no question of putting any restrictions on workers' rights.

"By the penal provisions in the Bill, viz., that 'no claim for further revision of basic wages . . . shall be entertained by anybody or authority as an industrial dispute for a period of five years from the first day of January, 1960, and during the said period of five years, no manual worker or clerk shall go on strike . . .' and declaring such strikes "illegal" under the Industrial Disputes Act, the Government has clearly gone beyond the consensus of opinion expressed at the tripartite conferences. Further, this restriction even goes beyond the scope of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. While awarding limited benefits to the workers, Government are simultaneously attacking the hard-won rights of the workers.

"The AITUC, therefore, protests against the introduction of these clauses in the Bill and calls upon the Government to withdraw these anti-labour provisions in the Bill and do justice to the workers of the textile industry.

"The Secretariat of the AITUC further calls upon all affiliated unions to protest against these retrograde provisions of the Bill by holding demonstrations and meetings and appeals to all textile workers, irrespective of their affiliations, to raise their powerful united voice in condemning this move of the Government and guarantee withdrawal of these provisions."

Parvathi Krishnan

(Parvathi Krishnan), M.P.,
Vice President, AITUC

The Bill provides that the wage increases awarded to manual workers and clerks as per the Textile Wage Board's recommendations should be paid as a statutory obligation. If any employer fails to pay the workers' dues, the amount will be recovered in the same manner as an arrear of land revenue.

The Bill, at the same time, provides that the workers should not raise any demand for wage revision for a period of five years and strikes called on wage questions during this period will be deemed illegal within the meaning of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

The Bill also exempts those units taken over by Government under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act.

TUR

J.K.RAYON WORKERS' STRIKE ENDS IN VICTORY

8-9/11

The workers of the J.K.Rayon Factory, Kanpur, ~~who~~ went on a strike on April 8, protesting against the ~~police~~ victimisation, ~~terror~~ violence indulged in by the management and the refusal to concede their legitimate demands.

The strike was called off on April 25, following a settlement, negotiated on behalf of the workers by S.M.Banerjee, M.P. and Ram Asre.

According to the settlement, the management has agreed to pay bonus for the year 1960 at the rate of one-eighth of total earnings. The demand for fixing a proper wage structure and festival holidays was left for mutual discussion between the management and the union. It was also agreed that if no settlement was reached on this point, the matter would be referred to adjudication.

The J.K.Rayon Workers' Union was formed only on January 23, 1961 and got registered on March 14, 1961. The union was affiliated to the AITUC.

Ever since the formation of the union, the management was trying hard to crush it, hired goondas were let loose on union activists and a rival INTUC union was sponsored.

Against this, the workers went on spontaneous lightning strike on April 8.

The strike was withdrawn following a settlement negotiated on April 25. According to this settlement, after the workers' union expressed regret for supporting the lightning strike, the management did not insist on deduction of wages and it was also assured that there would be no victimisation. All workers were taken back to work.

TVR

LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

8-9/11

According to newspaper reports, the constitution of an unemployment relief fund was recommended at a meeting of State Labour Ministers held in Delhi on April 27. The Union Labour Minister, G.L.Nanda, presided over the meeting.

The conference is reported to have suggested that the Union Labour Ministry should make a small beginning in this direction by setting apart Rs. 2 crores for unemployment relief during the Third Plan period.

A three-member sub-committee consisting of Labour Ministers of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is to work out further details, according to a report.

The meeting stressed the need to rely more on voluntary arbitration, strengthen the tripartite conventions as the code of discipline, works committees and joint management councils.

G.L.Nanda, the Union Labour Minister, is reported to have stated that more wage boards would be set up wherever necessary. He also stressed the importance of apprenticeship training and workers' education.

750 WORKERS OF ESTRELA BATTERIES ON STRIKE

All 750 workers of the Estrela Batteries manufacturing factory in Bombay went on sit-down strike from April 15, protesting against the dismissal of one leading worker who had more than 15 years of service in the factory.

It was alleged that the worker had attempted to assault the Labour Officer of the company.

In the inquiry held into the charge, the allegation against the worker was disproved but the management did not reinstate the worker. The proposal of the union to refer the dispute to arbitration was also rejected by the management.

Kerala

COMMONWEALTH TILE FACTORY WORKERS' STRIKE

Demanding bonus for the year 1960-61, the workers of tile factories at Feroke, Olavakkot and Puthiyara owned by the Commonwealth Trust Ltd. (British-controlled) struck work from April 10.

The workers have also demanded an inquiry into the affairs of the Commonwealth Trust. It has been alleged that the manner in which this body acquired the factories from the German-owned Basel Mission Trading Co. in 1920 was unlawful.

The Commonwealth Trust has been managed in such a way that despite the huge profits earned, the workers' legitimate demands have been systematically denied.

In support of the strike of the workers of the Trust in Kerala, 800 workers employed in the Trust's tile factory in Mangalore struck work in sympathy on April 21.

WILL LABOUR MINISTRY
PLEASE EXPLAIN?

Box

The Indian Labour Journal (April 1961), a monthly published by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, states the following on page 308:

10 x 10
10 cms

"Bihar - On 9th January, 1961, 1,658 workers of C.M.I. Domchanchi, Hazaribagh, struck work in a bid to capture power. The strike terminated on the same day but the result was not known. It had resulted in a time loss of 1,658 mandays, a wage loss of Rs.2,383 and production loss amounting to Rs.2,708."

Since no news of any insurrection by 1,658 workers of Hazaribagh in January have reached us so far, will the Union Labour Ministry enlighten us on this very significant strike "in a bid to capture power"?

And if such reports appear in the Indian Labour Journal, we believe, the Labour Ministry will be wound up since insurrections cannot be met by Conciliation Officers! The Army Generals will then have to take over.

AITUC CONDEMNS

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AITUC DELEGATIONS

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At the invitation of the Central Council of Trade Unions, USSR, the AITUC sent a three-member delegation to participate in May Day celebrations in Moscow. The delegation consists of Vajubhai Shukla, President, Mahagujerat Trade Union Congress, M.K.Ranganathan, Secretary, Tamilnad Trade Union Congress, and Prakash Kapatia, Secretary, Punjab and Himachal Committee of the AITUC.

Narsing Rao, Vice President, Praga Tools Employees Union, was sent as delegate of the AITUC to participate in May Day celebrations in Prague, at the invitation of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement (ROH) of Czechoslovakia.

Ghanshyam Sinha, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Trade Union Congress and Shiv Narayan Sriwastava, worker-writer from Indore, were delegates of the AITUC at the May Day celebrations in Berlin, GDR, at the invitation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB).

AITUC NOMINATIONS

T.N.Siddhanta, Secretary, W.Bengal Committee of the AITUC, has been nominated as representative of the AITUC on the Central Committee on Labour Research, constituted by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Prof.K.V.Subramanyam was nominated as representative of the AITUC on the All-India Council for Technical Education, reconstituted recently by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Government of India.

TVR

McCARTHYITE MOVES AGAINST GOVT EMPLOYEES AND PRESS?

An adjournment motion was moved in the Lok Sabha on April 26 on the serious situation arising out of the latest instructions from the Director-General, Posts & Telegraphs, preventing the staff and the trade unions from representing their grievances even informally. This contravened the right of representation both individually and collectively especially in the absence of any machinery and delay in the introduction of the bill governing trade union relations in Central services, the motion stated.

The motion was moved by Rajinder Singh, Braj Raj Singh, Aurobindo Ghoshal, K.T.K.Tangamani and Indrajit Gupta.

Speaking in support of admission of the motion for adjournment, S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, quoted the Circular No.10-1/60-SR dated April 17, issued by the Director-General, P&T, New Delhi to all heads of circles and all administrative officers, etc.

The circular was stated to have been issued to prevent union office-bearers and other employees from approaching the press to ventilate their grievances and the publication of "letters to the editor" sent by employees or union leaders.

The circular is reported to have maintained that the author of what it calls objectionable letter or news can be proceeded against for breach of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules.

S.A.Dange said: "This is preventing the employees from ventilating their grievances even to the officers; it is carried on to such an extent that a circular has now been issued by the Director-General to the lower officers that if any news appeared even in a newspaper about the grievance, the editors should be visited by these officers and asked to divulge as to who wrote the

letter and if the editor shows unwillingness, then it should be brought to his attention that it is not in the interest of healthy journalism to decline to do so."

"A witch-hunt about the expression of discontent of employees is going on to a very serious extent because if editors are also going to be followed like this, what will be the position?" - Asked Dange.

He added:

"If the open expression of certain grievances which the officers are not willing to take notice of appears in the press and if they are sought to be prevented, this would be - may I call it, Sir - McCarthyism - in India!"

S.A.Dange quoted from the circular:

"If action (against the employee who send letters or material for publication - Ed. TUR) is contemplated, it may also be seen if efforts may be made to induce the editor to preserve the relevant papers in his office so that authorship may be proved. If some Editor does not like to comply with the request, it may be tactfully explained to the Editor that his paper may also be interested to ensure that a person who sent matters for publicity does not disown authorship."

He observed: "If 'tactful' explanations come from the Government officers, we know what it means."

Nath Pai, M.P. stated that this circular might undermine the current negotiations between the Government and the representatives of the employees for setting up a joint consultative machinery on the model of Whitley Councils. So far, he said, negotiations had gone on smoothly and there were reasonable prospects of success. But a circular like this would only cast doubts about the seriousness of these talks.

The adjournment motion was however ruled out. Giving his ruling, the Speaker observed that there was no bar to individual employees making representations. But they could not make representations on behalf of unions whose recognition had been withdrawn.

stat no ital

Following is the text of documents referred to by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, and by S.A.Dange and others, relating to the adjournment motion.

I

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Copy of D.O.No.18-13/60-SR dated 17.4.61 from Director-General, Posts & Telegraphs, to Madan Kishore and copy to all Circle Heads:

"Kindly refer to your D,O. letter No.~~X~~ PMG-255/VI/60/UOB dated 15th April 1961. There cannot be any question of any informal discussions with any one supposed to represent a derecognised union.

"No such informal discussions have been allowed as a matter of a system at the Directorate. But one or two interviews were granted to some persons in the capacity as private citizens. No minutes of discussions were recorded. Therefore, there cannot be any question of any informal discussion being permitted at the circle level on the analogy of what has been described as informal discussions at the Directorate level.

"Kindly acknowledge receipt."

II

ital

Copy of Memo No.10-1/60-SR dated ~~xx~~ April 17, 1961 from office of the Director-General, P&T, New Delhi, to all Heads of Circles and all Administrative Offices, etc.

"Sub: Publication of objectionable news and letters by Union Members and other employees in the Press.

"It has been noticed that Union office-bearers and other employees approach the press to ventilate their grievances ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ and also use objectionable language. At times, their resolutions or demands appear in the Press as a news. Another method availed of by the unions and other employees is 'Letters to the Editor'.

"The author of objectionable letter or news can be proceeded against for breach of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules. In view of this, it is requested that

whenever such a case comes to your notice, first of all, the Editor of the Newspaper concerned may be requested to confirm that the news or letter in question has been signed by the person in whose name it has been published and or the paper on which the communication was sent to the newspaper office, bears the printed letter-head and other particulars of the organisation or office to which the writer belongs. Papers and records are destroyed in the Newspaper Office after a comparatively short period of preservation and the official concerned may deny authorship. After receipt of the confirmation about the authorship, further action may be taken against the official in accordance with the C.C.S.(C.A.& A.) Rules. If action is contemplated, it may also be seen if efforts may be made to indice the Editor to preserve the relevant papers in his office so that authorship may be proved. If some Editor does not like to comply with the request, it may be tactfully explained to the Editor that his paper may also be interested to ensure that a person who sent matters for publicity does not disown authorship.

"Receipt of this letter may be acknowledged."

industrial committee on coal

.....

The representatives of mineowners' and workers' organisations clashed sharply on all the 15 items included in the agenda of the eighth session of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining.

(0600
22 cms

The meeting held on April 25 and 26 at New Delhi failed to break through the two-year deadlock in the industrial relations in the coal industry - a deadlock created by the straight refusal of the mine barons and the Government to settle any of the major disputes ranging from bonus, housing, water supply to safety matters.

The most important issue before the Committee was the question of revision of the wage structure, workload, D.A., etc., which was kept hanging since the Labour Appellate Tribunal Award expired on May 1959. In pursuance of the decision of the Seventh Session of the Industrial Committee, the unions refrained from giving notice of termination and submitted memoranda for a revision of wage structure and it was expected that a final decision would be taken on the matter.

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The demand for wage revision was strongly opposed by the employers with the backing of the Government. The representatives of the unions refuted the arguments of the employers and the Government by pointing out to:

(a) rise in productivity per worker from ~~xxxx~~ 0.34 tons in 1953 to 0.44 tons in 1959;

(b) a great rise in profit as shown in the latest index which has jumped to 141 in 1957 (1950 = 100). In 1958, the index jumped to 151.4;

(c) rise in production from 39.43 million tons in 1956 to 51.77 in 1960 without any appreciable increase in the number of workers, on the one hand, and fall in real wages, dangerous and hazardous nature of work, low earnings of piece-rated workers who constitute 80% of the labour force on the other.

The workers' representatives also pointed out that while the mineowners in India are getting all kinds of assistance and subsidy from various quarters, the miners who draw highest wages in other countries get much less than even textile workers of this country.

BIPARTITE COMMITTEE

After a heated debate, the workers' representatives agreed to the proposal of Union Labour Minister, G.L.Nanda, to refer the whole matter of wage increase and allied questions to a bipartite committee which would examine its various aspects and attempt to come to an agreed conclusion within two to three months.

This, ~~he~~ the Labour Minister said, would be a kind of industry-wise collective bargaining at the top which has not been attempted anywhere and therefore, a new experiment which should be tried before resorting to either Wage Board or Tribunal.

If the proposed committee fails to reach a settlement, then the dispute could be referred to appropriate machinery, the Union Labour Minister assured.

The representatives of employers' organisations agreed to this suggestion, after some hesitation.

Regarding other items and issues which came up for consideration at the meeting, no headway was made. Neither was there any assurance from the Government, when and how the major grievances of the workers would be settled. Before the uncomprimising hostility of the employers, the Government retreated, ignoring the warning of the labour representatives that infinite postponement of settling the grievances would seriously threaten peace in the coal industry, so vital for the success of the Third Plan.

BONUS

The employers refused to introduce weekly payment of bonus which was suggested by the Steering Group on Wages, on the basis of the report of the Director of the Labour Bureau. The workers' representatives supported the Steering Group's suggestion, as an improvement on the present

TVR

KERALA CASHEW WORKERS' DEMANDS

The Kerala Kasuandi Thozhilali Kendra Council and the Cashew Industries Employees Council in a detailed memorandum ~~xxxxxx~~ submitted to the Chief Minister, Kerala State, on April 26, demanded strict enforcement of minimum wages fixed by Government for workers in the cashewnut processing industry.

Several categories of workers are now denied the benefit of minimum wages fixed by Government, as per the tripartite agreement dated July 21, 1960.

The memorandum also demanded enforcement of the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act regarding lay-off compensation. This has become an urgent issue due to the deliberate policy of employers to close down their units for long periods.

The cashew workers' unions have demanded fixation of workloads, gratuity and retrenchment compensation, protection against victimisational transfer, providend fund~~xxx~~ and ESI benefits.

CONFERENCE OF THATHAIRS IN PUNJAB

The conference of Thathairs from all over Punjab, held at Jagadhri, under the auspices of All Punjab Akta Committee on April 23-24, demanded that handmade utensils manufacturers be exempted from excise duty, as has been done in the case of small industries as handlooms, etc.

The conference also demanded that the Thathiar Akta Committee at every station be made allocation of hard coke wagons, ~~xxx~~ be given quota of raw materials and be given financial assistance.

TUR

icuba si, yanquis no!

INDIAN WORKERS PROTEST AGAINST AMERICAN AGGRESSION ON CUBA

+

The crushing of the U.S.imperialist-inspired aggression on Cuba in April, and the world-wide protest against the imperialists, the unity and solidarity expressed by the workers of the world in resisting this aggression will go down as one of the most significant events in recent history.

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8 11ems

Heroic Cuba humbled the mighty U.S.imperialists when the bluff was called on U.S.trade boycott following the liberation of Cuba from fascist dictatorship. Cuba nationalised the imperialist capital, the property of oil trusts and sugar monopolists.

They got their licking for the second time in April this year.

On Saturday, April 15, planes bombed Cuba. On Monday, April 17, groups of mercenaries, organised and armed by the American imperialists, landed in Cuba to attempt a counter-revolution.

The workers of Latin America and the whole world immediately rose in mass protests, As the WFTU pointed out, This prompt reaction showed how alert the working class of the world is the danger of the imperialists' aggressive moves and to the need for vigilance in defending the Cuban revolution.

In less than 72 hours, the imperialist-inspired invasion was crushed.

During this period, the workers throughout the world had expressed their emphatic protest against the imperialist aggressors and pledged their solidarity with the Cuban Government and people.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, in a statement issued on April 19, said:

(~~compiled~~ earlier)

1008/24-4-61

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 19, 1961.

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DECLARATION BY THE W.F.T.U. ON THE ARMED AGGRESSION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC AND PEOPLE OF CUBA

By supplying arms, money, planes and political support to mercenary gangs of former big landowners and Cuban capitalists, trained on its territory and in Guatemala, the Government of the United States has instigated an invasion of the Republic of Cuba.

This reveals duplicity and guilt of a government which did not hesitate to violate the national sovereignty of another member State of the United Nations in order to satisfy its imperialist interests.

Whatever the pretext, hypocritically used by the United States, this attack again exposes the aggressive nature of American imperialism, who is the worst enemy of the people's political and economic independence and world peace.

Speaking for its 107 million members and conveying the feelings of the workers in all countries, the World Federation of Trade Unions indignantly condemns this criminal act. It stigmatises its authors - the American monopolies. It condemns all who have served as accomplices. Among them are the leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. and its regional organisation in America (ORIT) who have helped to prepare this invasion politically by a systematic campaign of slanders and hatred directed against the Popular Cuban Revolution. Everyone knows that they openly collaborated with the Batista dictatorial regime.

All attacks against Fidel Castro's democratic and revolutionary government and, on the trade union level, against the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC/R/), are at the same time attacks against the gains and social achievements of the Cuban workers and peasants which the monopolies and their agents are anxious to destroy.

These achievements are a rousing example, and endanger the monopolies' profits and sordid interests in Latin America and that is why they want to thwart them.

.../

PTD

They are attacking the most progressive land reform which has given land to the working peasants, as well as the eviction of the big landowners and monopolies and the suppression of illiteracy and racial discrimination. They want to restore their absolute domination and economic plundering.

In view of the successes and international authority won by the Cuban Revolution, they want to repeat the operation they launched against Guatemala in 1954. But times have changed. The United Fruit Company and other United States monopolies can no longer determine the fate of all the Latin American Governments and the destiny of their peoples.

The Cuban workers and peasants are not alone. Their democratic and popular Revolution has become the heritage of the workers and peasants of the whole of Latin America and of all the workers of the world. Their cause is that of all people who cherish peace and freedom.

That is why the aggression perpetrated by the American imperialists against Cuba is considered everywhere as an attack against the workers and people of the whole world.

That is why workers in all countries are rising by the side of their Cuban brothers and sisters to condemn the imperialist aggression with exceptional vigour and to demand that an end is put to it.

The W.F.T.U., confident in the victory of the noble and just struggle of the Cuban people, calls upon the workers and trade unions to broaden and strengthen even more international working class solidarity with the brave Cuban people.

Together with them, it declares that Cuba must be able to live in peace, to be free and independent.

Halt the aggression against Cuba!

Long live the democratic and popular Revolution of the Cuban workers and people!

World Federation of Trade Unions

PROTESTS FROM INDIA

The Indian workers and people have unequivocally condemned American-~~aggression~~ inspired aggression on Cuba.

The AITUC in a statement issued on April 19, had called upon all unions and workers, irrespective of affiliation, to express solidarity with the Cuban workers and people, to denounce imperialists and their supporters, and demand of the UN to act immediately in defence of Cuban freedom. The AITUC called for protest meetings and~~x~~ demonstrations all over India.

The statement said: "Attack on the newly-won Cuban independence under the leadership of Dr.Fidel Castro, by the supporters of Western imperialists is so naked that it is time that forces against imperialism and for world peace ensure that the invaders are sent out without any delay.

"The progressive measures that the Castro Government has taken in defence of Cuban independence and in favour of its people, particularly the working class, have been welcomed by the freedom-loving people and working class all over the world. Any attempt to undo the same has also to be fought by world opinion."

The AITUC also demanded of the Government of India to move in the UN ~~for~~ in defence of Cuba and to assure support to the Cuban people unreservedly.

Hundreds of people demonstrated in front of the American Embassy in New Delhi on April 21, shouting "Hands Off Cuba", "Down with U.S.imperialism", "Kennedy khooni hai" (Kennedy is a murderer), "Fidel Castro Zindabad"!

Handing over a protest memorandum to the embassy official, Y.D.Sharma, AITUC leader told him: "Tell your bosses to keep off Cuba and not help the invaders".

Later the demonstrators marched to the Cuban Embassy and congratulated the heroic people of Cuba in crushing the imperialist-inspired invation.

Big demonstrations were held in front of American Consultates in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. The demonstra-

tion in Bombay was led by the President of the AITUC, S.S.Mirajkar.

5000 textile workers of Amritsar, in a meeting held on April 20, strongly condemned U.S. intervention in Cuba.

In May Day rallies held in all industrial centres in India, solidarity with Cuba was a keynote of the celebrations.

AITUC PRESIDENT ON TOUR

S.S.Mirajkar, President, AITUC, presided over the Conference of the Kerala Toddy Tappers' Federation at Vaikom on April 29 and 30. Later, he addressed the May Day rally in Trivandrum.

On May 6, the AITUC President will inaugurate Maharashtra Beedi Workers Conference at Sangamner. He will attend the Conference of Grassim Mazdoor Union, at Birlagram, Nagda (Madhya Pradesh) on May 15 and 16. Later in May, he will visit Ratlam, Indore and Ujjain.

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ATTEMPT TO MURDER ~~XXX~~ PURNENDU MAZUMDER

An attempt to murder Purnendu Mazumder, General Secretary, United Mineral Workers Union, Gua (Bihar) and Member, General Council of the AITUC, on the night of April 4. A number of persons are reported to be involved in this attempt. ~~Mazumder~~

According to earlier news received in the office of the AITUC, it was learnt that Mazumder was dead but finally it was learnt that he was seriously injured.

From the details available, it was learnt that while Mazumder and his two colleagues were returning to the Manoharpur branch office of the union after attending court at Chaibasa, they were waylaid and brutally assaulted. During assault~~xxx~~ Mazumder rolled down the hillock where the assault took place and the miscreants left the place thinking probably he was dead.

Following receipt of information, Kedar Das, Vice President of the AITUC and several other leaders of Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union rushed to Manoharpur. ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~Mazumder~~ By then he had been admitted to Manoharpur hospital. His condition having given rise to anxiety, Kedar Das and other brought him to Jamshedpur on April 5 and got him admitted in the ~~Jamshedpur~~ Tata Main hospital. He has since been discharged from the hospital and is in convalesing at Jamshedpur.

No arrest has been yet made by the police although Mazumder in a statement to police has named the following persons whom he had ~~xxx~~ identified during assault. They

are:

(1) Daulat Ali, Loco Driver, Indian Iron & Steel Co., (2) Barkat Ali, brother of Daulat Ali and a professional goonda; (3) Kishen Singh, a professional goonda at Manoharpur; (4) Sangram Lal, a chowkidar of Hirjee Pandey, a contractor of IISCO; (5) Ramadhar Chowbey, an employee of P.R.Chowbey, another contractor of IISCO; (6) Durga, another employee of P.R.Chowbey; and (7) Dinesh Chandra Verma, Secretary of the INTUC-affiliated union at Chiria, several miles off from Manoharpur, where the IISCO also owns iron mine.

presswire from Barin Dey, Jamshedpur - April 6, 1961

Re. PURNENDU MAZUMDAR

JAMSHEDPUR, April 6.

Purnendu Mazumdar was brutally assaulted at Manoharpur on April 4 night by goondas belonging to the INTUC and Indian Iron & Steel Company.

According to details available, Mazumdar and two workers were returning to Manoharpur from Chaibasa after attending court, by train. Mazumdar and colleagues were proceeding to Railway Station to the Union office one mile away. On top of a hillock on way to the Union Office, Mazumdar and others were surrounded by dozen goondas waiting there with lathis and tangis.

During assault, Mazumdar rolled down hillock after which goondas left, probably thinking he was dead.

Mazumdar was brought to Jamshedpur late on 5th April night from Manoharpur Government Hospital by Kedar Das and other leaders of Jamshedpur who had rushed to Manoharpur yesterday noon after receiving information and admitted him in Tata Main Hospital.

Mazumdar received deep Tangi-cut injury on forehead with four fingers on tne left hand crushed by lathi-blows with various lathi injuries on back, shoulder, abdomen, etc.

In a statement to Manoharpur police, Mazumder named seven persons whom he recognised while being assaulted. They are: (1) Dault Ali, Loco Driver, Indian Iron and Steel Co., (2) Barkat Ali, brother of Daulat Ali and professional goonda; (3) Kishen Singh, professional goonda of Manoharpur and hotel owner; (4) Sangram Lal, Chowkidar of Hirjee Pandey (Contractor of IISCO at Chiria), (5) Ramadhar Chowbey, employee of contractor P.R.Chowbey; (6) Durga, employee of same contractor; and (7) Dinesh Chandra Verma, Secretary, INTUC union of Chiria.

According to Mazumdar, Verma was following him from Chaibasa.

In a statement to press this morning, Kedar Das, MLA, Vice President, AITUC, after his return here from Manoharpur with Mazumdar, condemning murderous assault on Mazumdar by INTUC goondas and backed by IISCO, stated that police is yet silent with no arrests so far, although Mazumdar named seven persons whom he recognised while being assaulted, to the police in a statement to them.

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FIGHT THE CHALLANGE OF SUGAR EMPLOYERS.

The workers employed in the sugar factories after waiting for four long years could finally see the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board that was appointed in the year 1957. These recommendations, though inadequate in relation to the capacity of the industry to pay and its profitability, are unanimous and only on February 23, 1961, the Government of India ccepted these recommendations and requested the employers to implement them.

The employers as usual did not agree to the request made by the Government. Till today, if the sugar employers have demanded anything, it was that the yield per acre should be ~~increased~~ raised.

The United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation in its conference held at Baheri on March 17, 18 and 19, decided to take a strike ballot on the first week of April, if the employers did not implement the recommendations of the Wage Board.

To avoid such a step, the U.P State Committee of the AITUC asked the Government of Uttar Pradesh to immediately call a tripartite conference on the question of implementation of the recommendations.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh called a tripartite conference on March 30, wherein the employer agreed to the justification workers demand for the implementation of the recommendations, suggested that the price of Sugar be raised ~~to the extent of one nP per seer~~ to meet the expenditure that will be accrued extra. They also requested for time to approach the Central Government.

When the UP Labour Minister suggested the enforcement of the recommendations through a Government order, the employers demanded time to consider the proposal in the meeting of the Indian Sugar Mills Association and accordingly a fortnight's time was granted to the employers.

In the meeting the employers declared that:

(a) they will not pay their dues to the Government;

(b) they will not pay the dues to the cane growers; and

(c) they will not implement the recommendations of the Wage Board; unless

(a)the price of sugar is increased by Rs.5.51 per maund;

(b) the price of sugar cane is brought down to Rs.1.43nP per maund, and

(c) the stock is not cleared off.

These conditions are not only coersive in nature but also against the Code of Discipline and are being taken recourse to by the employers to reverse the possibility of holding the price line on one hand and to hit the cane producers on the other.

The UP Assembly had unanimously resolved to recommend to the Central Government to increase the price of Sugar cane to Rs.2 per maund and recently S.K.Patil, Minister for Food and Agriculture, speaking at Tilaknagar justified the controls on sugar by saying:

" I want them (controls) in the interestsof the producers, so that the producers will be getting Rs.1.62 to Rs.2 or even more for their cane and they can do so only if I have some controls to regulate prices, and it is not because millowners should be assisted."(Commerce. April 1,196[illegible])

As far as the question of over stock that has been taken by the employers as one of the grounds for not paying the dues to cane growers, the Government, and the workers is concerned, it is sufficient to say that this is very much exagerated claim.

The employers have alleged to be holding stocks to the tune of 13 lac tons but that is not something stupendous or unheard of. Last year during March, April and May, the sugar stock position was 14.18, 15.19 and 14.11 lac tons respectively (Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, March 1961).

The plea is a time-worn plea adopted by the employers. The cotton textile employers also on the question of implementation of Wage Board recommendations had put forward the same plea and that move had to be fought out. Now the Government of India has declared to enforce the recommendation by by framing Statute.

Thus any demand put forward by the employers that goes to increase the price of sugar or reduce the price of sugar cane must be taken as one which is aimed at increasing the price line and to cut down the income of the cane growers. Such a demand can be described as anti-working class and anti-national and people from all walks of life should unite to fight against it.

Though the workers decided in favour of the strike in the strike ballot taken at the instance of the United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation, yet the executive of the Federation decided in favour of another course. According to this, the President of the Federation Shibban Lal Saxena, MP., would

resort to hunger strike at Delhi with effect from April 25, and he would be followed by Mukund Singh, B.D.Shukla and Madan Pandey, who would resort to hunger strike at Lucknow from the same day. All the sugar workers also will observe one day fast on the same day.

To fight the challenge given out by the employers, public opinion must be mobilised and a united struggle of the workers and the cane growers should be launched to force the employers to accept the recommendations voluntarily, failing which the Government must pressed to enforce it statutorily.

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UNION REPORTS: MADHYA PRADESH:

Nootameswar, Secretary, Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (AITUC), was arrested by police on April 5, under section 151 I.P.C.

Nootameswar had resorted to hunger-strike since April 4, as a protest against the unilateral actions of the management of the Central Province Manganese Ore Co., which included, among others, (a) withholding wages of a worker since last six months, (b) denial of ration to local mazdoors, (c) discrimination wages of Mates and (d) non-payment of gratuity to workers.

Nootameswar is continuing his fast in jail. Meanwhile, Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh has protested against his unjustified arrest and demanded immediate release, failing which Nootameswar's hunger-strike will be followed up by mass hunger-strike, the union has warned.

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UTTAR PRADESH:

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ON STRIKE

The employees of A.P. Mission Girls School at Dehradun are on strike since March 29, in protest against the American Mission's attitude towards the employees, illegal discharge of sweeper having more than 13 years' service record, and illegal fine imposed on two employees. Besides that the employees have also demanded the regularisation of their service conditions.

The College and School Karamchari Union had earlier requested the authorities to settle up the matter through mutual negotiation but the management of the Mission did not even care to reply to the letters. Meanwhile some bogey

is being raised concerning "Christian in danger", through which attempts are being made to sow confusion and appoint blackleggers. Meanwhile the District authorities have withheld permission for the union even to hold meetings with microphone and loudspeakers. (April 10)

STRIKE IN J.K.RAYON FACTORY

All the workers of the J.K.Rayon Factory at Kanpur resorted to strike since April 8, protesting against the high-handedness of the management in arbitarily transferring the services of some of the active members of the union, attempts at terrorisation to workers against their trade union activity through employment of goondas, and non-fulfillment of any one of the items of the Charter of Demands submitted by the union on March 24. The strike is continuing peacefully and meanwhile the employers are trying to boost up an INTUC union to break the unity of the workers through active patronisation.

PUNJAB:

A WORKERS' COOPERATIVE

A workers' Cooperative store was opened on February 28, at Chheharta at the initiative of Textile Mazdoor Ekta Union.

The cooperative is an independent body and is open to all sections of people. To begin with the store will deal with general mechandise and later on take up other items to provide with goods for the consumers.

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MAN CONQUERS SPACE

APRIL 12, 1961, will go down in the history of mankind as the day of most significant victory ever attained by man over nature. This day heralds the triumph of spcialism and labour in the world over in scientific and technological progress and opens up new vista towards further and future achievements. On this day, the first man rocketted to space, orbitted round the earth and came back safely to land.

It was not merely a coincidence or a chance that the first man to conquer space and return to earth was a Soviet man - a man from the land of socialism that guaranteed unhindered scope of development to all and led way towards progress and peace. The journey to space and back could be so quickly possible because it was only in the socialistic society people had the free scope to utilise and cultivate their talents for the use and betterment of mankind.

It was not an easy task to send a man to space and bring him safely back. Behind this spectacular achievement lay the consistent and collective efforts of scientists and technicians of all branches in the Soviet Union.

Yuri Alexseyevich Vagarin, the first space traveller is the son of a collective farmer. He is aged 27, married and father of two girls. He began his career as a Moulder and simulteneously started learning flying in 1955. He was graduated in grade A in 1957 and since then he has beem a flier.

Yuri Vagarin conquered space in a spaceship named

"VOSTOK" (meaning The East), which was composed of several multi-stage rockets and a specially constructed cabin. The spaceship soared up from the earth attaining a final speed of aboub 18,000 miles per hour. The cabin itself excluding the rocket-part weighed more than 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons. Vagarin orbitted the arth in 89 minutes 6 seconds at a minimum height of 175 kilometres (about 109 miles) and a maximum of 302 kilometres (about 187 miles).

The first man-made satellite to orbit round the earth also was launched by the Soviet Union oh October 4, 1957. This satellite weighed only 184 pounds and since then the Soviet Union has been continuously going ahead bigger and better launchings including sending up animals to space and brining them back. It was through a Soviet spaceship that for the firsttime mankind saw the pictures of the hidden side of moon.

The safe voyage of man into cosmos and return to earth opens up new perspective and it is certain that very soon man will travel to distant planets and heavenly bodies streaking through the fathomless expanse of outer space in ~~the~~ rocket vehicles.

The All-India Trade Union Congress congratulated this victory of mankind through a cable sent to the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of Soviet Union, which reads:

"PLEASE ACCEPT BEST CONGRATUALTIONS OF INDIAN WORKING CLASS TO SOVIET WORKERS SUCCESS IN LAUNCHING HUMAN BEING INTO SPACE AND SAFE RETURN/ THIS MIRACULOUS

ACHIEVEMENT WILL FURTHER HELP WORLD PEACE AND PROGRESS AND HAPPINESS OF MANKIND."

This success of the rocketry of the Soviet Union clearly shows the futility of armament which is now being maddeningly pursued by some countries. Not only that the conventional weapons have become obsolete, but also it is certain that the begining of another war would mean the complete devastation of the world we live in. No longer a war is a war of bows and arrows.

With this new achievement of science and technology therefore better sense should prevail among those who still believe to establish their supremecy by war and the talent and energy of mankind would be used only for the attainment and preservation of peace and further progress.

When mankind is taking trips to outer space and on the threshhold of visiting other planets, it is just madness and idiotic to have the ominous shadow of a war looming before the world that can anytime plunge the world to its doom. Complete and general disarmament has now therefore become an imminent necessity.

To send a vehicle into space at a pre-determined speed, route and orbit and to bring it back at a command to land in a pre-arranged area, is a tremendous technological feat. Not only that it requires mutli-stage rockets of given powers amounting to thousands of pounds of thrusts, it must be guaranteed to respond to "orders" to go into different movement at a given time and signal. It must also have an accurate flight path or trajectory and orbit.

A slight error in the calculation of speed or angle of trajectory will either atek the spaceship away from the pre-determined orbit to an endless void or it will not go up at all.

A clear grasp of this fact alone would be sufficient to realise what a tremendous achievement Yuri Vagarin's space travel was. And for attaining that success, all glory to the Soviet people and the soviet scientists, technicians and workers in particular.

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TEXTILE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A Working Group for the cotton textile industry was set up in August 1959 by the National Industrial Development Corporation to examine the extent of finances required for modernisation and rehabilitation of the cotton textile industry, the element of foreign exchange involved, the finances likely to be forthcoming from the industry itself, the ways and means of securing the balance, and all other allied problems.

The Working Group has submitted an unanimous report in which they have particularly emphasised the fact that in India the problem of modernisation has assumed its present huge dimensions largely because of the old and outmoded machinery installed in the majority of the mills and the comparative neglect of these machinery during the war years and thereafter.

The Government of India have expressed that they were broadly in agreement with the recommendations of the Working Group.

Many of the recommendations of the Working Group are intended to be implemented by the industry, particularly those relating to rationalisation with the wholehearted cooperation of labour, enlargement of the scope of third shift working as a means of absrobing surplus labour, improving managerial standards, pooling of technical knowledge and exercise for the common benefit of all units, particularly the weaker ones, and the setting up of a small Committee of representatives of the industry and Government to explore the possibilities of securing assistance from different foreign countries towards the foreign exchange requirements of rehabilitation and modernisation.

The Working Group has also drawn the attention of the industry to the need for maintaining harmonious management-

labour relations, providing intiative to labour to contribute to the efficiency of the mills, training within industry and maintenance of healthy service conditions for technicians.

The Working Group considers it necessary that a continued examination of the causes of closures, losses and unsatisfactory working of less efficiently working textile units should be made.

It has recommended that this diagnosis may be done by a small representative group consisting of the top level management, top level technicians, labour representatives and Government representatives. This group may be designed as the Textile Mills Standing Advisory Group or Committee.

The Working Group has drawn attention to the inevitability of a certain amount of rationalisation in the process of modernisation. As the problems of rationalisations are bfound to differ from mill to mill, the Working Group has recommended the setting up of a sutiable machinery which could analyse and help to resolve the problems of each individual mill.

[illegible]

Another important recommendation of the Working Group is with regard to the revival of closed mills under Government auspices or any other suitable agencies. The Working Group has recommended that simulteneously with the continual running of such units by authorised Controllers of State Governments or Central Government or any sther suitable agencies, there x should be a process of compulsory liquidationso that the assets and liabilities of the old unit are availableto the labour and other creditors, xmanagement and the shareholders.

The Working Group has pointed out that where rehabilitation of a unit is not worthwhile, the unit shouldbe compul-

sorily scrapped and that the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act may be suitably amended so as to ensure that in cases where the mill's plant and machinery are irretrievable, compulsory scrapping may be enforced and such scrapped machinery should not be permitted to be utilised elsewhere.

The Working Group has recommended that labour laws should be amended in those States where more than one union is recognised at present so as to enable the management to negotiate a settlement with only one Union as spokesman of the labour.

The Working Group, on principle, do not consider that allocation of additional capacity should be governed by the volume of surplus labour on account of rehabilitation and modernisation of the industry in each of the parts of the country.

The Working Group has recommended that it will help to reduce the size of the problem of surplus labour if provision is made for suitable gratuity on superannuation. In addition, compensation by agreement may be provided for to achieve a further measure of rationalisation.

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Labour Minister Announces

* WAGE BOARD FOR IRON & STEEL

* LEGISLATION TO ENFORCE TEXTILE WAGE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS

* FUND FOR RELIEF TO WORKERS HIT BY CLOSURES

The decision of the Government to appointment of a Wage Board for the Iron & Steel Industry was announced by G.L.Nanda, Minister for Labour & Employment, in the Lok Sabha on April 4.

He also announced the Government's decision to bring forward legislation to compel textile mills to implement the recommendations of the Textile Wage Board.

Another announcement made by the Labour Minister was that the Government proposes to institute a fund to provide relief to workers thrown out of employment as a result of closures.

Shri Nanda was speaking on Demands for Grants for the Labour Ministry, which was voted upon by the Lok Sabha on April 4.

In his speech initiating the debate on labour grants, G.L.Nanda said that in the textile industry, employing 800,000 workers, there were wage increases ranging from 10% to 16.6% in category I, and from 8.6% to 21% in category II.

In the cement industry, employing 500,000 workers, the increases ranged from 7% to 100%, as per the Wage Board's recommendations. In the sugar industry, employing five lakh workers, it ranged from 8% to 70% and in the jute industry, employing two and a half lakh workers, the interim recommendations of the Wage Board gave an increase of 5%, the Labour Minister said.

He said that while there was steady expansion of employment from year to year, the number of unemployed was also going up.

Referring to the steps being taken to provide

employment, he said that since the apprenticeship scheme which was worked out on a voluntary basis had not yielded encouraging results, it had been decided to make it compulsory through legislation.

He stated that employment opportunities had been rising at the rate of 6.8% per annum in the public sector and 4.8% in the private sector.

G.L.Nanda said that the number of man-days lost had declined in 1959, compared to the figures for 1956. One of the main factors responsible for the better industrial relations that now existed, according to him, was the Code of Discipline, which was gradually getting under acceptance.

The coverage of the Code was practically complete, the Minister said, so far as the public sector was concerned - the railways were a special case - and in the private sector, there were only a few branches still out of it - banks, general insurance companies, the Press Trust of India and the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society.

G.L.Nanda said that he attached a great deal of importance to workers' participation in management of industry. The workers' education programme, he said, would cover one million people in the Third Plan.

The managements also required some education and "we hope to extend this system to them also," he added.

Later, replying to the debate, G.L.Nanda said that legislation would be brought forward shortly to implement the recommendations of the Textile Wage Board. He claimed that the recommendations had been implemented by more than 80% of the industry.

He criticised the owners of sugar mills for linking the question of price with the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board. The recommendation stood independently

and should be implemented, he said. If prices rose, something could be done.

Referring to the labour policy of public sector undertakings, the Labour Minister said that in the early stages, they might not have paid enough attention to it. At an inter-Ministerial conference a few days ago, it was decided to go ahead vigorously with workers' participation in public sector undertakings. A special cell would be set up in the Labour Ministry for implementation of this decision.

The Minister spoke of the weaknesses of the trade union movement and said that there could be unity only on the basis of a common programme. He denied there was partisanship in the Government's attitude to trade unions.

The question of accidents would be considered by the Standing Labour Committee and the Indian Labour Conference, he said.

G.L.Nanda said that wages in the manufacturing industries had increased by 6% under the two Plans. In the other industries, the increase was about 27%. It was true that the wage position had deteriorated in relation to the prices in the last two years in some cases but this would be set right by the Wage Boards, the Minister added.

He denied that there were difference between his Ministry and the other Ministries on the question of price policy. He agreed that the condition of agricultural labour demanded attention. A committee had recently been set up by the Planning Commission to study the subject.

He said the new census figures were worrying the Government as it brought it face to face with a somewhat new situation in regard to employment. "We have to consider how much more it is possible for us to do," he added.

Indrajit Gupta's Speech

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The Government of India's labour policy should be a policy of providing the minimum rights to labour, which is deprived of those rights and which rights are overdue - said Indrajit Gupta, Secretary, AITUC, while speaking in the Lok Sabha, in the debate on demands for grants for Labour Ministry, on April 4.

He said that it would be a wrong theory to pose that the two forces of labour and capital in this country are more or less equally balanced and the Government have to play a kind of middle or balancing role between the two.

The report of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that the Plan targets of production in many of the sectors of xxxxxxx industry have been exceeded. There has been a rise of 18 points in the index of industrial production over the 11 months of 1960. Productivity has increased at the rate of three per cent nearly as the Labour Minister himself stated.

The index of profits, with base 1950 = 100, has gone upto 170 now. As far as prices are concerned, enough has been said about it and there is enough material by way of statistics. But real wages, because of the rise in prices, have been falling.

The Labour Minister said in the morning - and he is correct - that compared to 1951 or 1952, there has been an increase in real earnings. But if we look at the overall development, what do we find?

I am reminded of an article written by one of the Deputy Labour Ministers, a short while ago, which shows that if we take the pre-war base, in 1939 as 100, in 1958, the real wages of workers had come down to 98.2.

Indrajit Gupta pointed out, quoting statistics about value added to xxxxxxx production by workers, that for

every rupee which was paid in wages, the worker was returning by way of production not only that one rupee but also Rs.2.39 more. So nobody can complain that the workers have not been contributing to production or increase in production or productivity and so on.

Referring to the Model Agreement on Rationalisation, Indrajit Gupta said that this agreement is being violated by employers. This is seen from the fact that in 10 years, the total number of workers employed in W.Bengal, despite the growth in number of registered factories, has fallen. The only explanation for this phenomenon is that simultaneously with industrial development, rationalisation is being carried out by the employers by methods which contravene all the safeguards provided in the Model Agreement on Rationalisation.

SECRET DIRECTIVE TO BANKS

Indrajit Gupta said: "I do not know whether the Labour Minister knows it, but I have information at my disposal that on December 13 last, the Governor of the Reserve Bank, H.V.R. Iengar, met the heads of the banks in Bombay in a secret meeting where he is reported to have told them that in view of the increasing demands of the employees, banks should build up their secret reserves. They have not got adequate secret reserves, and they should be built up so that smaller profits can be shown. I wish to know whether Government approves of this kind of thing."

Pointing out to the non-implementation of Wage Board recommendations, Indrajit Gupta referred to the strike in the Ranavav cement factory and the notice for strike given in Andhra and Mysore cement factories.

The interim increase in wages given to jute workers has been completely nullified by the reduction in working hours, he said. As against Rs.3.42 interim increase, jute workers lost over Rs.5 due to reduction in hours

and thus the workers suffered a net loss of over Rs.2.

In obtaining sanction for reduction of hours, the employers in jute industry bypassed the Labour Ministry and got the approval of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This unilateral action of the employers was in complete violation of the Code of Discipline.

Indrajit Gupta spoke in detail about the denial of trade union rights. Unions which do not belong to the INTUC are not allowed to function properly and are suppressed in some cases. He referred in this connection to the suppression of the Hindustan Machine Tools Employees' Association.

He said cases of murder and conspiracy are foisted on trade unionists as in Gua iron ore mines and East Nimcha colliery. They were acquitted by the court later.

"In East Nimcha, 33 workers including the Secretary of the union were arrested on charges of attempted murder and arson in the colliery. Now, on March 15, the judgement of the Sessions Court has come acquitting all of them and strictures have been passed against the police by the Sessions Judge saying that in a case of alleged murder, the police is incapable of producing a false corpse in order to frame up the case. They are capable of doing anything. I would request the Iabour Minister to read that judgment."

Indrajit Gupta added that the same sort of attempt is being made at Barbil.

He quoted from the report of the ICFTU delegation to the 17th Session of the ECAFE, on the denial of TU rights:

"In some of the Asian countries which have achieved political emancipation, and which have accepted democratic planning as the goal of economic development, we have discovered to our regret that inalienable basic rights of workers are abridged, denied and infringed by the private employers and the Governments. The workers in

these areas are denied the right to organise, bargain collectively and strike."

In their conference held at Manila last year, the ICFTU had protested against the victimisation of Central Government employees after their strike and had urged upon the Government to take a lenient view. Indrajit Gupta quoted the ICFTU statement:

"The representatives of the free trade unions assembled there expressed their deep dissatisfaction, indignation and advocated for the reinstatement of these rights of workers in accordance with the principles of ILO charter by its member governments and the employers in the Asian region. Our earlier protests, however, in this regard have not been heeded by the employers. Therefore, we raise our voice once again to say that flagrant violation of trade union rights in these countries amounts to denial of basic rights of democracy."

Indrajit Gupta added: "This is what the ICFTU say, which is a most virulent anti-communist organisation. Therefore, I would request the Labour Ministry to pay a little more attention to this matter, because simply by suppressing workers and their trade union rights, nothing is going to succeed."

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WORKERS EDUCATION BOARD MEETING

The sixth meeting of the Board of Governors of the Central Board for Workers Education was held on April 6, at New Delhi, to discuss agenda in which among other routine administrative items, was the progress report of the carrying out of the Scheme.

Never before any question in such tripartite body was decided by vote, but this time it was done on the question of constituting a Selection Board for the Third Teacher Administrator training course which is scheduled to begin sometime in June. R.L.Mehta, Chairman of the Board had already formed a selection board with one representative each from the employers and the INTUC besides some Government representatives. This was objected to by the AITUC and HMS jointly but their proposal was voted down by 6 to 2.

On the question of giving Grants-in-Aid, the AITUC representative criticised the policy of spending money on non-trade union organisations which propose to take classes of workers. Instead of really giving facilities to working class organisations, the AITUC representative pointed out, the Board was misusing money on heavy administrative expenses and by aiding bodies which have very little knowledge or experience of working of trade unions.

The Board also decided to integrate in the present syllabus some new ideas and methods of "Creative Education" which are inconsistent with the already adopted syllabus. Yet the same was passed despite protest from AITUC representative.

It was pointed out by the AITUC representative that that scheme is becoming too much bureaucratic and is gradually going away from its aims and objects. The set up as it obtains today is making the Scheme tradeunion-biased and opinions of trade union leaders are being ignored without any hesitation.

Til today, the Board has not been able to produce a single literature for workers and no concrete aid was given to trade unions to help in their activity towards workers education.

Vithal Chaudhuri, represented the AITUC in the meeting of the Board.

A.I.T.U.C.
Received 776/12-4-61
Replied

for T.U.R.

VELVYSLANECTVÍ ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ SOCIALISTICKÉ REPUBLIKY
EMBASSY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
NEW DELHI

New Delhi, April 10, 1961.

2406

Dear Sir,

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic celebrates her sixteenth anniversary on May 9, 1961. On this occasion, I recalll with pleasure the co-operation which you have been personally extending to us. I hope it will continue in future also in the interest of growing friendship and co-operation between India and Czechoslovakia in all spheres.

On the occasion of the sixteenth anniversary, I will be releasing special articles on various aspects of life in Czechoslovakia and her relations with India. It will give me great pleasure if you could kindly suggest any special subject in which you and your esteemed journal may be particularly interested. The article would be prepared and sent to you without any obligation. To give me adequate time for preparation, an early reply would be appreciated. The reply should also indicate whether photos or blocks are required.

Thanking you in advance and hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours sincerely,

G. Legler

(G. Legler)
First Secretary

S.M.BANERJEE'S SPEECH

Demand for
Speaking on the/grant mfor Labour Ministry, S.M.Banerjee reiterated the demand of the Government employees for higher dearness allowance and justified it by rise of prices that has come about following additional taxation.

In that context, he said that the due to the inability of the present Government to hold the price line, the demand arises: "Either hold the price line or give us more dearness allowance", and therfore the Government should reconsider the demand and see that dearness allowance is properly reviewed.

S.M.Banerjee welcomed the setting up of the Wage Boards for more and more industries and pointed out that they would not bring relief to the workers unless their recommendations were implemented. He mentioned specifically how some of the textile mills flouted recommendations and awards. He also cited instances of several Kanpur mills who have not implemented Nimbkar Committee's award. Reference was also made by him to the interim relief granted by the Jute Wage Board not implemented by the Jute millowners.

S.M.Banerjee cited instances where some textile millowners have arbitarily increased working hours of workmen and evaded tax payment by contributing donation to the ruling party.

S.M.Banerjee mentioned that in Rourkela Steel Plant, which is in Public Sector, [illegible] all labour legislations were being flouted. He also referred to the Award of the National Tribunal which has not been implemented by the management of Press Truct of India so far.

S.M.Banerjee demanded the restoration of recognition

to the trade unions of Government employees, against whom action was taken in connection with last year's strike. He also demanded the reinstatement of 400 dismissed TISCO workers whose services were dispensed with following a strike in May 1958.

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Railway Week

MEN WHO MAKE GIANT LOCOS

The Indian Railways are celebrating a Week - from April 10 to 16.

The Railway Week is meant to help the people to know their railways better. And the pages of the newspapers during the week will be replete with features written by the railway bosses, extolling the progress achieved, amenities provided and the good turn done to the workers.

Certainly the railways do not always present a picture of accidents, overcrowding, bottlenecks and the host of evils which have lived down the 108-year-long history of rail transportation in India.

For instance, the Chittaranjan Works of the Indian Railways provide quite an impressive contrast.

Prior to its launching in 1948, and till 1950 when production began, all the whistling locos which haul up and down millions of ton miles and passenger miles, had to be imported.

During the past decade, production in the Chittaranjan Loco Works has risen from just seven locomotives in 1950-51 to the quite impressive record of producing one steam locomotive every 48 hours.

And now they are going to make eletric locos.

Compared to the First Plan period when Chittaranjan produced 331 locomotives and 280 boilers, the achievement of the five years of Second Plan are 831 locomotives and 786 boilers.

Notable progress has been made in achieving self-sufficiency. According to official figures, during the decade, the imported content of a locomotive has been progressively reduced. During 1951-52, the imported content of a 'WG' loco was Rs.2.46,000. This came down to Rs.70,000 in 1959-60. And it is claimed that the imported

content during 1960-61 would not be more than Rs.40,000 per WG locomotive and that this will further decrease as soon as the steel plants achieve their full planned production.

The total production of steam locomotives during the Third Plan is estimated to be 820, at the rate of 164 locos per annum.

According to the plan, the first electric locomotive will roll out of Chittaranjan works in the next two or three months.

Under the Third Plan, Chittaranjan will send out 72 electric locos from its works every year.

A steel foundry with a capacity of 7,000 to 10,000 tons of finished castings per annum is being set up. To Assist the railways in electrification, Chittaranjan has set up a Galvanising Plant, the largest of its kind in India. The 9,000 tons of mild steel sections already galvanised represent a saving of over Rs.35 lakhs of foreign currency. The cost of production is just about one-third of imported cost.

What has been the contribution of the workers in establishing this progress record.

Chittaranjan provides another striking example of the rapidity with which Indian engineering skill has matured and fully bloomed in new directions. And the rise in productivity of the workers is indeed amazing.

The total manhours spent per locomotive and the cost of manufacture of a WG locomotive have come down considerably.

As per official figures, the total manhours spent per locomotive have come down from 1,21,000 during 1953-54 to only 55,000 during 1959-60. The productivity of the workers has evidently more than doubled.

And the cost of production has been slashed from Rs.6,05,000 during 1953-54 to Rs.4,10,000 during 1959-60.

But the workers who do a wonderful job in rolling out the giant locos from Chittaranjan have the worst ever conditions of work, especially in the matter of trade union and democratic rights.

The township of Chittaranjan has been declared as a "protected area" and none could enter without special permits issued for the purpose by the authorities.

Even the trade union of the workers has no access and is not allowed to function inside the workers' colony.

Such horrid restrictions were so revolting that even the right-wing American TU leader, Walter Reuther, after a visit to the factory, is reported to have expressed shock and surprise.

Another aspect which has been time and again stated in parliament is about the recognition of the trade unions. The management of Chittaranjan have refused to grant recognition to the Chittaranjan Locomotive Workers Union which has the backing of the overwhelming majority. This union also secured for its nominees all the seats on the elected Works Committee in the factory. But the management, far from being realistic, not only continued its policy of ignoring the union but virtually reduced the powers of the Works Committee to nil.

During the Central Government employees' strike of July 1960, the Chittaranjan workers by an overwhelming majority abstained from work. This showed the mood of the workers - something the organisers of the Railway Week had better take serious note of.

The official hand-outs from Chittaranjan have claimed a huge success of the Incentive Scheme in the works. This scheme which is said to benefit the workers was introduced without ever consulting the workers or their trade union. The arbitrary implementation of the scheme therefore produced considerable resentment.

And it will not escape the attention of the people during the Railway Week that such shameful policies for labour promulgated by the Railway Ministry are not exclusively for Chittaranjan. The Railway Ministry has withdrawn the recognition of all the really representative unions of railwaymen in all the zonal railways. Draconial laws have been proposed which strike at the very concept of fundamental rights.

Hundreds of railway workers have been victimised for participation in the strike of July 1960.

And the omnipotent Railway Ministry has as yet refused to ratify the Code of Discipline proposed by the Government of India's own Labour Ministry and ratified at the tripartite conference held in 1958.

The nation greets the railwaymen in the celebration of the 108th Anniversary of the Indian Railways. The observance of the Railway Week should evoke greater solidarity between the common people and the railwaymen in defence of the fundamental trade union and democratic rights.

The Indian Railways have the privilege of being the mightiest of national undertakings. The railwaymen demand no privileges but they shall not be denied their rights.

(24)

The 19th session of the Standing Labour Committee will be held in New Delhi on April 28 and 29, 1961.

The following items are on the agenda:

(1) Action taken on the main conclusions/recommendations of the last session of the S.L.C.

(2) Industrial Accidents,

(3) Sanctions under the Code of Discipline

(4) Extension of the Scheme of Joint Management councils

(5) The extent to which tripartite decisions would be binding on the parties concerned.

(6) Amendment of section 79 and 80 of the Factories Act, 1948 to provide for grant of leave according to exigencies of work in the factory and rate of payment for the period of leave.

(7) Functions of Works Committees.

(8) Additional measures for protection against victimisation.

(9) Amendment of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, to provide for the resolution of disputes among rival office bearers of a trade union.

(10) Abolition of Riacksaw Pulling.

(11) Organisation of All-India tours for industrial workers

(I2) Indebtedness of the Coal Mines workers.

(13) A review of the working of the Code of Discipline and implementation machinery.

(14) Determination of the period of functioning of a union in a unit for the purpose of recognition under the Code of Discipline.

(15) Proposal for establishing an Institute of Labour Relations Research.

(16) Procedure for verification of membership of unions for the purpose of recognition under the Code of Discipline.

(246)

The International Trades Conference organised by the Trade Union International of Transport, Port and Fishery Workers (Trade Department of WFTU) is scheduledto xx take place in Budapest (Hungary) from May 9 to 13, 1961.

Brisk preparations are well under way in various countries to make this conference a great success. Already a good amount of preliminary work has been done in many countries including India. A representative delegation of these workers in India will shortly be leaving to attend this conferance and to take part in it.

The conference is open to all irrespective of their affiliation and this fact shows that apart from 10 milion organised membership of the TUI, the conference will have a fair cross section of the representatives of workers those who are not xxx in any way affiliated to TUI and that will go to make this conference a real international meeting place of these workers and a forum to discuss their problems and to embark upon programmes to improve their conditions.

The following questions which are of interest to transport port and fishery workers in all countries, will be specially discussed in the conference:

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PETROLEUM WORKERS CONFERENCE

The fourth delegates conference of the All-India Petroleum Workers Federation held in Bombay from March 27 to 30 was attended by 70 delegates and observers from 8 affiliated unions.

Messages and greetings to the conference came from among others, G.L.Nanda, Union Minister for Labour & Employment, V.K.R.Menon, Director of ILO, New Delhi, Trade Union International of Chemical, Oil and Allied workers as well as from oil and Chemical workers Unions of USSR, Rumania, China German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Pakistan and Ceylon.

S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, personally greeted the conference and in course of his address characterised the petroleum industry as "one of concentrated power of capital with all its ramifications to our country, to our economy and above all in the exploitation of labour."

"Government may preach equality of capital" he said, "but that is not the politics of the working class. We will discriminate between foreign and national capital and within our country between the State and the private capital."

He brought to the notice of the delegates the competition that was on between the Indian oil company and the foreign oil companies which would bring up a time for testing the strength and efficacy of the AIPWF.

The conference passed a resolution criticising the Government for not paying enough attention to the vital interests and particularly the job security of petroleum workers who have been affected by the coming in and extension of public enterprise in the industry.

By another resolution the conference deplored the failure of the employers to abide by the Code of Discipline. It also passed resolution against arbitrary rationalisation measures and on contract labourers.

The resolutions of the conference were explained in a mass rally on March 29, that was addressed among others, by T.C.N.Menon, MP., and Shivaji Patil.

The Conference elected a working committee of 15 members with Atin Sadhu as President and G.Sundaram as General Secretary.

TATA OIL MILLS EMPLOYEES UNION, BOMBAY

In the Works Committee election held in the Tata Oil Mills Co., (Sewri Mills), the Tata Oil Mills Employees Union (AITUC) won six seats out of a total ~~number~~ of seven seats.

The candidates put up by our ~~affiliatex~~ were opposed by INTUC, HMS and independent candidates. Not only that six seats were won by our affiliate, but the total votes polled by its candidates exceeded ~~thatx~~ ~~of~~ all the votes polled by all other candidates taken together.

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WFTU--UNESCO STUDY COURSE

A study course for three weeks "ON workers' access to education and culture" was opened in Tashkent on April 9. The course has been organised by the World Federation of Trade Unions in cooperation with the UNESCO.

The All-India Trade Union Congress was invited by the WFTU to send three participants to this study course and accordingly, the Secretariat of the AITUC nominated Y.Chavan(Bombay), H.G.Pant (UP) and Nityananda Ponda (Orissa) to participate in this course.

Chavan and Pant left for Tashkent on April 7 and Ponda on April 11.

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Yebaw Maung Maung and Yebaw Than Ngme, both Secretaries of the Burma Trade Union Congress and Safei Vishnu Kuntjahyo, Member, National Council of SOBSI, Indonesia, visited AITUC office on April 10. and April 2, respectively.
They were on their way to Tashkent to participate in the WFTU-UNESCO study course.

Vishnu Kuntjahyo, who arrived in Delhi on March 31 was a guest of the AITUC during his stay. He left for Tashkent on April 4, while Maung Maung and Than Ngme left on April 11.

APRIL 12, 1961, will go down in the history of mankind as the day of most significant victory ever attained by man over nature. This day heralds the triumph of socialism and labour in the world over in scientific and technological progress and opens up new vista towards further achievement.

It was not merely a coincidence or a chance that the first man to conquer space and safely return to earth would be a Soviet man, a man from the land of socialism where human rights have developed the only way towards progress and peace. It was only in that society where the people have the free scope to utilise their talents for the use of humanity.

It was not an easy task to send a man to space and bring him back. Behind this spectacular achivement lies the consistent and collective efforts of scientists and technicians of all branches in the Soviet Union.

Major Yuri Alekseyevich Vagarin, the first space traveller, went up in a multi-stage rocket which soared up from the earth attaining a final speed of 18,000 miles per hour. The space capsule in which he was occupying weighed more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons excluding the rocket part.

Yuri Vagarin orbitted the earth in 89 minutes 6 seconds at a minimum height of 175 kilometres (about 109 miles) and a maximum of 302 kilometeres (about 187 miles).

It may be stated here that the first satellite to orbit round the earth was launched by Soviet Union on October 4,1957 which weighed 184 pounds and since then the Soviet Union has been continuously going forward in their attempts to win

the cosmos.

The safe voyage of man into cosmos and return to earth opens up new perspective and very soon man will travel to planets and satellites streaking through the fathomless expanse of outer space.

The All-India Trade Union Congress congratualted this victory of mankind through a cable sent to the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of Soviet Union, which reads:

" PLEASE ACCEPT BEST CONGRATULATIONS OF INDIAN WORKING CLASS TO SOVIET WORKERS SUCCESS IN LAUNCHING HUMAN BEING INTO SPACE AND SAFE RETURN. THIS MIRACULOUS ACHIEVEMENT WILL FURTHER HELP WORLD PEACE AND PROGRESS AND HAPPINESS OF MANKIND"

This success of the Soviet Union clearly shows the futility of armament and armsrace now pursued by some countries. Not only that the weopons have become obsolete, but also the initiation of another war would lead to complete devastation of the World. No longer it is a war of bows and arrows. With this new achievement of science and technology therefore better sense should prevail among mankind and the talents and energy should be used only for the attainment and preservation of peace and progress. When mankind is taking trips to outer space and going to on the threshhold of other planets, it is just idiotic to have the looming shadow of a war, a world war in particular, over the earth which can plunge the world into its doom.

To send a vehicle into space at a pre-determined speed route and obbit and to bring it back at a command to a pre-set area, is a tremendous task. Not only that one requires

multi-stage rockets of huge thrusts, guaranteed to come into operation at a given time and signal, but also an accurate calculation of trajectory and orbital path. A slight error in the calculation of speed or angle of trajectory will either take the spaceship away from the pre-determined orbit to an endless void or it will not go up at all. A clear grasp of this fact only can help to realise what a tremendous achievement this space travel was. And for that all glory to the Soviet People and the Soviet workers in particular.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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The meeting of the International Trade Union Commission on Social Security was held in Prague from March 27 to 30. Louisie Grassi, Secretary of the WFTU presided over the meeting.

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Representatives from Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Brazil, Chile, China, India, Japan, Lebanon, Finland, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia, and USSR attended the meeting.

Elena Teodorsecu, Secretary of the WFTU, in her report on the conditions of social security in different parts of the world dealt at length on the growth of workers struggles for protecting and improving the social security systems.

Together with the problems of work accidents and occupational diseases, working conditions of women, young workers and children, she elaborated the impact of capitalist exploitation and use of forced labour on the social security systems.

Detailing the effect of mechanisation and automation on production which increased the fatigue of workers, she said: " The modern machine functions at fantastic speed. It is no longer the worker who governs the machine, it is the mabhine which governs him. It only demands a few simple operation from the worker but they must be fast, precise and uniterrupted and these actions put his entire nervous system under constant pressure."

The increased intensity of the work, she continued,

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the insecurity of jobs, the long and everyday journey between the home and the work-place and other incidental conditions of work, have made the workers more vulnerable to risks from accidents ans sickness.

She explained how the WFTU since the 4th World Trade Union Congress viewed with concern the alarming situation and proved itself alert to the immediate economic and social demands of the workers. The creation of the International Commission on Social Security was continuation of that interest in this field, she said.

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Concluding her report, Elena Teodorescu, laid down the following immediate and long term tasks of the Commission:

1. To make a thorough study of the existing systems of social security as obtaining in different countries and regions of the world.

2. To make known to the WFTU Secretariat the experiences of the workers struggles in this field.

3. To propose to the WFTU Secretariat the forms of action to unite the workers around the problems of social nature.

4. To draw up propaganda material on these themes.

5. To take measures on the lines of WFTU policy for the improvement of social legislation as regards the International organisations, I.L.O., UNESCO etc., and

6. To see how technical aid and assistance in the filed of social security should be given to trade unions of the countries which have recently acquired independence.

The Commission discussed the report in the light of experience gained in various countries and approved it. It further finalised a draft charter on social security which will be circulated for discussion among the workers and trade unions of all countries.

Taking note of the suggestions from national centres, it was decided that the revised draft will be submitted to the fifth World Trade Union Congress for adoption.

The Commission decided to function on a permanent basis with a view to promote united action and international solidarity by all workers and all trade unions, irrespective of affiliation, in order to ensure the protection, widening and improvement of social security and social insurance.

Dr.M.K.Pandhe (AITUC Central Office) and Mahendra Sen (AITUC representative at the WFTU headquarters at Prague) represented the AITUC in the meeting of the Commission.

(21)

FIGHT THE CHALLANGE OF SUGAR EMPLOYERS.

— Ghanshyam Saran Sinha

The workers employed in the sugar factories after waiting for four long years could finally see the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board that was appointed in the year 1957. These recommendations, though inadequate in relation to the capacity of the industry to pay and its profitability, are unanimous and only on February 23, 1961, the Government of India ccepted these recommendations and requested the employers to implement them.

The employers as usual did not agree to the request made by the Government. Till today, if the sugar employers have demanded anything, it was that the yield per acre should be raised.

The United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation in its conference held at Baheri on March 17, 18 and 19, decided to take a strike ballot in the first week of April, if the employers did not implement the recommendations of the Wage Board.

To avoid unnecessary troubles, the U.P State Committee of the AITUC asked the Government of Uttar Pradesh to immediately call a tripartite conference on the question of implementation of the recommendations.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh called a tripartite conference on March 30, wherein the employer agreed to the justification workers demand for the implementation of the recommendations, suggested that the price of Sugar be raised to the extent of one nP per seer to meet the expenditure that will be accrued extra. They also requested for time to approach the Central Government.

When the UP Labour Minister suggested the enforcement of the recommendations through a Government order, the employers demanded time to consider the proposal in the meeting of the Indian Sugar Mills Association and accordingly a fortnight's time was granted to the employers.

In the meeting the employers declared that:

(a) they will not pay their dues to the Government;

(b) they will not pay the dues to the cane growers; and

(c) they will not implement the recommendations of the Wage Board; unless

(a)the price of sugar is increased by Rs.5.51 per maund;

(b) the price of sugar cane is brought down to Rs.1.43nP per maund, and

(c) the stock is not cleared off.

These conditions are not only coersive in nature but also against the Code of Discipline and are being taken recourse to by the employers to reverse the possibility of holding the price line on one hand and to hit the cane producers on the other.

The UP Assembly had unanimously resolved to recommend to the Central Government to increase the price of Sugar cane to Rs.2 per maund and recently S.K.Patil, Minister for Food and Agriculture, speaking at Tilaknagar justified the controls on sugar by saying:

" I want them (controls) in the interestsof the producers, so that the producers will be getting Rs.1.62 to Rs.2 or even more for their cane and they can do so only if I have some controls to regulate prices, and it is not because millowners should be assisted."(Commerce. April 1,1961

As far as the question of over stock that has been taken by the employers as one of the grounds for not paying the dues to cane growers, the Government, and the workers is concerned, it is sufficient to say that this is very much exagerated claim.

The employers have alleged to be holding stocks to the tune of 13 lac tons but that is not something stupendous or unheard of. Last year during March, April and May, the sugar stock position was 14.18, 15.19 and 14.11 lac tons respectively (Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, March 1961).

The plea is a time-worn plea adopted by the employers. The cotton textile employers also on the question of implementation of Wage Board recommendations had put forward the same plea and that move had to be fought out. Now the Government of India has declared to enforce the recommendation by by framing Statute.

Thus any demand put forward by the employers that goes to increase the price of sugar or reduce the price of sugar cane must be taken as one which is aimed at increasing the price line and to cut down the income of the cane growers. Such a demand can be described as anti-working class and anti-national and people from all walks of life should unite to fight against it.

Though the workers decided in favour of the strike in the strike ballot taken at the instance of the United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation, yet the executive of the Federation decided in favour of another course. According to this, the President of the Federation Shibban Lal Saxena, MP., would

resort to hunger strike at Delhi with effect from April 25, and he would be followed by Mukund Singh, B.D.Shukla and Madan Pandey, who would resort to hunger strike at Lucknow from the same day. All the sugar workers also will observe one day fast on the same day.

To fight the challenge given out by the employers, public opinion must be mobilised and a united struggle of the workers and the cane growers should be launched to force the employers to accept the recommendations voluntarily, failing which the Government must pressed to enforce it statutorily.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MANGANESE POISONING ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

~~Sometime in~~ On 3rd November 1958, the Government of India appointed a Manganese Poisoning Enquiry Committee for " a complete investigation of causation, extent, diagnosis and treatment of the different varieties of manganese poisoning found in the workers of the manganese mines in India and to advise on the preventive measures that may be enforced." The Committee consisted of seven doctors with Dr. M. L. Rawal, as chairman.

Chronic manganese poisoning gives out peculiar symptoms showing deleterious effects particularly in the nervous and respiratory systems. Changes take place in oral mucosa and there are indications like asthenia, anorexia, body pains, cramps etc. Besides that the poisoning leads to insomnia, mental irritability, impotence and sometimes death. This disease, although seldom fetal, mainly renders the affected person unfit for work with mental disorder. This disease has now been named as Manganism and prior to 1956, there was no available report of its existance in India.

This disease is mainly prevalent in the mines in Madhya Pradesh and in the Ferro-Manganese plant at Dandeli, Bombay.

The enquiry committee visited only 12 mines out of the total 619 (1958 figure) and examined 1,132 persons out of a total of 64,936 workers (1958 figure). These persons were from categories like drillers, driller-helpers, shot-firers, miners, loaders, heavy machine operators, ore crushers etc.

Following completion of investigation and compilation of all connected data and their analysis, the Committee submitted its recommendations to the Government of India, on November 30, 1960, which are as follows:

(1) Dry drilling must be stopped at all costs and wet drilling introduced compulsorily both underground and at surface.

(2) In general, dust control methods are stongly recommended wherever a hazard exists.

(3) In underground mining practices, the following ventilation standards are tentatively recommended:

(a) Maximum permissible concentration of 6 mgm. of manganese dust per cubic metre of air.

(b) A minimum air velocity of 50 ft. per minute at the work faces and deadends at points not more than 5 feet away from the worker.

(c) As a check, periodic dust and ventilation survey of the underground environment should be done.

(4) All manganese mines should have suitably qualified medical officers whole time or part time.

(5) All management personnel in the manganese mining should be conversant with the occupational risks in the industry.

(6) Periodic medical examination of all miners should be done and adequate records maintained.

(7) As soon as early diagnostic symptoms and signs are recognised, the worker should be withdrawn from his dusty environment to a suitable surface job and the proper authority notified.

(8) Treatment: The Committee feels that there is no specific remedy for the disease and the affected patients should be rehabilitated in new occupations suitable to their physical condition.

(9) Manganese poisoning in the mining industry should be made a compensable disease under Schedule III of the Workmen's Compensation Act, relating the extent of compensation to the neurological damage.

These recommendations of the Enquiry Committee will be placed before the next session of the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal, which is meeting in New Delhi, on April 24.

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AITUC Delegation

The Secretariat of the AITUC has nominated S.K.Sanyal, General Secretary, Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor /Nagpur, Sangh/and Nakul Guha, Assistant Secretary, United Mineral Workers Union, Gua, as Delegates and Prakash Roy, Secretary Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh and Shirali of Rajasthan STUC as Advisers, to represent AITUC in the next session of the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal which is meeting here on April 24.

(28)

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Chavan and Pant left for Tashkent on April 7 and Ponda on April 11.

+ FRATERNAL VISITORS.

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Yebaw Maung Maung and Yebaw Than Ngme, both Secretaries of the Burma Trade Union Congress and Safei Vishnu Kuntjahyo, Member, National Council of SOBSI, Indonesia, visited AITUC office on April 10, and April 2, respectively. They were on their way to Tashkent to participate in the WFTU-UNESCO study course.

Vishnu Kuntjahyo, who arrived in Delhi on March 31, was a guest of the AITUC during his stay. He left for Tashkent on April 4, while Maung Maung and Than Ngme left on April 11.

UNION REPORTS:

MADHYA PRADESH:

Nootaneswar, Secretary, Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (AITUC), was arrested by police on April 5, under section 151 I.P.C.

Nootaneswar had resorted to hunger-strike since April 4, as a protest against the unilateral actions of the management of the Central Province Manganese Ore Co., which included, among others, (a) withholding wages of a worker since last six months, (b) denial of ration to local mazdoors, (c) discrimination wages of Mates and (d) non-payment of gratuity to workers.

Nootaneswar is continuing his fast in jail. Meanwhile, Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh has protested against his unjustified arrest and demanded immediate release, failing which Nootaneswar's hunger-strike will be followed up by mass hunger-strike, the union has warned. (April 15)

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UTTAR PRADESH:

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ON STRIKE

The employees of A.P. Mission Girls School at Dehradun are on strike since March 29, in protest against the American Mission's attitude towards the employees, illegal discharge of sweeper having more than 13 years' service record, and illegal fine imposed on two employees. Besides that the employees have also demanded the regularisation of their service conditions.

The College and School Karamchari Union had earlier requested the authorities to settle up the matter through mutual negotiation but the management of the Mission did not even care to reply to the letters. Meanwhile some bogey

is being raised concerning "Christian in danger", through which attempts are being made to sow confusion and appoint blackleggers. Meanwhile the District authorities have withheld permission for the union even to hold meetings with microphone and loudspeakers. (April 10)

STRIKE IN J.K.RAYON FACTORY

All the workers of the J.K.Rayon Factory at Kanpur resorted to strike since April 8, protesting against the high-handedness of the management in arbitarily transferring the services of some of the active members of the union, attempts at terrorisation to workers against their trade union activity through employment of goondas, and non-fulfillment of any one of the items of the Charter of Demands submitted by the union on March 24. The strike is continuing peacefully and meanwhile the employers are trying to boost up an INTUC union to break the unity of the workers through active patronisation. (April 14)

PUNJAB:

A WORKERS' COOPERATIVE

A workers' Cooperative store was opened on February 28, at Chheharta at the initiative of Textile Mazdoor Ekta Union.

The cooperative is an independent body and is open to all sections of people. To begin with the store will deal with general mechandise and later on take up other items to provide with goods for the consumers.

(32)

Bombay

TATA OIL MILLS EMPLOYEES UNION, ~~BOMBAY~~

In the Works Committee election held in the Tata Oil Mills Co., (Sewri Mills), the Tata Oil Mills Employees Union (AITUC) won six seats out of a total ~~number~~ of seven seats.

The candidates put up by our affiliate were opposed by INTUC, HMS and independent candidates. Not only that six seats were won by our affiliate, but the total votes polled by its candidates exceeded ~~that~~ of all the votes polled by all other candidates taken together.

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ATTEMPT TO MURDER ~~MR~~ PURNENDU MAZUMDER

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An attempt to murder Purnendu Mazumder, General Secretary, United Mineral Workers Union, Gua (Bihar) and Member, General Council of the AITUC, on the night of April 4. A number of persons are reported to be involved in this attempt. ~~Mazumder~~

According to earlier news received in the office of the AITUC, it was learnt that Mazumder was dead but later on ~~finally~~ it was learnt that he was seriously injured.

From the details available, it was learnt that while Mazumder and of his two colleagues were returning to the Manoharpur branch office of the union after attending court at Chaibasa, they were waylaid and brutally assaulted, ~~xx~~ at place some distance away from the Manoharpur railway station. During assault~~xx~~ Mazumder rolled down the hillock where the assault took place and the miscreants left the place thinking probably he was dead.

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Following receipt of information, Kedar Das, Vice President of the AITUC and several other leaders of Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union rushed to Manoharpur. ~~Mazumder~~ By then he had been admitted to Manoharpur hospital. His condition having given rise to anxiety, Kedar Das and other brought him to Jamshedpur on April 5 and got him admitted in the ~~Jamshedpur~~ Tata Main hospital. He has since been discharged from the hospital and is in convalesing at Jamshedpur.

No arrest has been yet made by the police although Mazumder in a statement to police has named the following persons whom he had ~~id~~ identified during assault. They

(24)

are:

(1) Daulat Ali, Loco Driver, Indian Iron & Steel Co., (2) Barkat Ali, brother of Daulat Ali and a professional goonda; (3) Kishen Singh, a professional goonda at Manoharpur; (4) Sangram Lal, a chowkidar of Hirjee Pandey, a contractor of IISCO; (5) Ramadhar Chowbey, an employee of P.R.Chowbey, another contractor of IISCO; (6) Durga, another employee of P.R.Chowbey; and (7) Dinesh Chandra Verma, Secretary of the INTUC-affiliated union at Chiria, several miles off from Manoharpur, where the IISCO also owns iron mine. (About 15)

WORKERS EDUCATION BOARD MEETING

The sixth meeting of the Board of Governors of the Central Board for Workers Education was held on April 6, at New Delhi, to discuss agenda in which among other routine administrative items, was the progress report of the carrying out of the Scheme.

Never before any question in such tripartite body was decided by vote, but this time it was done on the question of constituting a Selection Board for the Third Teacher Administrator training course which is scheduled to begin sometime in June. R.L.Mehta, Chairman of the Board had already formed a selection board with one representative each from the employers and the INTUC besides some Government representatives. This was objected to by the AITUC and HMS jointly but their proposal was voted down by 6 to 2.

On the question of giving Grants-in-Aid, the AITUC representative criticised the policy of spending money on non-trade union organisations which propose to take classes of workers. Instead of really giving facilities to working class organisations, the AITUC representative pointed out, the Board was misusing money on heavy administrative expenses and by aiding bodies which have very little knowledge or experience of working of trade unions.

The Board also decided to integrate in the present syllabus some new ideas and methods of "Creative Education" which are inconsistent with the already adopted syllabus. Yet the same was passed despite protest from AITUC representative.

(36)

It was pointed out by the AITUC representative that that scheme is becoming too much bureaucratic and is gradually going away from its aims and objects. The set up as it obtains today is making the Scheme tradeunion-biased and opinions of trade union leaders are being ignored without any hesitation.

8x9
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Til today, the Board has not been able to produce a single literature for workers and no concrete aid was given to trade unions to help in their activity towards workers education.

Vithal Chaudhuri, represented the AITUC in the meeting of the Board.

(37)

(B1 10 Pt 11)

The International Trades Conference organised by the Trade Union International of Transport, Port and Fishery Workers (Trade Department of WFTU) is scheduledto ~~xx~~ take place in Budapest (Hungary) from May 9 to 13, 1961.

Brisk preparations are well under way in various countries to make this conference a great success. Already a good amount of preliminary work has been done in many countries including India. A representative delegation of these workers in India will shortly be leaving to attend this conferance and to take part in it.

(8 x 9 11)

The conference is open to all irrespective of their affiliation and this fact shows that apart from 10 milion organised membership of the TUI, the conference will have a fair cross section of the representatives of workers those who are not ~~xxx~~ in any way affiliated to TUI and that will go to make this conference a real international meeting place of these workers and a forum to discuss their problems and to embark upon programmes to improve their conditions.

The following questions which are of interest to transport port and fishery workers in all countries, will be specially discussed in the conference:

(8 x 9 11)

- increase wages and improve living and working conditions,
- oppose the evil consequences of capitalist concentration and rationalisation,
- reduce the length of working hours without loss of pay,
- ensure the effective recognition, defence and increase of trade union rights, the social role of the trade unions, workers' and democratic liberties,
- outline a transport policy in the workers' interests,
- resist actively and permanently the monopolies' grip on transport industries,
- safeguard peace and impose disarmament and peaceful co-existence against the policy of war and aggression of the imperialists, headed by the United States, against the aggressive military treaties and against American military bases on foreign territories.

In view of the transport workers' active participation in the struggle against colonialism and for national independence of all peoples, the Conference will also examine

(B2)

the contribution of the transport workers' trade unions to the struggle for the eradication of colonialism, the strengthening of the economic independence of under-developed countries and the raising of the living standard of the working people.

The Conference will provide an answer to the most essential questions related to the satisfaction of these demands: How can unity of action be established? How can we advance on the road towards international trade union unity?

The TUI has called

~~We call~~ on all trade unions of dockers, railwaymen, seamen, fishermen, urban, road and air transport workers in all countries to support the Third International Trades Conference.

TVR (38)

~~xxxxxxxx~~ PETROLEUM WORKERS CONFERENCE

The fourth delegates conference of the All-India Petroleum Workers Federation held in Bombay from March 27 to 30 was attended by 70 delegates and observers from ~~xx~~ 8 affiliated unions.

Messages and greetings to the conference came from among others, G.L.Nanda, Union Minister for Labour & Employment, V.K.R.Menon, Director of ILO, New Delhi, Trade Union International of Chemical, Oil and Allied workers as well as from oil and Chemical workers Unions of USSR, Rumania, China ~~East~~ German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Pakistan and Ceylon.

8x9/11

S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, personally greeted the conference and in course of his address characterised the petroleum industry as "one of concentrated power of capital with all its ramifications to our country, to our economy and above all in the exploitation of labour."

"Government may preach equality of capital" he said, "but that is not the politics of the working class. We will discriminate between foreign and national capital and within our country between the State and the private capital."

He brought to the notice of the delegates the competition that was on between the Indian oil company and the foreign oil companies which would bring up a time for testing the strength and efficacy of the AIPWF.

The conference passed a resolution criticising the Government for not paying enough attention to the vital interests and particularly the job security of petroleum workers who have been affected by the coming in and extension of public enterprise in the industry.

By another resolution the conference deplored the failure of the employers to abide by the Code of Discipline. It also passed resolution against arbitrary rationalisation measures and on contract labourers.

The resolutions of the conference were explained in a mass rally on March 29, that was addressed among others, by T.C.N.Menon, MP., and Shivaji Patil.

The Conference elected a working committee of 15 members with Atin Sadhu as President and G.Sundaram as General Secretary.

STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

(40)

The 19th session of the Standing Labour Committee will be held in New Delhi on April 28 and 29, 1961.

The following items are on the agenda:

(1) Action taken on the main conclusions/recommendations of the last session of the S.L.C.

(2) Industrial accidents,

(3) Sanctions under the Code of Discipline

(4) Extension of the Scheme of Joint Management councils

(5) The extent to which tripartite decisions would be binding on the parties concerned.

8+9/11

(6) Amendment of section 79 and 80 of the Factories Act, 1948 to provide for grant of leave according to exigencies of work in the factory and rate of payment for the period of leave.

(7) Functions of Works Committees.

(8) Additional measures for protection against victimisation.

(9) Amendment of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, to provide for the resolution of disputes among rival office bearers of a trade union.

(10) Abolition of Riacksaw Pulling.

(11) Organisation of All-India tours for industrial workers.

(I2) Indebtedness of the Coal Mines workers.

(13) A review of the working of the Code of Discipline and implementation machinery.

(14) Determination of the period of functioning of a union in a unit for the purpose of recognition under the Code of Discipline.

(15) Proposal for establishing an Institute of Labour Relations Research.

(16) Procedure for verification of membership of unions for the purpose of recognition under the Code of Discipline.

Cable : "AITUCONG"

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43414

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

April 11, 1961

NATIONALISE SUGAR INDUSTRY TO FIGHT ANTI-NATIONAL STRIKE BY SUGAR MAGNATES - IMPLEMENT SUGAR WAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

~~Shri~~ K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary, AITUC, ~~has~~ issued the following statement to Press on April 11.

"Sugar magnates have thrown a challenge by bringing out the plea of crisis of over-production or 'too much stocks' of sugar in the country to make an excuse for not implementing the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board and thus denying the sugar workers their part of the dues which they secured after waiting for five years. In April last year, employers in the textile industry were also talking in the same vein - then suddenly the crisis of under-production had turned to be of accumulation of stocks.

"The Government and the employers, including those in the sugar industry, gave the slogan of increasing production. Production is going up. Profits are going up. Sugar industry is one with highest profits in the country. Even then, the recommendations of the Wage Board, inadequate as they are, are not being implemented. The employers are utilising, as in every case, every opportunity to wax concessions from the Government in excise duty, export, reduction in price of cane, and they deny the workers and sugarcane growers of their legitimate dues and continue raising the price of sugar at the slightest opportunity, in the name of crisis.

"The three Government-run sugar mills in Doiwala, Mohiuddinpur and Khadda have agreed to implement the recommendations of the Wage Board while those run by private employers have refused to do so. At the tripartite conference held in Lucknow on March 30, the private employers have, in downright terms, refused to implement the Wage Board recommendations. Unfortunately, the U.P.Government has supported the employers and given them time to approach the Government of India and is also moving it for more concessions to sugar employers.

"This situation makes it abundantly clear that employers in the private sector of this industry, in spite of the huge profits and continuous rise in production, are unable to manage the industry, and are busy in the anti-national work of blackmailing the Government at the cost of sugar workers, cane growers, consumers and even the Government. Therefore, a case for nationalisation of sugar industry should be considered by the Government and the people as the only solution out of the impasse, if the present conditions continue. As in the textiles, as announced by the Union Labour Minister, the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board should also be implemented statutorily.

"The working class in particular and the sugarcane growers, public at large as consumers, should unite and raise their voice forcefully against this anti-national strik manufacturers."

(K.G.Sriwa
Secretary

Cable : "AITUCONG"

Telephones : 48771
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ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

Circular No.STUC/5/61 April 5, 1961

To All STUCs

Sub: WAGE BOARDS FOR IRON & STEEL AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

Dear Comrades,

You must have seen in the newspapers that the Union Labour Minister, Shri G.L.Nanda, made an announcement in the Lok Sabha on April 4, that a Tripartite Wage Board would be shortly set up in the Iron & Steel Industry.

Shri Nanda also stated that the proposal for setting up another Wage Board for the Engineering Industry is under the consideration of the Government.

It was also announced that Government is considering the question of establishing a fund to render help to workers affected by closure of factories, etc.

The AITUC since long had been fighting for these demands, concerning Wage Boards and unemployment benefits, among others.

The decision taken by the Government to constitute a tripartite Wage Board in Iron & Steel industry is a positive gain of the iron and steel workers in our country. The AITUC takes pride to state that this concession was achieved because of the consistent endeavours made by the AITUC and the initiative and militancy shown by the workers in their struggles.

Our next tasks concerning the Wage Board for Iron & Steel are outlined as follows:

TO DEMAND: (1) Immediate announcement of the personnel of the Wage Board and terms of referrence.

(2) Inclusion of a representative of the AITUC in the Wage Board.

(3) Early sitting of the Wage Board to start its work and submission of recommendations to the Government without delay.

(4) Grant of interim relief to workmen till such time the final recommendations are made and accepted.

TO ORGANISE: (1) Collection of data on the industry and condition of the workers, to help preparation of statement of workers' claims.

(2) Centralised arrangement for the conduct of Wage Board proceedings inasmuch as the AITUC affiliates are concerned.

Our affiliates should start collecting immediately the data to substantiate workers' claims, generally in line with the questionnaires issued by other Wage Boards.

. . . .page two

The AITUC will be convening a meeting of the representatives of our affiliates in the iron and steel industry immediately after the questionnaire is issued by the Wage Board. Meanwhile, proper and adequate arrangements should be made by our affiliates to popularise the issues among the workers through meetings, leaflets and other media of propaganda.

The AITUC affiliates in the engineering industry should further strengthen their agitation and campaign for the early setting up of a tripartite Wage Board for the Engineering Industry.

CIRCULAR No.STUC/6/61
~~To all STUCs~~

~~Sub:~~ TRADE UNION RIGHTS DAY - MAY 1, 1961

~~Dear Comrades~~,

As you are aware, the 26th Session of the AITUC directed that May Day 1961 should be celebrated as "Trade Union and Democratic Rights Day". The resolution adopted by the Session on this subject had been reproduced in the TRADE UNION RECORD dated February 20, 1961.

You are requested to take immediate steps in order to mobilise the workers and trade unions for powerful demonstrations of protest against the attacks on trade union and democratic rights.

The resolution adopted by the 26th Session demanded:

1) Repeal of Sec.107, 151 and other preventive sections of Cr.P.C. as well as the Preventive Detention Act, M.P.Essential Service and Public Security Act, etc.

2) Amendment of the Police Acts and the Police Code.

3) Repeal of Sec. 4(a) and 4(b) of the Central Government Employees' Conduct Rules and similar provisions of the Railway Establishment Code and the Standing Orders; repeal of the Safeguarding of National Security Rules.

4) All Government employees who fall in the category of 'workman' under the Industrial Disputes Act should have the right to form trade unions.

5) Right to hold meetings and access to workers for trade unionists in all colonies of workers and townships.

6) Recognition of trade unions on the basis of secret ballot of all workers of the undertaking concerned.

7) An end to discrimination against the AITUC and its affiliates.

These demands, in the main, should be popularised among the workers.

Please let us have a report on the action you are taking on this circular.

~~With greetings,~~

Yours fraternally,

(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary

760/11/4/61

Replied

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

April 6, 1961.

W.F.T.U. STATEMENT ON ANGOLA

The following statement was issued by the WFTU Secretariat on April 6, 1961:

To exploit the riches of its colonies the SALAZAR dictatorship has created and is maintaining in Angola a slave system that is legal and official: 250,000 men and women workers are annually subject to forced labour. More than 80,000 of them are annually sold as slaves to the mining companies of South Africa. So the hateful regime of SALAZAR based on the exploitation and suppression of the Portuguese people is imposing the most barbarous regime of slavery on the workers of Angola and the other Portuguese colonies for the greatest profit of the monopolies.

The workers and the people of Angola inspired and encouraged by the example of its brother peoples who have already freed themselves from colonial exploitation and have won their national independence are redoubling their efforts in the struggle against Portuguese colonialism and all the imperialist forces who support it and for national independence despite the tortures and the bloody repression carried out by the Portuguese colonialists.

In their brave struggle the workers and people of Angola can depend on the unshakeable and powerful solidarity of the international working class, the progressive trade unions and all the democratic forces who are struggling throughout the world for the right of the peoples to independence and for their free determination.

The World Federation of Trade Unions is trying to show the workers and people of Angola the unswerving support and solidarity of its 107 million members. By denouncing the persecutions, the violations of the Rights of Man and the fundamental freedoms, the collective murderers and the bloody repressive methods practised by the Portuguese colonialists, it pays homage to the countless victims of this colonialist repression. It appeals to the workers and trade unions throughout the world to support even more firmly the rightful struggle of the workers and people of Angola for complete and immediate independence.

W.F.T.U. Secretariat

sorily scrapped and that the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act may be suitably amended so as to ensure that in cases where the mill's plant and machinery are irretrievable, compulsory scrapping may be enforced and such scrapped machinery should not be permitted to be utilised elsewhere.

The Working Group has recommended that labour laws should be amended in those States where more than one union is recognised at present so as to enable the management to negotiate a settlement with only one Union as spokesman of the labour.

The Working Group, on principle, do not consider that allocation of additional capacity should be governed by the volume of surplus labour on account of rehabilitation and modernisation of the industry in each of the parts of the country.

The Working Group has recommended that it will help reduce the size of the problem of surplus labour if provision is made for suitable gratuity on superannuation. In addition, compensation by agreement may be provided for to achieve a further measure of rationalisation.

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TEXTILE WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A Working Group for the cotton textile industry was set up in August 1959 by the National Industrial Development Corporation to examine the extent of finances required for modernisation and rehabilitation of the cotton textile industry, the element of foreign exchange involved, the finances likely to be forthcoming from the industry itself, the ways and means of securing the balance, and all other allied problems.

The Working Group has submitted an unanimous report in which they have particularly emphasised the fact that in India the problem of modernisation has assumed its present huge dimensions largely because of the old and outmoded machinery installed in the majority of the mills and the comparative neglect of these machinery during the war years and thereafter.

The Government of India have expressed that they were broadly in agreement with the recommendations of the Working Group.

Many of the recommendations of the Working Group are intended to be implemented by the industry, particularly those relating to rationalisation with the wholehearted cooperation of labour, enlargement of the scope of third shift working as a means of absrobing surplus labour, improving managerial standards, pooling of technical knowledge and exercise for the common benefit of all units, particularly the weaker ones, and the setting up of a small Committee of representatives of the industry and Government to explore the possibilities of securing assistance from different foreign countries towards the foreign exchange requirements of rehabilitation and modernisation.

The Working Group has also drawn the attention of the industry to the need for maintaining harmonious management-

labour relations, providing intiative to labour to contribute to the efficiency of the mills, training within industry and maintenance of healthy service conditions for technicians.

The Working Group considers it necessary that a continued examination of the causes of closures, losses and unsatisfactory working of less efficiently working textile units should be made.

It has recommended that this diagnosis may be done by a small representative group consisting of the top level management, top level technicians, labour representatives and Government representatives. This group may be designed as the Textile Mills Standing Advisory Group or Committee.

The Working Group has drawn attention to the inevitability of a certain amount of rationalisation in the process of modernisation. As the problems of rationalisations are bfound to differ from mill to mill, the Working Group has recommended the setting up of a sutiable machinery which could analyse and help to resolve the problems of each individual mill.

~~The Working Group has pointed out~~

Another important recommendation of the Working Group is with regard to the revival of closed mills under Government auspices or any other suitable agencies. The Working Group has recommended that simulteneously with the continual running of such units by authorised Controllers of State Governments or Central Government or any sther suitable agencyes, there ~~x~~ should be a process of compulsory liquidationso that the assets and liabilities of the old unit are availableto the labour and other creditors, ~~x~~management and the shareholders.

The Working Group has pointed out that where rehabilitation of a unit is not worthwhile, the unit shouldbe compul-

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MAN CONQUERS SPACE

APRIL 12, 1961, will go down in the history of mankind as the day of most significant victory ever attained by man over nature. This day heralds the triumph of spcialism and labour in the world over in scientific and technological progress and opens up new vista towards further and future achievements. On this day, the first man rocketted to space, orbitted round the earth and came back safely to land. Space travel no longer remains a dream of mankind.

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It was not merely a coincidence or a chance that the first man to conquer space and return to earth was a Soviet man - a man from the land of socialism that guarantees unhindered scope of development to all and leads towards progress and peace. The journey to space and back could be so quickly made possible because it was only in the socialistic society, people had the free scope to fully utilise and cultivate their talents and creative urge for the use and betterment of mankind.

Start

It was not an easy task to send a man to space and bring him safely back. Behind this spectacular achievement lay the consistent and collective efforts of scientists and technicians of all branches in the Soviet Union.

Yuri Alexeyevich Vagarin, the first space traveller is the son of a collective farmer. He is aged 27, married and father of two daughters. He began his career as a Moulder and simulteneously started learning flying in 1955. He was graduated in grade A in 1957 and since then he has been a flier.

Yuri Vagarin conquered space in a spaceship named

"VOSTOK" (meaning "The East"), which was composed of several multi-stage rockets and a specially constructed cabin. The spaceship soared up from the earth attaining a final speed of about 18,000 miles per hour. The cabin itself excluding the rocket-part weighed more than 4 ½ tons. Vagarin orbitted the earth in 89 minutes 6 seconds at a minimum height of 175 kilometres (about 109 miles) and a maximum of 302 kilometres (about 187 miles).

The first man-made satellite to orbit round the earth also was launched by the Soviet Union on October 4, 1957. This satellite weighed only 184 pounds and since then the Soviet Union has been continuously going ahead with bigger and better launchings including sending up animals to space and brining them back. It was through a Soviet spaceship that for the first time mankind saw the pictures of the hidden side of moon. It was also a Soviet rocket that landed on moon for the first time.

The safe voyage of man into cosmos and return to earth opens up new perspective and it is certain that very soon man will travel to distant planets and heavenly bodies streaking through the fathomless expanse of outer space in the rocket vehicles.

The All-India Trade Union Congress congratulated this victory of mankind through a cable sent to the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of Soviet Union, which reads:

"PLEASE ACCEPT BEST CONGRATUALTIONS OF INDIAN WORKING CLASS TO SOVIET WORKERS SUCCESS IN LAUNCHING HUMAN BEING INTO SPACE AND SAFE RETURN/ THIS MIRACULOUS

ACHIEVEMENT WILL FURTHER HELP WORLD PEACE AND PROGRESS AND HAPPINESS OF MANKIND."

This success of the rocketry of the Soviet Union clearly shows the futility of armament which is now being maddeningly pursued by some countries. Not only that the conventional weapons have become obsolete, but also it is certain that the begining of another war would mean the complete devastation of the world we live in. No longer a war is a war of bows and arrows.

With this new achievement of science and technology therefore better sense should prevail among those who still believe to establish their supremecy by war and the talent and energy of mankind ~~would~~ should be used only for the attainment and preservation of peace and further progress. Soviet union therefore along with the successful space flight issues an appeal for peace and disarmament.

When man is taking trips to outer space and on the threshhold of visiting other planets, it is just madness and idiotic to have the ominous shadow of a war looming large before the world that can anytime plunge the world to its doom. Complete and general disarmament has now therefore become an imminent necessity.

To send a vehicle into space at a pre-determined speed, route and orbit and to bring it back at a command to land in a pre-arranged area, is a tremendous technological feat. Not only that it requires mutli-stage rockets of given powers amounting to thousands of pounds of thrusts, it must also be guaranteed that the space ship would respond to "orders" to go into different movements at a given time and signal. It must also have an accurate flight path, ~~or trajectory and orbit.~~

TUR (8)

A slight error in the calculation of speed or angle of ~~trajectory~~ freight will either ~~atek~~ take the spaceship away from the pre-determined orbit to an endless void or it will not go up at all. Similar ~~is~~ are the problems in landing operation.

A clear grasp of this fact alone would be sufficient to realise what a tremendous achievement Yuri Vagarin's space travel was. And for attaining that success, all glory to the Soviet people and the soviet scientists, technicians and workers in particular.

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Labour Minister Announces

* WAGE BOARD FOR IRON & STEEL

* LEGISLATION TO ENFORCE TEXTILE WAGE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS

* FUND FOR RELIEF TO WORKERS HIT BY CLOSURES

The decision of the Government to appointment of a Wage Board for the Iron & Steel Industry was announced by G.L.Nanda, Minister for Labour & Employment, in the Lok Sabha on April 4.

He also announced the Government's decision to bring forward legislation to compel textile mills to implement the recommendations of the Textile Wage Board.

Another announcement made by the Labour Minister was that the Government proposes to institute a fund to provide relief to workers thrown out of employment as a result of closures.

Shri Nanda was speaking on Demands for Grants for the Labour Ministry, which was voted upon by the Lok Sabha on April 4.

In his speech initiating the debate on labour grants, G.L.Nanda said that in the textile industry, employing 800,000 workers, there were wage increases ranging from 10% to 16.6% in category I, and from 8.6% to 21% in category II.

In the cement industry, employing 500,000 workers, the increases ranged from 7% to 100%, as per the Wage Board's recommendations. In the sugar industry, employing five lakh workers, it ranged from 8% to 70% and in the jute industry, employing two and a half lakh workers, the interim recommendations of the Wage Board gave an increase of 5%, the Labour Minister said.

He said that while there was steady expansion of employment from year to year, the number of unemployed was also going up.

Referring to the steps being taken to provide

employment, he said that since the apprenticeship scheme which was worked out on a voluntary basis had not yielded encouraging results, it had been decided to make it compulsory through legislation.

He stated that employment opportunities had been rising at the rate of 6.8% per annum in the public sector and 4.8% in the private sector.

G.L.Nanda said that the number of man-days lost had declined in 1959, compared to the figures for 1956. One of the main factors responsible for the better industrial relations that now existed, according to him, was the Code of Discipline, which was gradually getting under acceptance.

The coverage of the Code was practically complete, the Minister said, so far as the public sector was concerned - the railways were a special case - and in the private sector, there were only a few branches still out of it - banks, general insurance companies, the Press Trust of India and the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society.

G.L.Nanda said that he attached a great deal of importance to workers' participation in management of industry. The workers' education programme, he said, would cover one million people in the Third Plan.

The managements also required some education and "we hope to extend this system to them also," he added.

Later, replying to the debate, G.L.Nanda said that legislation would be brought forward shortly to implement the recommendations of the Textile Wage Board. He claimed that the recommendations had been implemented by more than 80% of the industry.

He criticised the owners of sugar mills for linking the question of price with the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board. The recommendation stood independently

and should be implemented, he said. If prices rose, something could be done.

Referring to the labour policy of public sector undertakings, the Labour Minister said that ~~the~~ in the early stages, they might not have paid enough attention to it. At an inter-Ministerial conference a few days ago, it was decided to go ahead vigorously with workers' participation in public sector undertakings. A special cell would be set up in the Labour Ministry for implementation of this decision.

The Minister spoke of the weaknesses of the trade union movement and said that there could be unity only on the basis of a common programme. He denied there was partisanship in the Government's attitude to trade unions.

The question of accidents would be considered by the Standing Labour Committee and the Indian Labour Conference, he said.

G.L.Nanda said that wages in the manufacturing industries had increased by 6% under the two Plans. In the other industries, the increase was about 27%. It was true that the wage position had deteriorated in relation to the prices in the last two years in some cases but this would be set right by the Wage Boards, the Minister added.

He denied that there were difference between his Ministry and the other Ministries on the question of price policy. He agreed that the condition of agricultural labour demanded attention. A committee had recently been set up by the Planning Commission to study the subject.

He said the new census figures were worrying the Government as it brought it face to face with a somewhat new situation in regard to employment. "We have to consider how much more it is possible for us to do," he ~~xx~~ added.

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Indrajit Gupta's Speech

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The Government of India's labour policy should be a policy of providing the minimum rights to labour, which is deprived of those rights and which rights are overdue - said Indrajit Gupta, Secretary, AITUC, while speaking in the Lok Sabha, in the debate on demands for grants for Labour Ministry, on April 4.

He said that it would be a wrong theory to pose that the two forces of labour and capital in this country are more or less equally balanced and the Government have to play a kind of middle or balancing role between the two.

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The report of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that the Plan targets of production in many of the sectors of ~~xxxxxxx~~ industry have been exceeded. There has been a rise of 18 points in the index of industrial production over the 11 months of 1960. Productivity has increased at the rate of three per cent nearly as the Labour Minister himself stated.

The index of profits, with base 1950 = 100, has gone upto 170 now. As far as prices are concerned, enough has been said about it and there is enough material by way of statistics. But real wages, because of the rise in prices, have been falling.

The Labour Minister said in the morning - and he is correct - that compared to 1951 or 1952, there has been an increase in real earnings. But if we look at the overall development, what do we find?

I am reminded of an article written by one of the Deputy Labour Ministers, a short while ago, which shows that if we take the pre-war base, in 1939 as 100, in 1958, the real wages of workers had come down to 98.2.

Indrajit Gupta pointed out, quoting statistics about value added to ~~xxxxxxx~~ production by workers, that for

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every rupee which was paid in wages, the worker was returning by way of production not only that one rupee but also Rs.2.39 more. So nobody can complain that the workers have not been contributing to production or increase in production or productivity and so on.

Referring to the Model Agreement on Rationalisation, Indrajit Gupta said that this agreement is being violated by employers. This is seen from the fact that in 10 years, the total number of workers employed in W.Bengal, despite the growth in number of registered factories, has fallen. The only explanation for this phenomenon is that simultaneously with industrial development, rationalisation is being carried out by the employers by methods which contravene all the safeguards provided in the Model Agreement on Rationalisation.

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SECRET DIRECTIVE TO BANKS

Indrajit Gupta said: "I do not know whether the Labour Minister knows it, but I have information at my disposal that on December 13 last, the Governor of the Reserve Bank, H.V.R. Iengar, met the heads of the banks in Bombay in a secret meeting where he is reported to have told them that in view of the increasing demands of the employees, banks should build up their secret reserves. They have not got adequate secret reserves, and they should be built up so that smaller profits can be shown. I wish to know whether Government approves of this kind of thing."

Pointing out to the non-implementation of Wage Board recommendations, Indrajit Gupta referred to the strike in the Ranavav cement factory and the notice for strike given in Andhra and Mysore cement factories.

The interim increase in wages given to jute workers has been completely nullified by the reduction in working hours, he said. As against Rs.3.42 interim increase, jute workers lost over Rs.5 due to reduction in hours

and thus the workers suffered a net loss of over Rs.2.

In obtaining sanction for reduction of hours, the employers in jute industry bypassed the Labour Ministry and got the approval of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This unilateral action of the employers was in complete violation of the Code of Discipline.

Indrajit Gupta spoke in detail about the denial of trade union rights. Unions which do not belong to the INTUC are not allowed to function properly and are suppressed in some cases. He referred in this connection to the suppression of the Hindustan Machine Tools Employees' Association.

He said cases of murder and conspiracy are foisted on trade unionists as in Gua iron ore mines and East Nimcha colliery. They were acquitted by the court later.

"In East Nimcha, 33 workers including the Secretary of the union were arrested on charges of attempted murder and arson in the colliery. Now, on March 15, the judgement of the Sessions Court has come acquitting all of them and strictures have been passed against the police by the Sessions Judge saying that in a case of alleged murder, the police is capable of producing a false corpse in order to frame up the case. They are capable of doing anything. I would request the Labour Minister to read that judgment."

Indrajit Gupta added that the same sort of attempt is being made at Barbil.

He quoted from the report of the ICFTU delegation to the 17th Session of the ECAFE, on the denial of TU rights:

"In some of the Asian countries which have achieved political emancipation, and which have accepted democratic planning as the goal of economic development, we have discovered to our regret that inalienable basic rights of workers are abridged, denied and infringed by the private employers and the Governments. The workers in

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these areas are denied the right to organise, bargain collectively and strike."

In their conference held at Manila last year, the ICFTU had protested against the victimisation of Central Government employees after their strike and had urged upon the Government to take a lenient view. Indrajit Gupta quoted the ICFTU statement:

"The representatives of the free trade unions assembled there expressed their deep dissatisfaction, indignation and advocated for the reinstatement of these rights of workers in accordance with the principles of ILO charter by its member governments and the employers in the Asian region. Our earlier protests, however, in this regard have not been heeded by the employers. Therefore, we raise our voice once again to say that flagrant violation of trade union rights in these countries amounts to denial of basic rights of democracy."

Indrajit Gupta added: "This is what the ICFTU say, which is a most virulent anti-communist organisation. Therefore, I would request the Labour Ministry to pay a little more attention to this matter, because simply by suppressing workers and their trade union rights, nothing is going to succeed."

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S.M.BANERJEE'S SPEECH

Demand for
Speaking on the/grant ~~of~~ for Labour Ministry, S.M.Banerjee reiterated the demand of the Government employees for higher dearness allowance and justified it by rise of prices that has come about following additional taxation.

In that context, he said that the due to the inability of the present Government to hold the price line, the demand arises: "Either hold the price line or give us more dearness allowance", and therfore the Government should reconsider the demand and see that dearness allowance is properly reviewed.

S.M.Banerjee welcomed the setting up of the Wage Boards for more and more industries and pointed out that they would not bring relief to the workers unless their recommendations were implemented. He mentioned specifically how some of the textile mills flouted recommendations and awards. He also cited instances of several Kanpur mills who have not implemented Nimbkar Committee's award. Reference was also made by him to the interim relief granted by the Jute Wage Board not implemented by the Jute millowners.

S.M.Banerjee cited instances where some textile millowners have arbitarily increased working hours of workmen and evaded tax payment by contributing donation to the ruling party.

S.M.Banerjee mentioned that in Rourkela Steel Plant, which is in Public Sector, all labour legislations were being flouted. He also referred to the Award of the National Tribunal which has not been implemented by the management of Press Truct of India so far.

S.M.Banerjee demanded the restoration of recognition

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to the trade unions of Government employees, against whom action was taken in connection with last year's strike. He also demanded the reinstatement of 400 dismissed TISCO workers whose services were dispensed with following a strike in May 1958. He also demanded the setting up of a ..... Wage Board for Newspaper employees.

8x9/11

Information Department
of the USSR Embassy in India
25, Barakhamba Road,
Post Box No. 241,
NEW DELHI-1.
GRAMS : SOVINFORM. PHONE : 46240

भारत में सोवियत समाजवादी जनतंत्र
संघ के दूतावास का सूचना विभाग
२५, बारहखम्भा रोड,
नई दिल्ली।
तार : सोविनफार्म. टेलीफोन : 46240

26.4.61.

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AITUC
Received 1087/28-4-61
Replied

Ref: PR/Ex/Rem.

To,
The Editor,
"Trade Union Record",
New Delhi.

Sub: Article for publication

Dear Sir,

We beg to remind you that we sent you an article, "Soviet Workers' Tribute." by A. Bletin on 25th 1.61. for use in your esteemed paper on an exclusive basis. We regret to say that we have not yet been informed whether it has been or will be published by you. We would, therefore, request you to let us know at your earliest convenience whether it will be possible for you to make use of the article.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(L.S.Kourilov)
Information Officer,
USSR Embassy in India.

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AGREEMENT ON COMPOSITION OF
BONUS COMMISSION

At the 19th Session of the Standing Labour Committee which met in Delhi on April 28, it was agreed that the Bonus Commission may include two representatives each from employers' and workers' organisations also.

The employers' organisations withdraw their initial objection to the composition of the original three-man commission. One of the employers' organisations, the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation, which could not agree to the proposal at the meeting, was to communicate its views within a week.

The Bonus Commission will now have seven members, presided over by M.R.Meher, who was the Chairman of the Cement Wage Board. The other members originally nominated were B.K.Ganguly, economist, and M.Govinda Reddy, M.P. The representatives of workers and employers (two each) are yet to be nominated.

It was agreed at the Standing Labour Committee meeting that the terms of reference of the Bonus Commission should be finalised by a sub-committee of the SLC.

The sub-committee will be composed of four worker representatives (one each from AITUC, INTUC, HMS and UTUC), three employer representatives (one each from EFI, AIOIE and AIMO) and representatives of as many State Governments as may desire to participate. The sub-committee is to meet by the middle of May.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

It was also recommended by the SLC that tripartite Safety Councils should be set up at State and Central levels, to reduce the incidence of industrial accidents. The Councils would cover all industries expect mining, and including building and construction.

The SLC also decided to keep the status quo regarding Works Committees since no agreement could be reached on the scope, composition and functioning of these committees.

WAGE BOARD FOR IRON ORE AND MANGANESE
MINING INDUSTRY DEMANDED
Industrial Committee Meeting

...

At the Second Session of the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal which met in New Delhi on April 24, the AITUC delegation demanded that the question of appointment of a Wage Board for iron ore and manganese mining industry should be discussed by the Committee.

The long delay of three years in convening the Second Session of the Committee was criticised by all worker delegates. As they pointed out, the convening of the Second Session was as though for declaring iron ore mining as 'public unity' and thus impose further curbs on workers' rights.

And in spite of the lapse of three years, it was noticed that two of the major recommendations of the last session remained unimplemented. These were, firstly, the extension of Minimum Wages Act to iron ore and other mining operations, and, secondly, the constitution of the Manganese Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

According to the Government, the delay has been due to the administrative and other preliminary arrangements involved. Due to these difficulties, Government decided to extend the Minimum Wages Act by stages to cover iron ore, manganese, gypsum, barytes and bauxite mines during the first phase.

The AITUC delegates pointed out that at the Industrial Committee, it was agreed in 1958 that there should be no phasing in extending the Minimum Wages Act. The workers concerned were the worst exploited. The INTUC representative referred to the contract system continuing in these mines, the contractors paying such low wages as eight annas per day.

The Union Labour Minister assured that a time-limit

would now be set to ensure speedy implementation.

With regard to the constitution of Manganese Mines Labour Welfare Fund, it was stated by Government that the Orissa Government had waived their earlier objection but it was, however, decided not to proceed with it until the economic position of the industry improved.

The worker delegates criticised this decision. The AITUC delegate said that the contention that collection of the cess should be dependent on the "economic position" of the industry was illogical. Besides, there was no serious crisis at any time during the last two years for the upgrade ores.

WELFARE CESS ON IRON ORE

The Committee considered the introduction of legislation for welfare measures for workers in iron ore mines and the proposal for the levy of a welfare cess on iron ore. The employer representative (from TISCO) suggested that the cess should be only 16 nP instead of the proposed 50 nP. The levy was opposed by some State Governments on the plea that there were State levys in Orissa and Maharashtra.

The Government of Rajasthan said that mines in the State produce low-grade ores and hence should not be saddled with additional levy or cess. The AITUC representative refuted this statement. He said the mine-owners in the State were fairly prosperous and were wasting money on bribery and attempts to throttle legitimate TU activities.

The AITUC and INTUC representatives expressed the view that the scheme should be worked on a national scale and no step to better the working conditions could be taken if the smaller units became the ceiling. Other mines as dolomite and mica should also be included in this scheme.

G.L.Nanda, the Union Labour Minister, summing up the discussions, said that on a national scale, it was

necessary to guarantee welfare measures to iron ore miners and to levy a cess. A major portion of the fund would be utilised for housing and medical services. The AITUC delegates had earlier demanded that three-fifths of the Fund should be earmarked for housing, one-fifth for hospitals including maternity wards, and the rest for recreational activities.

The proposal to declare iron ore mines as "Public Utility Service" under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, was dropped following the effective opposition to the move from all worker representatives.

The AITUC delegate said that if the Government were serious about the importance of labour in iron ore mining, measures should have been taken to ameliorate the miserable conditions of the workers. A Wage Board for Iron and Steel Industry has now been announced but the iron ore mines have been left out.

The Union Labour Minister while agreeing to drop the proposal, said that he would, however, insist on the trade unions giving a fortnight's notice for strike, under the Code of Discipline.

MANGANESE POISONING

The Committee discussed the report of the Manganese Poisoning Enquiry Committee. The contention of the TISCO representative that wet-drilling could not be undertaken due to non-availability of equipment was refuted by the Chief Inspector of Mines. He said that wet-drilling involved no serious modification to the present operation and could be easily undertaken.

The AITUC delegate welcomed the report and made suggestions for making its recommendations more positive. The Labour Minister assured that suitable measures would be taken to implement the recommendations in the light of suggestions made.

The AITUC was represented at the Industrial Committee meeting by S.K.Sanyal and Prakash Roy (Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra), Nakul Guha (United Mineral Workers' Union, Gua iron ore mines, Bihar) and D.P.Shirali (Rajasthan Mineral Workers Union).

icuba si, yanquis no!

INDIAN WORKERS PROTEST AGAINST
AMERICAN AGGRESSION ON CUBA

+

The crushing of the U.S.imperialist-inspired aggression on Cuba in April, and the world-wide protest against the imperialists, the unity and solidarity expressed by the workers of the world in resisting this aggression will go down as one of the most significant events in recent history.

Heroic Cuba humbled the mighty U.S.imperialists when the bluff was called on U.S.trade boycott following the liberation of Cuba from fascist dictatorship. Cuba nationalised the imperialist capital, the property of oil trusts and sugar monopolists.

They got their licking for the second time in April this year.

On Saturday, April 15, planes bombed Cuba. On Monday, April 17, groups of mercenaries, organised and armed by the American imperialists, landed in Cuba to attempt a counter-revolution.

The workers of Latin America and the whole world immediately rose in mass protests, As the WFTU pointed out, This prompt reaction showed how alert the working class of the world is the danger of the imperialists' aggressive moves and to the need for vigilance in defending the Cuban revolution.

In less than 72 hours, the imperialist-inspired invasion was crushed.

During this period, the workers throughout the world had expressed their emphatic protest against the imperialist aggressors and pledged their solidarity with the Cuban Government and people.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, in a statement issued on April 19, said:

PROTESTS FROM INDIA

The Indian workers and people have unequivocally condemned American-~~aggression~~ inspired aggression on Cuba.

The AITUC in a statement issued on April 19, had called upon all unions and workers, irrespective of affiliation, to express solidarity with the Cuban workers and people, to denounce imperialists and their supporters, and demand of the UN to act immediately in defence of Cuban freedom. The AITUC called for protest meetings and~~xxxxxx~~ demonstrations all over India.

The statement said: "Attack on the newly-won Cuban independence under the leadership of Dr.Fidel Castro, by the supporters of Western imperialists is so naked that it is time that forces against imperialism and for world peace ensure that the invaders are sent out without any delay.

"The progressive measures that the Castro Government has taken in defence of Cuban independence and in favour of its people, particularly the working class, have been welcomed by the freedom-loving people and working class all over the world. Any attempt to undo the same has also to be fought by world opinion."

The AITUC also demanded of the Government of India to move in the UN ~~xxx~~ in defence of Cuba and to assure support to the Cuban people unreservedly.

Hundreds of people demonstrated in front of the American Embassy in New Delhi on April 21, shouting "Hands Off Cuba", "Down with U.S.imperialism", "Kennedy khooni hai" (Kennedy is a murderer), "Fidel Castro Zindabad"!

Handing over a protest memorandum to the embassy official, Y.D.Sharma, AITUC leader told him: "Tell your bosses to keep off Cuba and not help the invaders".

Later the demonstrators marched to the Cuban Embassy and congratulated the heroic people of Cuba in crushing the imperialist-inspired invation.

Big demonstrations were held in front of American Consultates in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. The demonstra-

CUBAN VICTORY HAILED

The ~~victory~~ General Secretary of the WFTU, Louis Saillant, sent the following message on April 25, to the Revolutionary Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC):

tion in Bombay was led by the President of the AITUC, S.S.Mirajkar.

5000 textile workers of Amritsar, in a meeting held on April 20, strongly condemned U.S. intervention in Cuba.

In May Day rallies held in all industrial centres in India, solidarity with Cuba was a keynote of the celebrations.

AITUC PRESIDENT ON TOUR

S.S.Mirajkar, President, AITUC, presided over the Conference of the Kerala Toddy Tappers' Federation at Vaikom on April 29 and 30. Later, he addressed the May Day rally in Trivandrum.

On May 6, the AITUC President will inaugurate Maharashtra Beedi Workers Conference at Sangamner. He will attend the Conference of Grassim Mazdoor Union, at Birlagram, Nagda (Madhya Pradesh) on May 15 and 16. Later in May, he will visit Ratlam, Indore and Ujjain.

जसवन्त शुगर मिल में भूख हड़ताल

मजदूर सिंह मजदूर यूनियन ब्रान्च आफिस जसवन्त शुगर मिल मेरठ के तत्वाधान में मिल के मजदूर फैक्ट्री गेट पर वेजबोर्ड की सिफारिशें लागू कराने के लिये भूख हड़ताल कर रहे हैं। यूनाइटेड चीनी मिल मजदूर फेडरेशन के नेता श्री शिव्वा दयाल चकवेना एम. पी. तथा उन के चार साथियों के लखनऊ और दिल्ली में आज से भूख हड़ताल प्रारम्भ की है उन की सहानुभूति में मिल के सभी कर्मचारी भूख हड़ताल २४ घंटे की तथा आगे चल कर कुछ कर्मचारी लगातार भूख हड़ताल पर बैठेंगे।

મનહરપુર, રોહાના, નકૌલી,
દેવબન્દ, ગઢીનવુ, નગરુ,
ઇકબાલપુર.

सैक्रेटरी A.I.T.U.C.

ता. 24-8-61

आज से पल्ली जी शुगर मिल मजदूर यूनियन उत्तरप्रदेश ने शुगर वेज बोर्ड की सिफारिशों को लागू कराने के लिये 24 घंटे की सांकेतिक सूचि हड़ताल चालू कर दी है। आज यूनियन के जनरल सैक्रेटरी श्री के.एन. सहं व कार्यकारिणी के तथा 10 सदस्यों के साथ 26 मजदूर सूचि हड़ताल में शामिल हुए। कल यूनियन के संयुक्त मंत्री श्री रामचरित्र सिंह के साथ 32 आदमी सूचि हड़ताल पर बैठेंगे। जब तक सरकार वेज बोर्ड की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के लिए कानून नहीं बनाती तब तक सूचि हड़ताल चालू रहेगी।

रामचरित्र सिंह
24-8-61
सं. मंत्री
पल्ली जी शुगर मिल
मजदूर यूनियन
उत्तरप्रदेश

शामली चीनी मिल में मजदूरों की भूख हड़ताल

मालीक मिल मजदूर यूनियन शामली के तत्वावधान में ता.२५ अप्रैल से श्री शिव्वन लाल सक्सेना एम. पी. तथा उनके चार साथियों के साथ भूख हड़ताल बेनवोर्ड की शिकायतें शीघ्रातिशीघ्र दूर कराने के लिये कर रहे हैं उनकी सहानुभूति की जा रही है। हड़ताल के कर्मचारी २४, २४ घंटे की भूख हड़ताल काम करते हुए कर रहे हैं. तथा कुछ साथी ता. २७ से लगातार फैक्ट्री गेट पर भूख हड़ताल पर बैठे हैं। यूनियन के प्रधान मेंभी की आम्बेडकर प्रधान बालकेश्वरी जिन्होंने इसी जीजन के प्रारम्भ में मजदूरों की ३० मांगों के लिये १० दिन की भूखहड़ताल की थी ने बताया कि बेनर्म बोर्ड की शिकायतें लागू कराने के लिये मजदूरों ने भूख हड़ताल चलाने के लिये पूरा प्रबन्ध किया है और इस उत्साह के अन्त पूरी फैक्ट्री के मजदूर भूखहड़ताल करेंगे। जुलूस और जलसे द्वारा अपनी मांगों को मनवाने का पूरा प्रचार किया जा रहा है।

आम्बेडकर प्रधान बालकेश्वरी प्रधान मालीम मिल मजदूर यूनियन शामली

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PLANTATION WORKERS ON PROTEST STRIKE IN DEHRA DUN.

Over 3000 plantation workers of Dehra Dun district went on one-day token strike on April 26 against the employers policy of non-fulfilling their demands.

A procession was taken out by the workers through the streets of the town. A similar demonstration was held at Chiharpur.

MASS HUNGER STRIKES IN PUNJAB AGAINST LABOUR POLICY OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Mass hunger strikes were organised in 27 centres in Punjab from April 17 to 21, to protest against the State Government's labour policy.

The mass hunger strikes in which hundreds of workers participated were organised as per the call given by the Punjab Committee of the AITUC.

On April 21, public meetings were held in Amritsar, Ludhiana, Hissar, Jullundur, Sonepat and other places where workers demanded that the labour portfolio should be taken away from Manoharlal, the State Labour Minister. These meetings also demanded withdrawal of cases launched against AITUC workers in connection with the demonstration in Chandigarh on March 22.

KERALA CASHEW WORKERS' DEMANDS

The Kerala Kasuandi Thozhilali Kendra Council and the Cashew Industries Employees Council in a detailed memorandum submitted to the Chief Minister, Kerala State, on April 26, demanded strict enforcement of minimum wages fixed by Government for workers in the cashewnut processing industry.

Several categories of workers are now denied the benefit of minimum wages fixed by Government, as per the tripartite agreement dated July 21, 1960.

The memorandum also demanded enforcement of the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act regarding lay-off compensation. This has become an urgent issue due to the deliberate policy of employers to close down their units for long periods.

The cashew workers' unions have demanded fixation of workloads, gratuity and retrenchment compensation, protection against victimisational transfer, providend fund and ESI benefits.

CONFERENCE OF THATHAIRS IN PUNJAB

The conference of Thathairs from all over Punjab, held at Jaghdhri, under the auspices of All Punjab Akta Committee on April 23-24, demanded that handmade utensils manufacturers be exempted from excise duty, as has been done in the case of small industries as handlooms, etc.

The conference also demanded that the Thathiar Akta Committee at every station be made allocation of hard coke wagons, be given quota of raw materials and be given financial assistance.

POLICE LATHI-CHARGE AND TEARGAS

PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS AGAINST TAX BURDENS

Police lathi-charged and tear-gassed a peaceful procession of workers, peasants and agricultural labourers who were demonstrating in Chandigarh against the iniquitous burdens of taxation.

The demonstration was organised at the call of the Punjab Committee of the AITUC, the Punjab Kisan Sabha and the Punjab Dehati Mazdoor Sabha on March 22. Jathas of workers and kisans had come on cycles, by foot and in special buses from all parts of the State.

When the six-thousand strong procession led by Baba Kartar Singh, President, and Satish Loomba, General Secretary, of the State unit of the AITUC, among others, reached a point about half a mile from the Assembly Chamber, police suddenly barried its way and refused to allow it to proceed any further.

Later, without warning, the police resorted to brutal lathi-charge and tear-gassing. The demonstrators however reached the ~~Assembly~~ precincts of the Assembly Chamber and a memorandum was presented to Giani Kartar Singh, one of the Ministers, who came out to receive it. In the meantime, the police had arrested Ram Kishan, MLA and a few others. The demonstrators squatted outside the Chamber and refused to leave till those arrested were released. It was only when the arrested persons were released that the demonstrators marched back.

AMRITSAR TEXTILE WORKERS' PROTEST

The General Council of the Textile Mazdoor Ekta Union, Amritsar, strongly condemned the repressive policy of the Punjab Government. A big demonstration was organised on April 14, when hundreds of workers after their shift hours marched from Verka and Chheharta into the City. They raised slogans for the withdrawal of the prosecution launched against the TU and Kisan Sabha leaders.

J.K.RAYON WORKERS' STRIKE

ENDS IN VICTORY

The workers of the J.K.Rayon Factory, Kanpur, went on a strike on April 8, protesting against the victimisation, violence indulged in by the management and the refusal to concede their legitimate demands.

The strike was called off on April 25, following a settlement, negotiated on behalf of the workers by S.M.Banerjee, M.P. and Ram Asre.

According to the settlement, the management has agreed to pay bonus for the year 1960 at the rate of one-eighth of total earnings. The demand for fixing a proper wage structure and festival holidays was left for mutual discussion between the management and the union. It was also agreed that if no settlement was reached on this point, the matter would be referred to adjudication.

The J.K.Rayon Workers' Union was formed only on January 23, 1961 and got registered on March 14, 1961. The union was affiliated to the AITUC.

Ever since the formation of the union, the management was trying hard to crush it, hired goondas were let loose on union activists and a rival INTUC union was sponsored.

Against this, the workers went on spontaneous lightning strike on April 8.

The strike was withdrawn following a settlement negotiated on April 25. According to this settlement, after the workers' union expressed regret for supporting the lightning strike, the management did not insist on deduction of wages and it was also assured that there would be no victimisation. All workers were taken back to work.

WILL LABOUR MINISTRY

PLEASE EXPLAIN?

The Indian Labour Journal (April 1961), a monthly published by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, states the following on page 308:

"Bihar - On 9th January, 1961, 1,658 workers of C.M.I. Domchanchi, Hazaribagh, struck work in a bid to capture power. The strike terminated on the same day but the result was not known. It had resulted in a time loss of 1,658 mandays, a wage loss of Rs.2,383 and production loss amounting to Rs.2,708."

Since no news of any insurrection by 1,658 workers of Hazaribagh in January have reached us so far, will the Union Labour Ministry enlighten us on this very significant strike "in a bid to capture power"?

And if such reports appear in the Indian Labour Journal, we believe, the Labour Ministry will be wound up since insurrections cannot be met by Conciliation Officers! The Army Generals will then have to take over.

TWELFTH SESSION OF I.N.T.U.C.

The Twelfth Session of the I.N.T.U.C. held in Yamunanagar on April 16 and 17 expressed its considered opinion that "immediate and effective steps should be taken by the Government to arrest any further rise in prices of essential commodities and stabilise them at a reasonable level." The resolution on prices mentioned failure of the governments both in the states and in the centre to reduce the prices in spite of repeated protests by the working class. It also admitted that the continuous rise in prices and essential commodities had led to a progressive fall in real wages and had made increases in wages illusory.

In a resolution on Wage Boards the Conference expressed its regrets over non-implementation of even the unanimous recommendations of wage-boards by certain employers and urged the Government to expedite the legislation to get the recommendations implemented.

"While the tempo of economic development is being speeded up" to conference declared in another resolution on labour and plans "the social objectives of planning have not in the opinion of the INTUC advanced in the course of these years to any appreciable extent."

The Conference expressed its sense of disappointment at the rather slow pace of extendingmedical benefits under theE.S.I. Scheme to the families of insurance workers and urged upon the Government to expedite extension fo the families of all insured persons. It further strongly urged upon the Government to undertake legislation providing for ~~granting~~ gratuity in industries where no such provision existed and for standardising all existing schemes.

The Conference adopted resolutions on workers participation in management, Bonus commission, Arbitration, Industrial accidents security of service and on conditions of employees in states and Local bodies employees.

The Conference was inaugurated by Indra Gandhi. It was attended by Labour Ministers of Maharashtra, M.P., Assam and Union Labour Minister and Deputy Labour Minister.

Michael John in his presidential address described the recent Central Government employees strike as "illconcieved, unwarranted and anti-national".

The Conference re-elected Michael John as President and S.R. Vasavada as General Secretary.

BASIC WAGES FOR TEXTILE WORKERS.
BILL INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT.

A Bill to secure the implementation of the Textile Wage Board'srecommendations regarding basic wages or salaries payable to manual workers and clerks employed in textile establishments was introduced in Rajya Sabha on May 1.

The bill prescribes a procedure for the recovery as arrears of land revenue of the amount due to the workers and clerks under these recommendations.

Any strike on lock-out for the revision of the basic wages and salaries within a period of five years from January 1, 1960 would be illegal according to the bill.

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LOCK - OUT IN KANPUR.

The management of the Swadeshi Cotton Mills to-day declared a lock-out rendering 10,000 workers without any work. The mill workers had been striking every Saturday and Monday against increased shift hours and the management laid off 1200 workers in the winding and reeling departments.

The district authorities have banned meetings, processions in the vicinity of the mill area.

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LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

According to newspaper reports, the constitution of an unemployment relief fund was recommended at a meeting of State Labour Ministers held in Delhi on April 27. The Union Labour Minister, G.L.Nanda, presided over the meeting.

The conference is reported to have suggested that the Union Labour Ministry should make a small beginning in this direction by setting apart Rs. 2 crores for unemployment relief during the Third Plan period.

A three-member sub-committee consisting of Labour Ministers of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is to work out further details, according to a report.

The meeting stressed the need to rely more on voluntary arbitration, strengthen the tripartite conventions as the code of discipline, works committees and joint management councils.

G.L.Nanda, the Union Labour Minister, is reported to have stated that more wage boards would be set up wherever necessary. He also stressed the importance of apprenticeship training and workers' education.

MINIMUM WAGES IN USSR

Indian workers will find it interesting to know on what basis the minimum wages of the Soviet workers are fixed, where the Government has guaranteed a minimum level of existence to the entire working class in the country.

The norms laid down in the Soviet Union are not considered only as ideal to be achieved in the long run but every management is entitled to pay the minimum salary to the workers.

The minimum wages are continuously increasing when the prices are going down. This gives double benefits to the working class.

For example, in 1955-56, the minimum wage of a Soviet worker was 300 roubles which went up to ~~s~~ 450 new roubles in 1960. (45 roubles after currency reform). It is expected that in 1965, the minimum wages would go up to 600 roubles (60 new roubles).

~~[illegible]~~

The "need-based" norms ~~[illegible]~~ include a ~~[illegible]~~ nutritional standard of 3000 calories, made up as follows:

Bread (Brown and White)	...	450 grams
Wheat flour		25 "
Potato flour		10 "
Macaroni		10 "
Other cereals and pulses		30 "
Potato		300 "
Fresh Vegetables		250 "
Fruits and berries		200 "
Dry fruits		15 "
Oil		10 "
Sugar (sweets)		100 "
Meat, meat products and poultry		200 "
Fish		100 "
Milk, other milk products		400 "
Butter		50 "
Cotton Cheese		30 "
Sweet Cream		15 "
Cheese		20 "
Egg		1 (No.)

It is provided that every worker must get a living space of nine square metres. The rent per square meter comes to about 7 new kopecks (.07 of a new rouble) to 13.2 new kopecks only.

In addition to this, a worker gets other benefits like free medical aid, non-contributory old-age pensions, leave facilities, etc., which further enhances his standard of living.

750 WORKERS OF ESTRELA BATTERIES
ON STRIKE

All 750 workers of the Estrela Batteryx manufacturing factory in Bombay went on sit-down strike from April 15, protesting against the dismissal of one leading worker who had more than 15 years of service in the factory.

It was alleged that the worker had attempted to assault the Labour Officer of the company.

In the inquiry held into the charge, the allegation against the worker was disproved but the management did not reinstate the worker. The proposal of the union to refer the dispute to arbitration was also rejected by the management.

Kerala

COMMONWEALTH TILE FACTORY WORKERS' STRIKE

Demanding bonus for the year 1960-61, the workers of tile factories at Feroke, Olavakkot and Puthiyara xx owned by the Commonwealth Trust Ltd. (British-controlled) struck work from April 10.

The workers have also demanded an inquiry into the affairs of the Commonwealth Trust. It has been alleged that the manner in which this body acquired the factories from the German-owned Basel Mission Trading Co. in 1920 was unlawful.

The Commonwealth Trust has been managed in such a way that despite the huge profits earned, the workers' legitimate demands have been systematically denied.

In support of the strike of the workers of the Trust in Kerala, 800 workers employed in the Trust's tile factory in Mangalore struck work in sympathy on April 21.

Tirodi

HUNGER STRIKE AT CPMO MINES

Branch Secretary of the Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh, Nutaneshwar, went on hunger strike on April 4, to press for immediate settlement of the demands of the manganese miners in Tirodi.

The demands include re-allocation of old job to an employee, ~~grant of~~ continuance of ration facilities to local labourers, payment of gratuity, permanency of job, equal pay to contractor workers, etc.

Nutaneshwar was arrested on April 5. But his wife, Shrimati Sanabai continued the hunger strike.

DECORATORS ~~W~~WORKERS UNION FORMED

The workers employed in furnuture and decoration trades in Calcutta have organised themselves in a trade union, to improve their miserable working and living conditions.

The union was formed with Sudhir Ghose, ~~Working~~ Vice ~~President of the~~ President, W.Bengal Committee of the AITUC.

The union organised a procession of over 500 workers in support of the workers victimised by a firm, Bengal Decorators.

ASSAM COAL WORKERS' DEMANDS

At a meeting held in Ledo on April 14, under the auspices of the Assam Coal Mine ~~Workers~~ Mazdoor Union, concern was expressed at the methods adopted by the management of the Assam coal mines to retrench permanent workers.

The workers apprehended that permanent workers are being replaced by casual labour and thus deprive them of benefits of labour legislation. The meeting condemned such tactics of the management. The meeting was addressed by Barin Chowdhury, General Secretary, Assam Committee, AITUC, and Aslam Khan, Vice President of the union.

DELHI GYMKHANA CLUB STRIKE ENDS IN VICTORY.

The six-day-old strike of the Gymkhana Club employees in Delhi in protest against the decision of the club management to close down the primary school run by it ended in victory on April 27 night.

The General Body of the Club in a resolution assured the Hotel Workers Union that the primary school would not be closed down and no worker would be victimised for participating in the strike.

The management agreed to withdraw the notices served on the teachers of the school.

The dispute over other demands of the workers would be considered by the Conciliation Officer of the Delhi Administration.

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SECURITY STAFF OF HEAVY ELECTRICALS ON STRIKE.

The members of the Security staff of the Heavy Electricals Bhopal went on strike on April 27. The strikers had been served with notices asking them to unconditionally resume work failing which action would be taken against them.

Uttar Pradesh

SUGAR MILLOWNERS AGREE TO IMPLEMENT
WAGE BOARD REPORT
TU Leaders' Hunger Strike Ends

Following the announcement by the Indian Sugar Mills Association that the sugar mills would begin paying the enhanced wages and other benefits awarded by the Sugar Wage Board from May onwards, the hunger-strike by TU leaders in different centres in U.P. ended on April 28.

Shibban Lal Saxena, M.P., President, United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation, along with Shukla, Madan Pandey and Harsahay Singh had gone on an indefinite hunger strike on April 25, at Lucknow. Simultaneously, trade union leaders in other sugar centres in U.P. had also gone on hunger strike. 35 workers had gone on strike in Bulandshahr.

The TU leaders had demanded that all arrears due to sugar mill workers from November 1, 1960 should be paid as far as possible before the pay day in May.

In a notification issued on April 27, by the U.P. Government, sugar factories in U.P. were asked to implement immediately the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Sugar Industry with retrospective effect from November last year.

Implementation of this order will mean an immediate minimum increase of Rs.18 in the monthly wages of nearly 80,000 workers employed in seventy sugar factories in the State.

Other important recommendations of the Central Wage Board enforced are introduction of gratuity and D.A. The factories have been ordered to start making payments of the regular wage increases as well as arrears from the first pay day in May. The arrears from November 1960 to March 1961 will be cleared off in two successive monthly instalments.

The U.P.Government order allows relaxation in payment of D.A. upto 50 per cent to those factories which went into production in 1959 or later and also those "uneconomic" units which have a daily crushing capacity of below 800 tons and have suffered loss for two successive years immediately preceding November last year. The relaxation has been allowed only for a period of two years.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association on April 27, sent telegraphic instructions to all the sugar factories to implement the Wage Board report.

The TU leaders withdrew their hunger strike on April 28 following this announcement.

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TUR

20.4.61.

1. WFTU Statement on Angola
2. WFTU Social Security meeting
3. WFTU - UNESCO Seminar
4. KG's Statement
5. Purnendu Mazumdar
6. Union Reports (BSP, Jhalawar, College & School Nadiad, Kaithal, Nadiad, Kaithal, Nadiad, Kaithal,

16. Workers' Education ✓

17. Korea

18. M.W. (A) Bill.

19. Petroleum.

तिरोड़ी
१३।४।६१.

HMb

प्रिय ऋ० वे. जी. श्रीवास्तव,

A.I.T.U.C.
Received 856/15-4-61
Replied

एस. डी. ओ. वारासिवनी की मध्यस्थता बेकार साबित हुई। जिसकी वजह से तिरोड़ी में गांधी चौक पर भूख हड़ताल का आन्दोलन शुरू होगया। ओ मगडुर श्रमगार की सोनाखाई भूख हड़ताल करने के लिये बैठ गई हैं। स्थिती ठीक है। वाकी सब ठीक। अभी तक यहां कोई नहीं आया।

TVR

आपका
तुकाराम.
१३।४।६१.

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र
INLAND LETTER

Com. R. G. Shrivastava Secretary
All India Trade Union
Congress 4 Ashok Rd.
NEW DELHI

पहला मोड़ First fold

तीसरा मोड़ Third fold

भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :– Sender's name and address :–

NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

To open cut here

AITUC.
620/3-4-61
YUGOSLAV EMBASSY
NEW DELHI

2462

29th March, 1961.

Dear Sir,

It is with great pleasure we are forwarding herewith the first Number of the illustrated monthly, "REVIEW", which is being published by 'Borba'. The journal will in future attempt to portray vividly the most important developments in Yugoslavia and her foreign relations. We hope you will find some time to go through the contents of the journal and favour us with your valued opinion. In case you are interested in reproducing any feature for your esteemed journal, you are at liberty to do so. We would, however, welcome and appreciate a copy of your journal for our record.

With compliments and assuring you our fullest cooperation,

Yours sincerely,

(Radivoje Petkovic)
Press Attache-First Secretary

The Editor,
TRADE UNION RECORD,
4, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi.

F 3 APR 1961

中華人民共和國駐印度大使館

EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA IN INDIA

A. I. T. U. C.
Received 6/9/4/61
Replied

2, Bhagwandas Road,
New Delhi

G/215/61

March 28, 1961

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The Editor,
"Trade Union Record",
4, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

We take pleasure in sending you herewith an article entitled "A Chinese Steel Worker Tells His Own Story". The article is forwarded with our compliments for publication in your esteemed journal.

Hope you will find the article interesting and suitable for use in your journal, a relevant copy of which may kindly be sent to us.

If you require any specific article about China, please write to us and we will be glad to meet your requirement.

A line of reply would be highly appreciated.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Chen Lu-chih)
Second Secretary

A CHINESE STEEL WORKER TELLS HIS OWN STORY

I have been working for the last twenty-five years, and have lived in two entirely different worlds.

At the age of eighteen, I became a riveter in the locomotive repair shop of the Anshan Iron and Steel Works, which was then under Japanese control. We were forced to work from ten to twenty hours a day, and were not allowed to go home for one or two whole weeks at a stretch. We could only steal a nap when the overseer was taking his rest, but if we were discovered, he would give us a thorough thrashing with his "bushido" spirit. Even in bitter winter, we were all wet with sweat. We might well say that on each locomotive were the blood and sweat of us workers. To lighten our work in order to get a breathing spell, I invented a tool to take the place of manual labour. Unexpectedly the gadget was discovered by the Japanese overseer, who took it away abruptly and forbade us to use it. I was sent to a dark room where I was tortured for seven days and nights. He cursed, "A worker should only work, but not invent things." In those days, one could only toil under the whips of the Japanese "devils", and any attempt to improve the method of work was regarded as a "crime". After making a hair-breadth escape from that living hell, I managed to get a job as a road builder. The low wages could hardly keep my body and soul together, let alone the support of a family. Quite a number of workers died of exhaustion and hunger. Their corpses were simply thrown under the roadbed by the Japanese without any burial. This was a daily occurrence.

In the new society of our People's Republic, the government pays special attention to the welfare of the workers. A riveter had to swing a sledge hammer and work with a bent back. Seeing this, the Party called on us to launch a technical revolution and technical

innovations campaign, so that we might dispense with the hammer and work with straight bodies. What a difference! In the past, I nearly lost my life because I tried to improve my work method, and now, we workers are urged to do so in order to improve our own lot. We should certainly try to overcome all difficulties.

I always think this way: Wherever there is a hard nut to crack, I should be the first to try to do it. Since we want our revolution to succeed, we must fight against all odds. At the beginning, our metal frames department was poorly equipped. We needed some electric power, but we could not find any motors. Since our country is developing at such a terrific speed, we should not depend on the state for supply, but should rely on our own resources. I began to think of utilizing the air of which we had plenty in the plant. Together with my fellow workers in the department, we set to work. We sought the advice of management in administrative matters and asked the know-how from technicians and engineers. When we lacked materials, we went to look for them in the scrap heaps. Since we could not get hold of saws, we used files instead, though the latter meant more work and time. After many trials and errors, we finally succeeded in making some pneumatic hammers. Then we made pneumatic compressors, pneumatic riveters and edge planers. The whole department was turned into using pneumatic equipment, thereby lightening greatly the heavy manual labour of the workers. The number of workers was reduced by more than a half, but labour efficiency increased sixfold. In the old society, when a riveter laid down his hammer, it meant the loss of his job and his bread and butter. But today, this means his own emancipation and a raise in efficiency. Whenever I think of this new situation, I am filled with labour enthusiasm.

Our country still lacks the abundance of things. Although we have made great strides since liberation, we are still far from the completion of our socialist construction. Socialism will not drop from heaven, so we have to subdue Nature, work with might and main, and face up to all difficulties with courage and determination. In our work we must always look forward. Although our life is much better, we should not forget the sufferings of the past. Only by remembering the past will we cherish our present, and try every means to contribute our share to building socialism in our country as fast and as best as we can.

Note: The writer, Wang Yu-pu, is an outstanding worker of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. He is now working at the Metal Frame Department of the Paotou Iron and Steel Company.

Contact phone : 2611

Madras Book Agency

LAW BOOK-SELLERS, PUBLISHERS AND AGENTS

ANDHRA INSURANCE BUILDINGS,
337, THAMBU CHETTY ST., MADRAS 1.

A.I.T.U.C.
Received 473/22-3-61
Replied

246

Dated 19th March 1961.

Com. K. G. Srivatsava,
Asst. Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
4, Asoka Road,
NEW DELHI 1.

Dear Comrade:

I sent by registered post one copy of V.G.Row's Dicenniel Digest of Supreme Court Labour Cases (1950-60) for favour of review in the Trade Union Record. I do not find any review upto now. Further, although we have been regularly sending you the monthly parts of 1960 Digest of Labour Cases as also 1961 I am not getting an exchange copy of Trade Union Record. Kindly arrange for review of this book and also for the despatch of "T.U.Record" to Madras Book Agency, Madras 1.

Yours fraternally,

sv.

Kedar Das, MLA, Vice-President of the AITUC and President of the Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union (JMU), Godavari Appalnarsaiya, Vice-President and Jehangir Bulsura, Organising Secretary of the JMU, broke their hunger-strike on March 28, in a huge mass rally held under the presidentship of Sunil Mukherjee near the Golmuri office of the JMU where the hunger-striking leaders were staying.

The hunger-strike was broken following the decision of the working committee of the JMU. The decision was arrived at after hearing the report placed before the Committee by a delegation consisting of Karyanand Sharma, MLA, Jagannath Sarker and Ali Amjad.

The delegation reported that the Chief Minister of Bihar, Binodanand Jha, called Karyanand Sharma and expressed his grave anxiety over the gradual deterioration of the health condition of Kedar Das.

The Chief Minister requested Karyanand Sharma to convey to Kedar Das his request to call off the hunger-strike. He also said that since he (the Chief Minister) was requesting for the calling off of the hunger-strike, it meant that the responsibility of reinstatement of 360 discharged workers of TISCO also rested on him.

Accordingly, the Working Committee of the JMU unanimously resolved to request Kedar Das, Godavari Appalnarsaiya and Jehangir Bulsara to break their hunger-strike and the same was conveyed to them by a delegation of the working committee headed by Dr. U. Misra.

Kedar Das resorted to hunger-strike on March 20, to protest against the manner in which the Labour Department of the Government of Bihar had been ignoring the issue of reinstatement of 360 discharged workers of TISCO, who were discharged following the successful strike of TISCO workers in May 1958. For the last 34 months, these workmen were facing untold miseries and hardship consequent to unemployment

and no concrete step was taken by the Government to settle up their cases.

Godavari Appalnarsaiya and Jehangir Bulsara also joined Kedar Das in hunger-strike on March 24 and March 25 respectively. On the nineth day of hunger-strike Kedar Das had lost about 12 pounds in weight and his condition became serious.

Meanwhile, during the hunger-strike, there were hundreds of workers' meetings held in different areas besides Jamshedpur and resolutions were sent to the Chief Minister of Bihar to act expeditiously in the matter of calling off of the hunger-strike.

From Jamshedpur, there were about 10,000 letters sent to the Chief Minister calling his attention to the serious state of affairs. Demonstrations, processions were held in various bustee and workers colonies. Workers from various factories including TISCO came every day to see the hunger-striking leaders and pay their respect through the token of garlands made in currency notes.

S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, conveyed to Kedar Das his anxiety regarding the health condition of and informed that he had a talk with the Chief Minister of Bihar at Patna on March 23, in this connection.

A non-official bill to regulate employment of Junior Artistes in film industry has been placed in the Lok Sabha some days back. This bill seeks to lay a scheme for recruitment and conditions of service etc., of junior artistes in the film industry.

The statement of object and reasons in support of the bill points out that the junior artistes in the film industry are employed through middlemen known as extra suppliers. The method of recruitment of junior artistes is beset with several evils. Favouritism and nepotism are rampant, and junior artistes are exploited in a variety of wages.

No qualifications are prescribed for becoming junior artistes. Due to unregulated entry of artistes in the industry, one find a keen competition among the artistes and exploitation by the suppliers. Therefore, insecurity of work, under-employment, unemployment and low wages are perpetual.

The working hours of the junior artistes like the rest of the workers are abnormal, irregular and streneous. Minimum amenities such as rest hours, canteens and sanitation are not provided.

The Junior Artistes Association, Bombay, in a memorandum to the Labour Union Minister has fully supported the proposed bill and requested its early acceptance, particularly in view of the recent reports of Bombay Labour Commissioner and Patel Committee in regard to the conditions of the junior artistes. The memorandum has also pointed out that about 25% per cent of the wages of workers are robbed by the Extra Suppliers and the abolition of this system is an imperative necessity.

The salient features of the bill include the framing of a scheme by the Central Government for the registration of Junior Artistes and Producers with a view to ensuring greater regularity of employment and for regulating the employment in film industry and service conditions of the junior artistes.

The Scheme, it is proposed, shall provide measures

(a) for defining the obligations of junior artistes and producers subject to fulfilment of which the scheme may apply to them and the circumstances in which the scheme shall cease to apply to any junior artistes or producer;

(b) for regulating the recruitment and entry into the scheme of junior artistes and their registration including the maintenance of registers or rosters, the removal, either temporarily or permanently, of names from the registers or rosters and the imposition of fees for registration;

(c) for regulating the terms and conditions of service, including rates of remuneration, hours of work and conditions as to holidays and wages in respect thereof;

(d) for securing that in respect of periods during which employment, or full employment is not available for junior artistes to whom the scheme applies and who are available for work, such workers will, subject to the conditions of the scheme, receive minimum pay;

(e) for training, welfare and health provisions of junior artistes, in so far as satisfactory provisions thereof do not exist apart from the scheme;

(f) for the manner in which, and the persons by whom, the cost of operating the scheme is to be defrayed;

(g) for defining or repealing the extent to which other Acts of Parliament enacted or to be enacted shall apply to junior artistes; and

(h) for punishment to be awarded for contravention of any provision thereof or any other malpractice.

The bill also provides that the Central Government shall constitute a Board to be called the "Junior Artistes Employment Board" which shall be entrusted with the task of administration of the scheme.

The said Board shall consist of 15 members and shall include an equal number of members representing the Government, the Junior Artistes and the Employers.

...

~~FOR EXMEAR~~

Saurashtra

RANADAV CEMENT WORKERS' STRIKE IN DEFENCE OF T.U. RIGHTS

Appeal for Help

The workers of the Ranadav Cement Factory in Saurashtra were forced to go on strike from March 9.

They struck work since the employer, Nanji Kalidas, a local industrialist and notorious for his anti-labour antics, was determined to kill the infant organisation of the workers in their trade union by resorting to mass victimisation.

Since open activity was completely banned under threat of severe reprissals, the workers had to collect union subscriptions under the guise of collecting religious contributions. The Union named Saurashtra Cement & Chemicals Swatantra Kamdar Union applied for registration on January 27, 1961 and it was registered on February 20.

The management on knowing about the formation of the union, dismissed its President, Ismail Jafri. The Union protested against the victimisation and the Government Labour Officer took up the complaint fixing February 25 as date of hearing the complaint. But the management attacked further, dismissed two Vice Presidents, the General Secretary, Treasurer and eight members of the Executive on February 21. Following this, the Union leaders started a hunger strike near the Factory Gate.

The main demands of the workers included reinstatement of victimised workers, implementation of the recommendations of the Cement Wage Board, observance of Factories Act and conformation of all workers who have completed six months' service. The biggest grievance of the workers is that all the workers, numbering five hundred are temporary and none could be sure

of his job the next day.

Following the hunger strike and finding no avenues for settlement of the dispute, the workers decided on a general strike and the strike began from March 9. The strike was cent per cent successful.

The police arrested three union leaders and denied the use of mike by the union for holding its meetings. But the police terror did not cow down the workers. Over Rs.700 were collected for strike funds.

The Government's labour relations machinery as well as the implementation machinery completely failed to intervene in the dispute, in favour of the workers, in spite of the patent victimisation and anti-labour measures adopted by the management.

The union and the workers of Ranavav cement factory are fighting a hard battle for trade union rights. They have appealed for solidarity funds in aid of their just struggle. Strike funds and messages of solidarity should be sent to:

Ismail S.Jafri,
President, Saurashtra Cement and Chemicals
Savtantra Kamdar Union,
Near Railway Station,
RANAVAV (Saurashtra).

The AITUC has sent a sum of Rs.50 as a token of solidarity with the Ranavav cement workers' struggle.

~~Central Executive~~

AITUC GREETS ALL-INDIA KISAN SABHA

The following messa e of greetings was sent by S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, to the Eighteenth Session and the Silver Jubilee of the All-India Kisan Sabha held at Trichur from March 30 to April 2.

"The AITUC greets the AIKS as the pioneer and veteran militant organisation of the Indian peasantry which has a glorious record of struggles and sacrifices. The AIKS brought to the kisan movement a clearer concept of its class role and popularised the basic slogans of 'zamindari abolition' and 'land to the tiller' far and wide.

"After independence, the struggle to press forward with democratic land reforms, to wipe out the relics of feudalism, and to unite all sections of the peasantry for a truly national regeneration of the rural economy in the people's interests has become the historic responsibility of the AIKS. For this, the AIKS while fighting for its own platform has to unite with the vast millions who are outside its fold and who politically hold on to the platform of the National Congress. In the fulfilment of these tasks, the alliance of the peasantry with the organised working class will, we are sure, be a mighty force for inspiring and mobilising the millions of working people of India.

"On behalf of the AITUC, we pledge to strive with all our energy for educating the working class and its trade unions about the need for closer and closer relations with the AIKS and active solidarity with the cause of the kisans which is the common cause of national development in people's interests. We wish all success to your conference and its deliberations."

CINE EMPLOYEES TO OBSERVE
DEMANDS DAY ON JUNE 28

The National Conference of the All-India Cine Employees' Federation has called for observance of a "Demands Day" on June 28, 1961.

The conference which was held in Varanasi on February 20-22, was presided over by K.S.Gopalkrishnan, Film Director.

Haripada Chatterjee, in his report to the conference stated that the Federation represented a membership of about 50,000 cine employees. The cinema industry in India earns an annual profit of Rs.26 crores or more and the Government collects taxes aggregating over Rs.27 crores. The nearly one lakh cine employees however earn altogether only about Rs.2 crores a year, the report said.

The employees have to work from 10 to 14 hours a day.

The conference demanded the appointment of a [redacted] Wage Board for the film trade workmen.

K.S.Gopalakrishnan was [redacted] elected as President and Haripada Chatterjee as General Secretary of the Federation.

PLANTATION WORKERS DEMAND INTERIM RELIEF
FROM WAGE BOARD

In meetings and demonstrations held in plantation regions in different parts of India, [redacted] during the 'Demands Week' from March 12 to 19, the plantation workers have demanded immediate grant of interim relief by the Wage Board.

It was also demanded that the Wage Boards for coffee and other plantations should be appointed without delay.

At meetings held on March 12 at O'Valley, Deversola in Gudalur and at Coonoor, the Tamilnad Plantation Workers'

Union adopted a resolution urging the Government of Madras to set up a Tripartite Committee, promised earlier, to settle the various problems agitating the workers in every day life and to set up permanent rules for gratuity and to modify the Standing Orders.

The Zilla Cha Bagan Workers' Union, Jalpaiguri, in a mass meeting held on March 19, demanded quick settlement of bonus question for the year 1959, 1960 and 1961. The union also urged immediate measures to provide employment for unemployed workers in tea gardens.

An All Gens' Representative Meeting was held in Dehra Dun on March 5. The meeting adopted resolutions on interim wage increases, housing, on distribution of blankets and other demands of the tea garden workers.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUGAR WAGE BOARD REPORT DEMANDED

The 18th Session of the United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation held at Baheri (Bareilly) from March 17 to 19, has demanded immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board.

The Federation has directed its unions to prepare for strike ballots if the employers refused to effect speedy implementation of the Wage Board decisions.

The conference was inaugurated by Mahadeo Singh, President, HMS, and presided over by Prof.Shibban Lal Saksena.

The conference observed that the report of the Wage Board was unsatisfactory in so far as the unskilled labour which constitutes three-fourths of the total labour is completely neglected and no retainer for off-season given to them.

The wages recommended, i.e., Rs.60-1-65 plus Rs.16 D.F.A. are far short of a need-based minimum.

The conference set up a Negotiation Committee with a view to organise the sugar workers into one central industrial federation on an all-India basis, with Prof.Shibban Lal Saksena, M.P., as convener, and Vimal Mehrotra, S.S.Yusuf, Ram Asre, B.D.Shukla, Mukund Singh Vaidya, Ravi Pratap Narain, S.S.Patil, MLA, Rati Ram and Radhey Shyam as members.

The conference elected Prof.Shibban Lal Saksena, M.P. as President of the United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation and B.D.Shukla as General Secretary. Mukund Singh Vaidya, Tara Chand Sethi, Jai Deo Kapoor, Har Sahai Singh and Guneshwar Singh are Vice Presidents; R.N.Upadhyaya, Ghanshyam Saran Sinha, R.D.Joshi, Ravi Pratap Narain and Raj Nath Singh, Secretaries; G.D.Bajpai, Vimal Mehrotra, Ram Asre and Balrup Sharma, Organising Secretaries and Madan Pandey, MLA, Treasurer.

GREAVES COTTON COMPANY EMPLOYEES'
STRIKE ENDS IN VICTORY

Fifteen hundred employees of the Greaves Cotton Group of Companies in Bombay and Chinchwad (near Poona) went on strike from March 18 to 24, protesting against the victimisation of one of the active workers of the union, K.G.Naik, of the Cone Plant.

Cone plant employees of the Greeves Cotton Co., were agitating against the illegal increase in speeds of the machines in the plant, resulting in increased workload and the consequent strain. The speed of the machines at Cone Plant was increased unilaterally without intimating the union since the later half of December 1960.

~~Finding~~ The workers demonstrated before the Head Office of the company in protest, after the efforts made by the union to have a negotiated settlement failed. After this, K.G.Naik was charge-sheeted on false grounds.

The strike was called off on March 24, when it was agreed that the dispute regarding the reinstatement of K.G.Naik and the increased machine speed and workload would be referred to the arbitration of the Advocate General of Maharashtra, or any other person mutually agreed upon.

DELEGATES FROM 53 COUNTRIES
ATTEND PEACE MEET IN DELHI

Over two hundred delegates representing the Peace Committees of 53 countries and six international organisations attended the New Delhi Session of the World Council of Peace which met from March 24 to 28. Besides about 500 observers elected by the Peace Committees of various States in India also attended.

The World Federation of Trade Unions was represented at the Session by S.A.Dange, Vice President of the WFTU, and K.B.Panikkar, Permanent WFTU Representative to ECAFE.

Of special significance was the presence of nearly a hundred observers from trade unions in different industrial centres who came specially to participate in the Peace Council meeting.

The Chairman of the World Council of Peace, Prof.J.D.Bernal, drew attention to the terrible destructive potential of a nuclear war and exhorted the fighters of peace to intensify their struggle against war and preparations for war. He said:

"We are looking forward in this year of 1961 to renew efforts for international discussions at the governmental level. We expect to see this time, the summit meetings and disarmament conference take place in a better atmosphere and with greater determination for their success."

The Session adopted a declaration underlining the urgency of disarmament. It adopted a general resolution on national independence and ending of colonialism, asserted the inalienable right of all people to full independence, the exercise of sovereignty and free choice of their economic and political systems."

The resolution on Congo, adopted by the Session, demanded recognition and support to Gizenga Government, punishment of

those responsible for the murder of Patrice Lumumba, disarming of the armed gangs of Mobutu, Tshombe and Kalonji, immediate evacuation of all Belgian troops and civil personnel and withdrawal of all UN troops if they fail to carry out the above tasks.

The session adopted resolutions supporting the struggle of the Cuban people, condemning apartheid policy of South Africa and on repression on peace fighers in many countries.

The Council supported the struggle of the people of Algeria for national independence and the demand of the people of Goa and West Irian for unification with India and Indonesia respectively and also of Vietnam and Korea for national unification.

The resolution on Laos demanded an end to the intervention of the U.S. imperialists and their agents and withdrawal of all foreign interventionist armed forces and the prompt reconvening of the 1954 Geneva Conference or of an enlarged conference convened in the spirit of the Geneva agreement and also acclaimed the efforts of the Government of Prince Souvanna Phouma for genuine peace, neutrality and independence and national amity in Laos.

The session also demanded immediate release of Jomo Kenyatta, the acknowledged national leader of Kenya.

XXX CONVENTION OF TRADE UNIONS

A Convention of Trade Unions for Peace, Disarmament and National Independence was held in Delhi on March 27, under the Presidentship of Mohd. Elias, M.P. The convention adopted a declaration greeting the World Peace Council session and calling all unions, irrespective of affiliation, to launch united action for peace, complete disarmament and for ending colonialism.

W.Bengal

TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

A tripartite agreement on the implementation of the recommendations of the Textile Wage Board was signed at Calcutta on March 1, 1961. Following is the text of the agreement:

The employers in the cotton textiles industry in W.Bengal represented by the Bengal Millowners' Association and the trade unions in the cotton textiles industry represented by the four central trade union organisations in West Bengal held several joint conferences under the chairmanship of the Joint Secretary, Labour Department, Government of West Bengal, in order to devise an agreed formula for fixation and regulation of dearness allowance according to the recommendations of the Central Wage Board in para 107 of the Report. The conference also examined the other recommendations of the Wage Board and ancillary questions arising from them. After long and careful deliberations, the parties arrived at an agreement which is as follows:

1. Dearness Allowance: In para 107 of the Central Wage Board Report, the Board recommended that where D.A. was fixed, it should be made flexible and adequate and linked up with the cost of living index. The parties agree that the total minimum pay-packet including the flat increase of Rs.6 should be fixed at Rs.74.50 and should be linked up with the cost of living index at 400 (base year 1939=100). On this basis, the D.A. comes to Rs.40.38 (i.e., Rs.74.50 minus Rs.34.17) at cost of living index 400.

In para 109 of the Wage Board Report, it was recommended that 75% of the D.A. should be merged with the basic wages and 25% should be kept as D.A. subject to rise or fall according to the cost of living index. Thus, the amount of Rs.40.33 should be broken up as follows:

Rs.30.25 to be merged with basic wages.

Rs.10.08 to be kept as D.A.

The final figures should be as follows:

WAGES:	Rs.28.17	(minimum basic wage as per Award of the 2nd Omnibus Tribunal of 1958)
	Rs. 6.00	(Flat increase as recommended by Wage Board)
	Rs.30.25	(Three-fourth of D.A. merged with wages).
Total	Rs.64.42	
D.A.	Rs.10.08	(25% of Rs.40.33 nP at CLI ~~1960~~ 4000
TOTAL PAY PACKET	Rs.74.50	at 400 CLI

The parties agree that any rise or fall in the cost of living index number above or below 400 CLI would be neutralised at the rate of 18 naye paise per one point. The D.A. fixed above at Rs.10.08 would be regulated accordingly. The rate of neutralisation at 18 nP. per point will continue to be in force upto the end of 1962. The rate of neutralisation from 1.1.63 would be at 20 nP. per point upto the end of 1964.

The Kesoram Cotton Mills which pay higher rates of D.A. to their workers do not fit into the general wage pattern in the other textile mills in West Bengal. In their case, the following agreement has been reached between the Bengal Millowners' Association and the representative of the Kesoram Cotton Mills on the one hand and the Central trade union organisations and the trade unions functioning in Kesoram Cotton mills on the other. The terms of settlement are detailed below:

i) The workers in category (a), that is those who work upto three months of their appointment will get D.A. as in the case of other units in the industry.

ii) The workers whose basic wage did not exceed Rs.30 were getting Rs.37.62 as D.A. Their D.A. would now be Rs.50.87 at 400 CLI number.

iii) The workers whose basic wage exceeded Rs.30 were

getting Rs.50.87 as D.A. They will continue to get the same D.A. which will now be fixed at 400 CLI.

In all the three cases, three-fourth of the D.A. as fixed above would be merged in basic wages and the residual amount would be paid as D.A. at CLI 400 subject to the condition that the D.A. of those workmen will not go below the amount fixed by the Second Omnibus Tribunal, the D.A. otherwise would be flexible and rise and fall according to the cost of living index. The rate of neutralisation would be 18 nP. per point above or below 400 CLI upto the end of 1962. The rate will be 20 nP per point from 1.1.63 upto end of 1964.

MODE OF PAYMENT OF WAGES AND D.A. FOR WORKMEN

The wages of workers will be shown under the following heads in future:

i) Basic wage

ii) Wage Board increase of Rs.6 from 1.1.60 and subsequent increment on 1.1.62.

iii) Dearness Allowance (merged D.A.)

iv) Variable Dearness Allowance.

The dearness allowance will be reviewed every three months and will be adjusted to the average of CLI number of the quarters ending March, June, September and December and will be paid for three months at the same rate on the expiry of one month at the end of each quarter. For example, average CLI for the quarter ending March will apply to payments to be made for May, June and July.

The dearness allowance according to this agreement will be payable with effect from 1st December 1960.

As regards claims of additional D.A. prior to December 1960, according to Wage Board recommendations, a lump payment per workman will be made. The amount will be fixed by the Joint Secretary, Labour Department. The quantum of D.A. payable in December 1960, January and February 1961 and the lump amount to be fixed by Joint Secretary, Labour Department, will be paid in five instalments, the first

instalment would be drawn up in the Wage Bill for the second half of March 1961. Payment should start in the first week of April, 1961 and in the first week of subsequent month and should be completed by the end of August 1961. The first payment of current wages in March will take into account the enhanced rates of D.A.

So far as Kesoram Cotton Mills are concerned, each workman will be paid a lump amount of Rs.10 against claims of D.A. according to Wage Board prior to December 1960.

INCREMENT

As recommended by the Wage Board, an increment of Rs.2 per workman will be given with effect from 1.1.62.

NO DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS

There shall be no discrimination in wages between men and women doing the same work.

CLERKS

The D.A. of clerks will be as laid down in para 118 of the Wage Board Report and will be the same in all units. The new scale of D.A. will be effective from 1.12.60. A lump payment will be made against claims of additional D.A. as per Wage Board Recommendations as would be directed by the Joint Secretary, Labour Department, against special higher cost of living as well as additional amount fixed by Wage Board. The mode of payment will be similar as in the case of workers.

COMMITTEE ON RATIONALISATION

The parties agree to the constitution of a tripartite committee on workload and rationalisation.

This is a compromise settlement in full satisfaction of the rights and obligations of the parties arising out of the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for the Cotton Textile Industry.

\+ + +

The agreement was signed by H.Banerjee, S.A.Farooqui and Arun Sen on behalf of AITUC; Jatin Chakravorty on behalf of UTUC; Bishnu Bannerjee (INTUC) and Phani Ghosh (HMS).

The signatories to the agreement from the employers' side were M.L.Shah, A.Mitter and S.N.Hada representing the Bengal Millowners' Association. The agreement was discussed and signed before D.Chatterjee, Labour Commissioner, ~~xxBengxk~~ and S.M.Bhattacharji, Joint Secretary, Labour Department, Government of W.Bengal.

Book Review

DIGEST OF SUPREME COURT LABOUR CASES by V.G. Row, Bar-at-law; Published by Madras Book Agency, 337 Thambu Chatty St., Madras-1; pp.144; Price Rs.12.50.

The digest covers most of the important decisions of the Supreme Court on matters concerning the interest of the workers during a period of ten years from 1950 to 1960.

It contains cases arranged subject-wise and by avoiding repetition, has become very handy and yet comprehensive.

Special care has been taken to compile references of discharge, dismissal and termination of service cases.

Trade union activists dealing with industrial disputes and its legal aspects will find the book very helpful.

KEDAR DAS ON HUNGER STRIKE

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Kedar Das, MLA, Vice-President of the AITUC and President of the Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union (JMU), Godavari Appalnarsaiya, Vice-President, and Jehangir Bulsura, Organising Secretary of the JMU, broke their hunger-strike on March 28, in a huge mass rally held under the presidentship of Sunil Mukherjee near the Golmuri office of the JMU where the hunger-striking leaders were staying.

The hunger-strike was broken following the decision of the working committee of the JMU. The decision was arrived at after hearing the report placed before the Committee by a delegation consisting of Karyanand Sharma, MLA, Jagannath Sarker and Ali Amjad.

The delegation reported that the Chief Minister of Bihar, Binodanand Jha, called Karyanand Sharma and expressed his grave anxiety over the gradual deterioration of the health ~~condition~~ of Kedar Das.

The Chief Minister requested Karyanand Sharma to convey to Kedar Das his request to call off the hunger-strike. He also said that since he (the Chief Minister) was requesting for the calling off of the hunger-strike, it meant that the responsibility of reinstatement of 360 discharged workers of TISCO also rested on him.

Accordingly, the Working Committee of the JMU unanimously resolved to request Kedar Das, Godavari Appalnarsaiya and Jehangir Bulsara to break their hunger-strike and the same was conveyed to them by a delegation of the working committee headed by Dr. U. Misra.

Kedar Das resorted to hunger-strike on March 20, to protest against the manner in which the Labour Department of the Government of Bihar had been ignoring the issue of reinstatement of 360 discharged workers of TISCO, who were discharged following the successful strike of TISCO workers in May 1958. For the last 34 months, these workmen were facing untold miseries and hardship consequent to unemployment

and no concrete step was taken by the Government to settle ~~up~~ their cases.

Godavari Appalnarsaiya and Jehangir Bulsara also joined Kedar Das in hunger-strike on March 24 and March 25 respectively. On the nineth day of hunger-strike Kedar Das had lost about 12 pounds in weight with sharp fall in blood pressure, and his condition became serious.

~~Meanwhile,~~ during the hunger-strike, there were hundreds of workers' meetings held in different areas besides Jamshedpur and resolutions were sent to the Chief Minister of Bihar to act expeditiously in the matter of ~~calling off of~~ the demands which led to the hunger-strike.

From Jamshedpur, ~~there were~~ about 10,000 letters were sent to the Chief Minister calling his attention to the serious state of affairs arising out of the hunger-strike. Demonstrations, processions were held in various bustees and workers' colonies. Workers from various factories including TISCO came every day to see the hunger-striking leaders and pay their respects through the token of garlands made in currency notes.

S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, ~~conveyed to~~ Kedar Das his anxiety regarding ~~the health condition of~~ the hunger-strike and informed that he had a talk with the Chief Minister of Bihar at Patna on March 23, ~~xxxx~~ in this connection.

Cable "AITUCONG"

Telephones : 48771
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ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

3

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

March 20, 1961

8 & 9 / 11

Earlier

~~Shri~~ S.A.Dange, M.P., General Secretary, AITUC, had issued the following statement on March 20:

President

"~~Shri~~ Kedar Das, MLA, Vice President of the All-India Trade Union Congress and ~~General Secretary~~ of the Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union, has commenced his hungerstrike from this morning. The hunger-strike was earlier postponed due to the sudden demise of Dr.Srikrishna Sinha, former Chief Minister of Bihar.

"This hunger-strike is a protest against the manner in which the Government of Bihar has kept hanging the cases of about 400 dismissed workers of TISCO, Jamshedpur, for the last 34 months. These dismissals were made with a vengeance by the management of the Tata Iron & Steel Co., following the successful strike of the workers in May 1958.

"Violating all the Codes and standards, the Government of Bihar has not even taken up the matters for conciliation nor did it refer the dispute for adjudication despite the fact that an industrial dispute was raised by the union questioning the justifiability of these dismissals. During the last 34 months, the workers and their families have been subjected to the agony of untold misery and hardship as a result of this apathetic attitude of the Government.

"Since the Government of Bihar did not take any step to resolve the dispute, it became incumbent on Com.Kedar Das to resort to the hunger-strike to draw the attention of all concerned to the sorry state of affairs.

"I hope that the Government of Bihar would now at least see reason and move to settle the dispute or refer it to an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication."

S. A. Dange also met Bihar Chief Minister, Binodanand Jha, at Patna on March 23 and urged immediate governmental action.

Office ~~Secretary~~

TVR

10,000 Walchandnagar Workers demonstrate , demand implementation

Of Central Wage Board Recommendations.

8-9/4

March 15

~~15th March~~ was a historic day for the Walchandnagar workers. For the first time since the establishment of this industrial town of Walchandnagar group of industry, the workers, ruthlessly suppressed uptill recentky period, joined a huge demonstration demanding immediat implementation of Central Sugar Board recommendations and the application of the same to the sugar farm workers. The demonstration was jointly organised by the "Indapur Sakhar Kamgar Union", the Union of sugar workers and by "Walchandnagar Industries Kamgar Union", ~~Union of the other industrial establishments in Walchandnagar such as engineering, oil mill and oil products, plastic,~~ etc who also demanded ~~immediate rise in basic wages and dearness allowance.~~

The demonstration which was ten thousand strong started at 7 p.m. on the 15th March and marched with slogans and placards, in a mile long procession along main road to the Works' Managaer's office. The police halted the demonstration at this point and the demonstrators squatted for an hour, ~~squatted~~ on the road shouting slogans. The whole town of Walchandnaga to the last women and children assembled at that point to witness this ~~xxxxxxx~~ first mighty and militant demonstration.

~~The INTUC Union at Walchandnagar tried to hold a public meeting~~ at the same time. But it was totally bycotted by the workers. Only a few of the superwisory staff, numbering less than a hundred attended the INTUC meeting. Thus ~~xhe~~ practice, ~~of~~ the representative character of the Unions, led by AITUC, has been proved. The demonstrators peacefully dispersed after holding a meeting which was addressed among others, by Comrs. J.P. Bhali, M.L.A.; M.M. Katre, R.G. Pandarkar & Babasaheb Ralavade.

~~Successful Strike~~

Almost all the workers of Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Cooperative Sugar Factory at Sansar, have joined the "Indapur Sakhar Kamgar Union". 2500 of these workers, belonging to harvesting and carting section, struck work from ~~14th~~ February 14, for certain pressing demands bringing the factory to standstill. The ~~adamant~~ management, ~~was~~ on the night of ~~17th~~ February 17, was compelled to enter into negotiations and some ~~important~~ important concessions including bonus for ~~two~~ years were won.

During last nine months of its' existence Indapur Sakhar Kamgar Union has acquired confidence of the entire sugar workers in this taluka. The Unions' membership is on the increase and soon it will be possible to make application to declare this Union as Representative Union under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act.

M.M. Katre

(M.M. Katre)

~~KORKAMAR~~

Saurashtra

RANADAV CEMENT WORKERS' STRIKE IN DEFENCE OF T.U. RIGHTS

Appeal for Help

The workers of the Ranadav Cement Factory in Saurashtra were forced to go on strike from March 9.

They struck work since the employer, Nanji Kalidas, a local industrialist and notorious for his anti-labour antics, was determined to kill the infant organisation of the workers ~~in their trade union~~ by resorting to mass victimisation.

Since open activity was completely banned under threat of severe reprissals, the workers had to collect union subscriptions under the guise of collecting religious contributions. The Union named Saurashtra Cement & Chemicals Swatantra Kamdar Union applied for registration on January 27, 1961 and it was registered on February 20.

The management on knowing about the formation of the union, dismissed its President, Ismail Jafri. The Union protested against the victimisation and the Government Labour Officer took up the complaint fixing February 25 as date of hearing the complaint. But the management attacked further, dismissed two Vice Presidents, the General Secretary, Treasurer and eight members of the Executive on February 21. Following this, the Union leaders started a hunger strike near the Factory Gate.

The main demands of the workers included reinstatement of victimised workers, implementation of the recommendations of the Cement Wage Board, observance of Factories Act and conformation of all workers who have completed six months' service. The biggest grievance of the workers is that all the workers, numbering five hundred are temporary and none could be sure

of his job the next day.

Following the hunger strike and finding no avenues for settlement of the dispute, the workers decided on a general strike and the strike began from March 9. The strike was cent per cent successful.

The police arrested three union leaders and denied the use of mike by the union for holding its meetings. But the police terror did not cow down the workers. Over Rs.700 were collected for strike funds.

The Government's labour relations machinery as well as the implementation machinery completely failed to intervene in the dispute, in favour of the workers, in spite of the patent victimisation and anti-labour measures adopted by the management.

The union and the workers of Ranavav cement factory are fighting a hard battle for trade union rights. They have appealed for solidarity funds in aid of their just struggle. Strike funds and messages of solidarity should be sent to:

Ismail S.Jafri,
President, Saurashtra Cement and Chemicals
Savtantra Kamdar Union,
Near Railway Station,
RANAVAV (Saurashtra).

The AITUC has sent a sum of Rs.50 as a token of solidarity with the Ranavav cement workers' struggle.

TUR

~~Central Ex & Ex Meeting~~

AITUC GREETS ALL-INDIA KISAN SABHA

8+9/11

The following message of greetings was sent by S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, to the Eighteenth Session and the Silver Jubilee of the All-India Kisan Sabha held at Trichur from March 30 to April 2.

"The AITUC greets the AIKS as the pioneer and veteran militant organisation of the Indian peasantry which has a glorious record of struggles and sacrifices. The AIKS brought to the kisan movement a clearer concept of its class role and popularised the basic slogans of 'zamindari abolition' and 'land to the tiller' far and wide.

"After independence, the struggle to press forward with democratic land reforms, to wipe out the relics of feudalism, and to unite all sections of the peasantry for a truly national regeneration of the rural economy in the people's interests has become the historic responsibility of the AIKS. For this, the AIKS while fighting for its own platform has to unite with the vast millions who are outside its fold and who politically hold on to the platform of the National Congress. In the fulfilment of these tasks, the alliance of the peasantry with the organised working class will, we are sure, be a mighty force for inspiring and mobilising the millions of working people of India.

"On behalf of the AITUC, we pledge to strive with all our energy for educating the working class and its trade unions about the need for closer and closer relations with the AIKS and active solidarity with the cause of the kisans which is the common cause of national development in people's interests. We wish all success to your conference and its deliberations."

CINE EMPLOYEES TO OBSERVE
DEMANDS DAY ON JUNE 28

TVR

The National Conference of the All-India Cine Employees' Federation has called for observance of a "Demands Day" on June 28, 1961.

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The conference which was held in Varanasi on February 20-22, was presided over by K.S.Gopalkrishnan, Film Director.

Haripada Chatterjee, in his report to the conference stated that the Federation represented a membership of about 50,000 cine employees. The cinema industry in India earns an annual profit of Rs.26 crores or more and the Government collects taxes aggregating over Rs.27 crores. The nearly one lakh cine employees however earn altogether only about Rs.2 crores a year, the report said.

The employees have to work from 10 to 14 hours a day.

The conference demanded the appointment of a ~~National~~ Wage Board for the film trade workmen.

K.S.Gopalakrishnan was ~~elected~~ elected as President and Haripada Chatterjee as General Secretary of the Federation.

PLANTATION WORKERS DEMAND INTERIM RELIEF
FROM WAGE BOARD

In meetings and demonstrations held in plantation regions in different parts of India, ~~the plantation~~ during the 'Demands Week' from March 12 to 19, the plantation workers have demanded immediate grant of interim relief by the Wage Board.

It was also demanded that the Wage Boards for coffee and other plantations should be appointed without delay.

At meetings held on March 12 at O'Valley, Deversola in Gudalur and at Coonoor, the Tamilnad Plantation Workers'

Union adopted a resolution urging the Government of Madras to set up a Tripartite Committee, promised earlier, to settle the various problems agitating the workers in every day life and to set up permanent rules for gratuity and to modify the Standing Orders.

The Zilla Cha Bagan Workers' Union, Jalpaiguri, in a mass meeting held on March 19, demanded quick settlement of bonus question for the year 1959, 1960 and 1961. The union also urged immediate measures to provide employment for unemployed workers in tea gardens.

All Gardens'

An All Gardens' Representative Meeting was held in Dehra Dun on March 5. The meeting adopted resolutions on interim wage increases, housing, on distribution of blankets and other demands of the tea garden workers.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUGAR WAGE BOARD
REPORT DEMANDED

The 18th Session of the United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation held at Baheri (Bareilly) from March 17 to 19, has demanded immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board.

The Federation has directed its unions to prepare for strike ballots if the employers refused to effect speedy implementation of the Wage Board decisions.

The conference was inaugurated by Mahadeo Singh, President, HMS, and presided over by Prof.Shibban Lal Saksena.

The conference observed that the report of the Wage Board was unsatisfactory in so far as the unskilled labour which constitutes three-fourths of the total labour is completely neglected and no retainer for off-season given to them.

The wages ~~awarded,~~ recommended, i.e., Rs.60-1-65 plus Rs.16 D.F.A. are far short of a need-based minimum.

The conference set up a Negotiation Committee with a view to organise the sugar workers into one central industrial federation on an all-India basis, with Prof.Shibban Lal Saksena, M.P., as convener, and Vimal Mehrotra, S.S.Yusuf, Ram Asre, B.D.Shukla, Mukund Singh Vaidya, Ravi Pratap Narain, S.S.Patil, MLA, Rati Ram and Radhey ~~Shaxxxx~~ Shyam as members.

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The session also demanded immediate release of Jomo Kenyatta, the acknowledged national leader of Kenya.

XXX CONVENTION OF TRADE UNIONS

A Convention of Trade Unions for Peace, Disarmament and National Independence was held in Delhi on March 28, under the presidentship of Mohd. Elias, M.P. The convention adopted a declaration greeting the World Peace Council session and calling all unions, irrespective of affiliation, to launch united action for peace, complete disarmament and for ending colonialism.

TRADE UNIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

- K.B.Panikkar

Following is the text of the speech made by K.B.Panikkar, Permanent Representative of the WFTU at the seventeenth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and Far East, held in New Delhi from March 9 to 20.

TUR

E.S.I.CORPORATION MEETING

For the first time in the history of E.S.I.Corporation (Employees' State Insurance), the A.I.T.U.C. representative S.Y.Kolhatkar has been elected to the Standing Committee of the E.S.I.Corporation. The meeting of the Corporation was held on 9th March 1961 at New Delhi. Prior to the meeting, the A.I.T.U.C. representative (S.Y. Kolhatkar) had written a letter to Shri G.L.Nanda, Union Minister for Labour, who is also the Chairman of the E.S.I.Corporation and had drawn his attention to the fact that discrimination has been shown to the A.I.T.U.C. by including the nominee of the H.M.S. and by excluding the nominee of the A.I.T.U.C from the Standing Committee in spite of the fact that the strength of the A.I.T.U.C was considerably more than that of the H.M.S. A copy of the letter was also sent to all the members of the Corporation. As a result of this, at the time of the election, only two names i.e. of Shri Shukla of I.N.T.U.C and of S.Y.Kolhatkar of A.I.T.U.C. were proposed for election and they were declared to be elected.

The other important items on the agenda of the meeting were consideration of the Report of Dr. Mudaliar, amendments proposed to the E.S.I.Act and of Revised estimates for the year 1960-61 and budget estimates for the year 1961-62.

The meeting was presided over by Shri G.L.Nanda, Union Minister for Labour. In his introductory remarks, the Chairman called upon the Corporation to make an assessment of its performance during the 2nd plan period and chalk out a plan of work within the frame work of the 3rd plan. He said that he had to face severe criticism of the working of the E.S.I.Scheme in the Parliament especially from the Labour M.Ps. Two main points which were repeatedly referred to were non-extension of the Scheme to families and delay in the construction of the hospitals. He further said that he had taken personal interest in regard to the latter question and had tried to remove all hurdles by getting into touch with States concerned. However, the net result, was according to him, far from satisfactory. Hence, he said, that time had come to take

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radical decisions on the question whether the centre should run the entire scheme or whether the states should be asked to run it. Another point which he emphasised was that at present the workers were contributing more for the Scheme than the employers and this, he said, was against the intention of the Legislature. He felt that this state of affairs needs to be changed as early as possible; otherwise the workers would be justified in asking for a reduction in their contributions.

After these introductory remarks by the Chairman, discussion on the progress report of the Corporation was opened by the A.I.T.U.C. representative. He pointed out the extremely slow progress made by the Corporation in the matter of extension of the Scheme to families. During the last year's budget estimates, the target date for extension of the Scheme to families in Greater Bombay was fixed as 1-1-1960 but now the date has been extended to 1-10-61 and there is no certainty that even this date would be adhered to. In West Bengal the Scheme has not been extended to 24 paraganas because of the failure of the State Government to construct adequate hospitals. The construction of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Bombay which was started in 1958 is still not finished, while on the other hand, the construction of Secretariat Building of Maharashtra Government and its annexe were completed in one year. The A ITUC representative also criticised the reservation of 100 more beds for T.B. patients in Sarvodaya hospital at Ghatkopar despite severe criticism of the arrangements there by all the members of the Corporation from Bombay.

Other members representing employees also criticised the slow progress of implementation of the Scheme and emphasised that a stage has been reached when radical decisions in regard to functioning of the Scheme will have to be taken.

The Budget and Accounts Committee of the Corporation had recommended that in view of the progressive rise in expenditure on medical benefits, the employers contribution should be raised to 3½% in implemented areas and 1¾% in non-implemented areas

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with effect from 1-7-1961 and the same should be raised to full schedule rates with effect from 1-1-1962.

This recommendation of the Budget Committee was strongly opposed by the employers. At the end of a heated discussion, the Chairman suggested that a special meeting of the Corporation be called in May 1961 to take a final decision in the matter. It was also decided that a sub-committee of the Corporation should, in the meanwhile, prepare an evaluation report of the working of the Scheme and place it before the next meeting to enable the Corporation to talk a proper decision. The representatives of the INTUC and AITUC are members of this sub-committee.

The Director General had placed before the meeting a memorandum suggesting amendments to E.S.I.Act. It was agreed that a sub-committee consisting of all non-official members of the Corporation should examine these amendments and should place a finalised draft before the next meeting of the Corporation.

A proposal to grant extended sickness benefit in the extraordinary cases of special invalidity caused by peculiar reactions to certain injections was accepted by the Corporation. The A.I.T.U.C. representative suggested that the same concession should be extended to non-employment injuries especially to the lower extremities as recommended by Mudaliar Committee. It was agreed that the suggestion should be sent to Medical Benefit Council for its opinion.

The main recommendation of Mudaliar Committee about opening of polyclinics was accepted in principle by the Corporation. On the question of restricting the term of appointment of Panel Doctors to three years, which was stoutly opposed by the representative of the Medical Profession and it was decided that the proposal should be referred back to the Medical Benefit Council. The other recommendation of Dr. Mudaliar regarding reduction in contribution and cash-benefit groups and simplifications of the procedures are to be considered by the sub-committee appointed for considering amendments to E.S.I.Act.

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WFTU IN FOREFRONT OF STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

~~PEACE AND THE WORKING CLASS~~

~~- S.A.DANGE~~

Following is the text of the speech delivered by S.A.Dange, Vice President of the WFTU at the session of the World Council of Peace ~~at~~ on March 26, ~~at~~ in New Delhi.

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Peace And The Working Class. 26.3.61

SPEECH OF S.A.DANGE, VICE PRESIDENT, WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

~~Sir,~~

On behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions, I extend warm greetings to the friends of peace that have gathered here from all parts of the world. The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) has always held it as its sacred duty to be in the forefront of the struggle for universal peace. As a result of the ardent desire of the working people throughout the world for working class unity and peace, the WFTU came into existence and proclaimed its aim to be "to combat war and the causes of war and to work for a stable and enduring peace", as stated in the Preamble to its constitution, adopted in 1945, at its very birth.

The working class and the working intelligentsia which handles all the vast apparatus of science, technique and production every day, realise very acutely the frittering away of all these achievements of human labour, skill and intelligence in war and preparations for war, instead of being used for raising the life of all humanity to a richer and higher level. Hence the trade unions of the WFTU tirelessly work to rouse the working people for effective struggle for the safeguarding and consolidation of peace, for collective security, for disarmament and the banning of nuclear

weapons. The arms race, the expanding military budgets, etc., while benefitting the monopolists bring in their wake ruthless attacks on the working class and all toiling people. It being clear that peace is indispensable for constant improvement of the working and living conditions of the working people, the struggle for peace has assumed higher and higher dimensions. The people's desire and struggle for peace have been expressed strongly and continuously and have achieved many successes against imperialist machinations. The fight for peace, peaceful co-existence and disarmament has been waged in an increasingly favourable political and social setting as a result of many successes won by the anti-imperialist forces, the forces of peace, and primarily the working class. In opposition to ~~the~~ imperialism which is growing weaker and more isolated, the forces of peace are growing stronger and are expanding.

Recognizing the threat to world peace by the rise of West German militarism, the WFTU is playing a leading role in rousing the working class throughout the world in support and solidarity with the working class of Germany which is not interested in new adventures of the German monopolists. The WFTU declared its solidarity with the mighty struggles waged by the Japanese workers against "U.S.-Japan Security Treaty". The WFTU demands the early settlement of the German Treaty and the Berlin problem. It demands the liquidation of foreign military bases from all countries and the seating of China in the UNO.

The principle of peaceful co-existence between nations with differing political and economic systems rejects attempts

to settle outstanding international questions by use of force and accepts the idea of negotiations as the only policy consistent with the principles of world peace. The principles of peaceful co-existence are winning an increasing foothold in international relations.

The WFTU has always considered that the struggle of the people for national liberation, as a struggle for full sovereignty, independence and for overcoming economic backwardness, is an inalienable part of the struggle for world peace. Recognising this inter-relationship, the WFTU has continuously lent its support to the struggles of the peoples for national independence and to eradicate colonialism completely and to thwart colonialist manoeuvres in every shape and form. Not only the attainment of national sovereignty but the extension and preservation of national sovereignty is equally important for the preservation of peace. Such extension and preservation could only be guaranteed through the strengthening of the economies of the less-developed countries. The possibilities for independent economic growth for the less-developed countries would enlarge a great deal if disarmament is achieved and the resources that are being wasted today on building means of destruction are channelised for peaceful economic construction for people's livelihood and culture.

The murder of Prime Minister Lumumba, the continuing war against the Algerian people, the imperialist intervention in Laos, the threat to Cuban independence, the refusal of the Portuguese, and Dutch and American imperialists respectively to restore Goa to India, West Irian to Indonesia and Taiwan to China, the suppression of the African people by the racists and imperialists

in the unliberated parts of that continent show that the struggle for national liberation and for peace has still to go a long way. But due to the growing determination and struggles of the dependent people for freedom and peace, the increasing strength of the socialist countries who lend unqualified support to these struggles and aspirations, the help and support of the common people throughout the world, it has become increasingly possible to eradicate colonialism, banish the threat of world war and pave the way for a lasting peace.

Recognizing this, the 11th Session of the General Council of the WFTU in June last year underlined the need to be vigilant and intensify the fight for peace, as the aggressive designs of imperialism particularly U.S. Imperialism have not been finally and completely defeated yet. At the same time, it is a fact that the forces of peace are strong enough to win peace.

The 22nd Session of the Executive Committee of the WFTU held in Berlin last month states that "the primary task of the international trade union movement is to fight for peace and to aid the working people to remain vigilant and active in order to thwart the intrigues of the warmongers. The working class of the world, who are waging a vigorous, decisive struggle against the aggressive policy of the imperialists, are firmly resolved not to permit the unleasing of a new world war. They realise more and more clearly that the socialist countries, the international working class and the peace camp together represent sufficiently powerful force to defeat war provocations and to enable mankind to avoid a third world war."

We are sure the conclusions of this Council will further strengthen the forces of peace.

The WFTU once again pledges its full support to the decisions and activities of the Council.

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INTERNATIONAL TU COMMISSION

8-9/4

The meeting of the International Trade Union and Legal Commission for the defence and extension of trade union rights and for the protection of the victims of repression against trade unions, was held in Prague on March 9 and 10, at the headquarters of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Ratan Roy, General Secretary, Bihar branch of the AITUC, who was nominated as a delegate to the meeting, could not attend because of refusal by the Government for the grant of passport facilities.

The meeting of the Commission was presided over by Louis ~~Salliant~~ Saillant, General Secretary of the WFTU, and attended by the representatives of various affiliated and non-affiliated national trade union centres, besides lawyers from many countries.

The Commission ~~following discussion and report~~ resolved to become a permanent body because its activity should be based both on mass action and legal action. As an integral part of trade union activity itself, the Commission will develop solidarity with the victims of repression against trade unions and for the extension and defence of trade union and democratic rights throughout the world.

The Commission elected a Bureau with ~~xxPresidenty~~ Juan Campos(Chile) as President, two vice-presidents, Elena Teodorescu as Secretary and twelve persons from different countries including Ratan Roy, ~~(India)~~ General Secretary, Bihar State Committee of the AITUC, as its members.

TUR

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

REGARDING GORAKHPURI LABOUR.

~~The tripartite meeting~~ The Special Committee appointed by the tripartite meeting on Gorakhpuri labour under the auspices of the Union Labour Ministry on January 24, 1961, met in New Delhi on March 14 and 15, and discussed in detail the question of employment of the Gorakhpuri labour force.

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The meeting was attended by T.B.Vittal Rao (AITUC), R.L.Malviya (INTUC) and Mahesh Desai (HMS), among other representatives of various bodies.

SUMMARY RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH AND 15TH MARCH, 1961 OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE SET UP AT THE TRI-PARTITE MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH JANUARY, 1961.

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Present:

I. Central Government's representatives

1. Shri S. Abdul Qadir, Director General of Employment & Training and Joint Secretary to the Government of India .. Chairman.

2. Shri K. Bag Singh, Commissioner, Coalmines Welfare Fund, Dhanbad.

Special Invitees.

1. Shri Teja Singh Sahni, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment.

2. Shri S.P. Mukerjee, Chief Labour Commissioner.

3. Dr. S.N. Channa, Director of Employment Exchanges.

4. Shri Narayan Swaroop, Deputy Director of Employment Exchanges.

II. State Governments' representatives

1. Bihar.

Shri Syed Imam Raza,
Joint Commissioner of Labour.

2. Madhya Pradesh.

Shri A.B. Vaidya,
Director of Employment, Jabalpur.

3. Orissa.

Shri M.K. Kukreja,
Deputy Secretary, Labour Dept., Bhubaneswar.

4. Uttar Pradesh.

Col. G.R. Nagar,
Director of Training and Employment, Lucknow.

5. West Bengal.

Shri A.S. Nag,
Deputy Secretary, Labour Department, Calcutta.

III. Employers' representatives.

1. Shri P. Prasad
2. Shri W. Bright
3. Shri I.M. Thapar

} Joint Working Committee, I.M.A., I.M.F., I.C.O.A., and M.P.M.A.

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Emp. workers' representat
names on the waiting up.
Ask TB Wkrs if he can write
a note on this.

IV. Workers' representatives.

1. INTUC

Shri R.L. Malviya, M.P.

2. AITUC

Shri T.B. Vittal Rao, M.P.

3. H.M.S.

Shri Mahesh Desai.

V. Advisers.

1. Shri M.P. Pandey, Additional Deputy Director, Gorakhpur Labour Depot, Gorakhpur.
2. Shri O.W. Francis, Director of Employment, Patna.
3. Shri B.K. Bhatterjee, Director of N.E.S., West Bengal.
4. Shri R. Lall
5. Shri Jameson
6. Thakur Param Hans Singh

) Employers' organizations.

The Special Committee, after discussing the detailed arrangements for implementing the decisions arrived at the tri-partite meeting held on the ~~24th~~ 24th January, 1961, and also the recommendations of the Informal Committee of Members of Parliament, made the following suggestions:-

2. According to the decisions of the Informal Committee, the recruiting functions of the Gorakhpur Labour Organisation should be brought directly under the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment (now designated as Directorate General of Employment and Training) and it should function as a coordinated and integrated wing of the National Employment Service, and be entrusted with the following responsibilities:-

(a) recruitment including medical examination and inoculation;

(b) the maintenance of the collecting centre with all necessary and proper arrangements for food and lodging and preparation of essential documents;

(c) maintenance of the record office with its existing functions until a similar system is developed to provide this facility to all workers at worksites with the cooperation of Post Offices, Banks, Cooperative Credit and Store Societies; and

(d) maintenance of the existing labour hospital.

3. The decision at the meeting of the 24th January, 1961, was that the existing set-up at Gorakhpur for recruitment need not be disturbed, but persons from Bihar and other areas need not be required to go to Gorakhpur for recruitment. Facilities should be provided for recruitment from the local Exchanges.

4. The representatives of the workers and also of all States, except U.P., pointed out that it should be made a condition precedent that the Depot at Gorakhpur should submit candidates only when the local Exchanges are not able to provide the required workmen, but the representatives of the employers did not agree and stated that according to the Act, they were free to make the appointment according to their choice. However, it was agreed on all sides that proper arrangements should be made for coordination. The Director of Employment Exchanges should ensure proper coordination regarding recruitment by the Depot at Gorakhpur and the local Exchanges in different States. With regard to recruitment of local candidates, the employers will ensure that the local Exchanges are utilised. The G.L.O. shall be administered directly by the Director of Employment Exchanges, New Delhi, under the D.G.E.& T., and the employers shall report their vacancies to the Employment Exchange having jurisdiction over the area and may, as at present, place an indent with the G.L.O.

P.T.O.

at Gorakhpur. Gorakhpuris from Bihar and other areas, if convenient, could register themselves at the nearest Exchange. They need not necessarily go to Gorakhpur for recruitment.

(d) The G.L.O. at Gorakhpur will be responsible for the four items of work detailed in the Report of the Informal Committee referred to above.

(e) The terms and conditions of service of workers from Gorakhpur shall be the same as for others.

(f) The Scheme for savings from earnings will be applicable equally to both the Gorakhpuris and others, and will be strictly on a voluntary basis.

(g) At present all the accounting is centralised at Gorakhpur and the Gorakhpuris are required to proceed to the Central Office for receiving payment. As the facilities afforded to the Gorakhpuris have also to be provided to the non-Gorakhpuris, it is not possible to centralise all the accounts at Gorakhpur. This Committee, therefore, recommends that Branch Record Offices should be set up by Government at some selected Colliery Exchanges or at other appropriate local offices which will maintain accounts and make disbursements to non-Gorakhpuris and also those Gorakhpuris who would like to receive payment locally.

(h) With a view to ensure that there is no compulsion at any stage, Banking facilities will be provided only in the case of those who will request the Welfare Officer of the Coalmines Welfare Fund Organisation in writing for making voluntary deduction. The employer will make deduction on receipt of information from the Welfare Officer concerned who will observe the required formalities. Such deduction will be continued to be made unless the employers

hear to the contrary from the Welfare Officer concerned. The worker has a right to change his option once in a quarter. The deduction shall be in terms of whole rupees. Remittances will be made by the employers once a month.

(c) All workers whether recruited by the G.L.O. or locally shall be treated equally and no preferential treatment of any type shall be accorded at the worksite, to any particular worker or group of workers.

(d) Hostels for workers in colliery areas should be open to all without distinction. The administration of these Hostels will be by Tripartite Committees. There will be one Central Committee, with the Commissioner, Coalmines Welfare Fund Organisation as the Chairman, and one representative each of the appropriate Central Trade Union organisations functioning in the coal fields and an equal number of the representatives of the organisations of the colliery employers. The day-to-day administration of the Hostels will be entrusted to a Hostel Superintendent, who will be appointed by the Management with the approval of the Central Committee. There will be a Hostel Committee at each Unit consisting of one representative of the Management, one representative of the workers from the Hostel, and one representative of the recognized Union who should normally be a worker of the colliery. Where, however, there is more than one recognized Union, the representatives of such recognised Unions will be members, and there will be an equivalent number of representatives of the Management in the local committee. The Welfare Officer of the area of the Coalmines Welfare Fund Organisation will also be a member. The representative of the Management will be the Chairman. The Unit

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Committees will function as the Sub-Committees of the Central Hostel Committee. The Central Committee will prepare instructions for guidance of the Unit Committees for the administration of the hostels e.g., admissions, discharges, quality of food, frequency of the meeting of the committee and submission of reports etc. The Central Committee will meet at least once a quarter.

12. The workers recruited by the G.L.O. shall be free to bring their families and shall be allotted family accommodation wherever available on terms and conditions applicable to other workers. The workers shall report to work-site on their own and they shall not be escorted by any special supervisors. The workers shall be free to join any trade union.

13. Regarding the supervision of the workers at the site, there shall be no difference between the Gorakhpuris and local workers. Equal facilities should be provided to every set of workers.

14. The welfare activities for all workers in collieries will be under overall supervision of the Commissioner of Coal Mines Welfare Fund Organisation.

~~Financial Arrangement.~~

15. The existing financial arrangement in respect of G.L.O., including Record Office, Hospital, etc., at Gorakhpur shall continue and modifications, if any, shall be made with the approval of the Employers' Organisation. The workers' representatives, however, stated that they would welcome Government taking over the overall financial responsibility. It was recommended that in respect of financial commitments,

~~Conclusion.~~

~~16.~~ The proposed arrangements should take effect from ~~1.6.1961.~~ June 1, 1961.

TUR

W.Bengal

TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

A tripartite agreement on the implementation of the recommendations of the Textile Wage Board was signed at Calcutta on March 1, 1961. Following is the text of the agreement:

The employers in the cotton textiles industry in W.Bengal represented by the Bengal Millowners' Association and the trade unions in the cotton textiles industry represented by the four central trade union organisations in West Bengal held several joint conferences under the chairmanship of the Joint Secretary, Labour Department, Government of West Bengal, in order to devise an agreed formula for fixation and regulation of dearness allowance according to the recommendations of the Central Wage Board in para 107 of the Report. The conference also examined the other recommendations of the Wage Board and ancillary questions arising from them. After long and careful deliberations, the parties arrived at an agreement which is as follows:/

1. Dearness Allowance: In para 107 of the Central Wage Board Report, the Board recommended that where D.A. was fixed, it should be made flexible and adequate and linked up with the cost of living index. The parties agree that the total minimum pay-packet including the flat increase of Rs.6 should be fixed at Rs.74.50 and should be linked up with the cost of living index at 400 (base year 1939=100). On this basis, the D.A. comes to Rs.40.38 (i.e., Rs.74.50 minus Rs.34.12) at cost of living index 400.

In para 109 of the Wage Board Report, it was recommended that 75% of the D.A. should be merged with the basic wages and 25% should be kept as D.A. subject to rise or fall according to the cost of living index. Thus, the amount of Rs.40.33 should be broken up as follows:

Rs.30.25 to be merged with basic wages.

Rs.10.08 to be kept as D.A.

The final figures should be as follows:

WAGES:	Rs.28.17	(minimum basic wage as per Award of the 2nd Omnibus Tribunal of 1958)
	Rs. 6.00	(Flat increase as recommended by Wage Board)
	Rs.30.25	(Three-fourth of D.A. merged with wages).
Total	Rs.64.42	
D.A.	Rs.10.08	(25% of Rs.40.33 nP at CLI ~~4000~~ 4000
TOTAL PAY PACKET	Rs.74.50 at 400 CLI	

8×9 / 22 ems

Start

The parties agree that any rise or fall in the cost of living index number above or below 400 CLI would be neutralised at the rate of 18 naye paise per one point. The D.A. fixed above at Rs.10.08 would be regulated accordingly. The rate of neutralisation at 18 nP. per point will continue to be in force upto the end of 1962. The rate of neutralisation from 1.1.63 would be at 20 nP. per point upto the end of 1964.

8×9 / 11

The Kesoram Cotton Mills which pay higher rates of D.A. to their workers do not fit into the general wage pattern in the other textile mills in West Bengal. In their case, the following agreement has been reached between the Bengal Millowners' Association and the representative of the Kesoram Cotton Mills on the one hand and the Central trade union organisations and the trade unions functioning in Kesoram Cotton mills on the other. The terms of settlement are detailed below:

i) The workers in category (a), that is those who work upto three months of their appointment will get D.A. as in the case of other units in the industry.

ii) The workers whose basic wage did not exceed Rs.30 were getting Rs.37.62 as D.A. Their D.A. would now be Rs.50.87 at 400 CLI number.

iii) The workers whose basic wage exceeded Rs.30 were

getting Rs.50.87 as D.A. They will continue to get the same D.A. which will now be fixed at 400 CLI.

In all the three cases, three-fourth of the D.A. as fixed above would be merged in basic wages and the residual amount would be paid as D.A. at CLI 400 subject to the condition that the D.A. of those workmen will not go below the amount fixed by the Second Omnibus Tribunal, the D.A. otherwise would be flexible and rise and fall according to the cost of living index. The rate of neutralisation would be 18 nP. per point above or below 400 CLI upto the end of 1962. The rate will be 20 nP per point from 1.1.63 upto end of 1964.

MODE OF PAYMENT OF WAGES AND D.A. FOR WORKMEN

The wages of workers will be shown under the following heads in future:

i) Basic wage

ii) Wage Board increase of Rs.6 from 1.1.60 and subsequent increment on 1.1.62.

iii) Dearness Allowance (merged D.A.)

iv) Variable Dearness Allowance.

The dearness allowance will be reviewed every three months and will be adjusted to the average of CLI number of the quarters ending March, June, September and December and will be paid for three months at the same rate on the expiry of one month at the end of each quarter. For example, average CLI for the quarter ending March will apply to payments to be made for May, June and July.

The dearness allowance according to this agreement will be payable with effect from 1st December 1960.

As regards claims of additional D.A. prior to December 1960, according to Wage Board recommendations, a lump payment per workman will be made. The amount will be fixed by the Joint Secretary, Labour Department. The quantum of D.A. payable in December 1960, January and February 1961 and the lump amount to be fixed by Joint Secretary, Labour Department, will be paid in five instalments, the first

instalment would be drawn up in the Wage Bill for the second half of March 1961. Payment should start in the first week of April, 1961 and in the first week of subsequent month and should be completed by the end of August 1961. The first payment of current wages in March will take into account the enhanced rates of D.A.

So far as Kesoram Cotton Mills are concerned, each workman will be paid a lump amount of Rs.10 against claims of D.A. according to Wage Board prior to December 1960.

INCREMENT

As recommended by the Wage Board, an increment of Rs.2 per workman will be given with effect from 1.1.62.

NO DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS

There shall be no discrimination in wages between men and women doing the same work.

CLERKS

The D.A. of clerks will be as laid down in para 118 of the Wage Board Report and will be the same in all units. The new scale of D.A. will be effective from 1.12.60. A lump payment will be made against claims of additional D.A. as per Wage Board Recommendations as would be directed by the Joint Secretary, Labour Department, against special higher cost of living as well as additional amount fixed by Wage Board. The mode of payment will be similar as in the case of workers.

COMMITTEE ON RATIONALISATION

The parties agree to the constitution of a tripartite committee on workload and rationalisation.

This is a compromise settlement in full satisfaction of the rights and obligations of the parties arising out of the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for the Cotton Textile Industry.

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The agreement was signed by H.Banerjee, S.A.Farooqui and Arun Sen on behalf of AITUC; Jatin Chakravorty on behalf of UTUC; Bishnu Bannerjee (INTUC) and Phani Ghosh (HMS).

The signatories to the agreement from the employers' side were M.L.Shah, A.Mitter and S.N.Hada representing the Bengal Millowners' Association. The agreement was discussed and signed before D.Chatterjee, Labour Commissioner, ~~xxbengxk~~ and S.M.Bhattacharji, Joint Secretary, Labour Department, Government of W.Bengal.

Book Review

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DIGEST OF SUPREME COURT LABOUR CASES by V.G. Row, Bar-at-law; Published by Madras Book Agency, 337 Thambu Chatty St., Madras-1; pp.144; Price Rs.12.50.

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The digest covers most of the important decisions of the Supreme Court on matters concerning the interest of the workers during a period of ten years from 1950 to 1960.

It contains cases arranged subject-wise and by avoiding repetition, has become very handy and yet comprehensive.

Special care has been taken to compile references of discharge, dismissal and termination of service cases.

Trade union activists dealing with industrial disputes and its legal aspects will find the book very helpful.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

~~PRESS NOTE~~

TUR

~~NEW~~ METALLIFEROUS MINES REGULATIONS ENFORCED
~~COME INTO FORCE~~

8-9/11

The Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961, framed under the Mines Act, 1952, to provide for better safety in mines other than coal and oil, came into force ~~today.~~ on March 11.

According to a Gazette notification, the provisions relating to the appointment of certain categories of managerial and supervisory staff in mines will be brought into effect on such dates as the Central Government may notify.

The new regulations supersede the 1926 regulations which were framed at a time when the metalliferous mining industry was in its infancy. It is now felt that while carrying out the large expansion programme in regard to mineral production, the interests of safety are not lost sight of and that new mines are planned and worked scientifically. This can be ensured only if qualified persons are engaged in the management, control and supervision of mines and the fundamental requirements of safe mining are expressly laid down in the regulations.

The new regulations, therefore, include provisions relating to the examination and certification of managerial and supervisory staff; precautions against dangers from fire, dust, gas and water; ventilation; lighting; and machinery and plant.

In framing the regulations, care has been taken to see that the additional expenditure that may have to be incurred in implementing them are not unduly burdensome, especially to the smaller units. Special care has also been taken to ensure that the existing unqualified personnel are shown every possible consideration in getting adjusted to the requirements of the new regulations.

P. I. O. 317

Ministry of Labour and Employment,
New Delhi, March 11, 1961 (Phalguna 20, 1882)
SKD:~~KOHLI~~ 730/11.3.61/1200hrs/364/1

TVR

SINGARENI

The industrial dispute between the Singareni Collieries Company Limited and its workmen represented by the Singareni Colliery Workers Union (AITUC), over the question/allowance to the fillers has been mutually settled.

8.9/11

The Central Government had earlier referred the matter to Central Government Industrial Tribunal, Bombay for adjudication. The term of the reference was:

" Whether, in view of the duties performed by the fillers, consisting of filling and pushing of tubs, empty and/or loaded, the demand of workmen for allowance for pushing tubs both ways (loaded and empty) is justified and if so, what would be the separate rates of allowance for pushing empty tubs and loaded tubs."

The parties mutually settled the dispute following an agreement/and submitted on February 28, before the Tribunal the acceptance of the same and award in terms of the ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ agreement. The Tribunal accepted the same and awarded accordingly.

Following is the ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ relevant part of the agreement:

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL
B O M B A Y .

IN THE MATTER OF REFERENCE CGIT NO. 39/1960.

A N D

IN THE MATTER OF AN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE RELATING TO AN ALLOWANCE FOR FILLERS FOR PUSHING TUBS

B E T W E E N.

M/s. Singareni Collieries Co., Ltd.,

and

Their Workmen.

1. The parties abovenamed most respectfully beg to submit that the said Industrial dispute has been finally settled between the parties on terms hereinafter stated:-

1. The fillers shall continue as before to push empty and loaded tubs whenever they are called upon to do so by the company.

2. In place of the existing practice followed by the company in the matter of paying an allowance to fillers for pushing tubs and in full and final settlement of the entire dispute relating to the matter of all allowance for pushing tubs loaded or empty as the case may be, the company shall pay to the fillers an allowance for pushing tubs on the following scale whenever they are required to push thus;

a) For pushing empty tubs from the tramining point to the coalface, the fillers shall be paid 0.06 np. (~~six naye paise only~~) per tub in respect of tubs of 36 Cft and pro-rata for larger tubs for every 100 ft or part thereof in excess of the first 100 ft.

b) For pushing loaded tubs from the coalface to the tramining point, the fillers shall be paid 0.03 np. (~~three naye paise only~~) per tub in respect of tubs of

36 Cft. and pro-rata for larger tubs for every 100 ft or part thereof inclusive of the first 100 ft.

5. The Aforesaid arrangement will be brought into force from ~~14th~~ December 14, 1960.

6. The arrear payments shall be paid by ~~31st May 1961.~~ May 31, 1961.

7. The workmen have no further claim against the company in the matter of any allowance for fillers for pushing tubs, empty or loaded.

6. The parties pray that this Honourable Tribunal may be pleased to give its award in terms aforesaid.

And for this, the parties aforesaid sahll, as in duty bound, ever pray.

FOR WORKMEN:-

sd/ -
1. T.B.VITTAL RAO, M.P.,
PRESIDENT, S.C.W.UNION.
25/2/61.

2. Sd/-
M.KOMARAIAH
GEN. SECRETARY, S.C.W.UNION,
25/2/61

3. Sd/-
D.S.NARGOLKAR,
ADVOCATE FOR WORKMEN
28/2/61.

FOR EMPLOYERS:-

Sd/-
1. V.L.KARWANDE,
DY.GEN.MANAGER (Jr),
M/s.S.C.Co.,Ltd., 25/2/61

2. Sd/-
N.BHASKARACHARY,
PERSONNEL MANAGER,
M/s.S.C.Co.,Ltd., 25/2/61.

3. Sd/-
D.NARSINGH
ADVOCATE FOR EMPLOYERS.
28/2/61

Sd/-SALIM M.MERCHENT
28/2/61.

PRESIDING OFFICER
CENTRAL GOVT. INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL
B O M B A Y.

---*---

true copy

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates,

Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to make a few observations on behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions on this important item of the agenda.

Permit me, Sir, to offer our condolences on the sad demise of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, the Minister for Home Affairs of the Government of India.

~~The President of the Republic of India in his inaugural address drew attention to the fact that~~ The per capita income in some of the member countries of the ECAFE is amongst the lowest anywhere and ~~cited that~~ in India, for instance, the average income per head per annum has been estimated at $ 64 as against $ 1864 in the USA. The reason for this backwardness is not difficult to find. In terms of percentage distribution of Mining and Manufacturing, the share of Asia in world production (excluding the socialist countries) is only about 4.7 per cent. But if we leave out Japan it is reduced to 2.55 per cent. Thus the less-developed countries of Asia with a population of over 683 million people produce 2.55 per cent where as the capitalist countries of continental Europe with an approximate population of 245 million produce 31.1 per cent. Arising out of this is the inescapable conclusion that unless the countries of the region embark upon industrialisation on a very big scale rapidly, the urgent and earnest desire of the Asian people to improve their living standards could never be fulfilled.

~~XXXX

Though some slight improvement has been made during the past year in relation foreign trade, the basic problems such as the instability of prices and demands of primary commodities, adverse terms and balance of trade etc. remain as grave as they were. Coupled with this, the fact that within the present structure and relations of trade, there is little prospect for any large expansion of export of primary goods onlong terms basis shows the gravity of the situation.

Naturally the question posed before the countries of the region is whether possibilities exist for readjusting the patterns and channels of trade, for serving effectively the needs of a fast rate of economic development.

If we care to look a t some of the outstanding developments in the world, especially in terms of trade and trading possibilities the first thing that strikes us is the very significant advances in the economy of the socialist countries and their astonishing rate of development. This development has helped to change the pattern of international trade considerably and the monopolistic hold on world trade by the controlling authorities of traditional markets, based on vast colonial possessions, is no longer the decisive factor as was the case in the past, in the fate of the developing countries in their future development.

And the possibility of access to a market governed by the principles of equality and mutual advantage and conducive to the independent development of the economies of the countries of the region exists to-day.

If some of the international monopolies refuse to supply oil, today there is an alternate market one can look for. If sugar is refused by a buyer, one can look for an alternate and perhaps more sympathetic buyer today.

Such is the change in the world market and patterns of trade.

In this connection, during the previous sessions of the Commission, we had emphasised the advantages of long-term bilateral trade agreements. The growing volume of trade on the basis of such agreements in some countries of the region reveals that in the given relations of international trade and adverse balance of

trade position, bilateral trade agreements, especially on the basis of non-convertible local currency stipulations could be of considerable benefit.

In their efforts for rapid economic growth, the countries of the region look for external aid and assistance. And such aid and assistance could certainly help to reinforce the national efforts, especially in the context of limited internal resources. But let us not forget that the type of foreign aid secured will have important bearing on the very development of the national economy itself.

And it is from this viewpoint that we are highly critical of the private foreign capital investments. Already the most lucrative sectors of the economy of the countries of the region are in their hands. The enormous amount of resources drained out of the countries of the region and the political and other pressures they are able to exercise are certainly not conducive to the independent development of the national economies. For instanc e, the U.S. private direct investments in the Far East has increased from 309 million dollars in 1950 to 1,028 million dollars in 1959. Profits on these investments amounted to 166 million dollars, representing a heavy charge on the limited resources of these countries. In Indonesia, for example, on U.S.investments of 163 million dollars, the profit was 54 million dollars - a profit rate of 34 per cent. There is no need to emphasise the fact that the countries of the region need exercise great vigilance because the formal retreat of imperialist powers in granting political freedom to their former colonies is being circumvented by their efforts to entrench and strengthen their position economically. And, in this effort, the private foreign capital fulfils the role of standard-bearers. What disastrous results such interventions could produce could be seen from the recent example of the Congo, leading to the brutal murder of the tallest of the African patriots, Mr.Patrice Lumumba. And let us not forget the lessons of Congo.

External aid, financial and technical, should be conducive in really helping the national economies so as to serve as additional strength in their desirable growth. Such disinterested help without dictated conditions and stipulations alone help to stimulate national economies and thus fill the gap. Hence our insistance on public financial aid from developed countries.

The possibilities of such aid will greatly increase if the leading powers of the world arrive at an understanding and agreement on peace and disarmament and cease to throw away enormous resources in the production and stockpiling of terrible weapons of mass destruction. For instance, it is estimated that the military expenditure of the USA, USSR, Britain and France would release (even a 15 per cent cut) roughly 10,000 to 12,000 million dollars. If only ten per cent of this sum were to go as aid to under-developed countries, it would amount to over 1,000 million dollars a year. An agreement on disarmament among the big powers will also help the countries of the region to reduce their military expenditures which are not negligible.

The problem of peace and disarmament being so vital to the economic development needs of the countries of the region, we would urge the Commission to adopt a resolution recommending that the ECOSOC and the General Assembly take up this question urgently and also entrusting the Secretariat of the ECAFE to undertake a study on the social and economic consequences of disarmament for the countries of the region.

~~Sir,~~ The working class in the countries of the region has been the most important strata of the people who contributed their best for the progress in the region. Yet they had to shoulder, in most of the countries, heavy burdens on account of rise in cost of living.

.../...,

Their gains in housing, social security facilities, etc., have been almost negligible in most of the countries. Their just demands for increased wages even to neutralise the rise in prices have been often ignored. Where certain gains were secured, they were secured only after power ful and united actions were initiated or threatened. The biggest strike in the history of the Japanese Labour Movement - the Miike miners' strike lasting 288 days during 1960; the strike of nearly 500,000 employees of the Central Government in India during July last year and innumerable struggles of the working people in the countries of the region illustrate this point. This attitude of lack of response to their vital needs and demands is likely to dampen the enthusiasm of the working people for all-out effort for economic advance and developmental activities. It is very necessary, therefore, to avoid this danger by initiating and implementing measures which will guarantee continuous rise in the working and living conditions of the workers and the people along with the progress of economy. In most of the countries, efforts to associate the workers and the people at various levels in the formulation and implementation of the development plans are very weak. Popular participation in developmental activities is a precondition for successful accomplishments.

And such participation cannot be expected from the working people unless the effective role of their organisations - the trade unions - is recognised. Unfortunately, the attitude of most of the Governments and the employers (unless they are unions functioning according to their dictates) are far from satisfactory. Even there are countries where trade unions are banned. In many countries, Governments and employers refuse to accord recognition to trade unions and also safeguard trade union rights and freedom.

Such an attitude only helps to retard the economic development of the countries of the region.

Planning has more or less come to stay in most of the countries of the region. But the need to plan wages has not received any attention. Considering the fact that in most of the countries, the biggest employer is the Government, the need to plan wages is of utmost importance.

In the less developed countries where the standard of living of the common man is so low, the economic and social policies should be so designed that the major share of the gains of economic development results in alleviating his wretched conditions and not allow the rich to become richer and richer while the poor becomes poorer or remains where he is. In this respect, the responsibilities of the State are of paramount importance. The main question, therefore, is whether the State acts as an instrument for the preservation of the wealth and privileges of a small class of vested interests or functions as the initiator of policies and programmes designed to raise the standard of living of the broad masses of the people.

~~Sir~~, the ECAFE serves as an effective forum for the exchange of information and experience of economic and social development of the countries of the region. But unfortunately, the absence of the representatives of the People's Republic of China, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, the Vietnamese Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic representing over 700 million people in the work of the Commission not only deprives the Commission of their valuable experiences but also undermines the prestige and authority of the ECAFE. We hope this abnormality will be rectified without delay.

I have finished Sir. But before I conclude, I wish to convey, through you, Sir, our best wishes to the able Executive U Nyun and his able colleagues in the ECAFE Sectt. whose dedicated services have made ECAFE a useful and important organization in the economic development of the countries of the region.

Thank you sir.

246

March 24, 1961

Mr L.S.Kourilov,
Information Officer,
USSR Embassy in India,
25 Barakhamba Road,
NEW DELHI 1

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter Ref.PR/EH dated March 15, 1961. The Daily Review of Soviet Press which you have been kindly sending us has been extremely useful to us and we have been receiving it regularly.

Yours faithfully,

(K.G.Sriwastava)
Editor

Information Department
of the USSR Embassy in India
25, Barakhamba Road,
Post Box No. 241,
NEW DELHI-1.
GRAMS: SOVINFORM. PHONE: 46240

भारत में सोवियत समाजवादी जनतंत्र
संघ के दूतावास का सूचना विभाग
२५, बारहखम्भा रोड,
नई दिल्ली।
तार : सोविनफार्म. टेलीफोन : 46240

A I T U C
Received 397/16-361
Replied
15 MAR 1961

Ref. PR/EH. TUR

Dear Sir,

We have been sending you regularly Daily Review of Soviet Press since past few months.

Please let us know whether the above publication reaches you regularly and in order, as we have not heard anything from you in this connection.

Thanking you and assuring you of our best attention always,

Yours faithfully,

(L.S.KOURILOV)
Information Officer,
USSR Embassy in India.

Information Department
of the USSR Embassy in India
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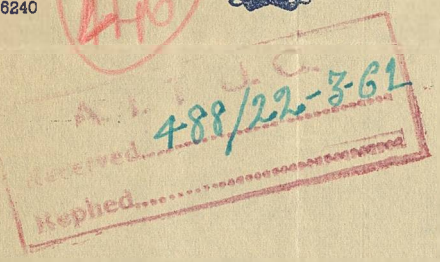

17th March, 61.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that the Pravda leader entitled "The Unbending Will of the Peoples" appearing in Part I of the Daily Review of Soviet Press Vol. VII No. 62 (1706) dated March 14, 1961, despatched to you on March 16, 1961, should not be reproduced as there are certain errors in translation.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(L.S. Kourilov)
Information Officer,
USSR Embassy in India.

Information Department
of the USSR Embassy in India
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15 MAR 1961

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Information Officer,
USSR Embassy in India.

246

TUR (1)

AITUC CALLS FOR COUNTRYWIDE PROTEST AGAINST REACTIONARY BUDGET PROPOSALS

10 x 10 ital
22 ems

The AITUC has called upon the workers and employees of all industries, trades and professions to organise countrywide protest against the reactionary Budget proposals, to demand their withdrawal, and to prepare for united resistance to fresh inroads upon their living standards. The entire burden of fresh taxation is sought to be placed on the shoulders of the wage-earner with a fixed income, who is already unable to meet the minimum human requirements of his family.

Following is the text of the statement issued by the AITUC Secretariat on March 5, calling for united action against the new levies:

Cable : "AITUCONG"

Telephones : 48771
43414

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

~~PRESS COMMUNIQUE~~ ~~March 5, 1961~~

AITUC CALLS FOR COUNTRYWIDE PROTEST AGAINST REACTIONARY BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Secretariat of the AITUC has considered the budget proposals presented by the Finance Minister on February 28, 1961 and has issued the following statement to the press:

"The Budget proposals for 1961-62 submitted to Parliament on February 28, by Shri Morarji Desai, on behalf of the Government of India constitute a direct challenge to the working people of our country. The AITUC views with indignation and concern the proposals to realise Rs.57.87 crores out of total additional taxation of Rs.60.6 crores by indirect taxation, in the shape of new and increased excise and customs duties affecting 32 commodities. The majority of these commodities are items of essential and daily use for the ordinary man and include tobacco, cigarettes, matches, kerosene, tea, coffee, betelnuts, cloth, utensils, etc., whose prices are now bound to rise sharply.

"The organised working class of our country is pledged to the support of the planned development of our national economy, for overcoming its inherited backwardness, creating an independent industrial base, and raising the living standards of the people. The AITUC holds, however, that the working class, as the principal creator of national wealth, has been consistently deprived of its due share in the additional national income fund produced by its sweat and toil. Real wages have declined, capitalist measures of rationalisation and increased productivity have been imposed on the workers, profits have risen, but the Indian worker remains deprived of even the measure of compensation required to neutralise the continuous price inflation following from the Government's policy.

"This situation will now be seriously aggravated by the new Budget proposals. The entire burden of fresh taxation is sought to be placed on the shoulders of the wage-earner with a fixed income, who is already unable to meet the minimum human requirements of his family. This Budget spells not austerity but starvation for the millions, while at the other end of the scale, the higher income and big business groups have been shamelessly appeased and even given tax concessions. In such a situation, where the only beneficiaries of this Budget are to be Indian and foreign monopolists, the working class cannot be expected to meekly accept hypocritical appeals for "sacrifice" in the name of the Plan.

"It is well to recall that the biggest single trade union action of recent times - the July 1960 strike of Central Government employees - was motivated precisely by their life and death necessity of protecting existing real wages from the ever-mounting curve of the cost of living index. Despite many post-strike assurances on behalf of the Government regarding holding of the price-line, etc., the very first Budget of the Third

(Contd.)

Five Year Plan period has nakedly revealed the anti-people and anti-democratic character of the Government's taxation policy.

"Reality has once again vindicated the cause for which the Central Government employees fought last July. Now the entire working class is once more face to face with the burning problems of price-rise and erosion of real wages and, hence, the need for an all-round wage increase, full compensation through a sliding scale system of dearness allowances, and fixation of a minimum wage for all earners. These issues can no longer be avoided.

"The AITUC calls upon the workers and employees of all industries, trades and professions to organise country-wide protest against the reactionary Budget proposals, to demand their withdrawal, and to prepare for united resistance to fresh inroads upon their living standards."

Office Secretary

TUR (4)

FDGB GREETS AITUC

The following message of greetings was delivered by Wolfgang Beyreuther, Member of the Presidium and Secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, GDR, to the 26th Session of the AITUC (Coimbatore, January 1961):

(5)

26th Session of the AITUC
.....
Coimbatore
.....
January 1961
.....

Speech of

COMRADE BEYREUTHER,

Member of the Presidium and
Secretary of the National Executive
Committee of the
Confederation of Free German Trade Unions,
German Democratic Republic

Rom.
10pp. ~~11~~
&
11 cms.

Dear Comrade President,
Dear Friends,

As the delegation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, we are proud and happy to be in the position to transmit to you the most fraternal greetings of the 6.2 million union members of the German Democratic Republic.

Allow me, please, to express our sincere thanks for the invitation extended to the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions for their participation in your 26th Session. It was a great pleasure to us to accept your invitation, since the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions considers this visit an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the working people of India, especially with the Indian working class, and with their struggle for the maintenance of peace, for united action of all Indian trade unions, for the defence and expansion of their democratic rights, and for the permanent improvement of the living conditions of all the working people. Although the distance between both of our countries amounts to several thousands of kilometres, we, as brothers of the same class, are so closely linked that every success gained in your struggle, for your aims, constitutes at the same time, a success for us. And every step forward made by us in the German Democratic Republic on our way to the victory of socialism is also a success for the Indian working class.

Both of our trade union organisations, the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, as members of the World Federation of Trade Unions, are fraternally united with the international working class. Our interests are common, as we are of the same flesh and blood. Our workers, like the Indian workers and peasants, want peace and they are fighting for peace according to the principle of peaceful coexistence. We are united by our common demand for the termination of nuclear armament, which is to be enforced on the imperialist governments, and for general and total disarmament. We demand that the governments of the imperialist countries shall use the financial means, which are now spent on armaments, for the improvement of the living conditions of the workers in their respective countries.

Consider, please, that only in West Germany, where the monopoly capitalism has reoccupied its old positions of power, where old fascists and militarists are again in leading positions of government, where today they are feverishly working - actively supported by American imperialism - for the preparation of a third world war which shall be carried on with nuclear weapons, that there alone in 1960,

(Contd.)

(6)

about 12 milliards of Marks (i.e., about 3 milliards of American Dollars) were spent for the direct military preparation for war. With this money, they could build in West Germany, hundreds of holiday homes and sanatoria, which could be used free of charge by the West German workers, as we have realised it in the German Democratic Republic already since long. From this money, the real wages of the West German workers could be considerably increased, as it was made a basic principle of policy of the government of the German Democratic Republic since her very foundation. From this money, in case of sickness or accident, compensation could be paid to the West German workers upto about their net wages, as it is already realized in the German Democratic Republic. The highly developed West German industry would be in a position to place industrial plants and products at the disposal of economically under-developed countries. Under such conditions, for instance, the trade reltions between India and West Germany could be developed on the basis of mutual benefit and of genuine mutual aid. This would mean the end of the neo-colonialist drive of the West German imperialists, which is now clearly to be seen in the negative balance in the Indian-West German trade of about four milliards of rupees to the disfavour of India.

But, in order to succeed in all this, it would be necessary to abolish in West Germany, the power of the former Hitler-generals, of racial instigators, and of supporters of neo-colonialism.

Dear Friends,

We in our German Democratic Republic have drawn the correct lessons from the two fateful world wars which were launched in history by an imperialist Germany. The new Germany, the German Democratic Republic, which was developed with the fraternal support and the unselfish aid of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, is now an inseparable part of the socialist camp. We are very proud to belong to the community of this one milliard of people, who, with the Soviet Union at the head, are purposefully building up socialism and communism. Thanks to the effective activities of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions and under the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the former Germany of concentration camps and of barrack-yards became a blooming garden of socialism.

The workers of the German Democratic Republic have established for themselves a new and modern heavy industry. New factories of the engineering, shipbuilding, chemical and light industries were built, and atomic energy is to be used in our Republic only for peaceful purposes. All peasants in the G.D.R. united in the Agricultural Production Cooperatives and, equipped with the most modern machinery, they produce much more agricultural products for the people than ever before the war.

All these are heroic deeds of the working people, which they have fulfilled for themselves, in their own State, together with their workers' and peasants' government and within their trade unions after they were liberated from imperialism, fascism and militarism. These successes have led to the position that the German Democratic Republic, in respect of industrial production, occupies the fifth place among the European countries and ninth place in the world.

(Contd.)

We believe that an important help of the international working class, and especially also of the Indian people and their working class, for our struggle, consists in making a careful difference between the German Democratic Republic and the West German State of Bonn.

Today, there is only one State in Germany, which can claim to be the legitimate one - that is, the German Democratic Republic.

Why is that so?

The German Democratic Republic, and the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions have strongly engaged all their forces for the support of her development, for the first time in our history, is a real State of peace. We do not just talk about peace - all our deeds are serving to the benefit of the working class and their most urgent demand is to have peace. Without peace, it would be impossible to build up socialism. But what are the conditions like in West Germany? The militarist forces, who are today ruling there, have launched on German soil, the first world war - and they lost this war. They did not learn from this. Fifteen years after the first world war, fascism came into power in Germany, and immediately the fascists, together with the militarists, started to prepare for the second world war. They lost this one also. But this war threw the German people into disaster and millions of other peoples were killed. And the same militarists, who caused all this disaster, are today in powerful positions in West Germany and within the NATO. Once again, fifteen years have passed since their defeat and, once again, they try to turn back the wheel of history by preparing for a new nuclear war.

Is it possible that a State or a government could be legitimate if they lead their people to ruin and if they want to inflict biggest losses in men and material to other nations? Or can we call a trade union leadership legitimate who, like the leaders of the West German Confederation of Trade Unions, do not do anything against this policy of annihilating the nation and who do not lead the workers into action?

I believe we are of the same opinion with you - a State like this, a government like this, and also a Union leadership like this, can never be legitimate.

The touchstone for the legitimacy of a German State and its Government and also for the legitimacy of a trade union leadership is whether or not they do everything in order to maintain peace and to secure for the people a life of happiness and prosperity in fraternal community with other nations. But such a policy is to be practised in Germany only by one State - the German Democratic Republic and also by the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions. Our Unions are, therefore, at the same time, representing the interests of the millions of West German workers, employees and intellectuals, who are striving for the same aims and objects.

Therefore, it is only the name "German Democratic Republic", which at present is connected with justice, freedom, humanism and peace, because the policy of this Republic in words and deeds is in accordance with the vital interests of the German people and also of all the other peoples in the world.

We, dear friends, assure you never to rest one minute, in order to give effect to this policy for peace, for peaceful

(Contd.)

coexistence, for general and total disarmament and for socialism. By this we want to make the whole of Germany in future to be a safe treasure of peace, of friendship with all nations in the world, of democracy, and socialism.

For the Indian working class and the All-India Trade Union Congress, we wish further great successes in their struggle for trade union unity and for the improvement of the material and cultural well-being of the working people of India.

Long Live the Indian working class!

Long Live the All-India Trade Union Congress!

Long Live the friendship between the working people of German Democratic Republic and India!

Long Live Peace!

BIG GAINS FOR LIC EMPLOYEES

~~Rs.15/-~~

D.A. Increased By Rs.15/- Per Month

From: Ajoy Das Gupta

~~CALCUTTA, March 11, 1961:-~~

A provisional agreement has recently been entered into between the Life Insurance Corporation and its employees represented by the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) and All India Life Insurance Employees' Association (AILIEA) which has resulted in an ad-hoc increase in the Dearness Allowance to the tune of Rs.15/- per month to be payable with retrospective effect from April 1, 1960. This agreement will cover all clerical, supervisory and subordinate staff of the LIC numbering nearly 31,000 throughout India. Employees who were receiving additional D.A. over and above the scheduled rates of the LIC ranging from Rs.45/- to Rs.75/- per month and those people who opted for Company's grade and many of whom received higher D.A., would also get benefits of this rise.

It need be recalled that the AIIEA submitted a ~~Char~~ comprehensive Charter of Demands containing pay-scales according to the need-based minimum wages, provision of merger of the major part of D.A. with the basic pay, linking of Dearness Allowance with cost of living, and democratic staff regulations and participation of the employees in the management of the nationalised LIC, in the month of April, 1960. The other organisation also submitted their Charter sometime before ~~that.~~ From then on negotiations had been going on between the LIC and the employees' representatives. ~~Throughxxxxx~~ The LIC at first declined to consider the Charter of Demands but was agreeable to negotiate on some relief. The AIIEA while holding that the Charter will have to be considered, agreed to come to a partial settlement on some items of the Charter particularly on some immediate relief. On this basis negotiations were held several times and eventually the above settlement was arrived at. It is also a part of the settlement that the issues of pay-scales, D.A. and other conditions of service including that of merger of D.A. with the basic pay will be taken up for negotiation in the early part of 1962.

A welcome development during the struggle for achievement of the charter is the joint movement by the two employees' organisations which ~~xxxxxx~~ culminated in placing joint demands to the LIC on this partial settlement

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and signing the agreement jointly. It is also heartening to note that talks are going on between the leadership of the two organisations to bring about organisational unification in the insurance employees' trade union movement. There is no doubt that this unity in action of the insurance employees has strengthened their position in relation to the authorities.

This provisional agreement is subject to ratification by the Government and the employees' organisations which it is expected will be over within this month and the employees will receive the arrears of one year's increment.

Bijoy Das Gupta
11/3/61

TUR (11)

HUNGARIAN TRADE UNIONS AND INDIA

by

Dezso Horn

Sept. 1st Items

Following is the text of the speech delivered by Dezso Horn, Secretary, Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions, at the 26th Session of the AITUC (Coimbatore, January 5-12, 1961):

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26th Session of the AITUC
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Coimbatore
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January 1961
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Speech
of

COMRADE Dezso HORN,
Secretary,
Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions

Comrade President, Comrade General Secretary,
Dear Comrades, Dear Friends!

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It is a great honour for us, and through us for the whole Hungarian trade union movement, for the Hungarian working class and for the whole working people of Hungary, to be present at the 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, the militant organisation of the Indian working class.

We bring the sincere, hearty greetings of the Hungarian working people, to your beautiful city, to this fortress of the Indian textile industry and the Indian workers' movement, to the City of Coimbatore which - as we heard from the opening speech of Comrade Parvathi Krishnan - added so many glorious chapters to the history of the Indian trade union movement.

This is the first occasion that the delegates of the working class and trade union movement of free, socialist Hungary could visit your great country. This is the first opportunity that the delegates of the Hungarian trade union movement can make acquaintence on the spot with the life, work and experiences of the militant Indian working class. And this is the first time that the representatives of the Hungarian workers could make a friendly visit to their Indian working brothers.

We are proud that we can deliver at this Congress hall, the warmest greetings of the Hungarian workers to the best representatives of the Indian trade union movement.

Dear Friends, we are brothers as well. But we are living far away from each other. So permit me, dear Comrades, to present a short report to the participants of this Session, and through them to the entire Indian working class, on the achievements of the Hungarian working people.

Here I may remark that I can do this so easily as we, as a socialist country, have nothing to hide. We invite to our country anybody who is coming honestly at any time. One fundamental pillar of our international relations is that our door is open to every sincere visitor who wants to see with his own eyes how conditions of life in Hungary are.

When we studied the report of Comrade Dange, and as we listened to his magnificent speech, it occurred to us, how many similarities there were in the history of the Hungarian and Indian peoples. The Hungarian people also knew for centuries the yoke of foreign oppressors, the Turks and the Hapsburgs. Our people also had been a victim of national oppression. The Hungarian people also experienced starvation, poverty and unemployment. And they also fought bravely and with grim determination for national independence.

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And the Hungarian working people also battled for a long time, to break the rule of the landlords, industrial magnates and imperialist oppressors.

Today, all this belongs to the past, all this is mere history today. In 1945, after defeating fascist Germany, the victorious Soviet Army, brought freedom to the Hungarian people. When Comrade Dange spoke about the changes which had taken place after the Second World War, when he spoke how the imperialist Great Powers were turned historically from victors to losers, when he stressed how the empires of colonialist Powers began steadily crumbling, how newly liberated peoples began to take their place on the stage of history, and when he spoke about the birth of new socialist countries of Europe and Asia - then Comrade Dange also spoke for us Hungarians.

Hungary is one of those countries which were liberated as a result of the Second World War. Our people could use their freedom and began to march on the road towards socialism, together with the other brotherly countries of the Socialist Camp, along the common road, towards the common goal - towards socialism.

This road, of course, was not and still is not, an easy one. It brought us not only successes and victories, but also defects and even some defeats. But even so, the Hungarian workers have achieved far more than any time of our history. We nationalised the industries, the wealth of our country became the property of the people, we crushed the hated system of big estates, economic and political power then came solidly in the hands of the people.

In Hungary today, there is working class rule, - and this fact itself speaks more than any long explanations. In the Hungarian Parliament, workers, peasants and the intelligentsia are sitting. All the means of production and the land as well belong to the people. Science, culture and arts are serving the cause of the people.

Exploitation has been crushed for ever. Poverty, starvation and unemployment have been abolished. From the land of three million beggars, - as it was once called in Europe - Hungary has become a well-developed industrial country, the socialist homeland of working people.

This is the reason why we are hated by all those who hate the people. They hate the working people because they love only their own profits. This is the reason why Hungary is hated by the imperialists and by the remnants of the old ruling classes. Therefore, they tried in 1956 to stir up a counter-revolution, because they hoped to regain their lost positions.

Some 40 years ago, in 1919, the imperialists and their lackeys, succeeded in crushing the first Hungarian Workers' State. Because, my dear friends, I have to explain it to you - and I do it proudly - that in 1919, after the glorious October Socialist Revolution, it were the Hungarian workers who followed the example of their Soviet brothers and hoisted the red banner of the Hungarian Workers' State. But because of the international situation at that time, our victory could be only temporary. The imperialists, according to their old custom, launched an armed intervention and defeated the first Hungarian Workers' and Peasants' State. After this, the dark shadow of counter-revolutionary terror fell for 25 years over our country.

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And the imperialists and their Hungarian agents thought that they could repeat in 1956, the events of 1919.

Only they have forgotten one most important thing. They have forgotten that during the past forty years, the world's picture has completely changed: I mean, the same change which Comrade Dange so impressively pointed out in his speech, namely, that the forces of peace and socialism, freedom and democracy, have definitely taken the upper hand all over the world. This has been proved also by the Hungarian events.

The nasty adventure of the imperialists, especially the American imperialists, was totally defeated, thanks to the brotherly help given to us by the socialist countries, and first and foremost, by the great Soviet people, and thanks also to the stubborn struggle of the Hungarian working people.

The so-called "Hungarian Case" on which the imperialist propaganda makes such a big noise became a boomerang to the imperialists. It proved only that the forces of peace and socialism, if they act united, can defeat any imperialist provocation.

Hungarian working class has in the past four years overcome very quickly all the damages and difficulties caused by counter-revolutionary elements. Led by the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Government, our working people achieved new great successes in the building of socialism. And the Hungarian trade unions played an important and active role in all these achievements.

The basic duty of trade unions of Hungary is naturally the strengthening of our workers' State. Our trade unions organise and educate the workers to strengthen their socialist homeland, with their achievements in peaceful construction, and thereby also strengthen the socialist camp which is the decisive factor today in the further development of international affairs.

Hungarian trade unions take part in the making of every law or decision concerning the working people. They have a big role in shaping the economic plans, in the distribution of national income, in taking care of the working and living conditions of working people, their social welfare and their culture and education. Our trade unions educate Hungarian workers to take an active and effective part in all the tasks of the international trade union movement, under the banner of the WFTU, the great militant and experienced organisation of the international working class.

Unity and solidarity - this is the slogan of the noble banner of the World Federation of Trade Unions, this also is the slogan followed by the Hungarian working class.

Unity and solidarity make the workers invincible, as it has also been stressed in Comrade Dange's speech.

Unity and solidarity - this is our mightiest weapon. The Hungarian workers are struggling in complete unity for the most important tasks of international working class movement in our times: that is, for total and general disarmament, and for the complete abolition of the hated and shameful colonial system!

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We, the Hungarian workers, deeply sympathise with the nations liberated from colonialist yoke, and the nations still waging a brave and glorious struggle for their national independence. We try to help and assist with our modest resources the working people of under-developed countries in the development of their national industries and their national economy.

Allow me, please, to stress in this connection, the successful development of Hungarian-Indian economic relations.

The Hungarian People's Republic closely follows with deep sympathy and greatest admiration the efforts of the Indian people to become economically independent within the shortest time by the rapid development of their industry and agriculture. Although Hungary is a small country as compared to India, yet she is well advanced in some fields of industry and is in a position to place at the disposal of our Indian working brothers, a considerable part of her well-advanced equipments and corps of experienced engineers and technicians, through the channels of foreign trade turnover and industrial collaboration. We are in a position to actively participate in the various developmental programmes under the Third Five Year Plan, by supplying the needed capital goods, industrial equipment, machine tools, dumpers, mining equipments, medicines, rubber goods and so on. By a mutual agreement, the complete documentation and technical know-how in respect of some of the traditionally developed Hungarian industries is also passed on to our Indian friends to enable the starting of such industries in India. Our industrial collaboration includes also the training of Indian experts in Hungary as well as the sending of Hungarian experts to India for the erection of factories and on-the-spot training of our Indian working brothers.

As you see, dear Comrades, dear Friends, even if we are far away from each other in the geographic sense, we are bound together by ties of friendship and mutual assistance. We are bound by the ties of international working class solidarity. And we are bound together by the ties of our common struggle for peace and social progress, the noble aims of the entire progressive mankind.

Unity, friendship and solidarity - that is the message which has been sent to you comrades by the Hungarian working class. We have come on this friendly visit to your beautiful country under this slogan. And, please permit me now again, in concluding my speech to repeat this message of unity, friendship and solidarity, to the 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, that noble organisation of the Indian working class.

Please allow me also, in the name of all Hungarian workers, to wish good work and good health to you, to all participants of the 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, and through them to the entire Indian working class.

Be successful in your further work and struggle for the benefit of the great Indian people, for the benefit of the Indian working class, the entire international working class, for peace and social progress all over the world.

Long live the 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress!

Long Live the friendship between the Hungarian and Indian working class!

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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NINE MINERS KILLED

LOK SABHA

ACCIDENTS IN TWO COLLIERIES NEAR DHANBAD

New Delhi, March 8, 1961.

The Union Deputy Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri L.N. Mishra, made the following statement in Lok Sabha today regarding the accidents in the Simlabahal and Badruchuk collieries near Dhanbad:

Two tragic accidents took place in the Simlabahal Colliery and the Badruchuk Colliery on February 27, 1961 and March 5, 1961 respectively.

In the former colliery, while four miners were dressing the side of a pillar, a mass of roof fell over them from a height of about six feet, killing them instantaneously. The accident occurred at 10.00 P.M. All the four dead bodies were extricated before 2 A.M. under the direct supervision of the officers of the Mines Inspectorate. An ex-gratia payment of Rs.250 is being paid by the management to the family of each of the deceased.

According to the preliminary enquiry report, the collapse of the roof took place because the width of the gallery where the accident occurred was made excessive and the roof was not adequately supported. The management thus have contravened the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, and action is being taken against them.

The accident in the Badruchuk colliery took place at 4.30 A.M. on March 5, 1961. The Additional Chief Inspector of Mines, the Deputy Chief Inspector and the Regional Inspector reached the site of the accident at 8.30 A.M., and helped in the rescue operations. This accident also was caused by fall of roof. The roof fell from a height of about 30 feet while a gang of miners was engaged in a depillaring area. While rescue operations were being carried on, another roof fall occurred. In all, five persons were killed in the accident, and four persons, seriously injured.

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The preliminary enquiry by the Mines Inspectorate revealed that the roof was not adequately supported according to the systematic timbering rules, and the management ~~thus appear to be~~ were also responsible for the accident, and ~~action will be taken against them~~.

~~About 60 persons were employed in the Simlabahal~~ and 1274 persons in the Badruchuk colliery. The accidents have not resulted in any unemployment or loss of production.

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A BUREAUCRATIC WHIM

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The Sub-Divisional Officer(Mechanical) of the Public Works Department at Dehri-on-Sone (Bihar) has taken a particularly whimsical step in suspending the meetings of the legally constituted Works Committee. This action is reported to have been taken by him on the ground that a newly formed union had written a letter to him questioning the status of the AITUC-affiliated ~~xxx~~ P.W.D.Workers' Union.

The Sub-Divisional Officer has got no legal rights to suspend the meetings of the Works Committee and the union has strongly protested against this illegal action of the Sub-Divisional Officer.

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VISA REFUSED

A Czechoslovak delegation headed by Comrade Pacovsky, member of the Presidium of the Central Council of Trade Unions, Czechoslovakia, scheduled to visit India for a week from March 12, at the invitation of AITUC, cancelled its programme since the Government of India did not grant them visa.

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QUARRY WORKERS STRIKE ENDS

4000 workers of the Kotdi, Jharna and Jagar stone quarries, won a big victory after 31 days continuous strike and 12 days of hunger strike of Govind Prasad Gupta, a member of the Hindaun branch of the Rajasthan Mineral and Stone Quarries Mazdoor Union (AITUC).

The workers had gone on strike protesting against the introduction of the "royalty system" as against the "kamma system" which was prevalent earlier. Under the "royalty system", the quarries were leased out to the contractors by the Rajasthan Government.

In these work-sites, the contractors have now agreed to transfer their contracts to workers cooperatives and the workers have agreed to pay Rs.35,000 to them ~~xxxxx~~ towards the compensation of earnest money deposited by the contractors with the Government.

As a result of the settlement between the contractors and the workers' representatives, Govind Gupta broke his fast on March 2.

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AITUC NOMINATION.

George Chadayammuri, Secretary, Kerala State Trade Union Council, has been nominated to represent AITUC on the Development Council for Alcohol and other products of Fermentation Industries.

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The Council will shortly be renamed as "Development Council for Organic Chemical Industries" to cover Dyes, and intermediates, and Plastics etc.

THE CONCEPT OF A LIVING WAGE

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We are publishing here

~~The following is an~~ extracts from the judgement of a Supreme Court Bench composed of Justices P.B. Gajendragadkar, K.N. Wanchoo and K.C. Dasgupta in the matter of two cross appeals by the Standard-Vaccum Refining Co. of India Ltd. and their workmen.

The judgement was delivered by Justice P.B. Gajendragadkar on January 20, 1961.

The main issues involved in the appeal ~~was~~ were whether the employees of the Company were enjoying living wage and whether bonus could be demanded even after the attainment of living wage.

The Supreme Court upheld the award of the Industrial Tribunal granting five months wages as bonus and in the course of the judgement discussed the concept of a ~~living~~ living wage.

The Supreme Court ~~also~~ kept open the question as to whether bonus claim even after the attainment of living wage standards would be entertained or not. — Editor, TUR.

It is well-known that the problem of wage-structure with which industrial adjudication is concerned in a modern democratic State involves in the ultimate analysis to some extent ethical and social considerations. The advent of the doctrine of a welfare state is based on notions of progressive social philosophy which have rendered the old doctrine of laisses faire obsolete. In the nineteenth century the relation between employers and employees were usually governed by the economic principle of supply and demand, and the employers thought that they were entitled to hire labour on their terms and to dismiss the same at their choice subject to the specific terms of cohtract between them, if any. The theory of "hire and fire" as well as the theory of "Supply and demand" which were allowed free scope under the doctrine of laisses faire no longer hold the field. In constructing a wage structure in a given case industrial adjudication does take into account to some extent con-

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Following are relevant extracts from the judgment of the Supreme Court, delivered on January 20, 1961, dealing with the concept of a living wage:

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siderations of right and wrong, propriety and impropriety, fairness and unfairness. As the social conscience of the general community becomes more alive and active, as the welfare policy of the State takes a more dynamic form, as the national economy progresses from stage to stage, and as under the growing strength of the trade union movement collective bargaining enters the field, wage structure ceases to be a purely arithmetical problem. Considerations of the financial position of the employer and the state of national economy have their say, and the requirements of a workman living in a civilised and progressive society also come to be recognised. It is in that sense, and no doubt to a limited extent, that the social philosophy of the age supplies the background for the decision of industrial disputes as to wage structure. As Mrs. Barbara Wootton has pointed out, the social and ethical implications of the arithmetic and the economics of wages cannot be ignored in the present age.

Italics indent

It is because of this socio-economic aspect of the wage structure that industrial adjudication postulates that no employer can engage industrial labour unless he pays it what may be regarded as the minimum basic wage. If he cannot pay such a wage he has no right to engage labour, and no justification for carrying on his industry; in other words, the employment of sweated labour which would be easily available to the employer in all undeveloped and even under-developed countries is ruled out on the ground that the principle of supply and demand has lost its validity in the matter of employment of human labour, and that it is the duty of the society and the welfare State to assure to every workman engaged in industrial operations the payment of what in the context of the times appears to be the basic minimum wage. This position is now universally recognised.

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In dealing with wage structure it is usual to divide wages into three broad categories: the basic minimum wage is the bare subsistence wage; above it is the fair wage, and beyond the fair wage is the living wage. It would be obvious that the concepts of these three wages cannot be described in definite words because their contents are elastic and they are bound to vary from time to time and from country to country. Sometimes the said three categories of wages are described as the poverty level, the subsistence level and the comfort or the decency level. It would be difficult and also inexpedient, to attempt the task of giving an adequate precision to these concepts. What is a subsistence wage in one country may appear to be much below the subsistence level in another; the same is true about a fair wage and a living wage; what is a fair wage in one country may be treated as a living wage in another, whereas what may be regarded as a living wage in one country may be no more than a fair wage in another. Several attempts have nevertheless been made to describe generally the contents of these respective concepts from time time. The most celebrated of these attempts was made by Mr. Justice Higgins in his judgement in 1907 in a proceeding usually referred to as the Harvester case. Sitting as President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, the learned judge posed the question as to what is the model or criterion by which fairness or reasonableness is to be determined, and he answered it by saying that "a fair and reasonable wage in the case of an unskilled labourer must be an amount adequate to cover the normal needs of the average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilised community.

In their work "Industrial Democracy" published in 1920 Sidney and Beatrice Webb observed that "there is a growing feeling, not confined to trade unionists, that the best interests in the community can only be attained by deliberately securing to each section of the workers those conditions which are necessary for the continuous and efficient fulfilment of its particular function in the social machine".

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In 1919 the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics conducted a tentative budget enquiry in the United States of America and analysed the objects with reference to three concepts, namely the pauper and poverty level, the minimum of subsistence level and the minimum of health and comfort level; the last was taken for determining the standard of a living wage. This classification was approved by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage for the commonwealth of Australia, and it proceeded through norms and budget enquiries to ascertain what the minimum of comfort level should be. The commission quoted with approval the description of minimum health and comfort level in the following terms:-

> "This represents a slightly higher level than that of the subsistence, providing not only for the material needs of food, shelter and body covering, but also for certain comforts such as clothing sufficient for bodily comfort, and to maintain the wearer's instinct of self-respect and decency, some insurance against the more important misfortunes - death, disability and fire, good education for the children, some amusement, and some expenditure for self-development".

Italics incident

According to the United Provinces Labour Enquiry Committee, wages were classified into four categories, poverty level, minimum subsistence level, the subsistence plus level, and the comfort level. The third category would approximate to the fair wage and the fourth to the living wage. According to the South Australian Act of 1912, the living wage means "a sum sufficient for the normal and reasonable needs of the average employee living in a locality where work under consideration is done or is to be done". On the other hand, the Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that the basic wage paid to an adult male employee shall not be less than is "sufficient to maintain a well conducted employee of average health, strength and competence, and his wife and a family of three children in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the conditions of living prevailing among employees in the calling in respect of which such

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basic wage is fixed, and provided that in fixing such basic wage the earnings of the children or wife of such employee shall not be taken into account."

The Fair Wages Committee which made its report in 1949 broadly accepted the view expressed by the Royal Commission on the basic wages for the Commonwealth of Australia; "the living wage should enable the male earner to provide for himself and his family not merely the bare essentials of food, clothing and shelter but a measure of frugal comfort including education for the children, protection against ill-health, requirements of essential social needs, and a measure of insurance against the more important misfortunes including old age". The Committee emphasised that "the minimum wage must provide not merely for the bare sustenance of life but for the preservation of the efficiency of the worker. For this purpose the minimum wage must also provide for some measure of education, medical requirements and amenities."

In this connection it would be useful to refer to the observations made by Phillip Snowden in regard to the concept of living wage. These observations are generally cited with approval by Industrial Tribunals. Said Snowden, "It may be possible to give a precise or satisfactory definition of a living wage, but it expresses an idea, a belief, a conviction, a demand. The idea of a living wage seems to come from the fountain of justices which no man has ever seen, which no man has ever explained, but which we all know is an instinct divinely implanted in the human heart. A living wage is something far greater than the figures of a wage schedule. It is at the same time a condemnation of unmerited and unnecessary poverty and a demand for some measure of justice". On the problem of converting the concept of living wage into monetary terms this is what Snowden has said: "The amount of the living wage in money terms will vary as between trade and trade, between locality and locality. But the idea is that every workman shall have a wage which will maintain him in the highest state of industrial efficiency, which will enable him to provide his

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family with all the material things which are needed for their health and physical well being, enough to enable him to qualify to discharge his duties as a citizen". It is in this broad and idealistic sense that Art.43 of the Constitution has referred to the living wage when it enunciates the Directive Principle that "the State shall endeavour, inter alia, to secure by suitable legislation, or economic organization, or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities." This court has recognised this idealistic position of the concept of living wage in the case of Express Newspapers (Pvt.) Ltd. & Anr. Vs. The Union of India & Ors.

It would thus be obvious the concept of a living wage is not a static concept; it is expanding and the number of its constituents and their respective contents are bound to expand and widen with the development and growth of national economy. That is why it would be impossible to attempt the task of determining the extent of the requirement of the said concept in the context of today in terms of rupees, annas and pies on the scanty material placed before us in the present proceedings. We apprehend that it would be inexpedient and unwise to make an effort to concretise the said concept in monetary terms with any degree of definiteness or precision even if a fuller enquiry is held. Indeed, it may be true to say that in an underdeveloped country it would be idle to describe any wage structure as containing the ideal of the living wage, though in some cases wages paid by certain employers may appear to be higher than those paid by others. As observed in its report by the Commission of Enquiry on the Emoluments and Conditions of Service of Central Government Employees 1957-59; taking a standard family as consisting of four members of whom only one is an earner, the average income of a family at the highest

figure during the nine years ending in 1957-58 would work out at Rs.1166 per annum or abour Rs.97 per mensem. The minimum wage cannot be of the order of Rs.125 when on the basis of the national income the average for a family works out only to Rs.97 per mensem.

Therefore, looking at the problem of industrial wages as a whole it would not be possible to predicate that our wages structure has reached even the level of a fair wage.

It is possible that even so some employers may be paying a very high wage to their workmen, and in such a case it would be necessary to examine whether the wages paid approximate to the standard of the living wage but in deciding this question the proper approach to adopt would be to consider whether the wage structure in question even approximately meets the legitimate requirements of the components constituting the concept of a living wage.

Italic

On the question of the correctness of the finding of the Textile Committee (1940) as to the monetory content of the living wage at Rs.50 to Rs.55, the Supreme Court observed:

" In our opinion it would be unreasonable and unsafe to treat the conclusions of this Committee as to the monetary value of the living wage in 1940 as sound and to make it the basis of our calculations today. Incidentally the method of multiplying the figure deduced by the Committee 3.5 is materially defective.

The proper approach to adopt would be evaluate each constituent of the concept of the living wage in the light of the prices prevailing today and thus reach a proper

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conclusion; but apart from it, the main objection against adopting the figure reached by the Committee is that even in 1940 the said figure could not be properly regarded as representing anything like a living wage standard.

The object with which the Committee proceeded to hold its enquiry was in a sense negative; it was to determine the question as to how far the prevailing wages were deficient having regard to some reasonable concept of a living wage standard.

The material before it was insufficient to determine satisfactorily the money content of the said concept and the Committee itself was conscious that its calculations were bound to be broad and general and conditioned by the data available to it, and what is more important conditioned by the notions of the social justice then prevailing.

Since 1940 the concept of social justice has made very great progress and the constitution of the country has now put a seal of approval on the ideal of a welfare state. Besides, it may seem entirely unrealistic to talk of a living wage in the light of our national economy in 1940 and to evaluate its content at Rs. 50/- to Rs. 55/- per month."

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Finally, the Supreme Court, after considering the conclusions of the 15th Indian Labour Conference regarding need-based minimum wage, pointed out :

"Besides, in determining the money value of the living wage it would be necessary to take into account the requirements of 'good education for children, some amusement, and some expenditure for self-development', and it is hardly necessary to emphasise that the content of these requirements cannot be easily converted into terms of money and they would obviously vary from time to time and would show an expansive tendency with the

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growth of national economy and with the advent of increasing prosperity for the nation as a whole and for any given industry in particular."

The Supreme Court also pointed out with regard to the claim made by the Standard Vaccum Company that it pays its workmen a living wage, that : " Therefore, in our opinion, on the material available in the present proceeding it is impossible to resist the conclusion that even the highest average of Rs.370.11 nP shown by the appellant by calculating wages paid to the clerical staff is much below the standard of living wage."

The Supreme Court finally observed:".... we feel no hesitation in holding that the said average (Rs.370.11 nP.) is much below the standard of living wage. The said average is much above the need-based minimum and may fall in the medium level of a fair wage; but that itself would show that it is much below the standard of living wage.

"Similarly, Rs.273.65 nP. which is the average of the operatives as well as Rs.301.16 nP. which is the average of the operatives and the clerical staff taken together may be regarded as constituting wage structure which is above the need-based minimum structure and may be treated as approximating to the lower level of the fair wage.

"One has merely to take into account the various constituent elements of the living wage to realise that that these averages fall far short of the standard of living wage."

(All italics ours — Editor, TLR)

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JAMSHEDPUR

Institution of criminal cases and accusing the trade union functionaries of crimes under different heads of Penal Code, is one of the dirty tricks the repressive machinery of the State uses to cripple the trade union movement and ~~to~~ harrass its leaders.

This practice is inherited by the present Governmental agency from the British rulers - Kanpur and Meerut cases are ample proofs for that.

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Wherever trade union movement is growing and wherever working class is fighting for achiveing their just and legitimate demands, the State lets loose its repressive machinery in connivance with the employers to stifle the growing up-surge. It is the inherent character of the system.

Recently the judgment in the so-called Jamshedpur Conspiracy case was pronounced by the Sessions Judge. It is well known that the ~~xxx~~ case was instituted in connection with the glorious strike of TISCO workers in May, 1958. Apart from the police firings, dismissal of workers, arrests and jails, the legal defence ~~itself~~ itself proved to be ~~prohibitive of~~ a very great burden on the working class.

~~x~~ We are giving below an outline of expenses that was incurred in connection with the defence of Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union (AITUC) leaders and it members. There were 120 cases in which 791 persons were involved. Some of these cases were won and some are pending in appeal stages. But during the period 1958-1960, a total of Rs.95,475 had to be spent. The break up of this figure is as follows:

Total (reduced) ~~of~~ fees paid to lawyers in the lower, sessions ~~and High Courts~~: Rs. 46,950; Expenses for stamps, paper and copying fees for documents: Rs.21,000;

TUR 29

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED

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Payment to wholetime legal assistants, clerks and typists:	Rs. 2,400
Expenses incurred in conducting Industrial Disputes Act cases and other cases under allied legislations:	Rs. 15,475
Miscelleneous expenses:	Rs. 1,400
Total	Rs. 95,475

8×9/20

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Cable : "AITUCONG"

Telephones : 48771
43414

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

TUR

~~March 4, 1961~~

TRADE CIRCULAR ~~No.~~ 5/61
To All Affiliated ~~Unions~~ in
Cement Industry

~~Sub: CONCLUSIONS OF DELHI MEETING~~
MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF UNIONS IN CEMENT INDUSTRY

~~Dear Comrades,~~

A meeting of representatives from affiliated unions in Cement Industry was convened by the AITUC at New Delhi on February 28, 1961. From the reports made in the meeting, it appeared that the managements of various cement companies have started implementing the recommendations of the Wage Board by and large.

But while implementing the Wage Board's recommendations, the managements are taking unilateral decisions, some of which are perverse and some anarchic. The net result is therefore a good deal of anomally in fixation of grades, designations and cadres' classifications.

8x9/11

Besides the defects of the Wage Board report itself, the anarchy in the implementation of the recommendations and the unilateral decisions of the managements have given rise to serious discontent among the workers.

The meeting therefore decided that all the unions should by themselves immediately prepare memoranda in detail, touching the points concerning the defects in the Wage Board Report as well as the anomalies in implementation of decisions at various levels.

The memorandum should be prepared immediately and sent to the management, the State Labour Ministry as well as to the Central Implementation and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Labour & Employment, New Delhi. A copy of the memorandum should be sent to the AITUC Office in order to enable us to prepare a comprehensive memorandum covering all centres.

Two memoranda on the broad principles which have emerged from the discussions of the implementation of Wage Board recommendations - one, arising out of the implementation of Government resolution on the recommendations, and, two, on the defects in the recommendations themselves, will be submitted to the Union Labour Ministry by the AITUC. Agitation for rectifying these defects are the immediate tasks in this regard.

TUR 31

WEST BENGAL PEACE CONVENTION

A Peace Convention of the workers and employees was held in Calcutta on March 5. The convention was presided over by Satya Priya Roy, General Secretary, All-Bengal Teachers Association and Vivekananda Mukherjee, Editor, JUGANTAR, who is also the President of West Bengal Peace Council was Guest-in-Chief.

P X 9 / 11

Many workers organisations including West Bengal Committee of the AITUC, and UTUC, Bengal Provincial Bank Employees ~~Union~~ Association, Insurance Employees Association, Petroleum Workers Union, Federation of Mercantile Employees Unions participated in the convention.

The Convention adopted a number of resolutions, ~~inx~~ among others, on forthcoming meeting of the World Peace Council, on Laos, On Congo, On Goa, on Algeria etc.

A tentative list of delegates numbering more than 30 was also agreed upon to represent various trade unions in the World Peace Council meeting.

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AITUC CANDIDATES WIN ALL SEATS

~~The~~ All the three candidates set up by Garden Reach Textile Workers Union (AITUC) in the ~~WOrkscommittee~~ of the Board of Trustees election/of Kesoram Cotton Mills Workers Provident Fund Institution, defeated the INTUC and HMS candidates and got elected by a big majority of votes. Out of a total of 8,478 votes polled, the AITUC candidates got 5,036 votes.

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Previously, the authorities never took representatives of workers on the Board and the union had been fighting for workers' representation on the Board since 1959. Finally their demand was accepted and the election held.

The workers celebrated the victory by holding a big mass rally. The winning candidates ~~won~~ are Maniram, Assistant Secretary of the Union, Bidyadhar Symal and Haridas Das, members of the executive committee.

CEYLON TU LEADER VISIT AITUC OFFICE 32

T.B.Dissanayake, President, Government Clerical Service Union, Ceylon, visited the Central Officex of the All-India Trade Union Congress on March 3.

He had a discussion with K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary of the AITUC concerning the trade union problems of the two countries with particular reference to Central Governmentemployges' struggle in India in July 1960.

8x9/11

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PANDIT G/B.PANT

The Trade Union Record joins the nation in mourning the sad loss of the veteran national leader and Home Minister of the Government of India, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant. ~~He was 74~~ He died on March 7, 1961. He was 74.

Paying homage to the memory of Pandit Pant, S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, spoke in the Lok Sabha on March 7:

"In paying tribute to the memory of Pantji, we pay tribute to one of the stalwarts of the old independence movement led by the Congress and the people in this country against British rule. And throughout his life, he carried the sign of the struggle not only in the memory of the people, but on his own personal body. ~~He~~ He embodied, in fact, the spirit of independence.

"After independence, and in particular latterly, he had to discharge heavy duties. Everybody knows that it is very difficult to be popular when you wield the Home Ministry particularly. But then he had that peculiar quality that even when he did an unpleasant job, he did not leave bitterness behind. "He had the peculiar quality, as I saw him in many surroundings, to bind people together, to symthesize and not to dissipate, even where differences existed. Even when we differed, whenever we differed and parted, we did so not as permanent opponents, and without bitterness. That was the greatest quality which endeared him to all circles." He did not mind even keeping contacts with smaller subjects. I am personally aware of one instance. When I wrote my prison experiences early in 1928 after my prison sentence in the United Provinces, and the then Government attacked my exposure of prison conditions, it was he who defended me in the Legislative Council at that period.

"And thus I had not only in the AICC but in other ways some personal contact with him and knew him very well. The nation will remember his services not only during the struggle for independence but also during the later period when it was his ambition to develop the country and strengthen its Independence, and a tribute to his memory will ever be given."

Korba

AITUC UNION'S VICTORY IN WORKS COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Candidates supported by the Khadan Mazdoor Union (AITUC) won four seats on the Works Committee in Korba coal mines of the National Coal Development Corporation. The Works Committee elections were held on February 23.

8X9 11

As a protest against denial of the red ballot box and arbitrary procedure in conducting elections, the AITUC union boycotted the poll for two other seats.

Among the defeated candidates were the Secretary and Treasurer of the INTUC union.

Andhra Pradesh

RETROGRADE MOVE ON MINIMUM WAGES IN TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Contrary to the recommendation made by the Minimum Wages Committee appointed by the Andhra Pradesh Government, the State Government has slashed the minimum from the proposed Rs.2.25 per day to Rs.1.75 per day.

8X9 11

G.S.Balaji Das, General Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Employees Federation, in a statement issued on February 28, condemned this retrograde move of the Government. He pointed out that as early as 1948, the minimum was accepted as Rs.1.50 and the irrationality of the Government decision can be seen from the steep rise in cost of living during the last twelve years.

He appealed to the Government to accept the Committee's recommendation and revise the unjust decision. The Committee's recommendation had also been approved by the State Labour Advisory Board. ~~By~~ The State Government however flouted the decision of the two tripartite bodies.

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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT ARRIVED AT BETWEEN (1) THE ALL-INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION AND (2) THE ALL-INDIA LIFE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION , representing the employees, and THE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA:

It is hereby agreed by the above parties as under:

1. A flat rate of Rs. 15 per mpnth will be granted to all employees in Class III and Class IV in the form of an ad hoc increase in the dearness allowance.

2. The amount will be paid with retrospective effect from April 1, 1960 to all employees who are in the service of the Corporation to March 1, 1961 or who resigned or retired from service or died in service between April 1, 1960 and March 1, 1961. The amount will not be paid to those employees whose services were terminated between these two dates as a result of disciplinary action.

3. The amount will be paid to all employees in Class III and Class IV, irrespective of whether they are in receipt of some additional dearness allowance or not or whether they have opted for their old company scales.

4. The Corporation will start discussion with the above Employees' Association for a general review of salary scales, dearness allowance and other service conditions of all Class III and Class IV staff including the suggestion for the merger of a part of dearness allowance in basic salary, some time in early 1962.

The agreement was signed at Bombay, on March 6, 1961 by Saroj Choudhuri on behalf of AIIEA, R.A.Menezes on behalf of AILIEA, and D.S.Mehta , Executive Director, LIC.

TUR 36

NIRMAL BOSE & OTHERS COMMITTED TO SESSIONS

Twenty three accused including Nirmal Bose, General Secretary, and Haribandhu Behera, Joint Secretary, of the Keonjhar Mines & Forest Workers Union (AITUC), have been committed to sessions trial on February 28, by the trying magistrate. They are involved in what-is-known as Barbil Murder case.

Among the accused persons, Monglu and Panda Ahir have been charged with the offence of murder while others have been charged of aiding and abeting murder, illegal assembly, etc.

The case has been instituted against these trade union leaders in connection with an incident that took place on September 26, near Gurda, a mining area in Keonjhar district (Orissa), in which one person is reported to have died. (The incident has earlier been reported in TUR)

A total of 58 persons were arrested in this connection, among whom, 30 persons were released earlier as charges could not be preferred against them. Five persons were acquitted at the time of preliminary trial. Following the committal orders, six persons who were earlier granted bail, were remanded to custody.

It may be pointed out here that since 1953, dozens of criminal cases were instituted against the trade union functionaries in this area and in most of the cases, they were acquitted. Police had been working in connivance with the mine-owners to safe-guard the employers' interest since the begining of progressive trade union movement in this area, the reasons for which await no explanation.

The accused persons in the Barbil Murder Case are being defended by D.Sahu, Senior Advocate and Ram Chandra Ram, Advocate of Cuttack.

37 TUR

S.A.DANGE ON GENERAL BUDGET

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"In the not-too-distant future, there is bound to be definite confrontation of the actual possessors of politico-economic power in the country, the large business interests, the top administrative and professional groups and the political parties supported by them with the mass of the people, and such a confrontation would have very serious results for the plan and for stability and order in the country. Such a situation could be avoided only if political leadership becomes more intelligent and perceptive. The present crisis is essentially a moral crisis. If those in power can regain moral authority, which they can do only by showing some convincing overt signs of their sincerity and sacrifice for planned development of India on democratic lines, the mixed economy may still prove practicable.

"If not, the last abortive strike of the central government employees may prove to have been only the first in a series of disturbances and conflicts that may shake the country."

This prophetic warning of the eminent economist, D.R.Gadgil, Chairman of the Panel Economists of the Planning Commission, was quoted by S.A.Dange, General Secretary, AITUC, while speaking on the general budget in the Lok Sabha on March 14.

S.A.Dange characterised the budget as an "anti-people budget" and said that "the common man, to the Finance Minister, is a tax-paying machine"; and if "he has to live, then, he must live for taxes; otherwise, he must not live."

Dange said that the Budget in a planned economy should try to shift incomes in a particular direction. When the whole of society is engaged in putting forth its maximum effort in industrialising the country and in strengthening its economy, the pertinent question that must arise always in framing the budget would be how this development and

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its fruits are being shared.

Production has increased; national income has increased; the per capita income has increased, and so, in the sphere of production and the outlook for the economy, the achievements are quite sizable and are of a type of which everybody in the country including the Government and the ruling party should be proud. Some of the industries that are being built and have been built during the Second Plan have enabled us to break the blockade which was being imposed on us or which we had inherited historically from the previous conditions of subjection.

But the relevant question is: What is happening to the fruits of development? If we look at the fruits of development, do we continue the direction in which they are being cornered, or are we going to change the direction?

Bl. incident

The fruits of this development are mostly being cornered by those who own industry in the private sector, and even amongst them, by those who have monopoly hold on the economy of the country.

~~Comrade~~ S.A.Dange continued:

The development of monopoly capitalism in this country during the First Plan and the Second Plan, particularly in the Second Plan, has been already noted by several economists.

In fact, the Panel of Economists, headed by Professor D.R.Gadgil pointed to this danger. The Panel pointed to three or four dangers, the first among which was that if monopoly capital seizes hold of the economic bases of development of the country, then the fruits of development will not flow to the people but will harm them.

Secondly, development in the direction of monopoly capital will not lead to the desired results which we want to bring about through planned economic development.

Thirdly, there will be inflation in the price structure in the country; and, fourthly, there will be political complications unhealthy for democracy.

Bl. Inc. incht.

Has this development come about in the economy of the

country? It has. Does the Budget in any way try to correct it? It does not.

S.A.Dange pointed out that indirect taxation which in 1948 was 50 per cent of the revenue, went up to 67.3 per cent in 1960 and it now about 69 per cent in this Budget.

When the point is raised that this indirect taxation is hitting the common man and generally that section of the population which is least fitted to be taxed so heavily, the reply of the Finance Minister is that consumption must be restricted.

It is accepted that the objective of the Plan is to raise standards of living. And the moment a man's standard of living just goes up a little, then the Finance Minister says that 'since his standard of living is going up, he must pay me a price for taking the standard of living up' and that price must be such that his standard of living must come down.

It was not a chance that as soon as the Budget was published, the prices started soaring up. When this was pointed out to the Finance Minister, he said: 'There might be some shopkeepers who do that but I am not responsible for it, society should look into the matter'. Now, if society does start looking into the matter, the simple result would be that society would go at those profiteers who are doing this thing, and there would be a veritable civil war, which certainly is not what the Finance Minister wants.

The Budget, in its total effect, is thus an anti-people budget. The Finance Minister frankly stated that taxes are meant to restrict consumption. Kill consumption, where it starts to rise and kill it by taxation. So, I do not know whether to call it a killer's Budget or a builder's Budget, because the Budget is supposed to build up the economy of the people. Instead of that - it does not do that - it wants to kill consumption.

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Does the Budget in any way help to reduce the price level? No. In fact, the Finance Minister made a theoretical statement that in a developing economy price rise is inevitable. He does not say what kind of developing economy, socialist or capitalist.

Is price rise inevitable even in a capitalist economy? If he goes into the history of the development of England, which was the first capitalist country to lay down the foundations of a capitalist economy in the world, he will find that when tremendous development was taking place, prices were falling and not rising. In India, continuously prices are rising and never falling.

If you again pay attention to the development of the capitalist economy, you will find that since the last 20 years, after 1930 and particularly after the Great Depression and the starting of the war, prices have continuously been rising throughout the capitalist world, the reason being that monopoly has seized hold of the machinery of money supply, banking, the whole governmental apparatus and the main sources of production.

Therefore, we can say that prices rise continuously when monopoly capital seizes hold of the economy, and that is exactly what is happening slowly in our country.

Continuing, S.A.Dange asked the Finance Minister to show any socialist economy where prices have risen when planned economy started. There is not one single example.

This abstract statement of the Finance Minister is meant to condition the people in the belief that if they want development, price rise is inevitable, and thereby he wants to demoralise them from struggling against the rise in prices.

It was stated that because of deficit financing, price rises take place. In the last year, Dange said, deficit financing was at the lowest, almost nil, very little. Production was the highest. Why then did prices rise.

Then you will find that in the sphere of banking,

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more than necessary money has been poured into the system, and the banks have been the greatest criminals in the rise in prices in the last year.

The Economic Survey frankly admits that speculative tendencies appeared, there was too much money in the market, in the private sector, and that it vitiated the price structure.

Every year on the budget, I draw his attention to the fact that this banking system in this country ought to be taken over by the State, because it is the greatest criminal vitiating our price structure and money structure. He has always been telling me that it is not possible to do so, not healthy to do so and that it is my particular mania.

But there is this perpetual mania in the Economic Survey exhibited by the banks, that they pump money into the system and hold society to ransom and price rises take place.

What is the cure for this in the Budget? None. ~~The Budget is definitely weighted in favour of the richer classes.~~ There is, in fact, a greater encouragement for converting reserves into bonus shares by reduction of tax for floating bonus shares.

The Budget is definitely weighted in favour of the richer classes.

Dange pointed out that that in the Gross Fixed Capital formation of Rs.390 crores, Rs.280 crores have been provided for buildings and other construction and only Rs.110 crores for machinery and equipment. Is this ratio healthy for the economy.

He criticised the Government move to create a free port in Kandla. It would result in nothing but smuggling and an indirect reflection on the development of other ports and certain other industries.

Such measures are carried out on the one side and on the other side, when people want some share of the gains of development, they are denied that share in the

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name of taxation and further development.

For example, the fact is that for every one rupee paid to the worker, he produces Rs.2.39 as net addition to value. That is the way in which the working class is reproducing its wages. When the Finance Minister wants to tax, my suggestion would be: bring out all your sources of taxation from the Rs.2.39 net value added. You need not go around casting your net wide on indirect taxes through excise duties, ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~

The Finance Minister claimed that indirect taxation is unavoidable even in a ~~capitalist~~ socialist society. He should know that indirect taxation in socialist countries goes on falling. Why? For this reason that the main instruments of production, that is, the main sources of production are nationalised and the surplus of that production enters the Budget, and thereby reduces indirect taxation.

If the State Sector in this country were to enlarge, if the main lines of production were to be transferred to the State Sector, then the surplus from the State Sector should enter into the Budget and the part played by indirect taxes would go down.

That is just simple arithmetic and simple financial theory. And that is why in the Soviet Union now taxes on income are being abolished and taxation on commodities is going out very soon.

In the Third Plan, credit of Rs.450 crores is taken as surplus from State Sector undertakings. If the State Sector were to expand, this could be expanded to Rs.1,000 crores and thereby reduce the necessity of indirect taxation.

But this involves a certain policy ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ which will not allow monopoly capital to grow, a policy which will not allow two families in this country to control a capital block of Rs.700 crores.

The money in the hands of the poor man is going on decreasing; but the money in the hands of the monopoly capitalists increases. And yet the Finance Minister says that he is taxing both equitably.

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It is a well-known fact that real wages are falling and have fallen in the last two years. ~~And yet, when the real wages have fallen and the~~ prices have risen. ~~and~~ The profits have gone up. ~~yet they rich are not taxed more.~~ But Corporate taxation does not yield income as much as it should or even on the basis of given taxation. Yet the Finance Minister claims that the Budget is an equitable Budget and it lays down the burden equitably on all sectors of society. I challenge his claim.

The Budget cannot evoke any enthusiasm so far as the common man is concerned. Neither the working class nor the peasantry will be enthused by seeing the Budget which is framed in this way.

S.A.Dange demanded that when the Budget is introduced, there should be a certain omnibus provision that until the taxes proposed become effective, no price rise will be legal. When the proposals are made, the prices shoot up for two months or more. Perhaps prices may stabilise or come down later; but in a period of one month or 15 days, hundreds of thousands of rupees are drawn from the purses of the poor people.

~~Dange concluded his speech, quoting Prof.D.R.Gadgil~~

~~"In the ... definite confrontation of the actual possessors of~~

Dange then quoted Prof.D.R.Gadgil showing how the the economy is getting disturbed, how the moral influence of the older leadership which inherited the great traditions of the national movement is not able to control this development from going in the wrong direction. And the warning that if corrective steps are not taken, the last strike of the central government employees "may prove to have been only the first in a series of disturbances and conflicts that may shake the country."

Dange concluded: "This is the fear expressed by an eminent specialist and economist. And this is the hope that I am expressing, the hope that the Finance Minister will help the country to avoid such a calamity."

CIVIL SERVANTS' STRIKE IN FRANCE.

More than ten lakhs
~~A million~~ French civil servants went on a 24-hour strike on March 14, closing public offices, halting mail deliveries and paralysing air services, telephones, customs etc. Dunkirk cross-channel services were stopped.

In Paris, 6,000 strikers marched from the Town Hall to the Finance Ministry bearing banners and chanting slogans demanding higher pay. A police helicopter hovered overhead.

There were no incidents and the marchers dispersed after a delegation had been received by Ministry officials.

The strike was resorted to demanding a minimum wage of 500 new Franc and radical change in the pay structure of Civil Servants.

Official estimates put the number of civil servants on strike at between 80% and 100%.

***

Book Review

45 TUR

LABOUR SURVEY OF NORTH AFRICA.

(International Labour Office, Geneva, 1960 Price $ 4)

This survey, compiled from the data collected by I.L.O and the information supplied by the State governments, covers 5 major North African countries viz; U.A.R., Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

The ~~volume~~ Survey deals exhaustively with problems like Economic and social conditions, Man power and Employment, Technical and vocational Training, Freedom of Associations, and Industrial Relations and wages. It has also dealt at length the problems like general conditions of work, social security and Labour administration.

With regard to wages, the survey came to the conclusion that statistically atleast, many workers in this vast continent "may seem condemned to exist in conditions which do not even attain minimum level of existance". It however argued that workers earn extra revenue in kind to fill the gap.

In a chapter on general conditions of work, the Survey brings out that conditions are generally fairly satisfactory in the larger and better organised industries. However, a great mass of industrial activities are done through family concerns which hinders the enforcement of prescribed standards as regards hours of work, wages and conditions of work, and especially those relating to hygiene and safety.

The report generally has not viewed the question of wages, working conditions etc. from the angle which a trade unionist would have done, nor it has highlighted the glaring shortcomings of various legislative measures adopted by governments.

Further, it does not focuss the attention of the readers on the gains of the struggle of the workers. But for the first time ~~are~~ an attempt has been made to analyse the data available which is useful to a limited extent for making a comparative assesment of conditions in different countries.

The survey does not reflect a lucid background of resurgent Africa. However, it helps one to understand some aspects of African development.

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Expenses incurred in conducting Industrial Disputes Act cases and other cases under allied legislations:	Rs. 15,475
Miscelleneous expenses:	Rs. 1,400
Total	Rs. 95,475

T.B.Dissanayake, President, Government Clerical Service Union, Ceylon, visited the Central Officex of the All-India Trade Union Congress on March 3.

He had a discussion with K.G.Sriwastava, Secretary of the AITUC concerning the trade union problems of the two countries with particular reference to Central Government employees' struggle in India in July 1960.

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WEST BENGAL PEACE CONVENTION

A Peace Convention of the workers and employees was held in Calcutta on March 5. The convention was presided over by/Vivekananda Mukherjee, Editor, JUGANTAR, who is Satya Priya Roy, General Secretary,

Korba

AITUC UNION'S VICTORY IN WORKS COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Candidates supported by the Khadan Mazdoor Union (AITUC) won four seats on the Works Committee in Korba coal mines of the National Coal Development Corporation. The Works Committee elections were held on February 23.

As a protest against denial of the red ballot box and arbitrary procedure in conducting elections, the AITUC union boycotted the poll for two other seats.

Among the defeated candidates were the Secretary and Treasurer of the INTUC union.

Andhra Pradesh

RETROGRADE MOVE ON MINIMUM WAGES IN TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Contrary to the recommendation made by the Minimum Wages Committee appointed by the Andhra Pradesh Government, the State Government has slashed the minimum from the proposed Rs.2.25 per day to Rs.1.75 per day.

G.S.Balaji Das, General Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Employees Federation, in a statement issued on February 28, condemned this retrograde move of the Government. He pointed out that as early as 1948, the minimum was accepted as Rs.1.50 and the irrationality of the Government decision can be seen from the steep rise in cost of living during the last twelve years.

He appealed to the Government to accept the Committee's recommendation and revise the unjust decision. The Committee's recommendation had also been approved by the State Labour Advisory Board. ~~By~~ The State Government however flouted the decision of the two tripartite bodies.

THE CONCEPT OF A LIVING WAGE

The following is an extract from the judgement of a Supreme Court Bench composed of Justices P.B. Gajendragadkar, K.N. Wanchoo and K.C. Dasgupta in the matter of two cross appeals by the Standard-Vaccum Refining Co. of India Ltd. and their workmen.

The judgement was delivered by Justice P.B. Gajendragadkar on January 20, 1961.

The main issue involved in the appeal was whether the employees of the Company were enjoying living wage and whether bonus could be demanded even after attainment of living wage.

The Supreme Court upheld the award of the Industrial Tribunal granting five months wages as bonus and in course of the judgement discussed the concept of a ~~living~~ living wage.

The Supreme Court also kept open the question as to whether bonus claim even after the attainment of living wage standards would be entertained or not,

"It is well-known that the problem of wage-structure with which industrial adjudication is concerned in a modern democratic State involves in the ultimate analysis to some extent ethical and social considerations. The advent of the doctrine of a welfare state is based on notions of progressive social philosphy which have rendered the old doctrine of laisses faire obsolete. In the nineteenth century the relation between employers and employees were usually governed by the economic principle of supply and demand, and the employers thought that they were entitled to hire labour on their terms and to dismiss the same at their choice subject to the specific terms of contract between them, if any. The theory of "hire and fire" as well as the theory of "Supply and demand" which were allowed free scope under the doctrine of laisses faire no longer hold the field. In constructing a wage structure in a given case industrial adjudication does take into account to some extent con-

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siderations of right and wrong, propriety and impropriety, fairness and unfairness. As the social conscience of the general community becomes more alive and active, as the welfare policy of the State takes a more dynamic form, as the national economy progresses from stage to stage, and as under the growing strength of the trade union movement collective bargaining enters the field, wage structure ceases to be a purely arithmetical problem. Considerations of the financial position of the employer and the state of national economy have their say, and the requirements of a workman living in a civilised andprogressive society also come to be recognised. It is in that sense, and no doubt to a limited extent, that the social philosophy of the age supplies the background for the decision of industrial disputes as to wage structure. As Mrs. Barbara Wootton has pointed out, the social and ethical implications of the arithmetic and the economics of wages cannot be ignored in the present age.

It isbecause of this socio-economic aspect of the wage structure that industrial adjudication postulates that no employer can engage industrial labour unless he pays it what may be regarded as theminimum basic wage. If he cannot pay such a wage he has no right to engage labour, and no justification for carrying on his industry; in other words, the employment of sweated labour which would be easily available to the employer in all undeveloped and even under-developed countries is ruled out on the ground that the principle of supply anddemandhas lost its validity in the matter of employment of human labour, and that it is the duty of the society and the welfare State to assure to every workman engaged in industrial operations the payment of what in the context of the times appears to be thebasic minimum wage. This position is now universally recognised.

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In dealing with wage structure it is usual to divide wages into three broad categories: the basic minimum wage is the bare substence wage; above it is the fair wage, and beyond the fair wage is the living wage. It would be obvious that the concepts of these three wages cannot be described in definite words because their contents are elastic and they are bound to vary from time to time and from country to country. Sometimes the said three categories of wages are described as the poverty level, the subsistence level and the comfort or the decency level. It would be difficult and also in-expedient, to attempt the task of giving an adequate precision to these concepts. What is a subsistence wage in one country may appear to be much below the subsistence level in another; the same is true about a fair wage and a living wage; what is a fair wage in one country may be treated as a living wage in another, whereas what may be regarded as a living wage in one country may be no more than a fair wage in another. Several attempts have nevertheless been made to describe generally the contents of these respective concepts from time time. The most celebrated of these attempts was made by Mr. Justice Higgins in his judgement in 1907 in a proceeding usually referred to as the Harvester case. Sitting as President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, the learned judge posed the question as to what is the model or criterion by which fairness or reasonableness is to be determined, and he answered it by saying that "a fair and reasonable wage in the case of an unskilled labourer must be an amount adequate to cover the normal needs of the average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilised community.

In their work "Industrial Democracy" published in 1920 Sidney and Beatrice Webb observed that "there is a growing feeling, not confined to trade unionists, that the best interests in the community can only be attained by deliberately securing to each section of the workers those conditions which are necessary for the continuous and efficient fulfilment of its particular function in the social machine".

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In 1919 the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics conducted a tentative budget enquiry in the United States of America and analysed the objects with reference to three concepts, namely the pauper and poverty level, the minimum of subsistence level and the minimum of health and comfort level; the last was taken for determining the standard of a living wage. This classification was approved by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage for the commonwealth of Australia, and it proceeded through norms and budget enquiries to ascertain what the minimum of comfort level should be. The commission quoted with approval the description of minimum health and comfort level in the following terms:-

> "This represents a slightly higher level than that of the subsistence, providing not only for thematerial needs of food, shelter and body covering, but also for certain comforts such as clothing sufficient for bodily comfort, and to maintain the wearer's instinct of self-respect and decency, some insurance against the more important misfortunes - death, disability and fire-good education for the children, some amusement, and some expenditure for self-development".

According to the United Provinces Labour Enquiry Committee wages were classified into four categories, poverty level, minimum subsistence level, the subsistence plus level, and the comfort level. The third category would approximate to the fair wage and the fourth to the living wage. According to the South Australian Act of 1912 the living wage means "a sum sufficient for the normal and reasonable needs of the average employee living in a locality where work under consideration is done or is to be done". On the other hand, the Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that the basic wage paid to an adult male employee shall not be less than is "sufficient to maintain a well conducted employee of average health, strength and competence, and his wife and a family of three children in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the conditions of living prevailing among employees in the calling in respeft of which such

basic wage is fixed, and provided that in fixing such basic wage the earnings of the children or wife of such employee shall not be taken into account.

The Fair Wages Committee which made its report in 1949 broadly accepted the view expressed by the Royal Commission on the basic wages for the Commonwealth of Australia; "the living wage should enable the male earner to provide for himself and his family not merely the bare essentials of food, clothing and shelter but a measure of frugal comfort including education for the children, protection against ill-health, requirements of essential social needs, and a measure of insurance against the more important misfortunes including old age". The Committee emphasised that "the minimum wage must provide nor merely for the bare sustenance of life but for the preservation of the efficiency of the worker. For this purpose the minimum wage must also provide for some measure of education, medical requirements and amenities."

In this connection it would be useful to refer to the observations made by Philli/Showden in regard to the concept of living wage. These observations are generally cited with approval by Industrial Tribunals. Said Snowden, "It may be possible to give a precise or satisfactory definition of a living wage, but it expresses an idea, a belief a conviction, a demand. The idea of a living wage seems to come from the fountain of justices which no man has ever seen, which no man has ever explained, but which we all know is an instinct divinely implanted in the human heart. A living wage is something far greater than the figures of a wage schedule. It is at the same time a condemnation of unmerited and unnecessary poverty and a demand for some measure of justice". On the problem of converting the concept of living wage into monetary terms this is what Showden has said "The amount of the living wage in money terms will vary as between trade and trade, between locality and locality. But the idea is that every workman shall have a wage which will maintain him in the highest state of industrial efficiency, which will enable him to provide his

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family with all the material things which are needed for their health and physical well being, enough to enable him to qualify to discharge his duties as a citizen". It is in this broad and idealistic sense that Art.43 of the Constitution has referred to the living wage when it enunciates the Directive Principle that "the State shall endeavour, inter alia, to secure by suitable legislation, or economic organization, or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities." This court has recognised this idealistic position of the concept of living wage in the case of Express Newspapers (Pvt.) Ltd. & Anr. Vs. The Union of India & Ors.

It would thus be obvious the concept of a living wage is not a static concept; it is expanding andthe number of its constituents and their respective contents are bound to expand and widen with the development and growth of national economy. That is why it would be impossible to attempt the task of determining the extent of the requirement of the said concept in the context of today in terms of rupees, annas and pies on the scanty material placed before us in the present proceedings. We apprehend that it would be inexpedient and unwise to make an effort to concretise the said concept in monetary terms with any degree of definiteness or precision even if a fuller enquiry is held. Indeed, it may be true to say that in an underdeveloped country it would be idle to describe any wage structure as containing the ideal of the living wage, though in some cases wages paid by certain employers may appear to be higher than those paid by others. As observed in its report by the Commission of Enquiry on the Emoluments and Conditions of Service of Central Government Employees 1957-59; "taking a standard family as consisting of fourmembers of whom only one is an earner, the average income of a family at the highest

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figure during the nine years ending in 1957-58 would work out at Rs.1166 per annum or abour Rs.97 per mensem. The minimum wage cannot be of the order of Rs.125 when on the basis of the national income the average for a family works out only to Rs.97 per mensem."

Therefore, looking at the problem of industrial wages as a whole it would not be possible to predicate that our wages structure has reached even the level of a fair wage.

It is possible that even so some employers may be paying a very high wage to their workmen, and in such a case it would be necessary to examine whether the wages paid approximate to the standard of the living wage but in deciding this question the proper approach to adopt would be to consider whether the wage structure in question even approximately meets the legitimate requirements of the components constituting the concept of a living wage."

On the question of the correctness of the finding of the Textile Committee (1940) as to the monetory content of the living wage at Rs.50 to Rs.55, the Supreme Court observed:

" In our opinion it would be unreasonable and unsafe to treat the conclusions of this Committee as to the monetary value of the living wage in 1940 as sound and to make it the basis of our calculations today. Incidentally the method of multiplying the figure deduced by the Committee 3.5 is materially defective.

The proper approach to adopt would be evaluate each constituent of the concept of the living wage in the light ofthe prices prevailing today and thus reach a proper

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conclusion; but apart from it, the main objection against adopting the figure reached by the Committee is that even in 1940 the said figure could not be properly regarded as representing anythinglike a living wage standard.

The object with which the Committee proceeded to hold its enquiry was in a sense negative; it was to determine the question as to how far the prevailing wages were deficient having regard to some reasonable concept of a living wage standard.

The material before it was insufficient to determine satisfactorily the money content of the said concept and the Committee itself was conscious that its calculations were bound to be broad and general and conditioned by the data available to it, and what is more important conditioned by the notions of the social justice then prevailing.

Since 1940 the concept of social justice has made very great progres s and the constitution of the country has now put a seal of approva on the ideal of a welfare state. Besides, it may seem entirely unrealistic to talk of a living wage in the light of our national economy in 1940 and to evaluate its content at Rs. 50/- to Rs. 55/- per month.

Finally, the Supreme Court, after considering the conclusions of the 15th Indian Labour Conference regarding need-based minimum wage, pointed out :

" Besides, in determining the money value of the living wage it would be necessary to take into account the requirements of 'good education for children, some amusement, and some expenditure for self-development', and it is hardly necessary to emphasise that the content of these requirements cannot be easily converted into terms of money and they would obviously vary from time to time and would show an expansive tendency with the

growth of national economy and with the advent of increasing prosperity for the nation as a whole and for any given industry in particular."

The Supreme Court also pointed out with regard to the claim made by the Standard Vaccum Company that it pays its workmen a living wage, that : " Therefore, in our opinion, on the material available in the present proceeding it is impossible to resist the conclusion that even the highest average of Rs.370.11 nP shown by the appellant by calculating wages paid to the clerical staff is much below the standard of living wage."

The Supreme Court finally observed:".... we feel no hesitation in holding that the said average (Rs.370.11 nP.) is much below the standard of living wage. The said average is much above the need-based minimum and may fall in the medium level of a fair wage; but that itself would show that it is much below the standard of living wage.

"Similarly, Rs.273.65 nP. which is the average of the operatives as well as Rs.301.16 nP. which is the average of the operatives and the clerical staff taken together may be regarded as constituting wage structure which is above the need-based minimum structure and may be treated as approximating to the lower level of the fair wage.

"One has merely to take into account the various constituent elements of the living wage to realise that that these averages fall far short of the standard of living wage."

A BUREAUCRATIC WHIM

The Sub Divisional Officer(Mechanical) of the Public Works Department at Dehri-on-Sone has taken a particularly whimsical step in suspending the meetings of the legally constituted Works Committee. This action is reported to have been taken by him on the ground that a newly formed union had written a letter to him questioning the status of the AITUC-affiliated P.W.D.Workers' Union.

The Sub Divisional Officer has got no legal rights to suspend the meetings of the Works Committee and the union has strongly protested against this illegal action of the Sub Divisional Officer.

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VISA REFUSED

A Czechoslovak delegation headed by Pacovsky, member of the Presidium of the Central Council of Trade Unions, Czechoslovakia, scheduled to visit India for a week from March 12, at the invitation of AITUC, cancelled its programme since the Government of India did not grant them visa.

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QUARRY WORKERS STRIKE ENDS

4000 workers of the Kotdi, Jharna and Jagar stone quarries, won a big victory after 31 days continuous strike and 12 days of hunger strike of Govind Prasad Gupta, a member of the Hindaun branch of the Rajasthan Mineral and Stone Quarries Mazdoor Union (AITUC).

In these work-sites, the contractors have agreed to transfer their contracts to workers cooperatives and the workers have agreed to pay Rs.35,000 to them towar the compensation of earnest money deposited by the contra ctors with the Government.

As a result of the sttlement between the contractor and the workers representatives, Govind Gupta broke his fast on March 2.

Institution of criminal cases and accusing the trade union functionaries of crimes under different heads of Penal Code, is one of the dirty tricks the repressive machinery of the State uses to cripple the trade union movement and to harrass its leaders.

This practice is inherited by the present Governmental agency from the British rulers - Kanpur and Meerut cases are ample proofs for that.

Wherever trade union movement is growing and wherever working class is fighting for achiveing their just and legitimate demands, the State lets loose its repressive machinery in connivance with the employers to stifle the growing up-surge. It is the inherent character of the system.

Recently the judgment in the so-called Jamshedpur Conspiracy case was pronounced by the Sessions Judge. It is well known that the case was instituted in connection with the glorious strike of TISCO workers in May, 1958. Apart from the police firings, dismissal of workers, arrests and jails, the legal defence itself proved to be a very great burden of the working class.

We are giving below an outline of expenses that was incurred in connection with the defence of Jamshedpur Mazdoor Union (AITUC) leaders and it members. There were 120 cases in which 791 persons were involved. Some of these cases were won and some are pending in appeal stages. But during the period 1958-1960, a total of Rs.95,475 had to be spent. The break up of this figure is as follows:

Total (reduced) of fees paid to lawyers in the lower, sessions and High Courts: Rs. 46,950; Expenses for stamps, paper and copying fees for documents: Rs.21,000;

~~Xxxxxxx~~ Boarding and lodging charges for lawyers coming from outside: Rs.5,250; Travelling and conveyance charges pf lawyers:Rs.3,000; Payment to wholetime legal assistants, clerks and typists: Rs.2,400; expenses incurred in conducting industrial disputes~~x XX2XxRxx8x200x Rxx9x600x~~ Act cases and other allied legislations: Rs.15,475; miscelleneous expenses Rs.1,400.

This is only an example that shows the pattern and from this the financial burden can well be estimated. This type of cases are numerous - in ~~Xxxxxx~~ Bihar and Orissa particularly and in other States generally.

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NIRMAL BOSE & OTHERS COMMITTED TO SESSIONS

Twenty three accused including Nirmal Bose, General Secretary, and Haribandhu Behera, Joint Secretary, of the Keonjhar Mines & Forest Workers Union (AITUC), have been committed to sessions trial on February 28, by the trying magistrate. They are involved in what-is-known as Barbil Murder case.

Among the accused persons, Monglu and Panda Ahir have been charged with the offence of murder while others have been charged of aiding and abeting murder, illegal assembly etc.

The case was instituted against these trade union leaders in connection with an incident that took place on September 26, near Gurda, amining area in Keonjhar district, in which one person is reported to have died.

A total of 58 persons were arrested in connection with the incident, among whom, 30 persons were released earlier as charges could not be preferred against them. Five persons were acquitted at the time of preliminary trial. Following the committal orders, six persons who were earlier granted bail, were remanded to custody.

It may be pointed out here that since 1953, dozens of criminal cases were instituted against the trade union functionaries in this area and in most of the cases, they were acquitted. Police had been working in connivance with the mine-owners to safe-guard employers' interest since the begining of progressive trade union movement in this area, the reasons for which await no explanation.

The accused persons in the Barbil Murder Case are being defended by D.Sahu, Senior Advocate and Ram Chandra Ram, Advocate of Cuttack.

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AITUC NOMINATION.

George Chadayammuri, Secretary, Kerala State Trade Union Council has been nominated to represent AITUC on the Development Council for Alcohol and other products of Fermentation Industries.

TheCouncil will shortly be renamed as "Development Council for Organic Chemical Industries" to cover Dyes, and intermediates and Plastics etc.

20 FEB 1961

PRESS COMMUNIQUE 15.II.61.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Following the murder of Mr. Patrice LUMUMBA, the W.F.T.U. publishes the following statement :

The news of the murder of Prime Minister Patrice LUMUMBA and his colleagues, at the direct instigation of Tshombe, the hired agent of the Katanga Mining Union and of the Belgian colonialists, has aroused the indignation of the workers of the whole world. In all countries, they are demonstrating their wrath and anger.

The sordid murder of the leader of the Congolese movement for national independence, who had been legally elected by the great majority of his people and enjoyed the support of the African people and of all anti-colonial forces throughout the world, is a new and vain attempt by the imperialists to suppress the victorious struggle of the African people by the use of terror. It represents a serious threat to the cause of freedom and independence in Africa, and to the cause of peace. It unmasks and exposes to the whole world the role of the Belgian monopolies, colonialist government and all the other imperialist forces who have systematically inspired and organised the worst possible attacks against the sovereignty of the legal government of the Congo under the cloak of the United Nations. These attacks were directed in particular against the Prime Minister, Mr. P. LUMUMBA.

It places a new and heavy responsibility on the Secretary General of the United Nations whose attitude facilitated and made possible the murder of Mr. LUMUMBA.

Patrice LUMUMBA died as a hero, killed by the agents of the monopolies and colonialists. He has become the symbol of the desire for independence in the Congo and throughout Africa which rouses all anti-colonialist forces to rally and work for the final eradication of colonialism. His example will inspire the struggle of the Congolese people to safeguard their unity and territorial integrity and to win complete independence.

In paying homage to the memory of this courageous fighter against colonialism, the W.F.T.U., speaking for its 107 million members, expresses its deep sympathy and solidarity with the workers and people of the Congo and Africa.

Adding its indignant protest to that of all democrats and of all who oppose colonialism, the WFTU insists on the final and complete evacuation of Belgian troops from the Congo and the trial and condemnation of Tshombe and all who are directly and indirectly responsible for the murder of Mr. Patrice LUMUMBA.

It calls on all workers and trade unions to increase all forms of demonstrations of solidarity with the Congolese people and workers.

SECRETARIAT OF THE W.F.T.U.

Published by the
WFTU Press Dept. N° 212

26th Session of the AITUC
.....
Coimbatore
.....
January 1961

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RESOLUTIONS

ON ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

The 26th Session of the AITUC has considered the situation in the metal and engineering industry of our country. It notes with pride that during the last few years and particularly during the Second Plan period, the metal and engineering industry has laid the basis and a solid foundation for development of the national economy and has made great strides during this period. In the Public Sector, three steel plants have come up, the Heavy Electricals has begun normal production and construction work is going on of the heavy machine-building, foundry forge and coalmining machinery plants. Besides, several engineering plants have also come up in the Private Sector. The two steel plants in the private sector, the TISCO and Martin Burn's at Burnpur have been expanded.

The session is happy to note that it is in the Public Sector that this industry has been growing. The Session also welcomes the feature of the Third Plan of building new and bigger metal and engineering industries in the Public Sector and developing the existing ones. It, in fact, rejoices that we are overcoming our backwardness in which the imperialists left us and still wish to keep us. It wishes to emphasise that the metal and engineering industry which is fast developing and in which nearly a million workers are employed at present, has a vital role to play in building and developing our national economy.

While noting the development of the industry during this period in the Public Sector, this session wishes to record that such development could take place due to the unstinted and large measure of assistance given by the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries. It expresses deep the feeling of gratitude to the Governments and peoples of these socialist countries who have been largely responsible in building the base of our heavy industry.

It is also a significant fact that during the same Plan period, both production and profits in the metal and engineering industries have increased by leaps and bounds. Production in metal industry has risen by 196.7% and in the engineering by 343.4% compared to 1955, and profits in these industries went up by 2.5 times and 3.5 times respectively.

The session draws pointed attention to the fact that this increase in production and profits could not have been there but for the fact that the workers in the industry have given their fullfledged cooperation and support. The Session, therefore, records its appreciation of the patriotic role that these workers have played in building the industry.

However, it is a matter of deep regret that these profits and production have gone only to enrich the few employers both in the public and private sectors and not to increase the standard of living or bettering the working conditions of the workers. Actually while the production and the profits were shooting up so high, we notice that there has been no rise in the wages of workers commensurate with the rise in production, much less with profits, that in some cases, there has been

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either a regular depression of real wages or wages have remained frozen at the same level.

In this industry, there is no national minimum wage fixed. As a result, in some factories, the wages are so low that they get only a starvation wage equal to a flat rate of Rs.2.50 per day in a City like Bombay and even less at other places. In others, where the wage is linked with the cost of living index number, the neutralisation against the rise is never or hardly 100 per cent, thus continuously bringing down the real wage to deteriorate the standard of living still further.

In some well-organised factories, the employers manage to get better production by throwing a bait of piece rates and other incentive schemes to the workers, so that they, in pursuit of higher earnings, work more intensely, with increased workload on themselves and ultimately caused suffering and damage to their own health and longevity in the last analysis.

In order to escape any liability of direct payment, and application of labour legislation, some employers engage contractors who, on their turn, extract work from workers on scandalously low wages and under horrible conditions. They also continue to label them as temporary even if they have put years of service in the factory.

The 'apprentice' is yet another category of workers who, in this industry, are openly exploited as cheap labour. While apparently professing that the apprentices are given opportunities of learning the craft or trade, the employers exact production work from them and pay them only a miserable stipend. Even their right to join a trade union is not given to them in the Apprenticeship Training Bill which is proposed by the Government of India.

The anarchy in wage structure is yet another factor, which has exposed workers in this industry to further exploitation. Workers doing identical jobs will not find the same designation for that job, nor the same rate of wages, no sooner their place of work is changed to a different factory or region. Grades, scales and differentials, all differ. There is no rational relation with the basic minimum wage which itself is not fixed on any rational basis. The minimum need-based wage fixed by the tripartite conference has only remained in cold storage and become a matter of ridicule for employers and also the Government's Labour Department everywhere.

The AITUC protests against this state of affairs and expresses its strong resentment at the callous indifference shown by the Government of India, which, in spite of being a party to the unanimous agreement at tripartite conference, does not still constitute a Wage Board for the workers in this industry. This conference emphatically states that Wage Board is the only solution which can put an end to the present anarchy and unrestrained behaviour of the capitalists and bring about some standardisation of occupations and set proper wage differentials.

A regular well-organised and unscrupulous attack on the workers and their trade union rights in the engineering industry has also become a specific feature of policy of the employers in both sectors, particularly in Public Sector, in some places. The employers in these places have made it a point to see that the young, intelligent and educated workers of this newly-developing industry do not form trade union organisations of their own choice. In some centres, pressure is put on them to join the INTUC or other unions favoured by the employers.

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The Session strongly protests against this vicious attack on the fundamental trade union rights of workers which is becoming an attack on the security of service itself.

This session warns the Government and the employers against the unfair labour practices and disruptive tactics that are being practised with impunity in both the Sectors. Such practices will neither help the cause of the nation nor the industrialists themselves. It urges upon both the Government and private employers to put an end to such malpractices.

The AITUC therefore calls upon the engineering workers of the country to strengthen their unity and organisation so that the offensive of the employers could be defeated and the workers are able to fight for the improvement of their living standards and working conditions.

The conference further calls upon them to rally round the following demands and forge unity of action to realise the same:

1. Set up a Wage Board for Engineering Workers;
2. Give immediate rise in the present wage;
3. Link our Dearness Allowance with the cost of living index numbers.
4. Right to join a trade union and adequate training facilities to apprentices and ~~ends~~ linked with the cost of living index number.
5. Recognise the unions which have the majority following, determined through secret ballot.
6. Stop all disruption and respect our trade union rights.

26th Session of the AITUC
.....
Coimbatore
.....
January 1961
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S p e e c h

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COMRADE HANKE,
Secretary,
Central Council of Polish Trade Unions

Dear Comrades, Friends and Delegates,

Permit me to express the feelings of the entire Polish working class and to convey, on behalf of the Central Council of Trade Unions, to you and to all the members of the great militant trade union organisation of the Indian working class - the AITUC - and to all the working people of your country, most cordial, fraternal greetings and the best wishes for success in your struggle for the consolidation of national sovereignty and the development of your beautiful great fatherland, India.

The Polish working class is perfectly well aware of the difficult road, full of self-sacrifices which your people covered, a people with an old culture and rich historical traditions, of struggle against the foreign rule.

The Polish trade unionists want to express their feelings of sincere friendship and, at the same time, their deep respect for your militant trade union organisation which, being a member of the World Federation of Trade Unions, serves indefatigably the cause of the consolidation of unity of the international trade union movement.

We fully appreciate the great merits of your trade union organisation and of the entire Indian working class and their contribution to the struggle of all the progressive forces of the Indian nati..., which adhere to the principle of fighting for an easing of international tension, for peaceful co-existence of countries with different social systems, who are in favour of the complete and universal disarmament, the preservation of peace, who actively oppose the cold war, colonialism and imperialism.

Dear Comrades,

Among the many important problems on which concentrates the attention of the working people in our country and throughout the world, that of lasting peace has been given priority. Today, the very existence and the future of mankind depends on peace. The Polish people suffered the most terrible losses during the last war, started by the Nazi invaders. More than six million human beings lost their lives in our country during this war. Thirtyeight per cent of the durable national property was destroyed. That is why our people are fully justified in watching with uneasiness the danger inherent already today in the reborn forces of aggressive militarism in West Germany, equipped with modern destructive weapons supplied by the Western Powers belonging to NATO. Five years ago, the Paris Treaty limited this army to the conventional weapons only; today rockets and all sorts of guided missiles are being produced in the German Federal Republic. Voices are

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raised more and more frequently about the transformation of NATO Army detachments into a so-called "fourth atom power". So you can see how meaningless the assurances of the peaceful intentions of the West German Government are and why our people are convinced that it is their duty to arouse the vigilance of the entire world in regard to this serious danger to peace, namely the West German militarism.

Our people, our working class and with them, the whole progressive public opinion of the world, most determinedly protest against the acts of lawlessness committed by abusing the United Nations flag by the defenders of the colonial regime in Congo. With indignation, we condemn the new adventurous armed acts in Laos, committed by the right-wing rebels, enjoying the armed help of the USA. The Polish working class most determinedly condemns colonialism in its classical, today already obsolete, form, as well as all types of neo-colonialism, combining the economic dependence of economically less developed countries with political dictation. We are of the same opinion as stated by Comrade Dange in his report that the times of colonialism are gone, once and for ever and that there can today no longer be any nation on earth deprived of the right of being a sovereign State.

Disarmament and a guarantee for lasting peace is the guiding line for all the countries of the powerful camp of socialism. This policy encounters the full support of all the progressive forces in the world. The Indian people also make a great contribution to the cause of peace and cooperation among nations and the attitude adopted by India in regard to many key problems of international policy gained recognition throughout the world and strengthened its authority among the peoples of the Asian continent.

Our people who are building socialism, our working class and its trade unions consider the struggle for the consolidation of peace as the most important task in their efforts to bring about the development of the productive forces and to raise the economic potential of the country. This is, after all, in the conditions of our system, free from exploitation, the only road to raise the standard of living of the community and thereby, a road leading to the deepening of the superiority of the forces of peace over the imperialist forces of war. In this peaceful competition between two different systems participate all socialist countries, including Poland, a country which, after having thrown off the yoke of exploitation of native and foreign capitalists, has entered the road of a rapid all-round development. During the twenty years of the rule of the bourgeoisie and landlords after the first world war, the production of the main industrial articles in Poland was unable to surpass the level of 1913. Today, after 15 years of the rule of the people's power, the per capita industrial production in Poland has increased eight times. This was possible due to the fact that today the working people is the master in its country. The people are working for their benefit, and this means that everyone in Poland has work and earns his bread, and also has free access to education. Side by side with the growth of production, improvement of the living conditions can also be noticed from year to year. During the last five years, real wages of workers increased by 28-29 per cent. The rapid rise in the standard of living is possible as a result of the rapid increase in the national income whose dynamic force can be best illustrated by the way it grew during the last ten years. If we accept the 1949 level of the

.../...

national income as 100, then it increased by 1959 to 226. This growth bases itself on the tremendous development of the fundamental branches of our economy. During the current year, our mining industry passed 100 million tons in the extraction of hard coal annually, while the highest coal output before the war amounted to 38 million tons. We are at present at the threshold of a new Five Year Plan which will be a plan of the fundamental technical alteration of our economy, the expansion of our raw material base and the further increase in the well-being of the population. Having in mind our demographic situation, we provide in our Plan, the proper conditions for our youth entering the labour market, by creating approximately 800,000 new work-places during the coming Five Year Plan. These are no easy problems but we are solving them successfully, because the entire working class, every working person, is personally interested in the best possible economic results of the establishment in which they work. The socialist countries not only develop their own economy at a rapid rate, but they also grant, to a much larger extent, disinterested help to less developed countries, to raise themselves from backwardness and to liberate themselves from economic dependence from foreign monopolistic capital. The cooperation between socialist countries and all other countries regardless of their political and social structure, including the cooperation between Poland and India, is proof of the economic and political relations of a new type which is taking shape, relations to which no strings are attached. I can assure you, Comrades, that our working class ardently desires a further development of this cooperation for the mutual advantage of our peoples. Love of peace, the joint efforts to consolidate the unity of the working people throughout the world, to bring about progress throughout the world, the deep consciousness of international solidarity - this is the firm foundation on which our cooperation is based.

~~Dear Comrades - Delegates,~~

Please receive our assurance that just as until now, we shall continue to watch your daily work and your achievements with cordial feelings of friendship and fraternal solidarity on the part of the working people of People's Poland. We wish you, Comrades, that the deliberations of your conference may be most fruitful and from all our heart, we wish you new successes in your struggle and hard work for the benefit of the working class of India, of the people of India, for the victory of peace throughout the world.

AITUC, UTUC & HMS

JOINT MEMORANDUM TO LABOUR MINISTER

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S.A.Dange, General Secretary, ~~xxxxx~~ AITUC, Sibban Lal Saxena, Vice President, HMS and B.D.Shukla, Vice President UTUC, addressed a joint memorandum to Gulzari Lal Nanda, Labour & Employment on February 15, regarding the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board. S.A.Dange, Sibban Lal Saxena, Tridib Chowdhury ~~and xxxx~~ alongwith some other important trade union leaders in Sugar Industry met Labour Minister Nanda on February 23, and discussed the matter in detail.

Following is the text of the memorandum:

AITUC, UTUC, HMS
JOINT MEMORANDUM TO LABOUR MINISTER

To

The Hon'ble Minister of Labour,
Government of India, —
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

Our organisations consider the recommendations of the Wage Board for Sugar Industry as very unsatisfactory and unjust and biased in favour of the employers. According to the Nimbkar Committee Report 1948, the wages of Sugar workers including Dearness Allowance will have to be fixed about Rs.90.00. This Report was shelved by the U.P. Government. The Sugar Tarrif Board recommended its implementation in the year 1950, but to no avail.

Thus Sugar workers have suffered through out.

Still we are unanimous in our request that the unanimous recommendations of the Board for which workers w waited for three years, be implemented without delay.

To remove some of the glaring defects in the recommendations of the Board, we suggest that the following modifications should be made in them by the Government to ensure industrial peace in the Sugar Industry.

(a) The linking of the Dearness Allowance for any month with the cost of living index should be made on the basis of rise or fall for each point in t he preceding month as recommended by the Bimbkar Committee, and the cost of living index prevailing in a y month in the nearest centre falling in each of the four regions should be adopted as the basis for making these calculations.

The Dearness Allowance recommended by the Board should be given in full to all employees whether they opt for the basic wage recommended by the Board or for the existing basic wage obtaining at present by deducting the D.A. recommended by the Board.

(b) 62% of the Sugar Factory workmen, who have been placed in the category of unskilled seasonal workmen, have been denied retaining allowance during the off-season months in the name of meagre wage-rise given by the Board. Almost all the Committees of enquiry into labour conditions in the Sugar Industry before this Wage Board have recommended retaining allowance to this category of workmen to an extent ranging from 5% to 50% of the consolidated wages. Sugar Labour is most keenly agitated over this question of retaining allowance. We think that the Government should modify this recommendation and do justice to them by allowing atleast 25% of the consolidated wage as retaining allowance to this category of workmen.

(c) In view of the fact that Bonus Commission as envisaged by the Board has already been set up by the Government of India, the recommendation of the Board with regard to bonus, should not be implemented, until the Bonus Commission may finally decide the issue, the existing system of payment of bonus on the basis of production as prevelant in Uttar Pradesh be allowed to continue.

(d) The unkindest cut has come through the recommendation to do away with the existing facilities enjoyed by a large number of workers. The doing away of such facilities as free and concessional housing, free and concessional supply of fuel/light, household accesories and supply of food material at susbsidised rates would result in almost entirely neutralising the wage rise awarded by the Board. In view of the fact that the minimum wage as agreed at Delhi Tripartite Convention has been denied, in no case the monetary

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value of these be adjusted against the wage rise and the esisting agreements, awards and conventions providing for these facilities be allowed to continue.

In this connection the railway fare being given at present by many mills should not be disturbed.

(e) The Gratuity Sehceme recommended by the Board has ignored the well known and established principle laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement in the case Indian Hume Pime Co. versus its workmen that the workmen's claim for gratuity will not be affected by the payment of retrenchment compensation. The Wage Board has made observation contrary to the above recommending that retrenchment and gratuity shall not be paid simultaneously. Under these circumstances the recommendation of the Wage Board in this respect needs modification. The gratuity should be paid on the basis of the whole wage i.e. basic plus D.A. and there should be no upper limit to its payment as provided for by the Board by putting a ceiling to 15 years. In case of the seasonal workers too the payment of gratuity be no less than half month's wages for each season for which the workman was employed.

The recommendation of the Wage Board are based on the present strength of labour in the various sugar factories in the country. No further retrenchment in the strength of labour in a factory existing on 1.1.59 should, therefore, be permitted. And if the crushing capacity of a factory is increased subsequently a proportionate increase in the labour force be done on agreed principles.

(g) The recommendations of the Board in respect of standardization of grades of the various categories of semiskilled and highly skilled workers should not be left to the mercy of the employers, which will lead to much bitterness and discontentment and prolonged litigation. We propose that the Government x lay down that disputes in connection with the categorisation of workers in the various grades recommended by the Wage Board should be decided by experts mutually agreed upon by impartial arbitration.

(h) The recommendations of the Wage Board with regard to the industrial workers in the sugar industry should also be made applicable to the workers on sugar farms owned by the sugar factories, as they are part and parcel of the sugar factories and contribute very materially to the ppofits of the sugar factories concerned.

We hope that the Government would modify the recommendations of the Wage Board as suggested in the foregoing paragraphs and will incorporate them in their resolution in order to ensure industrial peace in the Sugar Industry.

Thanking you,

~~Dated: 15.2.60~~.

Yours faithfully,

Sd. 1. S.A. Dange,
General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress.

2. Shibban Lal Saxena,
Vice-president,
Hind Mazdoor Sabha, and
President, UP HMS, and
President, United Chini
Mill Mazdoor Federation.

3. B.D. Shukla, Vice Presidemt,
U.T.U.C.,
President, U.P. U.T.U.C.

LUMUMBA TUR

So Patrice Lumumba has been murdered. The apprehensions throughput the world on this count has proved to be true. The inaction of the UNO to afford adequate protection yielded this pathetic result.

With Patrice Lumumba have been murdered, Joseph Okito, President of the Senate and Maurice Mpolo, Minister for Defence of the first Government of the independent Congo.

These cold-blooded murders were followed by more murders. The butchers of the Belgian puppet rulers in Kasai province have killed a number of top political leaders of the Congo in a most shameless and cruel manner.

Among these killed, were, Fiantin, former President of Orientale province; Major Fataki, police chief of Orientale; Gilbert Nzuzi, leader of National Youth Movement; Christophe Muzungu, Pierre Elengesa, Yangara and others.

These leaders were arrested and then handed over to the self-proclaimed ruler of South Kasai, Kalonji, as part of the deal in which Lumumba was handed over to Tshomba for 59 million Belgian francs.

The murder of the revolutionary leaders of the Congo, who represented the resurgent spirit of Africa that xxx is freeing itself from the shackles of slavery, by the henchmen of Belgian imperialists, is yet another proof of the vile attempts of the imperialists to establish neo-colonialism.

But this cold-blooded and pre-meditated murder, which cannot be compared with any other political murder in the world, cannot put an end to the struggle of liberation of the colonial people. The fire of freedom-struggle cannot be put out by spilling of blood of xxxx the leaders of the Revolution

It is not shock or revulsion that can describe the reaction with which the democratic people of the world received the news of these murders. It is the grim determination of theirs to avenge the murder of lumumba and his colleagues

through intensifying the struggle of liberation of all countries from the yoke of colonialism, that can properly describe the reaction.

Patrice Lumumba is dead. But his clarion call to freedom, which no prison could silence, will not be stilled by the grave wherever might it be. Patrice Lumumba will remain in the minds of people as the embodiment of hope, courage and struggle of the millions of people under the bondage of slavery and colonial oppression. His yet unknown grave will continue to imbibe the fighting people with greater determination and stronger conviction in the world over for the complete extermination of hated colonialism.

Democratic people all over the world have unhesitatingly voiced their thunderous protest against this murder and held the imperialists and their stooges responsible for this crime. This is so, because to the democratic people of the world, Lumumba was not only the leader of the Independent Congo, but also a tireless and undaunted fighter against imperialism and colonialism. He was the standard-bearer of national independence and democracy.

All these qualities and sacrifices made the Heroes of the Congo, so great, so popular, particularly in their own country, where no sooner the independence was attained, the imperialists were able to employ some stooges to establish neo-colonialism and partition of the country into small chunks for facilitating exploitation of its vast natural resources.

As day follows night, the Congolese people with the help of all opposed to colonialism and exploitation, will avenge the murder of Lumumba and his colleagues. They will rid themselves of the traitors and their imperialist paymasters who contrived this killing.

The Belgian gunmen and their gangster allies under Tshombe in Katanga stand condemned as the organisers of this crime. But their guilt is shared by others - Kasavubu and Mobutu

who handed the leaders of the legally constituted Government of the Independent Congo, over to Tshombe. Those in charge of the United Nations, especially its Secretary-General Hammarskjoeld, who ~~failed in his duty and did nothing to secure their release and thereby indirectly caused their killing.~~ allowed the armed Belgian fascists to help the traitors in their fight against Lumumba are also responsible for these murders.

No one will believe the clumsy, Nazi-Goelbles-like lie that Lumumba and his colleagues were killed while trying to escape. They were shifted to Katanga to be done away with.

Even though, Lumumba was held illegally in prison, his name was a rallying call for the liberation of his country from imperialism.

Lumumba and his colleagues could not be bought by the colonialists and they fought tenaciously for the liberation of the Congolese people.

The supporters of Lumumba with the headquarters in Stanleyville, control half of the country and they have already set up a Government headed by Gizenga and the support for this Government is growing daily. This Government has already been recognised by many countries.

The cruel murders show the barburous methods that can be adopted by the imperialists in exigencies. It is the measure of bankruptcy and desperation of the colonialists and their quisling partners.

After the brutal murders, plumbing the lowest depths of hypocrisy, comes Hammarskjoeld's proposal for an inquiry, uncerimoniously turned down by Tshombe.

All that now are happening are the attempts to stop the liberation of Africa and, if possible, to reverse the tide of freedom. The imperialists are trying to reduce to naught the United Nations' declaration for the ending of Colonialism.

The colonialists want to maintain their grip so that they can continue their robbery of the wealth of Congo. Not only Belgians, but also the powerful groups in Britain, France, West Germany and the United States are involved.

The biggest Uranium mine in Africa is in Katanga. From this mine, the United States obtained the Uranium for its first atom bomb that killed and maimed millions in Hiroshima. This mine is under the control of the Belgians.

Katanga is one of the most profitable mining regions in the world, rich in copper, cobalt, tin and uranium. The biggest mining company here is owned by foreigners - twofifths by British, another twofifths by Belgians and onefifth by Frenchmen. And the Americans are now trying to take over the whole thing for themselves.

So here can be seen the pattern of the unholy trinity, with big money interests holding on to the resources which belong to the people of another country - the Congo.

This fact explains why the imperialist block was so keen to get rid of Lumumba and why they refused to call on the Belgians to withdraw their troops from the Congo and conspired to stifle the voice of independent Congo.

This henious crime cannot be allowed to go unpunished. Alongwith the mass of democratic people of the world over, we also demand :

Recognise the Gizenga Government; Punish the murderers; Withdraw all Belgian troops from the Congo; Remove Hammarskjoeld from the Secretary-Generalship of UNO; Immediate release of all political prisoners; Trial of Tshombe, Mobutu and Kasavubu for all their crime; and Convene the Congolese Parliament under UN protection.

The Government of India must now recognise the Gizenga Government, the successor to Lumumba. The Government has expressed indignation at the ~~soon~~ murder and ~~demanded~~ demanded a change in the policy of the UNO. This must be followed by recognition of the Gizenga Government as the lawful authority in Congo.

TOR

A MORNING IN THE HEART OF AFRICA

By PATRICE LUMUMBA

For a thousand years you, Negro, suffered like a beast,
your ashes strewn to the wind that roams the desert.

Your tyrants built the lustrous, magic temples
to preserve your soul, preserve your sufferings,
Barbaric right of fist and the white right to a whip,
you had the right to die, you also could weep.

10 x 10
30

In your totem they carved endless hunger, endless bonds,
and even in the cover of the woods a ghastly cruel death
was watching, snaky, crawling to you like branches from
the holes and heads of trees
embraced your body and your ailing soul.

Then they put a treacherous big viper on your chest:
on your neck they laid the yoke of fire-water,
they took your sweet wife for the glitter of cheap pearls,
your incredible riches that no body could could measure.

From your hut, the tom-toms sounded into the dark of night
carrying cruel laments up mighty black rivers
about abused girls, streams of tears and blood,
about ships that sailed to the country where the ~~li~~
little man
wallows in an ant-hill and where dollar is the king,
to that damned land which they call motherland.

There your child, your wife were ground day and night
by frightful, merciless mill, crushing them in a
dreadful ~~pain~~ pain.

You are man like others. They preach you to believe
that good white god will reconcile all men at last.
By fire you grieved and sang the maoning songs
of homeless beggers that sing at stranger's doors.

TUR

And when a craze possesed you and your blood boiled
through the night
you danced, ~~and~~x you moaned,
Like the fury of a storm to lyrics of a manly tune
a strength burst out of you for a thousand years
of misery
in metallic voice of jazz, in uncovered outcry
that thunders through the continent in gigantic surf.

The whole world, surprised, woke up in a panic ~~xx~~
to the violent rhythm of blood,
to the violent rhythm of jazz,
the white man turning pallid over this new song
that carries torch of purple through the dark of night.

The dawn is here, my borther, dawn ! Look in our faces,
a new morning breaks in our old Africa.
Ours only will now be the land, the water, the mighty rivers
which the poor Negro was surrendering for a thousand
years.

And hard torches of the sun will shine for us again,
they'll dry the tears in your eyes and spittle on your
face.

The moment when you break the chains, the heavy fetters,
the evil, cruel times will go never to come again.

A free and gallant Congo will arise from the balck soil,
a free and gallant Congo - the black blossom,
the black seed !

(Reproduced from Link News magazine)

(Translated from a slovak version published by the literary weekly "Kulturny Zivot" of Bratislava, Czechoslavakia, by Link Newsmagazine)

(~~This poetry~~

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NPC sets up Commissions To Investigate Productivity In 5 Industries.

NPC Annual Meeting.

Commissions to investigate Productivity set up.

The annual meeting of the National Productivity Council was held at New Delhi on ~~the 13th of~~ February, 13, presided over by ~~Shri~~ Manubhai Shah ~~presided.~~

It was decided to set up five tripartite commissions to investigate productivity and allied problems in five industries to begin with. These are - Cement, Rayon, Electric Motors, Bicyfles and Jute. The Commissions will have on them representatives of the Planning Commission, Technical experts, Cost Accountants and employers and workers. Each commission will complete its work in three or six months.

8 X 9 / 11

The NPC decided to pay particular attention in imputing knowledge and training to trade unionists and workers. Another decision taken was to hold tripartite conferences on productivity at regional level. These will be followed by similar conferences at State level.

The NPC criticised the delay in the submission of reports by Study Teams sent abroad and decided to take effective measures to see that in future delay is avoided.

In the elections to the Government Body and the NPC ~~Com~~. Satish Loomba was reelected to represent the AITUC and ~~Com~~. A.C. Nanda was elected to one of the seats reserved for L.P.Cs.

RESOLUTION
ON
TRIPARTITES AND CODE OF DISCIPLINE.

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This 26th Session of the AITUC notes that the workers have been able to get some advantages from the Tripartites and its various industrial committees, such as, ~~in the matter~~ setting up of wage Boards, national agreements on industries, norms of need-based minimum wages etc.

This Conference, however, views with great concern, the repudiation and non-implementation by the Government of India and various State Governments of the conventions and decisions of the Tripartites e.g., the decision on Minimum wages etc.

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The Code of Discipline was accepted by the AITUC with the hope that it would ~~be able to~~ improve industrial relations and help speedy settlement of disputes. But the experiences of the past years show that though the unions of the AITUC have to their best adhered to the Code, the employers have been grossly violating it, ~~and~~ the Government ~~is~~ in some States ~~conniving at~~ connive with the employers in these violations, and in others, ~~is~~ are unable to check ~~those violations~~ them or have no effective sanctions against the employers who violate the Code. ~~In the~~ The management of Public Sector industry, and other employing Ministries of the Government, have virtually refused to implement it. ~~in public Sector undertakings.~~

This attitude of the Government and the employers towards the Code is to be taken serious note of and if it continues further, it will defeat the very purpose of the Code and will force the trade unions to reconsider their attitude towards it.

The Conference directs its unions to work and use the Tripartites in the interests of the working-class. We call upon the unions to organise strong mass actions to get the employers both in Public and Private Sectors to observe it and force the Government to take effective steps for this purpose.

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26th Session of the AITUC
.....
Coimbatore
.....
January 1961

Speech of

COMRADE Z. DAGWA,
Vice President of the
Central Council of the Mongolian Trade Unions

Dear Friends,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to extend brotherly and warm greetings of the working people and the trade unions of the Mongolian People's Republic to the 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress and through this Session to the glorious Indian working class, and also to express our heartfelt thanks to Comrade S.A.Dange, General Secretary of the AITUC, for the kind invitation extended to the representatives from Mongolia enabling us to participate in this great gathering today.

I am equally happy to convey our deep thanks and appreciation to the working people of Coimbatore and the Chairman of the Reception Committee as well as to all those who have made this wonderful preparation for this conference and welcomed us to your glorious city.

The Mongolian trade unions always have had fraternal feelings towards the AITUC and have watched with admiration the heroic struggles waged by this militant organisation for the good of the toiling workers in this country and rejoiced at its success and achievements. Today, we feel happier still to attend this conference for the first time, as representatives of the Mongolian trade unions and be in your midst, the leaders and members of the militant trade unions of the AITUC. It is, I believe, will no doubt be of immense help to the further strengthening of the brotherly relations between the working peoples of our respective countries.

We have gone through and heard with attention the reports, including that of Comrade S.A.Dange, on the activities of the AITUC. We hope your deliberations and the decisions taken at this session will help further strengthen the struggle for trade union unity, for improving the working and living conditions of the Indian workers and for peace.

Since its inception in 1920 at the largest industrial city of Bombay, during these forty years, the All-India Trade Union Congress has made great advance in uniting and organising the forces of the working class in this sub-continent, to defend the interests and rights of the toiling workers and fought for the national independence of India.

Thanks to the heroic struggles for the liberation of the country from the yoke of foreign imperialists and for improving the standards of living of the working class, the AITUC has become a mighty and militant organisation, fighting for the interests of the toiling masses.

The AITUC, we know well, is playing an important part in the national and international trade union movements. It is an active member of the one hundred and one million strong World Federation of Trade Unions and firmly supports the progressive activities of the WFTU.

The Mongolian Trade Unions, being a member of this

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lofty world organisation - the WFTU, the centre of the coordination of the international trade union movement, - are in full support of the noble activities of the AITUC and hope that the AITUC will achieve greater successes in the struggle for strengthening unity of the working people in this country and for the defence of their interests.

Today, under the circumstances of the increasing aggressive activities of the imperialists threatening the fate of hunanity, the Mongolian trade unions actively favour the further cooperation among our sister trade unions. The Mongolian working people and their trade unions, together with all the progressive forces throughout the world, strongly condemn the shameful acts of the colonialists and imperialists in Algeria and in interfering in the internal affairs of the Congo, Laos and other countries and the attempts to bring their freedon and independence to naught.

Dear Friends, - May I take this pleasant opportunity of being present at your Session here, to say a few words about my country and about our working class and its trade unions at large? I think this would help, at least to some extent, in knowing something of each other's activities in this particular field.

Forty years back, in 1921, there was a people's revolution in Mongolia, which put an end to the internal oppressive forces and drove out the foreign colonialists and, thus, freedon and independence were brought to our country.

As a result of this Revolution, drastic changes took place in Mongolia. New branches of socialist industry and agriculture, equipped with modern techniques have come into existence and a new working class was born. Trade unions were organised. As you know, the conditions in which trade unions were organised and grew in our country were naturally different. And we work and labour in different conditions too.

At present, over 90% of the industrial and office workers are organised in trade unions. The trade union organisations are a nighty factor in the life and the development programme of the whole nation.

Trade unions in our country are always in support of the government policy and stand for carrying out every steps taken by it, because our government policy is aimed at raising the living and working conditions as best as possible.

Owing to the joint efforts of the working class and the people of Mongolia, the feudal backwardness in which we lived 40 years ago was done away with within a short historical period. Today we are building socialism, having escaped the capitalistic stage of development. We can say that socialism is making good progress in every field of life of the country.

Various branches of national industry, modern means of transport and communications are advancing today in our country. Now, 50% of the gross national product is output from industry alone. It may be mentioned that the active participation of the trade unions in these fields was an important factor in effecting the rapid transformation.

As far as agriculture is concerned, veterinary science, mechanised farming and modern agricultural techniques are now in common use in our country as against the nomadic animal husbandry which predominated formerly. The settlement of the nonadic rural population has started. The herdsmen

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are entirely different today. Until recently, in our agriculture, private ownership predominated but it has now been turned into big collective farms or cooperatives formed on a voluntary basis. In view of this change, in the field of animal husbandry, great progress has been made and the animal wealth of the country has increased. Now there are 27.9 heads of animal per capita in our country. Also the area under grain crops have been greatly expanded.

Thanks to 40 years of the tireless labour and efforts of our people, Mongolia has become an agrarian and industrial country.

There was a cultural revolution too and illiteracy among the adult population in the country was eliminated. Elementary and middle schools, specialised colleges and higher educational institutions were set up everywhere. Seven-year education and four-year schooling system has been introduced in towns and in villages respectively. Free education is provided to all. The higher educational establishments in our country turn out specialists for various branches of the national economy and culture. At present 137.6 people out of every 1,000 are able to study at one or another educational institution in Mongolia.

National arts, literature and science have advanced rapidly for the good of the people.

Every year witnesses an increase and advance in the well-being of the people. And public health service is organised well and medical science is in progress. There is hardly any corner or part in the country where no hospital or dispensary is functioning in Mongolia today. Medical service is free to all, and at present, there is one doctor for every 1,000 people of the population.

I must say that the disinterested and sincere assistance from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries was and is an important factor in the realization of these achievements attained by our country. With the further increased assistance from our friends, the Mongolian people are determined to advance their country in the direction of further development and prosperity. In the next five years, it has been stipulated that the advance in agriculture and industry should be at a tempo of rapid development, with a view to raise industrial output twice and the area under grain crops by three times. As a result, Mongolia will make great advances as an industrial and agrarian country.

The Mongolian trade unions organise the working people for the progress and advance of the nation and educate them in the spirit of high productivity and are responsible for further raising of the living standards and the cultural level of the people and in defence of their interests.

The trade unions in our country take an active part in the economic planning, and in introducing new production methods in industry and elsewhere. They participate in everything that might affect the interests of the workers, either directly or indirectly, such as fixation of working hours, wage level, or securing better living and working conditions, leave facilities, etc. Without the consent of the trade unions, no overtime work or work during holidays is allowed.

In our country, the duration of working hours in light or food industries is limited to 8 hours. Special food and clothing, and shorter working day of 7 hours, are provided

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for the workers engaged in hard labour. Duration of the working time on the days before public holidays is limited to 6 hours. Social insurance is run by the trade unions in the country. Industrial and office workers are granted 14 to 26 days of paid leave every year. There is 80% discount in the cost of having rest at State-owned sanatoria or rest homes provided for the industrial and office workers. In case of maternity, three months' leave before and after the delivery is granted, with wages paid in full. And, in the case of old age or disablement, 100% of wages are paid to industrial and office workers.

The Mongolian trade unions, in cooperation with the All-India Trade Union Congress and other sister organisations, affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions have tirelessly fought for international unity of workers, for peace throughout the world and against imperialism and the colonial yoke.

Our trade unions consider it essential to further strengthen the unity and solidarity of the workers the world over, for achieving universal disarmament, for a lasting peace and for peaceful coexistence, and in support of national independence movements, for protecting the interests of the working people and their trade unions.

Dear friends and comrades! In conclusion, I take the liberty, on behalf of the Mongolian trade unions to wish the All India Trade Union Congress every success in their work in defence of the interests of the glorious working people of your country and for peace throughout the world, and for the activities aimed at insuring the solidarity of international trade union movement.

Long live the friendship between the peoples of Mongolia and India!

Long live the brotherly cooperation between the trade unions of India and Mongolia!

15 FEB 1961

DAKSHIN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' UNION, MADRAS.

.....

A MESSAGE TO SOUTHERN RAILWAY WORKERS.

by S. GURUSWAMY
President, Dakshin Railway Employees Union.

~~Friends~~,

You are already aware of the present state of Trade Union affairs on the Southern Railway. For more than one year, I did not advisedly participate in the activities of Dakshin Railway Employees' Union. This has not helped matters. Now that the two Unions decided to merge and are working as one and I have been called upon to play an active part as the President of the United body at a critical period in our history, I desire to address a few words.

Railwaymen to whatever denomination they may or may not belong must come under a common banner. We must forget our petty differences. We must forge unity first with those who are willing to unite and next with those who hesitate or are not so willing. I am determined to see that cheap criticisms on party basis are avoided or discouraged and attention of the men focussed on common issues.

After the Central Government Employees Strike last year, the Central Government have proclaimed their decision to withdraw fundamental trade union rights. In the aftermath of the situation forced on the suffering Railwaymen, main issues have been blurred and even forgotten.

Firstly, Trade Unions under the amended Act have to collect a subscription of a minimum of Rupees Three per head per year. 160,000 workers on the Railway have to be completely Unionised. Trade Union enrolment has suffered a set back due to post strike developments although relief for the prosecuted has been attempted at various places. Recognition of the most reppesentative organisation on the Southern Railway has not been granted and the Railway Management thereby has violated the Code of Conduct which Government are anxious to enforce in other spheres. The future of Joint Standing Machinery, the structure of Trade Unions without violating I.L.O. Conventions 87 and 98, the Recognition Rules that will be newly framed and other similar matters will all undergo far reaching changes this year and we should not be inactive in the face of these developments.

Even in regard to implementation of the Second Pay Commission Recommendations, the cost of Living Index (All India Working Class Consumer Index) has been standing at 126 which has been 11 points above the datum figure of 115 since July last year and therefore additional dearness allowance is becoming due.

Implementation of the Pay Scales and Allowances has resulted in a loss of Rs.5/- to Rs.10/- per employee in most cases if the Finance Minister's statements on ~~30th~~ November 1959 are to be properly interpreted. Even good part of the Recommendations has not yet been implemented.

Compensatory allowances have to be revised according to latest position. The First Pay Commission fixed higher allowances for Bombay on the basis of its population in 1941 when it was 14.89 lakhs for Bombay City and 16.95 lakhs for Greater Bombay. The position in Madras City, according to the Corporation Statistics was it had a population exceeding 17 lakhs even two years ago.

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Forfeiture of Seniority of Ex Grain Shop Staff continues despite the assurance to the contrary given by the Member Staff Railway Board early last year. There are numerous important issues to be tackled but the first pre-condition for success is Unionisation of all 160,000 Southern Railway Employees.

We are to face the difficulties with firm faith in our future and resolve them to the best of our abilities. We cannot look back upon an unhappy past. We must strengthen Dakshin Railway Employees Union which is functioning with Headquarters in Madras City under my Presidentship which affords the best scope and hope for Unity and Progress.

This Union is not for or against any political party and is open to every Railway Employee on Southern Railway if he believes in Trade Union Movement.

Now that General Elections are coming next year, Railwaymen should not be victims of parties and politics and the passions which they generate.

I therefore call upon every Railway Worker on Southern Railway to rally round under the common banner of Dakshin Railway Employees' Union, Madras, first by paying Re.1/- only for the first quarter of 1961 and fully participating in its activities to build up a powerful Union to fight reaction, bring Unity and enable us to fulfil our responsibilities in the present situation.

S.Guruswami

MADRAS-4

30th Jan' 1961.

S.GURUSWAMI
PRESIDENT
DAKSHIN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' UNION, MADRAS.

also have been able to convey to the workers of India our wholehearted support to your just struggles. But the situation at present obtaining in France makes it necessary for every single member of our unions to remain in our country. Our trade unions are now entering a new phase in our struggle for united action of the working class against the employers, to combat the personal power of de Gaulle, and the actions of the extremists, for a negotiated peace in Algeria and for the revival of democracy.

"We send you our greetings once again for a most successful conference and to the workers of your country. Every single one of your victories is of encouragement to our own struggle for the common aims of workers of all countries.

"Long Live the 26th Congress of the AITUC! Long live the friendship and solidarity of the workers of our two countries!"

The message was signed by Germaine Guille, Secretary, Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT).

MESSAGE FROM ALL CHINA FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (ACFTU)

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions, Peking, in a cable, stated:

"MUCH REGRET UNABLE ATTEND TWENTYSIXTH SESSION AITUC. OUR MESSAGE OF GREETINGS AS FOLLOWS:

"DEAR COMRADES, WARMEST FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO TWENTYSIXTH SESSION AITUC ON BEHALF ACFTU AND ENTIRE CHINESE WORKERS.

"IN RECENT YEARS INDIAN WORKING CLASS MADE CEASELESS EFFORTS FOR VITAL INTERESTS AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, FOR OPPOSING IMPERIALISM AND SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND WORLD PEACE. CHINESE WORKERS WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT OUR BROTHER INDIAN WORKERS' JUST STRUGGLE AND REJOICE OVER EACH AND EVERY ACHIEVEMENT AND VICTORY THEY WON. CHINESE TRADE UNIONS HEARTILY WISH AITUC NEW AND GREATER SUCCESSES IN LEADING WORKERS' STRUGGLES, STRENGTHENING WORKING CLASS UNITY AND ELEVATING CONSCIOUSNESS OF MASSES OF WORKERS.

"CHINESE WORKING CLASS WILL FOREVER STAND TOGETHER WITH OUR BROTHER INDIAN WORKERS AND JOINTLY STRIVE FOR STRENGTHENING CHINESE INDIAN PEOPLE'S FRIENDSHIP, STRENGTHENING WORLD WORKING CLASS UNITY BASED ON INTERNATIONALISM, OPPOSING IMPERIALISM, DEFENDING WORLD PEACE, SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS AND FOR COMPLETE VICTORY OF WORLD WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE.

"WISH SESSION EVERY SUCCESS. LONG LIVE CHINESE INDIAN PEOPLE'S AND WORKERS' FRIENDSHIP AND UNITY! LONG LIVE WORLD WORKING CLASS UNITY!"

- Liu Ning-yi, President, ACFTU.

MESSAGE FROM KOREAN TRADE UNIONS

The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, Phyongyang, in a cable stated: "WE WISH GREAT SUCCESS IN WORK OF YOUR CONFERENCE." The Korean trade unions regretted that they are unable to send a fraternal delegation to the AITUC Session due to unavoidable circumstances.

FROM CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS OF BULGARIA

T. Prahov, President, Central Council of Trade Unions in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in a message said:

"On behalf of 1,500,000 workers and employees in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Central Council of Trade Unions sends warmest fraternal greetings to the delegates of

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the 26th Session of the AITUC and through them to all members of the AITUC.

We follow with lively interest and are fully solidarity with your struggle for the improvement of the working and living conditions of the Indian working class and with your efforts for the confolidation of peace in Asia and the whole world.

The Bulgarian trade unions stated that the trade unions and working people in Bulgaria are defending with all their forces the cause of peace and with every new day, are increasing their achievements in the fields of economy and culture, in the improvement of their living conditions and the construction of socialism. In 1959 alone, industrial production increased by 26% over the previous year. In 1959, the message stated, "our industry produced in 30 days more than what was produced throughout the prewar year 1939. The rural economy in our country is almost 100 percent on cooperative lines and to a considerable extent, mechanised.

Hand in hand with the increase of production goes also the improvement of the living standards of the working people, which is done by a systematic price cut and increase in wages. Upto date, in our country, we carried out 6 big price cuts. This year, the wages of the workers, employees and technical intelligentsia were increased by an average of 14 per cent.

Social insurance embraces the whole working class, all contributions to it being done by the enterprises. Medical service and hospital cure of the whole population in Bulgaria are entirely free of charge. The general mortality rate was reduced from 14.9 per thousand persons in 1945 to 7.8 in 1959, or almost half. ~~the message added.~~ Working women are entitled to four months' 100% paid leave and to two hours off daily for nursing the baby until it becomes eight months of age. Illiteracy in Bulgaria has been liquidated.

~~The message added:~~ In order to safeguard and develop further the successes achieved till now, we need first of all peace and that is why we fight with all our forces for the preservation of peace and support all peaceful initiatives of the USSR, the decisions of the Bandung Conference and the Panch Shila principles.

We wish wholeheartedly the delegates of your 26th Session to take such decisions which will contribute to the achievement of the unity of the Indian working class, which is so necessary for the success of your further struggle in defence of the vital interests of the workers and of their trade union and democratic rights and liberties, for full economic independence of your homeland and for peace and friendship among the peoples on the basis of peaceful co-existence.

DISPUTE BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT OF INDIAN IRON & STEEL COMPANY LTD. AND ITS WORKMEN AS REPRESENTED BY THE ASANSOL IRON & STEEL WORKERS' UNION REGARDING PROFIT SHARING BONUS IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY'S WORKERS AT BURN & KULTI AS ALSO BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY AND GUA MINES WORKERS' UNION REGARDING PROFIT SHARING BONUS IN RESPECT OF WORKERS OF THE ORE MINES OF THE COMPANY AT GUA MANOHARPUR AND CHIRIA.

MEMORANDUM OF SETTLEMENT UNDER SECTION 12(3) OF THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE ACT.,

(Following are the terms of the Settlement)

(a) That this agreement shall come into force with effect from the year 1959/60 and remain in force for four years, namely 1959/60, 1960/61, 1961/62 and 1962/63.

(b) The Agreement will be subject to any modifications which might be necessary as a result of any national decision regarding basic wages and or Bonus systems concerning the Iron & Steel Industry;

(c) This scheme shall apply to all workmen of the Company at its Works at Burnpur & Kulti and the Ore Mines at Gua, Manoharpur and Chiria other than convenanted staff.

(d) Bonus shall be payable only to those employees who have been in continuous service throughout the financial year during which profits have been earned.

(e) CONTINUOUS SERVICE shall mean a period of service unbroken by discharge or resignation and shall include all periods of authorised leave, training, Apprenticeship and probation.

(f) The quantum of bonus will be fixed as follows:-

1959/60. ... 25% of the amount of the money distributed to the Equity Shareholders or 46.8 lacs whichever is greater subject to a maximum limit of 48.8 lacs.

1960/61. ... 25% of the amount of the money distributed to the Equity Shareholders or 49.8 lacs whichever is greater subject to a maximum limit of 52.3 lacs.

1961/62. ... 25% of the amount of the money distributed to the Equity Shareholders or 53.3 lacs whichever is greater subject to a maximum limit of 55.8 lacs.

1962/63. ... 25% of the amount of the money distributed to the Equity shareholders or 56.8 lacs whichever is greater subject to a maximum limit of 59.8 lacs.

It may be mentioned that based on the present wagebill the above payment will represent approximately as follows:-

1959/60. ... 72-75 days
1960/61. ... 76-80 "
1961/62. ... 80-85 "
1962/63. ... 85-90 "

g) In the event of reorganisation of capital the Company reserves the right to revise the scale of Profit Sharing bonus mentioned above. Similarly in the event of any fundamental change affecting the intention and spirit of this settlement the Union also reserves the right to represent accordingly.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY

RATE OF PF CONTRIBUTIONS

A non-official resolution proposing an increase in the rate of provident fund contributions under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme from 6¼ to 8⅓ per cent was rejected by the Lok Sabha on February 18, after the Deputy Minister for Labour, L.N.Mishra, had announced that the question would be considered at the meeting of the Industrial Committee on coal mines to be held ~~next month~~ in March.

The sponsor of the resolution K.K.Warrier (Communist) had argued that the basic wages of the 3,50,000 colliery workers had been so low that their provident fund accumulations would be too little to be of any use to them.

....

UNITED STRIKE OF JUTE WORKERS

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More than two lakhs of Jute Workers resorted to a general strike on February 13, in West Bengal. The strike was resorted to as a protest against the unilateral decision of the employers resulting in cut in working hours as well as wide-scale retrenchment of workers. The strike was complete and peaceful.

The call for the strike was given by Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union (AITUC) and it was supported by National Union of Jute Workers (INTUC), Federation of Jute Workers, and by UTUC and HMS.

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Following the strike, a mass meeting was organised by the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union and therefrom a procession of several thousand workers went to the head office of the IJMA where they demonstrated against the action of the employers.

In a memorandum to IJMA, it was demanded that (a) full 48 hours work/in a week must be immediately reintroduced in all jute mills; (b) compensation must be paid to those workers who have suffered financial losses owing to the reduction of working hours; and (c) the recommendation of M.C.Banerje, Chairman, Special Committee must be implemented forthwith.

The protest token strike of jute workers on February 13, was the second one where all jute workers unitedly decided to strike for their demands. The earlier united strike was on December 14, 1959, following which a Wage Board was appointed for the Jute Industry by the Government of India.

In a resolution passed in the mass rally of jute workers, on February 13, it has been pointed out that the reduction of working hours by the employers on the plea of shortage of raw jute was nothing but a part of a wider plan to torpedo the work of the Jute Wage Board.

MESSAGE FROM
THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR
VIETNAM DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

....

We have received your letter of October 10, 1960, and we sincerely thank you for the invitation to our organisation to send a delegation to the 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, to be held at Coimbatore, in January 1961.

We deeply regret that this time we are not able to send a delegation to attend your Conference, and we sincerely apologise.

On behalf of all workers, employees and trade unions in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, we heartily extend to the Conference and to all its delegates our most fraternal and warmest greetings.

In the past years, the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) has actively struggled for the unity and interests of the Indian labouring people, for the solidarity of all working classes in the world, and for peace in South East Asia and in the world. The successes won by the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) have contributed an important part to the common struggle of the trade unions all over the world against the warmongering design of imperialism, led by the U.S. imperialists, and have greatly inspired the Vietnamese working class and people in their struggle for the reunification of Vietnam, against the U.S. imperialists' flagrant violations of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina, and against their deeper and deeper interference into the southern part of our country.

The Vietnamese working class and trade unions believe that the 26th Session of the All India Trade Union Congress(AITUC) will gloriously succeed to mapping out the line for the Indian working class to forward, victory after victory, in their struggle for their interests as well as in the struggle for the international solidarity of all working classes and for peace.

We sincerely wish the 26th Session of ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS many brilliant successes.

Long live the friendship between the working classese and peoples of Vietnam and India.

Long live the international solidarity of all working classes in the world.

Long live world peace.

- HOANG QUOC VIET
PRESIDENT

MESSAGE
FROM
BURMA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
~~389/391, Bo Aung Kyaw Street,~~
~~Rangoon, Burma.~~

~~December~~ 29, 1960.

On behalf of the militant working people of Burma and on my behalf I heartily salute to your historic 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress and extend our heartfelt and warmest greetings. We are deeply grateful for your fraternal invitation but owing to the unavoidable circumstances we feel very much regret that we are unable to send our delegation to your National Congress.

However, we are fully convinced that though we live apart in different countries our aims are closed at one proletarian heart. We hope your delegates would take keen interest to discuss the common tasks of trade union unity, for defence of the rights of the workers, trade union rights and democratic liberties and for preserving peace in Asia and the world over. We wish your session will be crowned with success.

Long live the friendship and solidarity between the Burmese and Indian working class !

Long live the international working class unity !

Long live peace !

- THAKIN LWIN
PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM
PANCYPRIAN FEDERATION OF LABOUR
NICOSIA, CYPRUS

We thank you for your circular of October 10, re: your 26th Session of the A.I.T.U.C.

Unfortunately it will be quite impossible to send our fraternal delegate, but we want to assure you and all the comrades of the A.I.T.U.C., that the workers and the people of Cyprus are following with interest and with feelings of solidarity, the struggles of the Indian working class for a better and happy life.

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Please convey to your congress our best and most sincere fraternal greetings.

RESOLUTION ON ~~ON~~ ~~NATIONALISATION OF THE~~ PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

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The foreign Oil monopolies have been gloating that India is forced to import over 90% of the petroleum products consumed in the country either as crude oil or refined products. They further gloated that when the proposed Government refineries are put into operation some two years from now, and crude oil is drawn from reserves in Assam, India will still continue to be forced to import about 70% of its requirements. Unless additional reserves are located and drawn on, this 70% will again rapidly climb to the present more than 90%.

The consumption of petroleum products at present is around 60 lakhs tons and even at a modest annual (recurring) rate of increase at 7%, will amount to ~~one crore~~ one hundred lakh tons and more in 1965, and perhaps 120 to 150 lakhs tons based on Planning Commission estimates.

About a hundred crores of rupees from India's foreign exchange resources have to be utilised to meet the present imports of both crude oil and refined products. This drain on foreign exchange will increase four-fold by 1976.

These grim facts of the foreign monopoly grip on one of the most vital sectors of our economy and defence, obliged the Government of India to take up the development of India's oil industry in the public State sector which materially unneverved the foreign oil monopolists.

But the Government of India, divided within itself, some of whose ministers rightly want our independent oil industry to grow, while some others in the same Government oppose it and from within help those foreign monopolies, would not allow any drastic measures against the foreign monopolies.

The friendly help and technical know-how as well as the training facilities offered by ~~socialist~~ Soviet Union and Rumania who have rich experience of developing their oil resources

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at a fast ~~developing~~ rate in all phases of petroleum industry, viz., prospecting or exploring, producing, refining and distributing, placed the Government of India in a position to challenge slowly the monopolistic grip of the foreign oil companies. The entire people of India rejoiced at the successful strike of oil in Cambay region of Gujerat in which India's oil technicians were assisted by Soviet and Rumanian specialists. Soviet and Rumanian monetry credits on terms favourable to India further helped the Government to take up the construction of oil refineries in Gauhati and Barauni and the further prospects of locating a refinery in Gujerat. The big team of Soviet specialists now coming to help us in various ways, open up the prospects of India's liberation from foreign economic stranglehold in petroleum industry. This prospect no more remains the dream of the Indian people but a practical possibility of the immediate future.

All these developments and the declaration in 1966 of organised petroleum workers under the aegis of the ALL INDIA PETROLEUM WORKERS' FEDERATION that the continuance of Petroleum Distributing industry monopolised in the hands of the four foreign companies Burmah-Shell, Standard-Vacuum, Caltex and Indo Burma as a part and parcel of private sector, was a menace to the planned economic progress of India under the Second Five Year Plan and therefore demanded the immediate nationalisation of the distributing industry, obliged the Govt. of India, under the further pressure of public opinion, to peep into the racketeering nature of the foreign business of petroleum industry, particularly the pricing methods and the structure of petroleum products prices.

A modest challenge of the exhorbitantly profiteering character of the pricing system of the foreign oil companies not only led to many far-reaching revelations but also to considerable savings in foreign exchange and our revenue. It is known however that the oil companies are still resisting a full probe of their empire which will yield many more crores

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of rupees to the Indian exchequer. In fact, the onslaught through their henchmen on the policy of the Government to further develop the petroleum industry only in the State public sector, has increased manyfold even while they are obliged to give up under the pressure of public opinion some of the key positions they are holding, i.e. the infamous Indo-Stanvac project which established a record for drilling dry holes mostly at the cost of the Indian taxpayer.

The audicity of the foreign companies reached its height when the Government of India in its anxiety to conserve our slender foreign exchange resources, proposed recently to the foreign refineries in Bombay that they utilise the Soviet crude oil which the Government could acquire not only at the cheaper rates but also on rupee exchange basis. Their audicity in refusing to take the crude oil offered by our Government is motiviated by the single fact that even such minor change dictated by national interests will spell a further doom to exhoribitant profiteering character of their business in India. This profiteering character had earlier been exposed in the surrender by Burmah-Shell first and by Stanvac recently of the duty protection benefit which the oil refineries had dictated as a further measure of super profits to Government of India in the one-sided and colonial-type agreements imposed by them for establishing their refineries in our country five years ago. It is known also that Caltex refinery is still refusing to follow suit and is insisting on its pound of flesh.

The 26th Session of the AITUC declares that foreign oil companies have no more the right to hold India to ransom. The audacious challenges they are throwing to our Government from day to day have to be met and can be met. Efforts by the Government to control or regulate interests are entrenched in many quarters of our economy and administration from where they are bound to thwart and sabotage the feeble steps taken by our Government as was witnessed recently in the manoeuvres and sabotage by Stanvac of the attempt by Government-owned Indian Oil Company to switch our public road transport in the first instance

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instance to the cheaper Soviet High Speed Diesel Oil, the first consignment of Indian-owned oil recently landed in Bombay and Cochin in Government-owned storage.

The 26th Session of the AITUC declares that national interests must prevail over foreign profiteering and sabotage.

The 26th Session, therefore, demands that Government of India nationalise all the foreign holdings in the petroleum industry and assures the Government that the organised working class of our country and particularly the organised petroleum workers will fully and whole-heartedly support such a bold step which has now become impretive.

The 26th Session calls upon the entire working class of our country to compaign for the ousting of the reactionary foreign vested interests in this most vital sector of our economy.

SUGAR CONVERTION ON ~~17 & 18th MARCH~~

March 17 and 18 at Baheri

In ~~the~~ meeting on ~~21st~~ February 21, 1961 the United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation at Lucknow decided to call an All-India Convention of the Sugar Workers at Baheri (District Bareilly), on ~~the 17th and 18th~~ of March 17-18, 1961, to consider the situation which has arisen after the Wage Board Recommendations. In this connection it has been decided to apporach all the Unions in Sugar Industry and other All-India Trade Union Federations.

~~8th March '61~~ March 8. 1961 will be observed as "Demands Day" to ~~xxxxxxx~~ urge ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ the Coverment Of India to immediately enforce the recommendations of the Wage Board which is long overdue. The Unions in this respect have been directed to arrange meetings and demonstrations at their mill gates and ~~in the city.~~ residential areas. Through a resolution the Government Of India has been requested to enforce the recommendations without delay with the modifications ~~xxxx~~ suggested by the Federation as well as the AITUC, HMS and the UTUC.

~~Shri~~ Mahadeo Singh, President, Hind Mazdoor Sabha ~~also addressed~~ addressing the meeting, ~~the meeting and~~ welcomed the above two decisions and assured the Federation of ~~his the~~ full cooperation in making the Convention a success.

The meeting was presided over by ~~Shri~~ Sibban Lal Saxena, ~~M.P.~~ M.P., ~~and took other organisational decisions also.~~

TVR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT DESPATCH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1960

DANGE ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

New Delhi, February 21: Following are the excerpts from is the text of S.A. Dange's speech in the Lok Sabha on the President's Address to Parliament on Monday: February 22.

"The address of the President tries to give the picture of the country in relation to its foreign policy and the internal developments.

As regards the picture in relation to the foreign policy, it is a very gratifying picture in relation to the foreign policy, to the attention of the country and the world as a whole that India is following a very progressive foreign policy, and that it deserves to be supported by all the people in the country and also by the people in the world who take progressive stand outside in the world.

Foreign Policy

The most outstanding illustration of this/foreign policy was the stand which India took in the UNO in supporting the Resoultuon on anti-colonialism, which demanded that these countries which are still held in slavery should be free. That certainly was an unequivocal stand and true to the traditions of our country's foreign policy which has been shaped in the last ten years by our Prime Minister.

The second outstanding fact to which attention of the country and the world drawn relates to the events in the international field -- the most cruel and cold blooded murder of the Prime Minister Lumumba of Congo. It has truly shocked the conscience of the world. Our Prime Minister expressed the sentiments of our country when he gave his interview and said that it was premedidated cold-blooded murder and that in Congo no longer can the UNO take the position that it was taking so far.

So far, the attitude of the United Nations that they would not intervene in the internal affairs of a country practically led to the endorsement or encouragement of the actions of the Belgian fascists and the result was that when the Congolese were unable to defend their Prime Minister, the Belgians were able to arrest him and shoot him.

CONGO AFFAIR

As we were situated there, I do not know what was our position, the position of the Indian Mission which was functioning as part of the UN Mission in Congo. That subject might later on crop up and we should like to hear from the Government side what Sri Dayal and his associates were doing when Prime Minister Lumumba was snatched away from the protection of the United Nations which he had already sought.

Nobody in this country has supported even indirectly the action of the facists in Congo and in fact, in our country, there was an expression of indignation and demonstrations by workers, by students, by citizens and all sections of the populations against this cold-blooded murder. It was, however, a strange sight to see that the Indian police were more vehement in beating the demonstrators than sympathising with the expression of indignation at the murder of Prime Minister Lumumba.

I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that particularly in Bombay, when demonstrators approached the place of demonstration, they were so severely and brutally attacked that one wondered whether the police were wounded and two MLAs were sent to hospitals; a number of workers and city corporators were wounded and even operations in the hospital had to be carried out in order to save them from their wounds.

TWO Attitudes

I cannot reconcile these two attitudes -- the indignation of the people at the murder, the support of the Government to the policy of the democratic people in Congo and their indignation at the murder of Lumumba and yet, this savage attack on the demonstrators.

If it were in defence of diplomatic personnel -- diplomatic personnel who are in danger of losing their lives -- one could understand police intervening, but when no such thing exists, this behaviour in severeal towns rather a sad affair.

PTO

I cannot draw the policy conclusions from it. I would not say that thereby the foreign policy suffers. But then it has got a certain blot, and it does show there is some vacillation somewhere and there is not that readiness to express indignation that the people want to.

In the field of foreign policy, the usual support that we give to Algerian struggle is there, though unfortunately we have not found our way to recognise the provisional Government of Algeria as some Governments have done. There is also anxiety about Laos. There is the demand for disarmament and a general policy of peace and peaceful co-existence being pursued by our country. That is certainly a good thing.

But when it comes to the application of certain of these policies on one or two matters, then questions are raised. For example, the question of Goa is there. I think we have not yet taken a very definite position on that. The revolutionaries in Angola are raising the standard of rebellion. Should we not think of allowing at least the patriots in Goa and outside Goa to do something about the matter in such a manner that the spirit of Angola rebels, of the Angola revolutionaries and the fighters of Santa Maria are strengthened, that the Portuguese do not get encouragement by our neutrality but that they get a certain amount of demoralisation by activities not only on the part of the people but on the part of our Government?

That is just a question I would address to the Government, I would not pose any problems now or come to any conclusions just now. But that should be a thing for thought. Should we lie low so far as this question is concerned and not do something at least in the matter of activising the problem in such a way that the Portuguese are made to think about the problem once more?

BORDER QUESTION

The President's address refers to the report of the Indian official team in regard to the delineation of the borders of India and China. I am one of those people who believe that the Indian officials have done good work and that they have presented a strong case about our border, and that it is no longer a problem of vagueness.

The borders are being shown here and there and their coordinates are defined; the places are defined and the maps are being presented and history is being presented, and they are done in such an efficient manner that I think the officials have done a good job. And as officials - they are not politicians -- they had no powers to come to any agreement. But officials as such they had certainly done a good job.

But then merely delineating and presenting a strong case has not ended the problem and it was not expected to because the problem can only be ended by the two Governments sitting together and negotiating now on the basis of the case presented.

Here is our case. Obviously the Chinese have not accepted our case. They do not think it is a strong case, because obviously they were not expected to silently gobble up all the maps that wer presented to them, all the history, all the survey that were presented to them and say, "All right, Salaam, we will accept it."

No one can expect that. The certainly presented their maps and servey and their history and again, the problem remains in a deadlock. It is an advance and it has advanced one step further only in this: that both sides now have put the co-ordinates and geography and history together for the people to see and to judge.

Therefore, under such a condition, it is now for the Governments to take steps, and it is for the Government of India -- I cannot simply press the Government of India, but also the Government of China, as a citizen of India -- to take it up and I say that the question be taken up now on a political level.

The officials have done their job. Let the politicians of the two Governments now do their job, and if a problem of Burma can be resolved, there is no reason why the problem about Indian and Chinese borders cannot be resolved. So, on this question, the next step would not be, as some of my hon. Friends would like to do: mere sabre-rattling will not help, because this is not the age of sabre-rattling on either side or on any side.

Everybody knows that, because we do not do sabre-rattling even in the case of Pakistan. The thing is lying there for ten years and all our sabres are in the sealbord. There also, we are doing the same thing. Even in Goa we are not resorting to sabre-rattling. We do demand it. But somehow or other, some people like to do some sabre-rattling only in regard to China.

I would say in regard to Pakistan border also that Pakistan has no right to negotiate about the borders with China -- absolutely none. Kashmir being our area, that area is also ours, and no Government has a right to negotiate with Pakistan on the disposal of those border areas.

Here too, I am not guided by press reports. Even the Prime Minister has not confirmed the press reports. Therefore, I am not prepared to assume that China has started negotiating and then to be indignant and agitated about it though everybody has a right to be indignant about it if it really happens.

Therefore, on that question also my position is very clear: that Pakistan has no right and it would not be correct for any other country including China -- there is no other country anywhere there I think -- to negotiate with Pakistan. It would not be correct either on moral or political grounds, because the position is that those parts are ours.

Certainly then the question is raised as to why they did not negotiate on this question with us. As I understand the document, we were not negotiating a settlement. The officials were demarcating and what they said was "it is inopportune" as far as I understand. That does not mean refusal to negotiate in principle on the fact whether India does not have that area as her part but that it belongs to China and vice versa.

"Inopportune" simply might mean you cannot even go there and tell us what is where. Therefore, let us leave that and let us delineate as far as other areas are concerned. So, that statement need not be stressed too far but the attitude as such can be noted.

In fact, the foreign policy that India has pursued in the last five or six years, is a policy which is in the direction of opposing imperialist monouvres. Therefore it has created a response from the imperialists which is not very healthy for themselves or for the colonial countries. But I would request the Government to be a little more firm.

As regards the United Nations the role that they were playing in the Congo was not a good role which is influenced by the way in which the Secretary-General, Mr. Hammerskjoeld, was listening to the advice of his imperialist advisers and not others. With that caution I would say that the foreign policy is certainly one of which our country and our people should be proud.

If the Address had put it in a rather inspiring language, I would have been very glad. But I think that addresses of this kind are not supposed to be inspiring. I think by their very nature, they are supposed to follow the style of a postal gazette, than on inspiring Address. I am not reflecting on the President -- of the style I am saying. It is a catalogue. The catalogue is a good one, excepting for the note of caution or reservation which I want to introduce in it, that the foreign policy should be pursued with greater consistency and greater opposition to the colonialism in the United Nations.

PTO

The Plans

"Coming to the home policy, what is the picture of the home policy? The picutre as taken at the end of the Second Five Year Plan and the beginning of the Third Plan? If you pose the question what are our accomplishments on the eve of the Third Plan when this House met and the President addresses it, I would put it like this. If you sum up the achievements of the five years of the Second Plan, I would say in the matter of industry have we achieved anything? Of course, we have achieved a good deal, which is a great thing. The first great thing we have achieved in the last five years is to lay down the basis of certain heavy industries which have broken the blockade which the imperialists wanted to impose on us in the matter of our development.

In the first Plan they would not give us this, that, or anything. The used to say: "You look after your agriculture and a little irrigation, and all the old engines which were dilapidated because of war. And after you develop that later on think of something else."

And it was a wrong thing, as the Prime Minister said, not to have thought of heavy industry.

It was fortunate in the Second Plan we corrected ourselves. Emphasis was laid on the heavy industry and especially in that sector where we are the most dependent. Everybody can shake his finger and upset our economy if we have no iron and steel, no coal, no oil and no heavy machinery. Now we have made up.

Not that it is enough compared to the size of our country. Considering the vast size, the vast population and our needs, what is being done is nothing for a country of four hundred million. Even if you go to four million tons of steel what is it? Twelve million people of Czechoslovakia has got six million tons of steel production.

A small country like Luxemburg produced three million tons of steel with a population, of a million or so. So, compared to our needs it is not enough. It is not a question of comparing our needs it is not enough. It is not a question of comparing our needs with what is being done.

We have established a beavy industry. Certainly it is not to the satisfaction of many people even in this country. How many big industrialists there are who are satisfied with the proposal that we are going over to a fourth steel plan, and these industrialists who object to that are the arch-enemies of our country; they are anti-nationalists in that they object to the growth of iron and steel industry in this country.

Oil Policy

Not only that. How many people are satisfied with the discovery of oil? When oil is found in Gujerat, it sinks the hearts of imperialists outside, that their monopoly is getting broken. This is the condition. The oil programme of the Government has been going on correct lines. Inspite of that, I find that even in this country there are people who are sorry that every well dug oil is being found. They feel they are being burried in every well dug for oil. They are sorry that India is becoming strong.

Therefore, it was a sorry spectacle to see that when the Government of India bought oil from the Soviet Union which has been of crucial help to us in combating the deadlock which was being imposed on us, and when that oil was being offered by the Ministry from State to State and from Corporation to Corporation, State Ministries of the Congress itself were trying whether they could not buy Burmah-Shell and Stanvac oil. It was to save a pie here and a pie there.

Tenders were invited and iwe know how in tenders somebody underquotes somebody else. These tricks were played when the Government of India with its oil programme were telling the States to buy this oil, because not only was the oil cheaper, but it was one of tactics and strategy. Even if it were five pies dearer than Burmah-Shell and Stanvac, it should have been bought. Now there are explanations coming forward, but I would like to see what is going to be done in that matter later on.

SUMMING UP THE DEVELOPMENTS

However, summing up the developments of five years on the eve of the Third Plan, the basis of heavy industry is being laid; the basis of oil industry is being laid; the basis of iron and steel is being laid. That means we have broken the blockade that was imposed on us.

We know Durgapur is held by the British that Rourkela is held by the Germans. We know how the help has come. We know when it came. When we decided, as a correct line, not only to take help from the Western sector, but also to take help from the socialist sector, then only the gentlemen of the West were brought into a mood to give us their proposals in the iron and steel sector. And yet today they are trying as much as possible to sabotage certain lines of development.

As I said, we support the Plan. But how do we support it? The Plan has two contents. We support the Plan on one content and not on another. The Plan has a country inside it. In so far as every development of the Plan leads to the independent economic development of the country, we support the Plan. We support the country in the Plan.

But we do not support the class in the Plan. Because inside the Plan there is a class which is trying to grab everything, trying to steal foreign exchange, trying to get the State sector abolished.

The crucial development in the Plan is the development of the State sector and every Indian, every citizen who wants the development of the country's economy ought to support the extension of the State sector.

The modifications in the industrial policy that are being tried by some people, taking away certain strategic industries from the Industrial Policy Resolution and handing them over to the private sector is a suicidal step. Therefore the country in the Plan we support; the class in the Plan we do not support. We criticise them. The Plan is being grabbed by some people for their private interests, for their class interests and not for the country's interests. Therefore, we have got an attitude of support to the Plan on one side as well as criticism of the Plan on the other.

DENATIONALISATION ?

For example, take the State sector in industry. We have heard in the question Hour even today that when we have developed certain units of industry on the basis of taxes we imposed on the people, from the money we took from the people, these gentlemen come up and say - now that you have developed it, you sell it to us. There are some people who are ready to sell it. We tax the people for building these industries, later on you sell it to these gentlemen for making profits out of it. What is this policy? Is that a correct line?

Then they say: "The report is still private". It has leaked out in the Press. One newspaper in Bombay complained, when it was leaked out to one paper, why not to us and they expressed satisfaction that at least Government is thinking of denationalisation of the State sector -- privatisation of the State sector. From the House there outght to be condemnation of any such policy; the House should unite and tell the Government, "For God's sake do not take a step in that direction."

A beautiful plant like the Hindustan Machine Tools.....

A Member: It is only a rumour.

Dange: There are rumours. That is why I am asking you.

Tangamani: The Mazumdar Committee' Report is there.

Dange: A committee was appointed with an official as Secretary. Why was a committee appointed to think of such a thing. Whether you sell later on is not another thing; that you should appoint a committee to think of such a proposition means there is something black in it.

PTO

Morarji Desai: No such committee has been appointed.

Tangamani: The details of the report have already appeared in the Press.

Dange: I will take it for granted that no such committee was appointed, no such decision was taken and that there is no danger of any unit in the State sector being sold out to any private concern. I take that assurance.

Morarji Desai: No assurance is necessary where nothing is happening. It is only his imagination.

Speaker: He refers to a committee -- Mazumdar Committee -- which was appointed. Was a committee appointed?

Lal Bahadur Shastri: There is a committee, but the point which they have considered is this. He says we propose to sell out our public concerns to private people.

Tangamani: Shares.

Lal Bahadur Shastri: It is only being theoretically considered if in case a new venture is set up in the public sector whether we could raise a certain percentage -- 10 or 15 per cent - of shares from the public, whether public shares could be raised and they can participate in that public venture. That is the basic idea. It can never be a public sector project unless Government own 51 per cent of shares.

Dange: I am basing myself on the reports from very responsible business journals.

Lal Bahadur Shastri: The question of HMT was raised this moring also. It is a fantastic idea. HMT is one of our best projects, we can never conceive of selling out even a single share to anybody.

Dange: I am very glad about that pronouncement and that clarification that there is no danger of these best things which we are creating with people's money being sold either completely or even partly to the extent of 5 or 10 per cent of shares to anybody in the private sector. I am glad to have got at least some clarification on this matter.

So far as the State sector is concerned, Government should certainly be warned about this. Even though they may not themselves think about it, the private interests are going to try it. They have an eye on the LIC an eye on the HMT, an eye on the Sindri factory.

Business journals belonging to the monopolistic sector are discussing these propositions and it is certainly a good thing that these propositions are bruied once and for ever, that there would be no danger of halting the development of the State sector and its extension, but that there would be concerted attempts to extend the sector in bigger and bigger spheres of industry, which is very vital for the developmebt of the country.

I do not say we are in a position today to take over all private industries. I do not say that we can reserve all private industries in the future for the State secotr. We cannot do that. For example, the medium and smaller industries cannot be taken over in the State sector today. What I am thinking of is strategic lines of production like heavy machinery and coal. Coal ought to be in the State sector as a whole, but there have been hesitations and vacillations and some more concessions are being given to the private sector, because production has not reached the target which we had intended in the Five Year Plan. So, in these matters, I would just caution the Government about this. If these assurances and clarifications turn out in the future to be absolutely true and no attempts are made henceforward, I shall be the first person to be very glad about it.

I come to another question. What is the net result of this development? One should certainly be proud about the internal development in industries. But the second sector in which we have lagged behind is the agricultural sector. We are running to other countries for wheat and so on. Why was the failure so huge in this particular sector, which is one of the most crucial sectors? In fact, it is the foundation.

AGRICULTURAL REFORMS

The foundation of the economy as it exists today and which we are building is agriculture. There we have failed. Production has increased by about 40 per cent no doubt, but still that increase is not based upon any firm progressive step in land reforms that will ensure a continuous rise in production on a rising basis. There it is all crisis, because our attitude to land reforms is vacillating and is not clear. We once call for co-operatives, but when some interests attack them, Government retreat. We call for abolition of landlordism, but still tenants are thrown out and huge areas of lands are still held in private hands.

So, the agricultural sector remains in danger and I feel that is one of the most vital parts of our economy. Everybody is agreed about it, but we are not making progress in spite of our tractors, big farms and so on. That is one sector which is not capable of treatment which we are giving to the industrial sector. It is easier to build a steel plant, but it is not so easy to build up a huge mechanised farm and by that meet the needs of our country in the matter of food and raw materials. Therefore, even if we start imitating the tactic of Suratgarh farm with huge machines and establish 10 or 20 farms like that, as proposed by certain industrialists, that is not going to solve the agricultural problem. It can only be solved by the right line taken at the Nagpur resolution. But that resolution has been put in cold storage because of certain contradictions inside those very people who fought for that resolution in the Congress; and since Congress is the ruling party, they themselves have to be told whether they are going to put into effect that resolution and thereby correct the agricultural situation in favour of the people.

Who garners gains.

The question that arises is, who is benefited by these developments? Who is gathering the major gain from these developments? If you put that question, it is very clear that the rich are getting richer and the poor have not grown less poor. That is the picture in the country. That economy is developing in such a way that rich are getting richer simply means the development of capitalism and nothing else. The State sector is in the hands of the State, but even then, it is subject to capitalist influence. Therefore, while one should be proud about the development, the net gain and the step forward that has been taken, one should be sorry that the step is not yet benefitting the masses of the people. That is a very sad spectacle.

Take the matter of wages. We get wage increases from the wage boards. The President's address refers to it. But every wage board report has taken at least two years to come into existence and every recommendation is stalled for months, including the recommendations of the Pay Commission, as we have seen. These recommendations are not given effect to. For example, the recommendations in regard to cement and sugar are still hanging fire, In these questions, the approach is, whenever it affects the workers, then there is hesitation, vacillation and almost a retreat from positions which are forced by the action of the workers.

For example, even on the question of the strike by Government employees which has been referred to in the address, my friends know what is the position. The question of victimisation is still dogging us and people are victimised for no plausible reasons, just because certain authorities want them to be victimised either for political reasons or other reasons. It is a problem for every Ministry.

It is not only a problem for the Ministry - the Ministry thinks once a person is dismissed there is no problem - it is a problem for every party, a problem for the country, a problem for the whole of the working class.

There is.....

PTO

There is victimisation in the Defence Department. Some people in this side think that Sri Krishna Menon is a Communist. (Interruptions) If it were so, I do not understand why he is victimising the workers in the defence industries. If I were the Defence Minister, I would not victimise my workers like that. That is a sure proof that their criticism of the Defence Minister is wrong (Interruptions). And that is also a proof that the idea that we support him in everything that he does is also wrong. I am particularly pointing this out because on the matter of the victimisation of the employees every Ministry is uniformly reactionary. There is nobody.....

RAGHUNATH: Is there freedom for strike in Russia also?

DANGE: Since then forty years have passed in the Soviet Union and you are too late in the day to ask the question.

MEMBER: Freedom for blackmarketing is not there, I suppose.

DANGE: Why discuss Soviet Union. In the Soviet Union 16 people do not die because the temperature has fallen to below normal and people could not stand it. That has happened in Mokameh, the other day.

ASOKA MEHTA: There only the news does not come in.

DANGE: You are afraid to go there. I would suggest everybody to go there and see. Sri Nath Pai has gone there the other day. Therefore let us not discuss Soviet Union, because the Soviet Union is not here to speak about it. Look at the Sputnik going to Venus and you should be in a mood to write poetry about the Venus and Soviet Union. Look at Bhilai, look at oil, look at others. We are now on the wrong question.

ASOKA MEHTA: Yes, foolish questions like strikes.

PLAN AND WORKERS

DANGE: On the question of wages of workers the Plan is not functioning the proper way. On the question of the rights of workers the Plan is not functioning in the proper way. On the question of relief to the citizens the Plan is not yet functioning in a proper way. If you give attention properly to them, then these developments which belong to the country and are based on the sacrifices of the people will benefit the people and will certainly strengthen our country and our people. Now that is the lag that is not mentioned in the President's Address. Only one side is presented. Wage boards are appointed, but what about their effects? Even their effects are nullified by the price rise which has been mentioned. The price rises are still incapable of being controlled with the result that whatever wage increase you give, tomorrow it is upset. Therefore, our slogan has been: link up every wage increase and every wage to dearness allowance automatically so that at least what is given today is protected. That was the central slogan of my organisations, the All India Trade Union Congress. Because, Government and the boards may increase the wages; next day, Government realises they cannot control the price and the effect of the wage increase is upset. So, the blessing of wage increases is turned into curses because they are not able to control the price-line. Therefore, the best system should have been to link up the wages with the dearness allowance or cost of living.

So, on this question what I can say is on this matter the policies are not pro-working class and pro-peasant. The Plan for the country is being used by the capitalists. The Plan is developed by the whole country with the sacrifices of the people, the sacrifices of the intelligentsia and all classes, including the capitalists even. But the gains are only going into the hands of one class. And unless this correction is made, we shall not go forward, as we ought to go forward, in the matter of social progress, making the whole thing available to the country.

This is.....

This is a matter which I appeal to the Congress party to think over. Because of this irritating situation frustration, disappointments, people working and yet not getting the benefit, everybody says the country is going forward but the man in the street thinks he is going backward and he is starving. Of course not everybody is starving - there is no doubt about it that certain sections get wage increase also - but the general picture is frustration. All these irritations are utilized by the reactionary people.

For example, whenever any failure anywhere is pointed out, as there are certain mad people, there are scoundrels in every community, once a communal mishap takes place whole towns and areas flare up in mutual massacre. What is it due to? Is it not because we have not been able to possess the conscience and the minds of the people with one single ambition that this country is developing and the country's developmental gains are coming to the people? Because the gains do not come to the people, the reactionaries can get hold of them and say that it is so because this community is bad or that community is bad. Therefore above all this should be based on class consciousness and the nation consciousness. Instead of functioning for the development of the country, for the peasants and workers, all gain is frittered away and we see the phenomenon witnessed in Jubbalpore. Jubbalpore is an industrial town with a fine working class colony and fine working class people. Yet, when the incident happened it could not be controlled. Certainly, the incident should be condemned. Why should we condemn one community or other community? It is done by anti-social elements which are everywhere and which should be fought out by the society as a whole. Instead of that, in Jubbalpore certain reactionary parties took advantage of it and, instead of suppressing it, spread it out in the hope that they can divide the country. In this way they stop the country on its way to progress. Therefore, elements in the Congress who disapprove of this, elements in all parties who disapprove of this should combine in this platform of suppressing this communalism with one single united voice. But that single united voice, to become effective, will not be put in that condition by simply talking of moral resolutions against casteism and communalism and reiterating them in new resolutions. No. It cannot be done only by that. The whole development must be taken in one way. Unless you unite the population at some higher level, the lower levels will persist in giving a wrong direction, and that higher consciousness is based on (1) the country and (2) the class. The country is mine, that is, of the people, and not of a handful of private monopolists, who want to plan for themselves; a handful who want to take away the gains for themselves; a handful who want to take away the gains for themselves, a handful taking all the lawless gains for themselves; the gains shall be distributed over the people, especially the toiling people. If everybody goes in that way, if we succeed in putting that stamp on our development - certainly development is taking place but the question is the direction and the stamp - then we will be on the right track. Now the main direction in development is correct but the direction in relation to the masses is wrong. Development direction true, but development in relation to the masses is untrue; in fact, it becomes anti-people. Therefore, if this is taken into consideration, the hopes of future development will be fulfilled and we shall be on a better road. --FOC

Government Accepts SUGAR WAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government of India by their Resolution No.WB-7(30)/60 dated February 23, 1961 has decided to accept the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for the sugar industry subject to the following:

(a) Workload studies

Government has taken note of the Board's recommendations that workload studies be undertaken in the sugar industry and that such studies should be preceded by reasonably specific programme of implementation drawn up in consultation with the organisations of the interests concerned. Government propose to consider the matter further in consultation with the parties.

(b) Bonus

Government commends the bonus formula for the North and Central regions recommended by the Wage Board. If, however, the parties concerned in any of the States included in these regions agree to adopt any other formula for determination of bonus payable in respect of a particular period, they may be allowed to do so.

(c) Government requests the employers, workers and State Governments to take immediate steps to implement the recommendations of the Wage Board. Government expects that the parties will show a spirit of accommodation in interpreting and implementing the recommendations and difficulties, if any, will be solved by mutual negotiations and agreement.

LEGAL NOTES

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Rule 4(B) of the Conduct Rules "Ultra Vires" to the Constitution.

We quote below the relevant portion of a judgement given by Mr. Justice Tambe and Mr. Justice Gokhale of the Bombay High Court on January 18, 1960, in the matter of four petitions filed by S. Vasudevan, E.X. Joseph and others, challanging the validity of Sec.4(A) and 4(B) of the Conduct Rules of Government Employees as well as Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance promulgated by the President of India, banning the strike of Central Government employees in July 1960.

While their Lordships have held the Rule 4(A) and the Ordinance as constitutional, they observed that Rule 4(B) was violative of fundamental rights conferred by Article 19(1) of the Consition.

Regarding the Constitutional validity of Rule 4(B) their Lordships observed in their judgement:-

"It is urged by Mr. Singhwi (Counsel for the petitioners that Rule 4(B) infringes the rights conferred on the petitioner by Article 19(1) (b) & (c) of assembling peacefully and without arms and of forming Associations or Unions. In our opinion, this contention is well founded. The Rule in terms makes membership of an un-recognised Association or membership of an Association of which recognition has been withdrawn, a disciplinary offence. That being the position, there cannot be any doubt that it is violative of the right conferred by Article 19(i)(c) of the Constitution to form Associations or Unions. Even though the Rule in terms does not prohibit Government servants from forming Associations or Unions, by making membership of un-recognised Associations a disciplinary offence, it has in substance done so and in considering infrignement of fundamental rights it is the substance of infringed act or rule that matters and not the form".

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"We fail to understand how a Government servant by merely being a member of a service Association which is not recognised by the Government or whose recognition has been withdrawn, by it, would endanger public peace, safety and tranquility.

+ + +

"The possibility of the power being arbitrarily exercised cannot be excluded. The fundamental rights of Government servants to form Associations or Unions thus been made

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subject to the arbitrary discretion of the executive of the Government. There appears to be hardly any necessity for imposing such restrictions in the interest of public peace, safety and tranquility."

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RESOLUTION
ON SCHEME FOR LABOUR PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT.

....

The 16th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress has considered the scheme for labour participation in management which the Government is trying to introduce in several industries. The Session notes that though the Government has been urging that this scheme be introduced, very few employers have undertaken it. Even in Public sector undertakings the scheme has not been enthusiatically welcomed. The AITUC is of the opinion that this much-trumpeted scheme has found very little enthusiasm among the employers, both in private and public sectors.

There has been a tendency to use this scheme by the employers for only raising productivity and the moment it does not serve the purpose of the management to give it a goodbye.

H.M.T. is a glaring example of this sort, where the scheme has been suspended by the management even though the union and the workers are willing to continue it, simply because the union raised the workers just demand of increase in emoluments.

The rights of the workers representatives under the scheme are very very limited and in fact do not amount to the scheme of workers participating in management in Socialist countries or even in Yugoslavia.

This Session is of the opinion that, nonetheless, the situation in our country demands that whatever machinery is available and can be utilised for the defence of the workers' interests, and industrial progress the AITUC should participate in it. This scheme should be utilised to whatever extent possible to fight bureaucratic management, have a check on the wastages and corruption and defend the interests of the workers.

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RESOLUTION

ON SCHEME FOR LABOUR PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT

I

The 26th Session of the ALL-India Trade Union Congress has considered the scheme forlabour participation in management which the Government is trying to introduce in several industries. The Session notes that though the Government has been urging that this scheme be introduced, very few employers have undertaken it. ~~It is mostly in some public sector enterprises that such a scheme is being experimented~~. The AITUC is of the opinion that this much-trumpeted scheme has found very little enthusiasm among the mployers, both in private and public sectors ~~among the employers, both in private and public sectors~~.

Even in those places where the scheme had been introduced and experimented, it is observed that it has not worked well. While very limited rights have been conferred on the workers, very few benefits accrue to them. In particular, the experience of the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., where this scheme was introduced and where the trade union wholeheartedly cooperated, is significant. As long as the workers did not demand a share in the profits and gains which accrued out of the implementation of the scheme; so long the management welcomed it. But the once the workers raised their legitimate demands, the management grew furious and shelved the scheme. From the little experience of this scheme, this Session of the AITUC is of the opinion that the scheme for labour participation in management is not meant either to improve the working and living conditions or improve the standards of living of the workers. It is meant more to get the co-operation of the workers for increased production and increased profits and as such, there cannot be real participation in management. It is only in a socialist society where the working class is in power and where production is done not for profit can there be real participation in management, with the workers maning the enterprises.

V

This Session is of the opinion that, nonetheless, the situation in our country ~~is such~~ that whatever machinery is available and can be utilised for the defence of the workers' interests, the AITUC should participate in it. ~~It believes that we must specially try to utilised~~ to whatever extent possible ~~in public sector enterprises~~ to fight bureaucratic management, have a check on the wastages and corruption and defend the interests of the workers.

Joint Council of Action of Central Govt. Employees

DELHI STATE

Chairman : Gopal Singh Josh
Secretary : D. D. Vasisht
Treasurer : M. N. Khanna

7/1, RAILWAY COLONY,
DELHI KISHANGANJ

Ref. No.....

Dated.....196

II There has been a tendency to use this scheme by the employers for any raising production and the moment it does not serve the purpose of the management to give it a go by.

III H.M.T. is a glaring example of this sort. Where the scheme has been suspended by the management even though the union & the workers are willing to continue it simply because the union raised their just demands of minor incentives.

IV The rights of the workers regd: in the scheme are very very limited and we feel does not amount to the scheme of workers' participation in management in Soviet Country or even in Yugoslavia.

DEMONSTRATIONS:

COIMBATORE: Textile workers all over Coimbatore district numbering nearly fifty thousand observed a two-minute strike and silence on February 20, to mark their protest against the murder of Patrice Lumumba.

The action was in response to a joint call issued by the AITUC-affiliated Coimbatore District Mill Workers Union and the HMS-affiliated Coimbatore District Textile Workers Union.

BELGHARIA (WEST BENGAL): The workers employed by Mohini Mill No.2 at Belgharia observed two-minute silence in the factory on February 15 in response to the call of Textile Workers Union (AITUC). The management had objected to any such observance but defying the orders, the workers did observe silence for two minutes. There was also a mass meeting.

(Note: We have received a number of resolutions and reports from various places in connection with the protest actions against the murder of Patrice Lumumba. We regret that due to shortage of space, we could not publish all the news items. Editor)

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AITUC NOMINATION

P. V. Upadhyaya, General Secretary, Hotel Mazdoor Sabha, Bombay has been nominated by the AITUC, as a member of the Administrative Committee of the Trade Union International of Food, Tobacco and Beverage Industries Workers.

S. Krishnamurthy, has been nominated as an alternate member to this seat.

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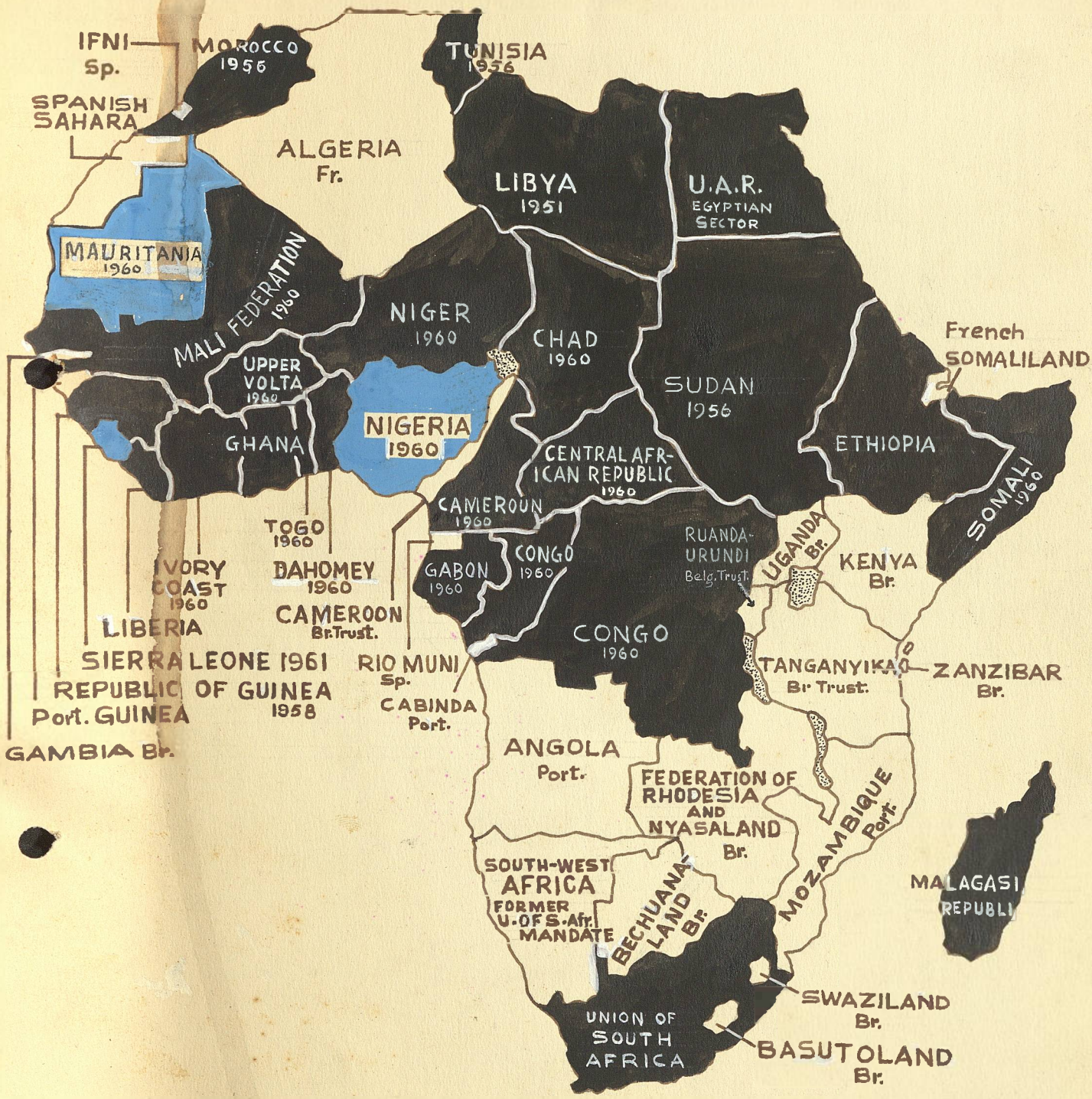

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MAURITANIA
1960

"DEMONSTRATIONS"

NEW DELHI.

Over three-thousand people demonstrated for more than two hours in front of the residence of the Belgium Ambassador in New Delhi on February 15, evening shouting anti-imperialist, anti-Belgium, anti-UN slogans.

Demonstrators led by the Delhi State Trade Union Congress and various trade unions in the city and sorrounding townships affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress demanded immediate dismissal of the UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjold and punishment for those who are responsible for the murder of Patrice Lumumba, the first Prime Minister of the Congo and his two colleagues.

Other organisations which participated in the demonstrations were the All-India Youth Federation, the Delhi Students' Federation and the Delhi State Peace Council.

The Revolutionary Socialist Party which earlier had plans to demonstrate at the same place jointly with the Praja Socialist Party immediately after the State TUC-led demonstration, however, joined the STUC demonstrators later.

A large police force numbering over three hundred cordoned the building throughout the day. The US Embassy, the Belgium Embassy, the UN Information Centre and residences of some of the Western envoys were heavily guarded.

MADRAS.

Thousands of demonstrators besieged Belgian Consulate on February 14, to protest against the massacre of Lumumba and his colleagues.

Popular mobilisation of protest against the murder in Congo was planned by the city trade unions and youth associations.

Demonstrators paraded thoroughfares demanding removal of the Secretary General, Hammarskjoeld and effective United Nations' action to disarm the Mobutu gangsters.

...2

There were demonstrations before the United States Consulate and the British High Commission also. Demonstrators carried placards denouncing imperialist role in the Congo Tragedy.

All over the Madras State people went into mourning on hearing news of Lumumba's death. Workers joined a massive rally in Madurai to register their protest against the brutalities. Protests rallies were held at Coimbatore, Dindigal, Sivakasi, Tutocorin, Tiruppur and Trichy.

The Tamil Nad Trade Union Congress in a statement called for working-class mobilisation against the imperialist conspiracies in the Congo. The statement said that the murder of Congo patriots was a direct challenge to the Afro-Asian people struggling for independence and democracy.

BOMBAY.

A Joint meeting held under the auspecis of Maharashtra Committee of AITUC, United Trade Union Committee and Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee on February 15, condemned the cold blooded murder of Lumumba and his associates. The meeting demanded resignation of U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hamerskjoeld and greeted heroic struggle of the Congolese patriots for Independence. The meeting was addressed by S.S. Mirajkar, President AITUC, Datta Deshmukh M.L.A. Vinayak Bhave and Bajaj.

(246) Lumumba TUR

8x9/22

So Patrice Lumumba has been murdered. The apprehension throughout the world on this count has proved to be true. The inaction of the UNO to afford adequate protection yielded this pathetic result.

With Patrice Lumumba have been murdered, Joseph Okito, President of the Senate and Maurice Mpolo, Minister for Defence of the first Government of the independent Congo.

These cold-blooded murders were followed by more murders. The butchers of the Belgian puppet rulers in Kasai province have killed a number of top political leaders of the Congo in a most shameless and cruel manner.

8x9/11

Among these killed, were, Fiantin, former President of Orientale province; Major Fataki, police chief of Orientale; Gilbert Nzuzi, leader of National Youth Movement; Christophe Muzungu, Pierre Elengesa, Yangara and others.

These leaders were arrested and then handed over to the self-proclaimed ruler of South Kasai, Kalonji, as part of the deal in which Lumumba was handed over to Tshomba for 50 million Belgian francs.

The murder of the revolutionary leaders of the Congo, who represented the resurgent spirit of Africa that xxx is freeing itself from the shackles of slavery, by the henchmen of Belgian imperialists, is yet another proof of the vile attempts of the imperialists to establish neo-colonialism.

But this cold-blooded and pre-meditated murder, which cannot be compared with any other political murder in the world, cannot put an end to the struggle of liberation of the colonial people. The fire of freedom-struggle cannot be put out by spilling of blood.

It is not shock or revulsion that can describe the reaction with which the democratic people of the world received the news of these murders. It is the grim determination of theirs to avenge the murder of lumumba and his colleagues

through intensifying the struggle of liberation of all countries from the yoke of colonialism, that can properly describe the reaction.

Patrice Lumumba is dead. But his clarion call to freedom, which no prison could silence, will not be stilled by the grave wherever might it be. Patrice Lumumba will remain in the minds of people as the embodiment of hope, courage and struggle of the millions of people under the bondage of slavery and colonial oppression. His yet unknown grave will continue to imbibe the fighting people with greater determination and stronger conviction in the world over for the complete extermination of hated colonialism.

Democratic people all over the world have unhesitatingly voiced their thunderous protest against this murder and held the imperialists and their stooges responsible for this crime. This is so, because to the democratic people of the world, Lumumba was not only the leader of the Independent Congo, but also a tireless and undaunted fighter against imperialism and colonialism. He was the standard-bearer of national independence and democracy.

All these qualities and sacrifices made the Heroes of the Congo, so great, so popular, particularly in their own country, where no sooner the independence was attained, the imperialists were able to employ some stooges to establish neo-colonialism and partition of the country into small chunks for facilitating exploitation of its vast natural resources.

As day follows night, the Congolese people with the help of all opposed to colonialism and exploitation, will avenge the murder of Lumumba and his colleagues. They will rid themselves of the traitors and their imperialist paymasters who contrived this killing.

The Belgian gunmen and their gangster allies under Tshombe in Katanga stand condemned as the organisers of this crime.

But their guilt is shared by others. Kasavubu and Mobutu,

who handed the leaders of the legally constituted Government of the Independent Congo, over to Tshombe. Those in charge of the United Nations, especially its Secretary-General Hammarskjoeld, who failed in his duty and did nothing to secure their release and thereby indirectly caused their killing.

No one will believe the clumsy, Nazi-Goelbles-like lie that Lumumba and his colleagues were killed while trying to escape. They were shifted to Katanga to be done away with.

Even though, Lumumba was held illegally in prison, his name was a rallying call for the liberation of his country from imperialism.

Lumumba and his colleagues could not be bought by the colonialists and they fought tenaciously for the liberation of the Congolese people.

The supporters of Lumumba with the headquarters in Stanleyville, control half of the country and they have already set up a Government headed by Gizenga and the support for this Government is growing daily. This Government has already been recognised by many countries.

The cruel murders show the barburous methods that can be adopted by the imperialists in exigencies. It is the measure of bankruptcy and desperation of the colonialists and their quisling partners.

After the brutal murders, plumbing the lowest depths of hypocrisy, comes Hammarskjoeld's proposal for an inquiry, uncerimoniously turned down by Tshombe.

All that now are happening are the attempts to stop the liberation of Africa and, if possible, to reverse the tide of freedom. The imperialists are trying to reduce to naught the United Nations' declaration for the ending of Colonialism.

The colonialists want to maintain their grip so that they can continue their robbery. Not only Belgians, but also the powerful groups in Britain, France, West Germany and the United States are involved.

The biggest Uranium mine in Africa is in Katanga. From this mine, the United States obtained the Uranium for its first atom bomb that killed and maimed millions in Hiroshima. This mine is under the control of the Belgians.

Katanga is one of the most profitable mining regions in the world, rich in copper, cobalt, tin and uranium. The biggest mining company here is owned by foreigners - twofifths by British, another twofifths by Belgians and onefifth by Frenchmen.

So here can be seen the pattern of the unholy trinity, with big money interests holding on to the resources which belong to the people of another country - the Congo.

This fact explains why the imperialists block was so keen to get rid of Lumumba and why they refused to call on the Belgians to withdraw their troops from the Congo and conspired to stifle the voice of independent Congo.

This henious crime cannot be allowed to go unpunished. Alongwith the mass of democratic people of the world over, we also demand :

Recognise the Gizenga Government; Punish the murderers; Withdraw all Belgian troops from the Congo; Remove Hammarskjoeld from the Secretary-Generalship of UNO; Immediate release of all political prisoners; Trial of Tshombe, Mobutu and Kasavubu for all their crime; and Convene the Congolese Parliament under UN protection.

Information Department
of the USSR Embassy in India
25, Barakhamba Road,
Post Box No. 241,
NEW DELHI-1.
GRAMS : SOVINFORM. PHONE : 46240

भारत में सोवियत समाजवादी जनतंत्र
संघ के दूतावास का सूचना विभाग
२५, बारहखम्भा रोड,
नई दिल्ली।
तार : सोविनफार्म. टेलीफोन : 46240

Ref: PR/Excl.

246

January 25, 1961.

The Editor,
"Trade Union Record"
All India Trade Union Congress,
4, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith, for exclusive publication in your esteemed journal, an article, "Soviet Workers' Tribune" by Anatoli Blatin, Editor-in-Chief of Trud. I hope you will find the article interesting and useful. An early intimation as to its publication will be highly appreciated.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Encl: 1 Article.

(L.S.Kourilov)
Information Officer,
USSR Embassy in India.

On February 19, 1961, the newspaper Trud will mark the 40th anniversary of its first issue.

SOVIET WORKERS' TRIBUNE

Anatoli Blatin,
Editor-in-Chief of Trud

A million and a half copies of the newspaper Trud, the central press organ of the Soviet trade unions, are delivered daily to subscribers through the mails, while tens of thousands are sold by bookstores and kiosks. All people in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Sverdlovsk and other large cultural and industrial centres of the country wishing to read a fresh issue of our paper can do so on specially built glass-covered billboards. It goes without saying, of course, that it can always be found in the numerous reading rooms, libraries and factory clubs. Actually Trud is read daily by at least four million people. This is the most widespread and the most popular workers' paper in the whole world. It is characteristic that the paper has its biggest circulation in such workers' centres like the Donets and Kuznetsk Coal Basins, the Urals, in the Dnieper Valley, as well as in Moscow and Leningrad.

The editorial mail we receive is also an eloquent manifestation of Trud's popularity, of its close ties with its readers. In December 1960, for instance, we received over 22,000 letters, and on some days they topped the 1,000 mark. In their letters the working people actively respond to the material published in the paper, disclose the shortcomings they notice in production or in the cultural and public facilities, ask advice on how to act in one or another instance, and send in their own items and dispatches.

Wherein lies the secret of the paper's such big popularity, why does it attract the readers among the workers? Why is it that despite the fact that such papers like Pravda, Izvestia

and Komsomolskaya Pravda, which have even a bigger circulation, are issued in the country, many workers are particularly fond of Trud and subscribe to it year after year?

Evidently it is to be explained by the fact that our newspaper devotes greater attention to the workaday life of the workers than any other paper, which is quite natural. Its pages reflect much of that 'new' which is born in the workers' midst in the process of building a classless society--communism. The paper sheds broad light on the labour heroism of the people, who are the real masters of their country and their destiny.

Two years ago a patriotic movement, dubbed the movement of shock workers of communist labour, arose among the workers of the Soviet Union. The sum and substance of it is that one should not only work well, but always and everywhere behave in a communist way: study, raise one's labour and cultural level, serve as an example in private life, etc. Our paper gave support to this initiative at once. Why? Because that is in the interests of the workers, of all the Soviet people.

The newspaper Trud writes a great deal about the leaders of socialist emulation and popularizes their constructive experience. In telling about those who are in the front ranks of the struggle for the upsurge of the socialist economy, the paper at the same time consistently and firmly defends the interests of the working people, lashes away at various shortcomings, sharply criticizes the economic executives who do not show sufficient solicitude for the creation of the best living conditions for the workers, for labour protection, safety engineering, etc.

For instance, with the help of workers' correspondents the editorial staff of Trud took under public control the timely commissioning of the most important construction jobs in 1960. In the case of one of them, the sheet rolling mill 2800 at the Orsko-Khalilov Plant (South Urals), the paper leveled sharp criticism against the Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Committee of the Russian Federative Republic and the heads of

the plants that held up the deliveries of various equipment for the mill. Thanks to this criticism the threat of a delay in assembling the mill was averted. It was put into operation ahead of schedule.

Quite recently, on January 3, 1961 to be exact, Trud published an article criticising V. Isakov, Manager of the Pavlodar Engineering Works in Kazakhstan, for his arbitrary distribution of living space. He put some of the flats in the new houses of the plant at the disposal of the leading personnel of the city organisations at the expense of the plant workers. I have no doubt that this article will not pass unnoticed and will help the public to mend the situation.

The trade unions are the biggest mass organisation in the Soviet Union. They embrace over 55 million people. Quite naturally, our paper devotes much attention to the activities of the trade unions. By showing the best in the work of the trade unions, the paper helps train millions of active T.U. members and boost the successful work of the trade unions among the masses.

The Soviet trade unions are facing great tasks in improving the life and promoting the health of the working people and raising their cultural level. Trud renders substantial aid also in solving these problems.

The newspaper organizes inspection tours of trading shops and catering establishments, health and cultural reports, ~~child's~~ children's institutions by its worker correspondents to attain everywhere effective workers' control and the elimination of the shortcomings. Many of the paper's articles are devoted to the activities of the voluntary militia brigades maintaining public order and the courts of honour fulfilling educational functions on a voluntary, public basis.

Articles on morals and ethics, highlighting the noble qualities and deeds of Soviet people, as well as exposures of the remnants of the past in the minds and the conduct of some individuals, occupy a prominent place in the paper.

Trud constantly sheds light on the activities of cultural establishments: workers' clubs, houses of culture, libraries, people's theatres, and amateur art groups. The readers have a chance to follow all the time the development of physical culture and sports both in the USSR and abroad.

~~A member of~~ Affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), the Soviet trade unions are conducting a great deal of work in inculcating in the workers a spirit of internationalism. Our paper regularly deals with the problems of the international working class movement, and describes the struggle waged by the working people against their own and alien exploiters, for the freedom and independence of their countries, for peace throughout the world.

Trud has six bureaux abroad: London, Paris, New York, Bonn, New Delhi, and Helsinki. Our permanent correspondent in New Delhi also covers Ceylon, Burma and Pakistan, while the correspondent in Helsinki "represents" the whole of Scandinavia. This gives the newspaper an opportunity of being always in the midst of the international labour movement and to react fast to all events of any significance.

Our paper is bound up with the working people of the countries of the socialist camp through the trade union papers of Peking, Warsaw, Prague, Sofia, Pyongyang, Budapest, Bucharest, Berlin, Tirana and Ulan-Bator. We systematically exchange with them visits of leading journalists, articles and dispatches. This enables us to keep our readers informed of all the events taking place in the socialist countries.

On February 19, 1961, Trud will mark its 40th anniversary. Many important changes have taken place in the life of the editorial staff in this interval. The circulation of our paper in 1955 was only 500,000, but now it already reaches a million and a half, i.e., it has trebled within five years.

Then the paper was printed only in Moscow and Leningrad, but now its matrixes are delivered by plane to Kiev, Kharkov, Kuibyshev, Sverdlovsk, Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, Khabarovsk and Alma Ata. Thus the vast majority of the readers in our boundless country receive our paper the same day it comes out.

In the forty years of its existence Trud has done a big, fruitful job in mobilising the working people to carry out the great tasks in putting up the edifice of communism in the Land of Soviets, in inculcating in them the spirit of the immortal ideas of Marxism-Leninism. All this time our paper has been a militant press organ of the Soviet trade unions, an indefatigable fighter for friendship among all nations, for peace throughout the world.