

ANDHRA PRADESH AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION

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REPORT SUBMITTED BY COMRADE K. SUBBA RAO
GENERAL SECRETARY, TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL
MEETING OF A.P. AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION
HELD ON DECEMBER 21ST AND 22ND AT VIJAYAWADA.

The 12th Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Workers Conference was held at Tenali, on 15th and 16th of June, 1980. More than 6 months lapsed. That Conference chartered out an immediate programme of action to be implemented within the next 6 months (i.e.) upto December, 1980.

We have to review how we have implemented that programme draw proper conclusions and plan our future course of action on the basis of the experience we got during these months.

STRUGGLE FOR HIGHER WAGES

In Andhra Pradesh transplanting season starts from June and the intensive Agricultural season continues throughout the months of June, July and August. Therefore we decided to campaign for higher wages and also for the enactment of a central legislation for the Agricultural Workers.

In many villages even the minimum wages notified by the Government are not being implemented. In those places we have to fight for realising those minimum wages. In other developed regions the rates notified by the Government are much below the rates already existing. In those places struggle for higher wages should be taken up. We have decided to build the movement in those places through leaflets, squad propoganda, writing on the walls, group meetings State, District, Taluq and village level leaders should directly participate in this campaign. We have also decided that our movement should be built as a part of the All India Struggle for higher wages.

After Tenali Conference, campaign for higher wages was conducted in 12 districts. In 6 districts the struggle took place and good results were achieved. Due to short fall of rain in some districts agricultural operations started very late and in some districts no operations took place at-all. Therefore we couldnot do much in those districts affected by drought.

In the districts of Khammam and Warangal workers engaged in Bedi leaves picking were organised and through their united struggle they got higher wages.

Throughout the state generally in some places through struggle and strikes, and in some places through negotiations the Agricultural workers got an increase wages of Rs.2 to 3, d day. Self confidence among the Khet Mazdoor has grown.

In KHAMMAM DISTRICT 10 thousand leaflets demanding higher wages was printed and distributed throughout the district on behalf of the district union. Widespread campaign was organised in the Taluqs of Burgampahad, Bhadrachalam, Khammam, Ellendu, Kothagudem and Madhira. 10 taluq level conventions were held in the district. 300 to 500 workers participated in those conventions. In Bhadrachalam taluq a wage increase of Rs.1/- per day was achieved Farm servant got Rs.130/- per month. In Burgampahad 13 measures per day were achieved in place of 10 measures previously. The Farm servants got 15 Bags of paddy instead of 12 which they were getting formerly. In Madhira and Khammam taluqs Farm servants got a monthly wage increase of 4 Bags (i.e.) 16 Bags as against the previous 12 bags. On the whole throughout the district minimum wage for men went upto Rs.8/- for day. In Bhadrachalam, Ellendu, Kothagudem and Burgampahad Taluqs a worker with plough got a minimum of Rs.12/- per day. To achieve this wage increase throughout. Burgampahad taluq strike took place in many places from 1 day to 3 days.

In KRISHNA DISTRICT our union took initiative for a joint struggle involving the CPM union. In June Joint Conventions and village level cadre meetings were organised. In Kaza, Kuchipudi, Ghantasala and Srikakulam centres of Divi taluq united meetings were held. 300 workers attended those meetings from 40 villages. In Kaza Rs.10/- for Men and Rs.8/- for women was achieved through the joint struggle. In other centre a daily wage of Rs.8/- and Rs.6 was achieved. In Nidumolu area of Divi taluk the struggle for wage increase took place in 15 villages. On the whole Men got Rs.8/- and women Rs.6/- per day. In Penumetsa, Vuyyuru taluqs a wage increase of Rs.2/- was achieved after a strike took place. In Gandigunta, Krishnapuram centres an united struggle was conducted under the joint leadership of the two organisations (i.e. We and CPM). In Gandigunta Men got Rs.10/- a day if they go to work early in the morning and Rs.8/- if they join after Meals. We failed to achieve a wage increase for Women. For transplantation women got only Rs.4/- a day which is very low.

A big campaign was conducted in Gudivada taluq. A wage increase of Rs.2/- was achieved generally throughout the taluq. In Davajigudem of Gannavaram taluq a struggle went on demanding Rs.10/- for men and Rs.8/- for women for day. But in the end an agreement was reached according to which men got Rs.8/- and women Rs.6/-.

GUNTUR DISTRICT: A wide campaign for wage increase was conducted in Tenali taluq. In Tummapudi village a Rs.10/- increase for transplantation for acre was achieved. Likewise for picking up seedlings enough for an acre a rate of Rs.12/- was being paid. By the united struggle this was raised to Rs.20/- for acre. In Donepudi village a strike was conducted for 3 days and in the end a daily wage of Rs.8/- for men and Rs.5/- for women was agreed to. In Mandur the older rate of Rs.5/- and Rs.3/- was raised to Rs.8/- and Rs.5/- for men and women respectively.

SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT: In Dharmavaram, Ponduru taluq, Agricultural workers struck work for 2 days. As a result the daily wages were increased from Rs.4-50 to Rs.8/-.

BEEDI LEAF PLUCKERS STRUGGLE:

In A.P. lakhs of Girijans, Harijans and Lambadis depend on this industry. The work lasts for 1½ months in a year. The Government gets an income of 7½ crores (75 m) rupees from this industry. In Khammam District Beedi Leaf labourers are organised by the district agricultural workers union. A number of strike struggles were conducted as a result of which, for a bundle of 100 leaves in Bhadrachalam 12 paise, in Ellendu 12 Paise and in the taluqs from 9 paise to 10 paise wage was achieved. In each taluq Beedi leaf labourers got a benefit of 3 lakh rupees which is really a magnificent victory. This movement was organised jointly by our union and CPM led agricultural workers union.

In Eturunagaram taluq of Warangal District, the Agricultural workers shrick work for 4 days and got an increase of 1 paise per 100 leaves bundle.

The district Executive Committees of Agricultural Workers Union in Warangal, Nizamabad and Mahaboobnagar decided to conduct wage struggles in 200, 50 and 60 villages respectively in their districts. A big campaign was conducted in wide areas. What is the final result is not known because there is no latest report from these areas.

SOME EXPERIENCES:

1. In the past we had taken decision to wage struggle for the enhancement of wages. But only in a few places only struggles took place. Now that is not the position. In 10 districts really serious efforts were made to make the struggle successful. The cadre worked tirelessly and determination because of the inspiration they got through the Tenali Conference.
2. **UNITED STRUGGLE:** In certain districts the two unions (ours and the other led by CPM) worked unitedly to make the struggle successful. At the village and taluq level also this joint effort was made. Through there are certain obstacles in the way, this joint action inspired the common agricultural workers to action. As a result through united action, they could achieve substantial increase in the wages.
3. Our minimum demand is Rs.10/- per day. This slogan was taken to the grosroot level. To achieve this minimum wage strikes took place. In many places negotiations were held between the striking workers and Kisans and compromises were made. This is a general tendency.
4. In the past Kisans were reacting sharply if a demand is made for wage increase. This time though the Kisans are averse to increase wages, they agree that the demands of the agricultural workers is justified in view of the prevailing price rise of essential articles.
5. The struggle for wage increase tremendously inspired the cadre. Though we are taking so many other issues of agricultural workers the struggle for higher wages enhanced the class outlook of the agricultural workers. It helps to raise the political consciousness of the worker.
6. We conducted the struggle in a more wider area than in the past. There is no doubt about that. But we have to note that all the areas where we are sufficiently strong didnot more in a proper way. This lapse should be mended in the future.

III. TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR VILLAGE AND TALUQ LEVEL CADRES

Tenali Conference had given a call to impart training to 1000 functionaries through 20 political schools in different districts. Accordingly the State Centre has prepared a detailed Syllabus for the schools and 2000 copies of it are printed. Each functionary who attendeds the classes is to be given a copy of the syllabus.

The A Teacher's training school was conducted at Vijayawada on August 12th and 13th, 1980 for those comrades who are selected to teach different subjects at the schools. 35 attended this training class. Timetables were prepared fixing dates from 20th August in different districts. In addition to the 20 schools previously planned 15 more schools were planned by the State leadership. Upto this date 850 functionaries underwent training in 14 schools in different districts. Those who attended the schools are very active and enthusiastic.

In KANDUKUR, Prakasam District, at Pakala village, 80 village level workers were given training for 3 days from 4th to 6th of September, 1980. 67 comrades attended the school at Pernimetta, in Ongole taluq. In East Koppara, Addanki taluq one more school was held from August 26 to 28th. In Veeravagupalli, in Kanigiri taluq a school was organised from 31st August to 2nd September.

KARIMNAGAR DISTRICT: In Chigurumamidi training classes were held for three days to which 100 attended.

In Mangalapuram, Krishna District a successful school was conducted from September 30th to October 2nd to which 125 students attended from many villages of Divi taluq. In WARANGAL DISTRICT two classes were held, from August 28th to September 2nd. We planned to complete the classes by the end of September. But we are unable to complete the task because of (i) intensive agricultural season and (ii) In our State an All Parties Action Committee with 8 political parties was formed to realise the demands of different sections of the people. The Agricultural labourers had to take active part in this struggle which started in September and was continuing till January. Meanwhile the General Council of the B.K.M.U. which met at MCGA gave a call to conduct Padayatras from November 1st to 7th and a General Strike of Agricultural Workers throughout the country in November for a Comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers and for a higher wage. We had to take up this task in right earnest. Therefore our programme regarding schools was dislocated. We have to take the earliest opportunity of completing the schools in other places.

III. THE ALL PARTIES ACTION COMMITTEE - OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE STRUGGLE

Because of the Anti-peoples policies pursued by the Indira Congress government in our state, because of the corruption rampart in the government machinery from top to bottom, and because of acute rise in prices of essential articles of daily consumption, the people are restive and are prepared to join the fight to reverse these policies and to realise their just demands. 8 political parties in the State have formed themselves into an All Parties Action Committee to head and conduct the struggle. The representatives of different mass organisations were taken into this committee. As the government refused to agree to the demands presented by the Action Committee a struggle was launched to realise these demands. 4 important demands of the agricultural workers were also included in the charter of demands presented by the Action Committee.

Therefore our State Council had given a call to the agricultural workers to join this struggle in thousands and work for the success of the movement. In response to our call agricultural workers participated in large numbers in the demonstration and public rally held at VIJAYAWADA on September 16th. Likewise thousands participated in the Andhra Pradesh BANDH of September 24th.

Agricultural labourers in large numbers participated in the Dharna before government offices on December 10th, 1980. This participation and the support of agricultural workers to the just demands of the Kisans, the wrong feeling among general Kisans that agricultural workers are their enemies has been reduced and fraternity between the two classes has developed. Both the classes were realising that Monopolists and speculators are their common enemies. The Kisans are realising that without the support of Khet Mazdoors, their genuine demands are also not realisable. Likewise agricultural workers are also realising that united the help and cooperation of the Ryots, their just demands also cannot be achieved. Close fraternity has been developing during the course of the struggle. This fraternal relations will help to forge Kisans and agricultural workers unity at village leve. A positivity has arisen to achieve owns demands with the help of other section. In the struggles ahead the agricultural workers by their support and participation in All Parties Movement will get the support of other democratic sections and classes. Self-confidence has grown among Khet Mazdoors.

A BANDH CALL to Stop R.T.C. BUSES plying was given for December 20th. Agricultural workers joint the movement in large numbers and the BANDH was successful. On 28th December protease day was observed against the repression let loose by the State government. From January 5th a massive picketing programme before the taluq offices is planned by the All Parties Action Committee and the State Council of the B.K.M.U. has given a call to all the Khet Mazdoors to participate in these actions in full strength. This movements lasts till the 12 demands putforth by the action committee are conceded.

IV. PADAYATRA SQUAD PROGRAMME FOR SPEEDY ENACTMENT OF CENTRAL LEGISLATION AND FOR HIGHER WAGES.

The General Council of the B.K.M.U. which met at MOGA, Punjab from September 10th to 12th has given a call for a general strike in November to focus the demands of CENTRAL LEGISLATION and to achieve higher wages. Before the strike a nation wide Padayatra Squad Programme to propagate and mobilise the agricultural workers masses was also given. It was decided that the general strike may not be the same day in all States. In our state we decided November 25th for the STRIKE. For the last 3 years our Union was conducting

various land struggles and campaigns in unity with the other Union led by CEM which is called Vijayawada Sangham, as its headquarters is situated at VIJAYAWADA. 1979 a convention was held at New Delhi, to demand a Comprehensive Central legislation from the centre. The CPM led Kisan Sabha, along with other representatives participated in that convention. The Convention unanimously demanded the Central Legislation.

Therefore we requested the CPM led Union to join the Padayatras and one day general strike together with us. We gave a call for joint action as we thought that it will generate enthusiasm among workers and this unity will help achieve our aim. They replied that they got no instructions from their central organisation, and to participate only in one state is not proper. So they kept aloof. Therefore the Padayatras and the November 25th General strike was led only by our Union.

For the successful implementation of the programme given by B.K.M.U. We have prepared a detailed programme in our State. The State BKMU Executive met and planned the whole campaign and struggle. District, Taluq conventions and cadre meetings, and village meetings were held in many places. From October 3rd to 7th conventions were held in Krishna, Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda and Guntur Districts. Comrade C. Rajeswara Rao, General Secretary, C.P.I., Vice-President B.K.M.U. attended and addressed all these conventions. The presence of Com. Rajeswara Rao enthused the cadre and gave a philip to the campaign. The BKMU President Comrade G. Yallamanda Reddy, the State President Venka Satyanarayana and General Secretary Com. Kondra Subba Rao also participated in different districts and helped to mobilise our Masses. The Krishna District Convention was held on October 3rd, 400 activists were present from all over the District. Khammam District Agricultural Workers Convention ~~in which~~ was held in Khammam, in which 1,500 activists participated 20 thousand membership which they enrolled was presented to Com. Rajeswara Rao. Warangal District ~~Conventions~~ Convention was held on 5th October to which nearly 800 attended. Details of the campaign was discussed. Nalgonda District convention was held in Nalgonda in which 500 participated. On 6th In the evening a 1,500 strong demonstration took place. They demanded the release of B. Rama Sarma, who is illegally kept in jail and demanded a public judicial enquiry and punish the culprits. The Guntur District Convention was held on 7th October for which 400 activists from all over the district attended. Prakasam District enlarged Executive Committee was held in which Com. Yallamanda Reddy participated and enthused the cadre for the coming action. The meeting decided that village meetings should be held in 250 villages and 10 taluq conventions should be held between October 20th and 25th. 10 thousand membership was

enrolled and the meeting decided that another 40 thousands should be completed.

DETAILS OF PADAYATRA SQUADS

| DISTRICT | SQUADS | TALUQS | NO. OF VILLAGES |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| 1. Prakasam | 15 | 6 | 156 |
| 2. Krishna | 10 | 9 | 120 |
| 3. Guntur | 12 | 6 | 120 |
| 4. Khammam | 34 | 7 | 300 |
| 5. East Godavari | 5 | 2 | 30 |
| 6. West Godavari | 2 | 1 | 22 |
| 7. Karimnagar | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 8. Warangal | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| 9. Nizamabad | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 10. Vijayanagaram | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 11. Medak | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| 12. Mahabubnagar | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| | 85 | 38 | 794 |

All together in 38 taluqs, 85 squads participated covering 794 villages.

Some squads worked for 3 or 4 days only. The squad propoganda was not undertaken in all the places in the state where our Sangham is strong. This short coming is to be noted. When those squads went to the Hamlets and Basties they are warmly welcomed. The squads explained to the agricultural workers the necessity of a Comprehensive Central Legislation and the points to be incorporated in that Act.

The State BKMU printed 50 thousand leaflets and distributed throughout the state. Along with this the squads also explained the salient points on which the All Party's Committee is conducting the struggle. The squads extorted the agricultural workers to join that movement in large numbers. The squads explained to the workers the purpose of the proposed November 25th General Strike and the necessity of making it a grant success by their participation.

V. GENERAL STRIKE OF NOVEMBER 25TH AND DEMONSTRATIONS

At the call of the BKMU, 150 thousand agricultural labourers strick work in 320 villages on November 25th and another 40 thousand participated in the demonstrations held on the same day in more than 50 centres. Memorandum-s were submitted to the District Collectors and Tahasildars esnboding our demand for Comprehensive legislation and higher wages. The statewide call for a general strike generated much

enthusiasm and raised the class consciousness of the worker. The impact of this strike on other areas is very good. During the last 3 months agricultural workers participated in direct action on a mass scale on the call of the All Party's Committee, in times On November 10th also they participated in the demonstrations at the call of the Action Committee. Yet, the agricultural workers participated in the Padayatras from November 1st to 7th and also joint the strike on November 25th in large numbers. This active participation of the agricultural workers in these direct actions will help unimensely our movement in future.

KHAMMAM DISTRICT:

In Khammam District in 113 villages of 9 taluqs a total number of 28,800 agricultural workers struck work on November 25th This is a harvesting season. All the work came to a stand still. Farm Servants also struck work. Cattle herd keepers also joint the strike. In many villages the strike was complete though in some others it is partial. In many villages demonstrations and public meetings were held. The agricultural labourers participated in this struggle in the desotim so that they may achieve their demands.

| TALUQ | NO. OF VILLAGES | NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS PARTICIPATED IN THE STRIKE |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1. Khammam | 14 | 7,300 |
| 2. Bhadrachalam Division: | | |
| Totapally area | 12 | |
| Nandigama area | 11 | |
| Nelliman area | 9 | |
| Nersapur area | 8 | |
| Bhadrachalam Town | 1 | |
| | 41 (41) | 5,000 |
| 3. Burgampahad | 10 | 2,000 |
| 4. Manugur | 15 | 2,500 |
| 5. Sattupalli | 9 | 2,500 |
| 6. Aswaraopet | 9 | 2,500 |
| 7. Ellendu | 5 | 2,000 |
| 8. Madhira | 13 | 6,000 |
| 9. Kothagudem | 5 | 1,500 |
| | 113 | 28,800 |

PRAKASAM DISTRICT:

More than 20 thousand agricultural workers joint the 25th strike. A notable feature is that women participated in good numbers.

The BKMU President Com. G. Yallamanda Reddy, along with other comrades toured 45 villages in the district, addressed meetings, group meetings and helped much for the success of the 25th strike.

The results are very good. In Kanigiri taluq alone 10 thousand struck work. In the evening a big demonstration with 2,500 workers was held with great enthusiasm. Memorandum was submitted to the Tahsildar afterwards. In Ongole taluq 10 thousand struck work. 1000 men and women demonstrated at Ongole and afterwards submitted a memorandum to the District Collector. In Podili taluq 6000 struck work. A demonstration was held at Podili and memorandum given to the Tahsildar. In Yerraguntapalem a demonstration with 300 was held and memorandum submitted to the Tahsildar. Padayatras were conducted from 21st November to 24 November to make the strike successful.

The labourer came to Kandukur from many villages and submitted a memorandum on their behalf. In Addanki labourers from 10 villages demonstrated and submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar. In Giddalur 200 workers, including 50 women demonstrated and submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar. In all in 7 taluqs and in Ongole demonstrations were held.

GUNTUR DISTRICT: As a preparation for the November 25th General Strike 20 thousand leaflets were brought out jointly by the District Agricultural Labour Union and the District Communist Council wide campaign was conducted throughout the district. In the district 15000 struck work in 20 villages. Demonstrations were held at the taluq headquarters of Settenapalli, Gurajala, Narasaraopet, Tenali, Repalle, Pallapatla, and Piduguralla and memorandums were submitted to the Tahsildars. Public meetings were held at all these places. In Chilakaluripet taluq Agricultural workers struck work in Dandamudi village 500 in Sattena-palli, 500 in Narasaraopet, 250 in Gurajala, 200 in Tenali and 100 in Repalle participated in the demonstrations. In Piduguralla 800 demonstrated. ~~Krishna~~

KRISHNA DISTRICT: Strike took place in 5 villages only. In Edupugallu of Kankipadu Block, the strike was total. 100 from that village joined the demonstration at Kankipadu. In two more villages in that area also struck work. In Chinaogirala of Vuyyuru taluq the strike was partial. In Veeralapadu of Nandigama taluq 100% workers struck work. In Vissannapet, Challapalli, Mylavaram, Machilipatnam, Kankipadu, and Gudivada demonstrations were held and memorandums submitted to the Tahsildars. In Nuzivid a delegation on behalf of the workers submitted memorandum. In Mylavaram taluq demonstrations were held in the Firka headquarters of Kanduru, Velvaolam etc and memoranda were submitted to the Revenue Inspectors.

CUDDAPAH DISTRICT: In 5 centres demonstrations were held and memoranda submitted to the Tahsildars. In all places public meetings were held. 1000 people from 20 villages demonstrated in Cuddapah. In Kodur 800 labourers, including 150 women participated in the demonstration. Memorandum was submitted. In Kamalapuram 100 people held demonstration

In Proddutur 800 including 200 women participated in the demonstration Muslim Parada women participated in the demonstration with cooked food on their heads and babies in the arms. The participation of old people also attracted in citizens very much. At the public meetings held after the demonstrations Com. G.A.Khaddar, Secretary, Cuddapah District Agricultural Workers Union and other spoke.

NELLORE DISTRICT: 8,000 struck work in 16 villages. In Nellore taluq in 7 villages the strike was successfully conducted. In Nellore a demonstration was held and memorandum was submitted to the District Collector. In Pulivarthi, Venkatachalam Block 1000 agricultural workers struck work. In Gudur taluq in 6 villages strike took place. Women participated in large numbers. In Kovur demonstration was held and memorandum submitted.

WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT: In Penugonda Firka of Tanuku taluq workers struck work in 10 villages. 3000 joined the strike. A demonstration was held in Penugonda ~~with~~ 400 people public meeting was held. In Achanta village of Narasapur taluq the strike was total. A memorandum was presented by the workers ~~came~~ who came from many villages. In Bhimavaram Town strike was conducted in 2 wards. In Polavaram 300 strong demonstration was held and memorandum submitted. Public meeting was also held. In Eluru, under the leadership of P.V. Saradhi, District Secretary, Memorandum was submitted to the Collector. In Tanuku taluq strike took place in 12 villages memoranda were submitted to the authorities.

EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT: In 6 villages of Pithapuram taluq workers struck work. Demonstrations were held and memoranda presented to the Tahasildars. In 3 villages of Amalapuram taluq strike took place. 2000 joined the strike. Strike took place in Mummadvaram, Anantaram and some other places. Demonstration was held with 100 workers and memorandum presented. In Alamur also strike took place. Afterwards memorandum was presented.

WARANGAL DISTRICT: In 25 villages in the district strike took place. In 4 centres demonstrations were held. In Manukota taluq intensive propaganda was done and in 20 villages strike took place. In Manukota a 600 strong demonstration was held and memorandum presented to the Tahsildar. In 5 villages of Eturunagaram strike was successful. Demonstration was held at Eturunagaram and memorandum was given. In Vardhannapet 150 demonstrated and afterwards a memorandum given. In Ghanapuram 200 demonstrated and memorandum submitted.

NALGONDA DISTRICT: In Devarakonda 1500 labourer including 300 women from 20 villages demonstrated and presented a memorandum to the Tahsildar. In Kodad 500 Agricultural workers took out procession and memorandum was presented to the Tahsildar. Afterwards a public meeting was held in which Com. D. Narasayya, Narayana Rao, K. John and K. Raghavaiah spoke about the importance of the November 25th strike action. ~~X~~

KARIMNAGAR DISTRICT: 6000 agricultural workers struck work in 8 villages. In Mahabubnagar District in one village strike was successful. Memoranda was submitted to the Tahsildars.

NIZAMABAD DISTRICT: 1000 demonstrated. They all struck work. Half of them are women. On November 25th Cane supply to the Sugar Factory was stopped. District Union President V. Balayya, District C.P.I. Secretary Venkata Reddy and State Agricultural workers union Council Member Bayamma led the struggle.

SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT: In the taluq of Ponduru, Ranasthali and Srikakulam in 6 villages strike was under taken by agricultural workers. A demonstration with 1200 labourers was held at Pathapatnam and a memorandum was given to the Tahsildar, public meeting was held. 300 labourers from 8 villages held a demonstration at Kothuru. Memorandum was presented to the Tahsildar. In Srikakulam a demonstration with 400 took place. In Vijayanagaram District strike took place in 20 villages.

VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT: Agricultural Labourers went into strike action in some villages of Anakapalli taluq. A demonstration was held at Anakapalli and memorandum was submitted to the Tahsildar. A 15 member agricultural workers squad toured the villages to mobilise the labourers for the strike action.

VI. FAMINE CONDITIONS

Due to failure of rains, $\frac{1}{2}$ of the state is under Famine condition. In Anantapur and Cuddapah the crops are entirely lost. No fodder to the cattle. Water in wells completely dried up. No work for agricultural labourers. In Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda Districts due to lack of rain all the crops dried away. The condition of ordinary peasant is miserable. Agricultural workers as well as poor peasants are migrating in large numbers with their families to other places in search of work and to feed their bellies. The State Government miserably failed to estimate the seriousness of the situation and only some hotch potch measures were taken to help the people in these areas. The Government did-nothing upto now is starting Famine works in right earnest, provide jobs to the rural poor, under the Food for Work scheme. The Government is no mood to hear the advice of the All Parties Action Committee formed

for the purpose. We have decided to agitate and demanded that the Government must discard its apathy and come forward for the amelioration of the people by starting Famine Works. Our Union should take initiative in this matter. The General Secretary of the C.P.I. Com. Rajeswara Rao, toured extensively all the Famine affected areas and submitted a detailed account of the serious situation to the Central and State Governments. The Government is not moving as suitably as the situation demands, and is toying with the lives of thousands of people. The Government is proclaiming from house tops that it will give work to the agricultural labourers, and if it unable to show work, it will given an unemployment allowance of one Kg. of Rice and a cost of Rs.1/- a day. The Panchayat Raj Minister Bhaga Reddy is giving statements to this effect every day we are not sure that these announced measures will be implemented without delay.

Therefore Our Union should step up the campaign that the agricultural workers should be given work or in the alternative unemployment allowance. We decided to send two top leaders of our Union to the two areas of Rayakaseema and Telangana, to study the situation and submit concrete proposals to be taken up and decided upon at the General Council Meeting to be held at Vijayawada on 21st and 22nd of December, 1980. We also suggested that the problem should be discussed with the leaders of those districts.

It was decided that Com. Vanka Satyanarayana, President, and Com. Bhupathi Venkatanarasayya, M.L.C., Secretary should tour Rayalaseema and Com. Kondru Subba Rao and Dr. Ch. Venkatrama Rao - General Secretary and Secretary to tour Telangana. At the last movement the District comrades cancelled the tour programme and therefore the study tour didnot take place. Next programme is to be planned.

VII. RISING PRICES

The prices of daily necessities of life are rising every day. Through the Central and State Governments are declaring that the prices are being controlled, in actual practice they are rising more and more, and the governments are only a helpless spectators, with unabated rise in prices the ordinary man's life has become miserable. About the Agricultural Worker the less said the better. Every day passes with great difficulty. The State Government has not taken any effective step so far even though the State Agricultural Labour Union and the All Party's Action Committee has demanded that the prices of essential articles should be reduced and supplied to the ~~pub~~ people through the public distribution system (i.e. through fair price shops). Our Union should take up this issue seriously. We must be ready for

direct action. We must join in thousands the movement launched by the all Party's Committee to realise these demands.

VIII. ORGANISATION

The Tenali Conference decided that the organisational task of strengthening the BKMJ at all levels is the most important task before us in the coming period. Though we conduct many struggles and campaigns without a strong organisation our movement cannot be extended and consolidated. Therefore the task of enrolling 4 lakh membership in the state, to build 2000 village unions, and elect the President and the Secretaries to the village unions was taken. Without a village Sangham which has daily connection with the masses we cannot forge ahead. We also decided that district and taluq unions should function regularly and must have offices which will be centres of activity. We have taken the task of enrolling an additional 3000 subscribers to our monthly organ "COOLI DANDU". We have decided to collect ~~Rs.~~ Rs. 1 lakh union fund for the routine expenditure of T.A.s, printing, office expenses etc. We wanted that all these tasks to be fulfilled by the end of October. It was 6 months since the Tenali Conference was held. We have to assess where we are in respect to the organisational tasks. In this 6 months period we have conducted many struggles. Organised campaigns successfully. Participated in many agitations. We successfully mobilised the agricultural labourers on many issues. But we could not complete the tasks set out at Tenali in respect of organisation. This shortcoming is to be rectified immediately. This is our immediate task. No doubt our failure in the organisational front have some justified reasons. We have take note of them.

In August because of intensive agricultural season our workers could not concentrate ~~on this~~ on this task. After that in the state on All Party Action Committee was formed and for an action programme was given. Our organisation and masses had to participate in large numbers in this movement along with other classes and ~~democratic~~ democratic sections. So our independent organisational activity has to be recast according to that programme. But our participation in these joint struggles will be more effective if our ~~own~~ organisation is strong. Our mobilising capacity will be also greater. Therefore the organisational task given by Tenali Conference is to be under taken during the next 3 months in right earnest and move forward with success to the 5th BKMJ Conference to be held at Rajgir, Bihar.

After the Vijayawada Council meeting on December 21st and 22nd we have to hold meetings at all levels and put the whole machinery to this task. We have to complete the enrollment of 4 lakh primary members without fail. Village Committees have to be organised in 2000 villages according to information available at the State office 1 lakh membership was enrolled in the state. Only Khammam paid the membership fees for 20 thousand membership. The District and Taluq leadership must take the full responsibility of fulfilling these tasks and not try to shift the burden on local comrades.

COOLI DANDU;

We have started this monthly journal in 1968. For some years we could not run it. But from 1976 we are publishing it regularly. We brought 2 special numbers also which are very popular. We are trying to give you a comprehensive account of our activities through this paper. 'COOLI DANDU' is an instrument, union hands to convey the decisions and statements to the village level and mobilise the masses. The daily papers are not within the reach of agricultural workers. By taking the paper to every village and Hamlet and Harijana vadees and poor people we can build the organisation in a big way. We are getting an additional income for our union, by bringing Special issues on certain occasions. The yearly subscription rate is only Rs.5/- If one approach many will come forward to enroll as subscribers. We have not completed the 3000 additional quota as decided at Tenali. This task is to be completed within the next 2 months.

FUNDS:

We have given a call for 1 lakh rupees organisational fund. No reports are available about the actual collections upto this date. Without collecting funds from those people among whom we are working. We cannot build the organisation, cannot lead struggles. 'One day wage for the Sangham' slogan is to be taken up. The same method is not applicable to all places you have to choose the way of collections by whatever method you choose.

SPECIAL ISSUE OF "COOLI DANDU" - UGADI SPECIAL:

To strengthen our organisation to draw necessary funds we have published Two Special issues of 'Cooli Dandu' in the past. We propose to bring out a 'Special Ugadi Number' and we hope that you will endorse the suggestion. Hope you will cooperate in this project by booking advertisements at your places and also enroll subscribers in large numbers. Comrades must seriously take up this task.

I hope that in the coming 3 months, the council members, District, Taluq and village committees will concentrate on the organisational tasks and successfully fulfil the tasks given by the Tenali Conference.

Yours Comradely,

Sd/ x x x x x

KONDRU SUBBA RAO
GENERAL SECRETARY

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