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(AP)

ANDHRA PRADESH AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION

Report

Himayatnagar,  
Hyderabad.

The meeting of the Executive Committee, of the Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Workers Union was held on 11-7-1973. Comrades from all the important districts attended the meeting. Condolence resolutions were passed on the death of the comrades Bala Dandayudam, Satish Lumba, Teja Singh Swatantra and Sri Mohan Kumara Mangalam, Tapi Dharma Rao.

X General Secretary Com.G.Yallamanda Reddy gave a brief report on national and international situation and the experience of his tour, in particular about the agricultural workers in the Soviet Union. X He also explained about the food situation in the country and the proposed struggle of anti-price rise and dehoarding, jointly by the C.P.I. AM and Mass Organisations.

Comrades gave reports from districts, <sup>survived</sup> received the work done in the districts and also about the food situation. Agricultural workers have played glorious role against the Seperatist movement in the State. Many meetings, conventions, demonstrations were held in the State, in which thousands of agricultural workers took part braving con- <sup>The</sup> attacks by the seperatists.

Though the membership campaign was started as early as possible it could not be completed because of the seperatist movement in the State. However 33,000 members have been enrolled so far and another one lakh membership is expected to be unrolled by the end of August.

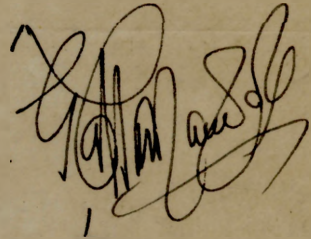
The Pradesh Executive chalked out a concrete programme for de-hoarding and against price rise movement.

1) Agricultural Workers must be mobilised in greater number to take part in dehoarding, gherao, and Bandh movement jointly with the Communist Party and other mass organisations.

2) Squad propaganda be carried in the last week of July and Dharnas be conducted on 27-7-73 before District Collectors Offices in the State under the banner of Agricultural Workers Union.

3) Taluka and district meetings ~~be~~ have to be conducted for preparing the agricultural workers for the struggle. 50,000 handbills were issued from the state centre.

To The General Secretary, -----  
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A. P

Campaign for funds collection in Andhra Pradesh  
through "LABOUR CONTRIBUTION" by Agricultural Workers.

.... G.Yallamanda Reddy.

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Millions of Agricultural Labourers and other toiling rural poor have taken part in the recent campaign of National Satyagraha against rising prices, Great March to Delhi, and dehoarding. Soon after the great All India Land Struggle these campaigns demonstrate the growing consciousness and upsurge among the rural poor in recent years. Agricultural labourers rallied tremendously behind the party against separatist movement in Andhra Pradesh. But this upsurge is not reflected in their organised strength.

The National Council of Communist Party of India, stressed in its September, 1973 meeting for reorientation of Party's work among the agricultural labourers by concentrating on the struggles for wage increase and against social oppression, usury besides land struggles. It also stressed that "Such orientation should be accompanied by allocation of adequate number of cadres and requisite funds at each level of the Party for the development of a militant and powerful agricultural labourers' movement. There is no dearth of educated youth among agricultural labourers who can be developed into fine and devoted cadres of the B.K.M.U. provided party committees concerned give them necessary guidance and assistance. Steps should also be taken to help the B.K.M.U. (as also the A.I.K.S.) to raise its own funds."

The Pradesh Council and Executive Committee, met in October, 1973, and worked out main tasks in the coming period for strengthening the agricultural labour movement in the State. The Executive of the Pradesh Agricultural Workers Union met and chalked out on concrete programme for about six months.

The main concrete tasks in the campaign are 1) to collect fund to the agricultural workers Union, (ii) to enrol membership and (iii) to mobilise agricultural labourers for wage increase.

The Pradesh Council decided to make efforts to see that there will be one or two whole timers to each district depending on the strength of movement. The Party has to pay their allowances to the paid whole timers. It must also be guaranteed that these whole time organisers in this front be provided with travelling allowances, so that they will not be handicapped due to lack of funds for travelling. The agricultural workers union at State and District level should secure necessary funds either by way of mobilising agricultural labourers for "Labour Contribution" (Bramadan) or by collecting funds.

The Party and agricultural workers union have to mobilise agricultural labourers and other people to take part in paddy cutting for providing funds. This amount, it has been decided, must be allotted to the district agricultural workers union and has to be spent only towards travelling allowance of the Comrades-in-charge of the district agricultural workers union. This amount should not be spent otherwise, even if it is meant ~~this~~ for the work of agricultural workers union.

It has been decided to mobilise agricultural workers in large numbers for donating 'One Day Labour' to their Union by taking part in paddy cutting. This should be taken up in the months of November and December when paddy cutting will take place in Guntur, Krishna, East and West Godavari districts, under Krishna and Godavari Deltas. This is to be taken up as a big campaign in the above four districts and also in other districts as far as possible. Where there is no

possibility or tradition to mobilise to work one day for the Union, funds should be collected from the people in particular from the agricultural workers.

Com.C.Rajeswara Rao, Vice President of the Bharatiya Khat Mazdoor Union (General Secretary of the C.P.I.) agreed to take part in "Paddy Cutting" programme for four days and start the programme. In spite of his heavy responsibilities and work, his participation in "labour contribution" campaign to collect funds for agricultural workers union is really inspiring, and model to other comrades and agricultural workers. Almost all the State and District Agricultural Workers leaders took part in the campaign. Some of the Party leaders also took part in the campaign.

Preparations were made for the campaign. On 13th November he started the campaign in CHADALAVADA village in Guntur district. It is not a new village to him. He spent some months in 1948 underground days. It was really thrilling to note the enthusiasm of the masses to see their leader who was once taking shelter among them, to defeat the police plans. Many people who helped him in his underground days have become ~~very~~ old. But they came to see him. Their meeting and reminding of their <sup>past</sup> old experiences was really emotional and moving. About 600 agricultural labourers and others took part in paddy cutting campaign in the village, under his leadership.

On 15th he took part in Mangalapuram which is his native village in Krishna district. It is here he started great struggle against Chellapalli Zamindar. About 500 people, mostly agricultural workers, youth and young women and others took part in cutting paddy under his leadership. Though he visited East Godavari district, he fell ill and could not take part in cutting programme. But his very

presence inspired the people. As planned, this campaign took place in the four Delta Districts. But it is pleasant surprise to note that Khammam district has taken the campaign in a big way. Thousands of agricultural workers and other people have been mobilised in the district for labour contribution by cutting paddy. It was really a district wide movement which gave good results. We have not expected such a big campaign in this district. But due to the initiative and timely, determined efforts of the district leadership such a big participation of the masses and good results was possible. There was paddy cutting programme in three more districts which was symbolic.

The campaign for "Labour Contribution" through participation of agricultural labourers and others in Paddy Cutting work was conducted in 92 villages in eight districts. More than 14,000 rupees were earned towards the fund of agricultural workers union.

Though we achieved success in this campaign, we have to critically analyse and draw lessons from our experience.

1) The enthusiasm and participation of the people is tremendous and beyond our expectation, in most of the places. Men and women, with red flags and 'sickles' in their hands, raising slogans, marched to paddy fields. Where ever our comrades took initiative and planned the campaign, the response from the agricultural workers and other people is really very high. In some villages agricultural workers, who are behind the Congress party or the Marxist Party, also participated in the campaign, as they feel it as strengthening their organisation <sup>own</sup> and cause. Serious political campaign was carried to rouse the agricultural workers & for contribution of Labour to their organisation.

ii) Though we have collected through (Sramadan) 'Labour Contribution' more than what we estimated, but the experience shows that it is a small amount when compared to our strength, and x opportunities. We could only take up this work seriously in five districts. If our comrades moved in other districts also we could have achieved good results. Even in those five districts where we have achieved good results, except in Khammam district, we have not covered many of our strong villages and district wide campaigns. This is really a very serious failure of our Comrades.

iii) For the first time the Pradesh Agricultural Workers Union (State centre) received about 2000 rupees from the five districts. It is really good starting. Had the other districts take the experience and do their bit it will not be difficult to secure necessary funds to the State centre.

Though necessary amounts have been earned in these districts, the amounts have not been, so far, credited to the district centres, for spending towards the travelling expenditure of district comrades. This should be regularised as decided in the Council. 'Fund Collection' drive be carried for Agricultural Workers' Union in the districts, and necessary amounts be credited in the District centres.

iv) 'Labour contribution' by the agricultural labourers and others, to the agricultural workers union and physical participation of our comrades in these campaigns and also collection of funds be made a nationwide campaign. This will help creating necessary funds to the agricultural workers union, and facilitate for independent functioning.

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(G.YALLAMANDA REDDY)