

RESOLUTION

68 B

TUR

In a ^{held} ~~Public Meeting on 9th Feb. 1961. February 9, 1961~~
~~at Kourkela, the factory premises~~

The condition of the Muster Roll and Work-Charged workers of the Hindustan Steel Limited has not improved to any appreciable extent, in spite of repeated approaches ~~made to the H.S.L. authorities from time to time.~~ ^{attempts.} The wage increase from Rs.1.50 nP. to Rs.2.00 per day for mazdoors was the result of ~~our~~ strike in last June, ~~that too~~ the H.S.L. authorities were not able to agree for more than ~~Rs.0.25 nP.~~ increase and the rest ~~Rs.0.25 nP.~~ was paid due to the amendment of the Minimum Wages for Kourkela by the Orissa Govt. This minimum wage still falls short of our demand for a minimum of Rs.75/- per month.

It is very tragic that even this Rs.2.00 per day was not given to the workers of Controller of Stores & Public Health Departments. The 25 nP. added wage enjoyed by the male mazdoors more than the female mazdoors is also not given after the amendment of the Minimum Wages. The mates, work-sarkars, chowkidars, gate keepers etc. were not given a proportionate wage increase.

Over-time wages are being paid now only after a protracted struggle by the workers and after more than six months of the promise of H.S.L. authorities to pay off the same. The failure of the H.S.L. to pay off the entire over-time dues as per their agreement of 24.11.60 before 23.1.61 deserves nothing short of a regular prosecution by the State Government, for clear breach of agreement. In fact the management started payment of overtime from 25.1.61 and is still in progress to-day. This over-time is also not going to be given to the chowkidars, gate-keepers and time-keepers before 2 months as explained by the company to our representatives. Whatever payment has been done, it is by no means complete, and some months' overtime has not been paid.

The management has no policy in taking Muster Roll Work-Charged workers into regular service. They have agreed many a time to give first place to the temporary workers for recruitment as regulars. But many out-siders have been recruited to the detriment of the temporary workers. The management does not take into confidence the Union Representatives in a Committee to rectify irregularities in recruitment which it had agreed on 24.11.60. Under-matrices are given a basic pay of Rs.40/- at the time of recruitment, even though previously they were recruited at Rs.60/- grade. Regular workers recruited from these temporary workers are retrenched after completion of their contract period of six months. The 21 Khalasis of Blast Furnace are a burning example to this.

The management has taken up an inhuman attitude towards the temporary Workers residing in Labour Colony No.2 by asking them to quit the colony without providing any alternative housing.

Cont'd.....

Therefore this meeting of the Muster Roll and Work-Charged workers places the following demands before the authorities of H.S.L. and the Govt. for immediate fulfilment.

1. First preference should be given for Muster Roll and Work-charged workers into Regulars.
2. Constitute a Committee with the Union Representatives to review the irregularities in recruitment as per agreement of 24.11.60.
3. Give Rs.60/- basic grade to all Under-matrices at the time of recruitment into regular service.
4. Give Rs.2.25 nP. wage for male mazdoore i.e. Rs.0.25 nP. more than the female workers as before. Give one third increase to Mates, Work-Sarkars etc.
5. Apply the Minimum Wage rates to workers of Controller of Stores and Public Health.
6. Give double overtime to workers like Gate-keepers, Chowkidars, and Time-keepers.
7. Not to evict the workers from the colony till alternative housing is provided with.

Proposed: Sd: Nityanand Panda

Seconder: Sd: G. C. Senapati

Passed unanimously

Sd: B. M. Biewal
President of the Meeting.

.....

Copy forwarded to General Secretary, A.I.T.U.C.,
4, Ashok Road, New Delhi, for information
and necessary action.

Munda. 20/1/61
General Secretary,
Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union.

A. I. T. U. C.
 Dear Comrade,
 Recd No. 312/11.3.46

Rowkela
 8-3-61

planned
 at Coimbatore Com. Elias
 was to come here after
 the W. Bengal Party coffee.
 But he has not come.
 So kindly arrange
 to send him soon. Also
 please arrange a series
 of programmes for
 Rowkela by different
 M.P.S. Com. A. K. Gopalan
 had promised to come
 here once. Kindly
 ascertain from him
 as to when he would
 be available to us.

Hope to receive a
reply from you soon
and also to my previous
letter.

yours comradely
K. Panda.

Gen. Secy
Ranvula Steel Mazdoor Union

पोस्ट कार्ड
POST CARD

केवल पता
ADDRESS ONLY



To
Comrade K. G. Srivastava
Secretary, A.I.T.U.C.,
4 - Ashok Road,
New Delhi.

TELEGRAM

STATE

Message Sent By
EXPRESS. With Reply Paid.

To

268-B
S. A. Dange
Member Parliament
New Delhi

Please sent Com, Illis before twenty seventh
to meet. Primister. Rourkela (.) with
arrang meet of interview from Delhi (.)
Mass waiting eagerly for the
Programme (.) Reply soon.

Working President
Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union.

Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union. P. Rourkela. J.

Ref No. N.H.

Dated. 22. 3. 61.

Copy forwarded by post for confirmation

To Com. S. A. Dange.

Member of Parliament
New Delhi.

Yours faithfully
R. S. H. L.

Working President
R. S. H. L.

A. I. T. U. C.
Received... 233/6.3.61
Replied.....

To
Comrade S. A. Dange,

Rourkela
4-3-61
268-B

Dear comrade,

Namaste. We are not doing well here. Ajit Roy's conciliation failed, Com. Mohanty has not come here since one month and we are at a loss to know as to what to do to secure a reference to the tribunal. The tempo amongst the regular workers on his discharge has died down with the hunger strike of Bata Panda. We have to revive that only through a prolonged effort i.e. we should keep the issue alive in the minds of the workers and fight the issue in courts. That is of course not the immediate issue. As a result of that cooling down the anticipated collections for the fighting fund of Ajit Roy have not materialised. So, recently he has been threatening to quit the field unless his usual salary of Rs. 150/- is not paid to him by the union. I have advised him to keep going till com. Mohanty comes

here. With regard to this problem of financing Ajit Roy, I have nothing specific to propose to you till com. Mohanty attends the executive and all other possible and impossible avenues are explored.

But the delay in receiving your promised mike, type writer and rikshaw is causing much inconvenience to the growing activities of the union. All our resounding activities had no doubt earned a good name to our union. But that is all in the air, or in form of gas, and may disappear unless conscious efforts are made to organise committees on the basis of that 'hawa', committees which will be the organised foundations for a further advance. As such I am more concentrating on organising some committees both departmental-wise and sector wise than trying to create more 'hawa' at present. For that a mike is very essential to conduct sector meetings in the Steel township.

There is a market place in each sector of the township. After conducting a small public meeting through the mike, we can then sit down in some body's quarter ~~and~~ separately and form the committee. So I request you to attend to this task of sending us a mike and a type writer soon. As for a rikshaw you can withhold it for the time being and we can think of that latter or an alternative better than a rikshaw at the same cost to you. Last year's elected executive is not able to gather its quorum on many occasions. We must think of electing a new one soon. So I propose to call the next General Body meeting in April. Would you be able to attend by then? Hope this will find you in a better health than I saw you at Coimbatore.

Yours fraternally
Kityanand Bonda

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र
INLAND LETTER



To

Comrade S. A. Dange, M.P.
Ashok Road,
New Delhi

भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :- Sender's name and address :-

इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न रखिये NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

Com. Dange

268-B

Rourkela

Received 759/20-3-61
Revised 16-3-61

Dear Comrade

Namaskar. I am at

a loss as to how to begin this letter. I had never expected this honour of visiting the Soviets so soon. The backward conditions, in which the people of Orissa are languishing, had never made them to expect ~~have~~ a Rourkela for themselves so soon. Most of them do not know that they have a Rourkela yet, and those who know, mostly do not understand its historic significance. Yet they have got a Rourkela with all its implications. Your nomination to me is such a similar pleasant surprise. With all humility I accept this honour as an honour to the newly growing working class of Orissa in general, growing in numbers as well as qualitatively, and to the strategic importance of the Steel workers of Rourkela in particular.

At such an emotional moment I should do well to remember with gratitude the various encouragements you had given to our Rourkela organization in general and to my individual development as a good Trade Unionist in particular. This nomination of the AITUC will for ever remain as a mile stone in that road of encouragement.

On this auspicious occasion I pledge before you to selflessly devote all the knowledge and experience I may so gain during the study course of the UNESCO in the Soviets towards the cause of the working class. On behalf of the Steel workers of Rourkela and myself I convey to you my heartfelt thanks and gratitude and through you to the mighty AITUC for your kind nomination.

Tomorrow I will take some photos and then go to the Dist. collector at Sundergarh and submit my application for passport. Kindly advise me in detail soon through com. K.G. or Com. Sadhan as to what I should do in detail, as I am absolutely new to the task of securing a passport. I think I should reach Delhi on 6th or 7th of April by train and from there will have to start on 8th. Kindly instruct the passport authorities from your end to expedite the issue of the passport. Do you advise me to personally go to Calcutta for getting the passport or can I easily get it by post? Any medical certificates of various inoculations necessary? What about dresses and luggage? How long the passport will be valid? How many days it generally takes to get a passport? Kindly ask com. K.G. to enlighten me on the above questions.

with greetings

yours fraternally
K. Ponda.

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र
INLAND LETTER



To

Comrade S. A. Dange, M. A.,
General Secretary,
A. I. T. U. C.,
4-Ashok Road,
P.O. NEW DELHI

← तीसरा मोड़ Third fold →

भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :- Sender's name and address :-



EXPORT

FOR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न रखिये NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

← यहाँ काट कर खोलिये To open cut here →

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA-1

A. I. T. Reg. No. 237
Received... 5.04/23-2-61
Replied.....

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R. S. M. U

Dated 21-3-1961

To
Comrade S. A. Dange M.P.
General Secretary, A.I.T.U.C.
New Delhi.

Dear comrade,

Namaskar. Today I had been to Sundergarh, met the Dist. Magistrate and delivered the passport application in original to him with all relevant papers and photos. The D.M.'s office immediately has sent the papers today by messenger to the Police Rourkela who will receive them tonight itself or tomorrow morning at the latest. The D.M.'s office advised me not to spend money for going to Calcutta for submitting the duplicate application, as they cannot proceed in the matter very far without the original one being forwarded by the D.M. Instead they advised me to simply send that by regd. post. So it will be sent by post tomorrow. I will concentrate tomorrow to get the police report completed and then see that the original application is forwarded from the D.M.'s office on 23-4-61.

P.T.O.

With that despatch I shall proceed to Calcutta on 23rd. or so and shall sit there till I get the passport.

The D.M.'s office of course pointed out the lack of guarantor's undertaking "in the prescribed form." I of course explained them that it will not be necessary as one central T.V. organization has certified to that effect. They have accepted my application saying that that is a matter of which the R.P.O. Calcutta is to be satisfied with. In my letter of 21st. I had drawn your attention to that point. So kindly assure yourself about the procedure and inform me.

With greetings

yours fraternally

M. Sarda.

P.S.:- Sri Nehru is arriving here on 28-3-61. On that occasion we want to meet him in a delegation and present him a memorandum. Formally we have written to him to give us an interview. But it would lend more weight to our delegation if com. Elias or some other M.P. accompanies us. So it would be better for the said M.P. to contact the P.M. there and fix up the interview for here.

J.P.

Replied
23-3-61

Report

Report.

In my previous report I had mentioned the importance of work among the regular workers. To this end a programme had been taken in the Executive Committee before I left for Coimbatore. In that programme group meetings amongst regular workers and especially collection of a fighting fund from the regular workers was given priority. Besides this, collection from overtime wages of Muster Roll workers was also taken as an important task. But the sudden hunger strike by Bata babu on the demands of the displaced persons from 6-1-61 to 12-1-61 sidetracked that programme and the entire machinery was diverted that way. The tasks taken by the Executive not only remained on paper, but also the whole situation got complicated. The heat we had generated amongst regular workers on the issue of Com. Ajit Roy's discharge got cooled down. Whatever payments of overtime was done was spent away by the M.R. workers. The diversion from our important work among regulars into this unimportant work amongst displaced, which was mentioned in my last report, reached in its zenith with the hunger strike. Our organisation suffered a set back.

As for the hunger strike, it was staged in a very unorganized way. A contradiction at the officials level only ~~helped~~ saved the hunger strike from a complete failure. The Orissa Govt. who had displaced these people had the main responsibility for rehabilitation. Seeing that the struggle is aimed against H.S.L. authorities the police and the magistracy took a soft attitude towards the hunger strike. Finding the Govt. not coming to their rescue the H.S.L. agreed to employ 100 persons. That was a good victory for the hunger strike and on that it should have been called off.

Forgetting the limitations of the displaced struggle Bata. babu turned down this offer. Fortunately I and com. Mohanty got a telegram sent by Com. Elias informing that Swaransingh was contacted and requesting to withdraw the hunger strike. By that time Bata babu had reached a desperate situation. He was attacked by blood dysentery from the very next day of his hunger strike as he had sat down without ~~first~~ purging his stomach well. On the fifth day he was in a senseless state. He accepted our telegram with relief. The end of the hunger strike ^{at 10 P.M.} went unnoticed as it had started. In spite of all the unorganisedness of the hunger strike, it had drawn the attention and sympathy of the workers here. It got All India publicity in the dailies.

After returning from Coimbatore I and Com. Mohanty met the leading workers here and took stock of the situation. We have taken a programme to make good the set back in our organisation. The displaced work was severed from the Union. Bata babu will lead a displaced committee for that. Or else the M.R. workers may quarrel with us accusing the union of trying to employ the displaced at their cost. This danger has been averted. Com. Ajit was allotted to work amongst regulars, I am to look after M.R., contractors workers, office and coordination. This way the division of work has been decided.

Bata babu after that rarely visits the office, appears dissatisfied, and mentally is drifting away from us. I am very careful not to antagonise him. He is now not in a position to help or harm us. After the hunger strike he took to some strenuous tours in the displaced villages and is now laid down with colic. He is going to join the Hirakud hospital. But I advised him to go to Com. Mohanty and get himself treated at Cutack. He still prefers Hirakud. Any way he will be absent from the field for a long time. We have to try hard to fill his gap. ~~which~~

Another important event was the visit of Sri Asoka Mehta on January 5th. About 3000 people had attended his meeting. He spoke against China, supported the public sector, advised the workers to work more and produce more, criticised the low grades of pay and other injustices to workers, and proposed to have only one union here. The audience went away after his speech without waiting to hear Sri S. N. Dwivedi M.P. the president of the H.M.S. Union. It appears the bulk of the workers came to see a big leader as they would have come to see Nargis. The visit of Sri Mehta had no special contribution in furthering the strength of the H.M.S. Union.

The conciliation of Com. Ajit Roy's case failed on 14th. The management refused to speak anything in the meeting. The Lab. officer has sent a favourable report for referring to adjudication. Com. Ajit is now working hard amongst the regulars. Singlehandedly he has not been able to gain much ground. His work needs close guidance on matters of approach and tactics. I am not able to help him as much as I can since I am bogged down to the office, negotiation and conciliation. We had been maintaining a whole timer com. Antony for the office. He fled away on 9th. in search of a job as we could not pay him more than his fooding here. Since three days back I have brought another unemployed young man Subalo Sethi to keep the office open in my absence fixing him up at Rs. 60 P.M. with the understanding that he can go away when he gets a job else where. We have yet to recruit an office in charge.

Even with regard to com. Ajit we have not yet been able to provide anything for ~~his~~ his allowance. He is in a miserable condition. Our expectations at Coimbatore that he can be self-sufficient have not been fulfilled. As for his reinstatement, the struggle through adjudication and law courts will be a long drawn one. He was proposing to go in for a hunger strike. I did not oppose the idea and referred it to com. Mohanty. He ~~had~~ has written his disapproval of the idea. After having a threadbare discussion with com. V. Misra who had been here yesterday, we have decided not to resort to a hunger strike.

In the mean time 21 Khalasis and 3 runnmermen have been discharged from Blast Furnace. On our representation the management has called 14 of the Khalasis to an interview for employment in steel melting Shop. Their case is now under conciliation. The reactionary officers have been emboldened for this attack after the discharge of com. Roy. We need not be surprised to see ~~an~~ some more discharges in the near future.

The Muster Roll workers have received their overtime dues this month, only after the management had committed a breach of agreement. H.S.L. in its memorandum of settlement dated 24-11-60 had agreed to pay off the entire dues before 23-1-61. They actually started from 25-1-61 and payment is still continuing. So we have demanded to the Lab. Secy. & Lab. Commissioner to prosecute the management u/s. 29 of the I. D. Act. We have to make the most out of this breach. So kindly press the State Lab. Secy. & Lab. Com. through a letter from your end.

Our struggle for retrenchment benefits to the Fertiliser Plant workers under Britannia Co. is going on. But of late we have not (and cannot) devote much attention to these workers, due to lack of hands. Any way we have not left them altogether.

As for the discharges in the Blast Furnace and other issues we had agreed at Coimbatore on certain lines of action. We had also agreed to provide this office with a mike typewriter and a rikshaw. I had conveyed this message to the Executive with much joy and enthusiasm. But we have not yet received them and are continuing to work in conditions of great handicap. So kindly expedite the above three articles soon or send the promised Rs. 1500/- and I will immediately purchase them and inform you at once.

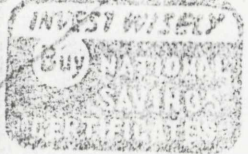
With greetings

Yours fraternally
Krityan and Ponda

19-2-61
General Secretary
Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union.

pen file

268-B



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT



Class: X Case: QB No. 12

Post Office: _____ Sent at _____ H. _____ M.

To: _____

By: _____

Mailed in at (Office of Origin)	Date.	Hour.	Minutes.	Service Instructions.	Words.
55 Rourkela		16	10		



5 A Damage Care twenty six
 Session All India Trade Union Congress Chidambaram
 Park Coimbatore

All displaced including Batababu began
 hunger strike seventh (.) situation
 grave Come sharply - Ajit Rourkela
 stop Madras Union =

W. R. The name of the sender, if telegraphed, should be written after the words "to" in the message.



(106-3)

Sardar Swaran Singh
Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel
cordially invites

Shri Sripad Amrit Dange

to

THE INAUGURATION OF WIDE STRIP MILL
at Rourkela Steel Plant, Hindustan Steel Ltd

by

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru

Prime Minister of India

on Tuesday, the 28th March, 1961 at 4-30 p.m.

R.S.V.P.
Chief Engineer (Plant)
Hindustan Steel Ltd
Rourkela-1.

Admit card ~~attached~~ will be issued later.

C-3



No. 67
27



A. I. T. U. C.
Received 476/22-3-61
Rephed.....

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Received here at H. M.

X TL 117 ROURKELA 21 44 RPPDEXP S A DANGO

MEMBER PARLIAMENT NEWDELHI --

-- PLEASE SENT COM IILLIS BEFORE TWENTYSEVENTH

TO MEET PRIMEMINISTER ROJRKELA (.) WITH ARRANGEMENT OF

INTERVIEW FROM DELHI (.) MASS WAITING EAGERLY FOR THE

PROGRAMME (.) REPLY SOON : WORKING PRESIDENT

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION =

268-A

23-3-61

EXPRESS

ROUKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

BISRA ROAD

ROURKELA

IMPOSSIBLE GOING ROURKELA PEACE COUNCIL MEETING

HERE SAME DATE STOP TRYING FIX UP INTERVIEW WITH

PRIME MINISTER FOR YOU

ELIAS

A.I.T.U.C.
Received.. 636/4-4-61
Replied.....

Rourkela

31-3-61

268-B

Dear comrade,
Namaskar. I hope you must have received my telegram and one express letter from Calcutta. I have returned here today. I have officially deposited Rs. 10/- with the R.P.O. for sending telegrams to his Delhi office for my passport. Yesterday I had booked a trunk call to you at about 9-30 AM. from the B.P.T.U.C. office. But the reply came that neither you nor com. Dange were available by that time. Tomorrow early in the morning I will again book a trunk call to you. In case I fail to get you on the phone you will kindly act on the basis of this letter.

The passport position as explained by the Calcutta R.P.O. is very uncertain unless strong moves are made comrade Dange at the Delhi level. He advised me personally to rush up to Delhi and get the clearance instructions expedited from the Ex. Affairs Ministry. But with limited funds at my disposal at Calcutta I could not venture to go to Delhi. From here I can now no doubt secure a loan to go to Delhi, but there is no ~~more~~ more time to go to Delhi, return to Calcutta for picking up the passport and proceed again in time. So I have no other course but to leave the whole matter on to your able hands and wait at Calcutta.

I will leave Rourkela on the night of Sunday the 2nd April and will be at Calcutta again by the morning of 3rd.

I will be putting up at the B.P.T.U.C. office. kindly contact me there by letter or phone, if you need to, in that address. I have received a letter no. F.11 (45) OSA/RPO-61 dated, 29-3-61 from the R.P.O. intimating me that my case has been referred to the chief Passport Officer, Ext. Affairs Ministry for instructions. kindly note the file no. and move in the matter to expedite instructions to the R.P.O.

I have not received any M.O. from you yet. I hope to receive it tomorrow. If it does not reach tomorrow then I will take a loan and proceed. I will authorise one Dr. Verma to receive the M.O. on my behalf. That will go to repay the loan. So kindly send the M.O. to my Kourkela address if you have not already sent. you will send the travelling expenses with the April subsidy. Pray write about the position of my case to Calcutta address.
Yours faithfully,
A. Nanda.

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र
INLAND LETTER

Urgent.



To
Comrade K. G. Srivastava,
Secretary, A.T.U.C.,
4 Ashok Road,
P.O. New Delhi.

पहला मोड़ First fold
दूसरा मोड़ Second fold
तिसरा मोड़ Third fold
भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :- Sender's name and address :-

इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न रक्विये NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

पत्र काट कर खोलिये To open cut here ->

A. I. T. U. C.

Received...

6.3.7/4-4 Rourkela,

Replied.....

1-4-61

Dear comrade,

Namaskar. Much relieved

after receiving your letter of 30th. I was somewhat embarrassed at the gloomy picture I got at Calcutta. But now I think it will be superfluous to phone to you, which I thought of doing today. Instead I am writing out this letter.

As advised by you I will be obtaining the inoculation certificate from the Govt. Doctor here tomorrow. I will be also getting an income tax clearance certificate or an affidavit in consultation with a lawyer. I have kept in my pocket six copies of my photo. I am also taking 8 more copies today for precaution. I am so sorry I am troubling you in these tit bit matters, as I am unfortunately ignorant of the procedure for a foreign travel. Because

I feel you to be the nearest and more reliable for these matters, so I have to tax you. I also know you will not mind as you had always been liberal towards me and the organisation here.

I had enquired in the Post Office today. ~~to~~ But the M.O. has not yet come. I had tried for a loan, but I was partially successful. It appears I cannot leave Rourkela before evening of Monday the ~~the~~ 3rd. April, as I have a case on that day, and also I have to get my affidavit for income tax clearance. Side by side I will avail of the M.O. if it would have reached by then. So according to the changed programme I will be at Calcutta on the morning of 4th. April. kindly contact me to the PTU office there if you need to after 4th. April. you can also convey me by telegram on 4th to Calcutta address whether instructions had been issued to R.A.O. Calcutta.

As for the arrangements here for the conduct of our work during my absence it has been done in the presence of Com. Mohanty. On the eve of P.M.'s visit (28th) we had a general body meeting on 27th. to formulate our demands in the memorandum to the P.M. In that meeting Com. Mohanty had attended. A resolution was passed ~~congratulating~~ ^{thankingly} the AITUC for my nomination and appointing Sri Bata Krishna Ponda to act as gen. secy. in my absence. The authorities however did not allow us to present the memorandum to the P.M. in person. However we have sent it to him by regd. post. But the authorities had allowed the local congress leaders to present a memorandum on the problems of displaced. This was a partiality. Mr. Nehru's visit was used to inaugurate the Orissa election campaign.

As Rourkela has been declared an Advansi reserved seat, and as the voter's list is not upto date and contains only 5000 voters in all in the town of Rourkela, the Party does not appear to decide for a contest here.

yours fraternally
N. Ponda.

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र
INLAND LETTER



To

Comrade K. G. Srivastava,
Secretary, AITUC.,
H - Ashok Road,
P.O. New Delhi.

तीसरा मोड़ Third fold

भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :- Sender's name and address :-

इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न रखिये NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

पते कोट कर काँटिये To open cut here

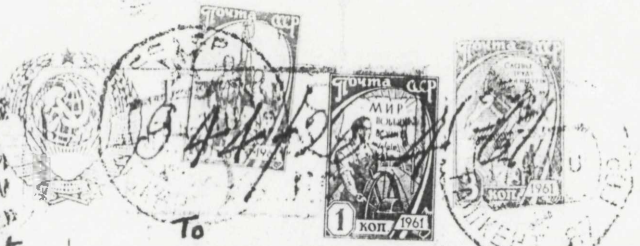
Dear comrades,
Tashkent 15-4-61.

Minister reached here safely on 11th. Due to technical difficulties I could not write to you earlier. Com. Pant and Com. Chawan are well here. The study course is very interesting and educational. We have a program for going to Samarkand on 25th on 30th we will be taken to Moscow. I am really fortunate to be on Soviet soil when Com. Gagarin was launched to space. It was a festive occasion here. Parties, dinners, fire works were held.

КОНЦЕНТ. КОМСОМОЛЬСКАЯ ПЛОЩАДЬ
ТОШКЕНТ, КОМСОМОН МАЙДОНИ



Room No - 133.



To
Kuda Comrade K.G. Srivastava
Secretary,
A.I.T.U.C.
H - Ashok Road
Kому P.O: NEW DELHI
INDIA

Адрес отправления

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(2) EXPRESS

2618

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION
BISRA ROAD ROURKELA

LINKING STEEL WORKERS DEMANDS TO PAY COMMISSION IN ANYWAY
WILL BE HARMFUL AND WRONG STOP PLEASE DONT PROCEED ON THOSE
LINES

DANGE

2-16-01

25/11/01

MOHANTY

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

BENGALISAHU

CUTTACK (Orissa)

INSTRUCT ROURKELA SEND TWO REPRESENTATIVES IRON AND STEEL
MEETING CALCUTTA THIRD MAY

SRIWASTAVA



INDIAN POSTS AND



TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

A. I. T. U. S.
Received.. 1068/27-A-61
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268-B

268-B
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Date Hour Minute

Service Instructions

Words

: X PH 39 ROORKEEA 25 22

TO GANGE 4 ASHOKROAD NEWDEHRI

here at H. M.

MOVEMENT NOT LAUNCHED BY UNION MEETING GOVERNOR
TOMORROW NO AGITATION / APPRESENT CONFIRM ACTION

ROYRANGA ARRESTED STEEDMAZDOOR UNION

2,21,000. Pks. [T-30-5/53]

MGL:PAh. -17

File
1/1/40
27/12

To

16/19/61
The Honorable Prime Minister, Republic Of India, Camp-Rourkela.

Dated, Rourkela the 28th March '61.

Honourable Sir,

1. I, on behalf of the displaced persons of Rourkela, deem it a proud privilege to welcome you, our beloved Prime Minister, on the occasion of inauguration of the Hot Strip Mill of the Hindustan Steel Limited Rourkela. We join with other in the rest of the country on this happy occasion.

2. But I may be given the liberty of acquainting you with the unmitigated misery and hardship that has been imposed on us, on account of the apathy and cold blooded indifference of the authorities concerned. We have no intention to create disturbance on this occasion. But I do so, out of defences to the wishes of the displaced persons and as I consider it my duty, to draw your sympathetic attention, as the Head of the State to the miserable conditions of the displaced persons who are mostly poor adibasis, whose suffering and sacrifices have made this project into a reality. Pray this may not be misunderstood as note of bitterness on this happy occasion.

3. I may recall the hunger strike by 12 displaced persons in January last before the Administrative Building of the Hindustan Steel Limited which was recalled by the assurance that the authorities will reorient their policies towards the problems of the displaced persons. But to our dismay the authorities are still going back on their assurances and the displaced persons are still facing unemployment and in consequence hunger and starvation.

4. The State and Central Governments are still adamant in their policies towards us and does not appear to have been moved. This is a challenge to the peace-loving, poor adibasis who have been made victims of the Socialistic pattern of society.

5. The Government of Orissa in their Press Note issued in the year 1955, outlined their policies in regard to land acquisition at Rourkela and resettlement and employment policy, to be adopted by the Govt. which ensured maximum advantages for the displaced persons and others. But in reality the policies declared, remained in ideas.

6. A committee under the Chairmanship of Sri R. C. Mudra Deo, the then Minister in charge of Rourkela affairs was set up with Sri R. N. Singh Deo, Ex-Minister and others as members constituted in it, to jointly examine the grievances of the displaced persons at Rourkela. The then Chief Minister, Dr. H. K. Mohatab declared in the Assembly, while addressing the assembly on 17th, 18th March, 1959, that the committee, constituted, will examine the demands of the displaced persons and their decision would be duly implemented. Though the afore said committee took a great trouble to come over here and have given a report to the Government, analysing our demands the Government have been callous and have not taken care to put them into practice.

7. It will not be out of place to mention here that non-co-operation and lack of understanding between the State Government and the Hindustan Steel authorities is great factor in the failure to implement the policies in consequence of which the poor adibasis still are made to suffer.

8. The adibasis, by nature, are peace-loving and law abiding citizens. The H.S.L. authorities taking advantage of their poverty and simplicity formulated a policy to give the trespasser, mostly outsiders, who had forcibly occupied lands on the road sides and opened unauthorised shops, in violation of the law to give preferential treatment in the allotment of permanent shops in the market of H.S.L. Rule of law discouraged. The right of the displaced persons to be given preferential treatment was waived. The only fault for which they were denied a right to their existence and a change for their livelihood in their own land, was that they did not violate the law which would have been a consideration for allotment of shops to them.

9. There is considerable heart burning, both amongst displaced persons and also local people, that mostly people from other States have come, started shops and done roaring trades in old Rourkela

town. As a result of lack of a clear persistent policy and strict vigilance and control to prevent unauthorised construction and encroachment, a slum area has grown up in the old Rourkela Town adjoining the station. The non-adibasis, mostly outsiders, obtained lands from the adibasis on nominal prices by illegal transfer deeds, and constructed unauthorised structures. Influential persons and important officers have also taken advantage of the situation and made it a business to construct houses and earn monies by way of rent from the constructions on these lands. This is why the so called influential persons and big businessmen have been attempting along to see that this area is not acquired at all though there was a notification for acquisition of ~~land~~ the same. The adibasis were made to believe that this area would be acquired soon by the officers and the leaders, interested in the area. Many were given lands at different places. Some sold away their lands like vegetables in view of the motivated propaganda. In absence of the royats many forcibly settled on their lands. Some took land on nominal rent and discontinued payment of the same afterwards. Had the Govt. been not slow in their decision and declaration about the fate of this area been made earlier the adibasis would not have been cheated in selling away their lands in low prices. Is it not a conspiracy against them? Though the authorities are eager to acquire Hamirpur at the points of bayonets they do not consider it a necessity for acquisition of this area. If this is not to be acquired steps should be taken to clear up this slum area and rebuild and rebuild the same according to the plan, priority, in allotment of sites, being given to old residents and local people.

10. The H.S.L. authorities had agreed to give preference to the displaced persons in the matter of lease of land, earmarked by them near the river side area for vegetable cultivation and poultry development, as soon as their scheme to that regard was finalised. But in the meanwhile the H.S.L. authorities have undertaken this vegetable cultivation themselves and thus avoided the displaced persons tactfully. Though the scheme of poultry farming has not yet been finalised I apprehend the same fate of misfortune in that connection.

11. The river side villages and other villages which has not been acquired as yet and for which there is no necessity for acquisition should not be allowed to continue as notified area any more, and should be declared denotified by the Government soon so that the persons, under restraint, may develop the areas and continue their avocation in life.

12. The adibasis have been given temporary lease hold right over house plots in the rehabilitation colonies although they had free hold rights in their villages. This is an injustice. If this is done to ensure that they may not sell away their lands, which they generally do, out of necessity due to their poverty, steps should be taken to eliminate possibility such circumstances by giving them service and other opportunities and not by curtailing their rights over their lands.

13. The people living in these rehabilitation colonies depend upon nearby places where they can find gainful employment. The Resettle - ment colonies are not self sufficient units economically, As such transport facilities should be made available to them. These ~~working~~ serving in the factory and living in these colonies should be allowed to travel from their place of residence, free of cost, to the site of work.

14. Medical facilities and facility for the education of their children living in these colonies should also be provided by the Government immediately. The problem of water supply, which is acute in this area should be solved without any further delay of time. Unless the difficulties aforesaid are removed the displaced persons living in these colonies ~~under the existing circumstances~~ are bound to be discouraged and I consider it impossible for them to continue living in these colonies under the existing circumstances and without the bare amenities of life.

15. The displaced persons who are still in the master roll or are on the work charge basis, serving as casual labourers, even after long years of service, without facilities, should immediately be absorbed in the regular and permanent cadre of the H.S.L. The displaced persons who had been working on temporary basis are retrenched should be immediately re-instated in service and thus save them from starvation.

16. Another imminent problem which hangs as a sword of democle over the displaced persons, though very few in number, already in the employment of H.S.L. is the retrenchment scheme, which is to be implemented soon. The poor adibasis apprehend to be the victims of this scheme at the hands of the authorities whose attitude are dominated by asort of colonial outlook. I appeal for a sympathetic consideration of their cases and request that no displaced persons should be retrenched and their cases should be treated with topmost priority and with emergency.

17. I have come to understand that expansion of the Steel Plant and doubling of its productions has been sanctioned by the Government. A subsidiary plant for manufacturing pipes in addition to the fertiliser factory has already been planned. There are possibility of other anciliary factories being installed in this area. The employment potential in this area is likely to increase many more times soon. From the experience gained in the past it is essential that steps should be taken from now on to ensure training of skilled and semi-skilled labourers and technicians like black smiths, turners, machinist, mechanical fitter, welder etc. from among the displaced persons to meet these requirements in future. As the adibasis are uneducated and less advanced qualifications for admission into these training institutions should be waived in their cases as a special measuer otherwise they will serve no useful purpose to them.

18. The cases pending before the court of the Arbitrator in connection with payment of compensation have been pending since long. Instructions may be issued for speedy disposal of these cases.

19. As many persons have still been not given compensation due to obvious reasons and are without employment, to save them from starvation, it is suggested that the lands, though acquired but still lying unused and fallow should be allowed to be cultivated by the respective owners untill work is actually undertaken on it. This will go a long way, atleast temporarily, to solve the problem of unemployment and mitigate the scarcity of food problems.

20. The cases pending against the displaced persons in the courts may kindly be withdrawn to ensure good will and understanding between the displaced persons and the Government.

21. Last but not the least the displaced persons specially the adibasis are being victimised in a calculated manner. Their demands are ignored. Their cases of injustice, inequality are not meted out with justice and equity. In view of their poverty and ignorance the officers are callous towards them. They have no sence of security in service etc. I urge that a Committee be set up to enquire into the special cases, which may be brought to its notice, and take steps to undo the wrong, so that the officers will refrain from their repression in future.

I look up to you, Sir, beloved Prime Minister, for a probe into our legitimate grievances with sympathy and fervently pray to do justice, in the cause of humanity, in your usual manners, which has endeared you to us.

Yours faithfully



(Batakrisna Panda)
Secretary, Rourkela
Basachyuta Committee.
Bisra Road, Rourkela-1

Copy forwarded to

*to Com. S. A. Dange, M.P.
New Delhi*

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA-1

A. I. T. U. C.		SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)
I.R. No. 2132	Date 3.7.61	
File No.	Replied on	Dated 30-6-1961.

Ref No. R. S. M. U

To
Comrade K. G. Srivastava
Secretary, A. I. T. U. C.

Dear comrade,

Namaskar. Immediately I returned from Delhi I was sent to the election campaign. So I was again absent for one more month. During these two months the condition of the union had deteriorated. Being busy in repair work I could not write to you earlier. So you will pardon me this time for the delay.

The H. M. S. union is now making headway for recognition. H. S. L. has cast off the INTUC union. There was a strike of motor drivers of H. S. L. towards the end of March led by INTUC. About 200 drivers including Mr. Pasge the INTUC union Gen. Secy. were arrested. That was 2 days before Nehru's visit. The management was put to much inconvenience. Besides this unpleasantness Mr. Pasge was very vocal against the management. Had it been a private firm the management would have enjoyed such pranks from their dalals. But these brass hat bureaucrats were highly offended. The janshodpur tactics of ~~M. John~~ M. John were taken amiss here. Hence the divorce. However temporary this parking may be, it is a significant event.

The H.M.S. union which was lukewarm towards the management got the preference. On 9-4-61 a 14 point agreement was signed with them in a cold blooded manner i.e. in the absence of any agitation or threat from that union. Some major concessions to some sections of the workers were given in that agreement. - (1) Rs.70/- consolidated pay to casual magdoors w.e.f. 1-4-61. (2) continuity of casual service after becoming regular (3) overtime wages for period prior to 13-7-59 to casual workers working in factory premises + leave (4) Abolition of contracted service for regulars to be considered in Standing orders (5) The verdict of the Lab. Commissioner regarding reduction of annual leave from 35 days to 18 days and casual leave from 15 days to 7 days will be abiding on both parties. (6) Any reduction in pay while becoming regular from casual will be made good (7) Any reduction in wages of regular workers will be made good (8) All workcharged workers whose increments were not received will get back the same (9) Work charged workers to get overtime if work on festival days (10) Casual workers would get half pay during suspension (11) office staff to get double overtime after since registration under Shops Act. (12) L.D. workers wage rise claim to be referred to Productivity Council expert by Lab.com. These findings will be binding. (13) Electricians and linemen who had been taken as ~~regular~~ helpers will be taken back in their previous ~~cat~~ categories when vacancies come arise. (14) Discharged worker Goswami to be reinstated.

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA-1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R. S. M. U

Dated 196

from the above you will understand there are many illusive items of agreement. Nevertheless there are some major concessions also. These concessions were long overdue. Secondly Union Govt. had ordered management to agree to these demands for most of which our union had been agitating. They could have as well been notified in the notice board. But the management preferred to give the credit to the H.M.S. Union by entering into an "agreement". The INTUC, as expected, is sore over this shift in the attitude of the management. But the INTUC is backed by powerful elements like Union Dry. minister L.N. Misra. It is to be seen as to who gets the recognition. As we are untouchables we do not expect ourselves anywhere near recognition. But what should be our tactics in this tussle, should be guided by you.

Now the H.M.S. Union has served a notice in the L.D. process to strike on 12-7-61. These workers had slowed down in January demanding higher scales. Management took the H.M.S. leader inside the factory and got the workers pacified in anticipation of some results. Subsequently the management remained stiff. Then H.M.S. served a strike notice to 10-3-61. It failed to strike at that time and postponed the strike. Now after entering into an agreement it has again decided to avail the previous notice so as to strike on 12-7-61. Kindly think about this problem and inform us as to what should be our tactics in this strike. We are thinking to formally support the strike more and harden up the struggle a bit more to prevent any further drift.

While we were busy in elections ~~the~~ ^{our} casual workers resorted to a pay strike demanding implementation of the Rs. 70 consolidated pay agreement. It was unorganised. Half the workers had taken their wages. After returning we called their meeting and it was decided to take the wages that month and if necessary to stop in July.

At present we are busy in reorganisation of our following. Verification of membership will be done on 19-7-61. We are preparing for that. I have requested com. Surga Mohanty to come soon. Rains have started in full swing.

Received your cheque for Rs. 150 for June. After returning from elections I deposited it on 14th. and it was credited here on 28th. So a Delhi cheque takes 15 days to be realised. Kindly send the cheques hereafter on the 20th. of every month so as to offset the delay in transit. instead of on the 1st. I have not yet received the July cheque. Received today the intimation of com. Sadhan about the mike and type writer. We will be attending the steel meeting at Bumpur on 2nd & 3rd of July.

Enclosed herewith please find my T. A. Bill from Rourkela to Delhi. You will kindly arrange for an early remittance as the friends who had given the loan are pressing for repayment. Under the pressure of elections I too neglected to send the bill as desired by you.

Kindly furnish me the Bombay address of com. Dange.

With greetings

Yours fraternally
K. Tonda
Gen. Secretary.

5

July 8, 1961

Com.Nityananda Ponda,
General Secretary,
Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union,
Bisra Road,
ROURKELA, Orissa

Dear Com.Ponda,

Thank you for your letter of 30th
June.

We must support the just struggle
launched by either HMS or INTUC union. In
case of hunger strike, we can our own men
also, if appropriate and necessary. We
should not lag behind simply because it
is started by others.

The agreement with HMS union is
good. But this may be a temporary phase.

Cheque No.612698 on National and
Grindlays Bank Ltd., New Delhi, for Rs.100/-
is enclosed towards expenses incurred by
you in connection with going to Tashkent.
Please send your receipt for the amount.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Uha
— Sri
(K.G.Sriwastava)
Secretary

Encl: cheque

2573 28 JUL 1961

RESOLUTION

Proposed at the Public Meeting held at
Ambagan, Rourkela on 18-7-61 at 5 P.M.

...

We the workers of Rourkela are severely shocked to learn about the tragic death on 16-7-61, midnight of one of our brave co-workers Sri Satya Narayan Misra, skip operator, Blast Furnance who is also a passed out trainee. He had jumped into the burning body of the blast furnace. In the letter left behind by Sri Misra he has clearly stated that life became unbearable for him due to the continued refusal of the Hindustan Steel Ltd. authorities to increase his scale of pay which is at present a very low one i.e. Rs. 60-3-90 P.M. In his letter he had also mentioned that he is sacrificing his life as a protest against the grave injustices done to all the workers of H.S.L. by the management, and for the cause of all the workers.

The wages increase demand is a long standing demand since the last three years. THE WORKERS HERE ARE PAID less than half the wages paid to the underpaid workers of capitalist factories, e.g. the Tatas. The heroic strike of Passed out Trainees in 1959 was ruthlessly suppressed. Leading workers are victimised. By stopping the construction allowances the partly wages of the workers was further reduced. The innumerable representations of the workers was systematically ignored.

Today discontent is ~~acute~~ acute amongst all categories of workers unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled or high skilled. Promotions are given on the whims and favour of individual officers. The departmental heads like Sri Ramaswami of Blast Furnance illtreat and insult the workers if they try to represent any grievances. Workers are even beaten by the departmental officers. It is the cumulative combination of the callousness of the H.S.L. management and the inhuman treatment of the departmental head-Sri Ramaswami, which climaxed in the tragic death of Sri S.N. Misra who was an ideal worker and a close friend of his co-workers and who had also joined the historic hunger strike in 1959, Today he died for us.

Today in the loss of this valient friend of our workers; we the entire workers of H.S.L. pay our respectful homage to this great martyr and convey our heartfelt sorrow and sympathy to his bereaved family.

Today we also pledge in his sacred memory to carry forward the struggle for higher wages, for linking the D.A. with the rise in the price index, and to achieve the unity of all the workers of H.S.L. who are today divided into so many unions.

Today we urge upon the Government to appoint a high level judicial enquiry into the tragic death of Sri Misra and into the conditions of service prevailing in Rourkela which led to his death.

Today we urge upon the management of H.S.L. to give immediately substantial wage rise to all categories of workers with retrospective effect and link the D.A. in H.S.L. with the cost of living index.

Today we urge upon the management to dismiss the Supdt. of Blast Furnance, Sri Ramaswamy who had been all along insulting and illtreating the workers including Sri S.N. Misra.

Proposer : Sd/- A.K. Roy

Seconder : Sd/- A.T. Mohanty

Passed unanimously.

Sd/- H.L. Kousik
President of the Meeting.

True copy
Recd
Convener of the action
Committee,

MEMORANDUM

2575

To
The General Manager,
Hindustan Steel Ltd.,
Rourkela.

Sub:- Martyrdom of workman Sri Satya Narayan Misra.

Sir,

With profound grief we the workers of Hindustan Steel Limited are shocked to learn about the sudden death of one of our co-workers, Sri Satya Narayan Misra. The tragic circumstances under which Sri Misra sacrificed his life is all the more shocking to us. In the letter left behind by Sri Misra before his death he has categorically stated about the grave injustice done to him and to all his co-workers by the management of H.S.L. in the matter of low grades of pay. Life became unbearable for this brave son of the working class as he was kept in a miserable grade of pay i.e. Rs. 60-3-90 P.M.

In this connection we draw your sharp attention that this wage problem has been agitating the minds of all the workers since the last 4 years. We can proudly recall the strike of the passed out trainees in 1959 and the hunger strike. Even after that strike there had been innumerable representations to you for improving the pay scales. But the management which is controlled by the Government preferred to ignore our demands.

It is this callous and inhuman attitude of the management which has forced Sri Misra to commit suicide by jumping into the death chamber of the Blast Furnance. It is high time that the management should now wake up and do justice to the workers and concede their demands.

We, therefore, request you to accept all the longstanding demands of the workers including and especially the wage increase demand.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by all action Committee member

Dated, Rourkela,
the 19th July 1961.

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For Workers Action Committee
in original.

Signed by all Unions representatives
those are at Rourkela.

True copy
All Raj
Convenor of the
Action Committee

T.N. 2513 28 JUL 1961
File No.

260-B

RESOLUTION

Proposed at Public Meeting in Ambagan,
Rourkela on 18-7-61.

...

As a mark of respect to the sacred memory of
martyr Sri S.K. Misra, skip operator, Blast Furnance who
sacrificed his life for the cause of all the Hindustan
Steel Limited workers this meeting resolves to name the
Ambagan meeting maidan as 'SANEED MAIDAN' with effect from
to-day.

PROFOSER : Sd/- A.K. Ray

SECUNDER : Sd/- V.C. Biswal

Passed unanmously.

Sd/- H.L. Kausik
President of the Meeting.

TOR

ma
T.P.

True copy
Ambagan
Convenor of the Action
Committee

Please let me know the place for steel sub-committee meeting which is proposed on 5th & 6th. August. I may go to Delhi after that meeting i.e. in the August. So, don't send my August money to any where. I will take from there. Hope you will send my July wage to Nityananda's address as early as possible. Best when we meet.

Yours

Mohan Das.

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA-1

A. J. T. U. C.

I. R. No. 2564 Date 131 JUL 1961

Ref No. R. S. M. U

File No. P. applied on ... Dated 8-7-1961

To
Comrade Secretary, AITUC,
New Delhi.

Dear Comrade,

Many thanks for ~~the~~ your letter of 8-7-61 and the letter from Com. Sachan intimating me to receive the mike & type writer from Bombay. Also received the T. A. cheque for Rs. 100/- and two cheques of Rs. 150 each. Com. Mohanty has informed me to attend the Council meeting at Delhi on 19-8-61. So I have requested Com. Chitnis of Bombay to bring over the type writer and mike to Delhi by that time. That would save us from some expenses. I would request you to instruct him the same from your end.

The L.D. workers' threat of strike did not materialise. It was postponed. During conciliation the management agreed to bring the productivity Council expert for job evaluation. That was some face saving to the HMS Union. We had of course as advised by you declared our support in case they struck work.

On 17-7-61 one S.N. Misra, skip operator of Blast Furnace committed suicide by throwing himself into the Blast Furnace. He had left behind ~~the~~ a letter accusing the management to be responsible for their low rates of wages. The management claims that he really did not die, but left the letter and is in hiding some where. Be that as it may, there was no doubt great commotion amongst the workers.

2017 HONKINAM 1977 A BARRON

On the evening of 17th. the passed out trainees had spontaneously called a meeting of their own and elected an Action Committee of 6 members to protest against the inhuman labour conditions. Our Ajit Roy was elected as one of the 6. We then saw that this Committee should be strengthened. On 18th there was a public meeting. About 2000 workers had gathered mostly regular workers. Then all the 5 union leaders were invited to address. The Ganatantra Parishad Union was absent. The leaders of the 4 unions including INTUC addressed the gathering. The resolution passed there demanded for a judicial inquiry, immediate wage rise and dismissal of B. F. Supdt. Ramaswamy.

On 19th. A procession of 200 marched to the Gen. Manager and submitted a memorandum. But after that in spite of our efforts that committee is gradually getting defunct. due to the rawness of the workers who quickly flare up only to subside back quickly. Nevertheless we have earned some goodwill from the workers as staunch defenders of workers unity. The H.M.S., + INTUC, earned a somewhat bad impression even though they condemned the management and sympathised with the dead, because of their total silence on the unity move initiated by SUC union and supported strongly by us. Over that committee we have not yet given up hope. We shall try to rekindle it to the last.

Com. Durga had not visited here after my return from USSR. He was also sick for some time past. The Lab. Commissioner failed to ~~re-~~ reinstate Ajit Roy in the monthly tripartite on 27-7-61. We are contemplating a hunger strike on that prestige issue.

yours fraternally
A. Janda.

July 29, 1961

Dear Com.Ponda,


There was a suggestion from comrades there that someone should make a trip to Delhi to talk things over, in connection with the work. Com.Dange is busy at the moment and is of the opinion that consultations may be deferred for a more suitable occasion. We will write to you again when this could be done.

Meanwhile, we are sending you another cheque for Rs.150/- for expenses as arranged.

Please ask the comrade concerned to send proper accounts. We will see what can be done further. A trip to Delhi is absolutely unnecessary at this moment.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,


/K.G.Sriwastava/

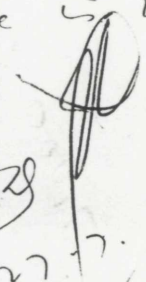
Encl: cheque

218-1

He should not
come here until
we are free to
deal with him.

Waiting here is no
good.

SAS



27.7.

Ponda
informed

MELP

29.7 61

6

269-10

SQ 971

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE
LOK SABHA ON 25.8.61 IN REPLY TO
STARRED QUESTION NO. 971.

....

Shri S.N. Misra, a Skip Operator in the Blast Furnace Department of the Rourkela Plant was on duty on the night of the 16th July 1961. At about 2.00 a.m. he was found missing from his post by the shift-in-charge. Later the same day, a letter said to have been written by Shri Misra to one of his friends was brought to the notice of the Local Police. This letter indicated his intention to commit suicide by jumping into the Blast Furnace. From this letter it also appears that he was not satisfied with the salary he and his colleagues were getting. The matter is being investigated by the Police. Hindustan Steel have also appointed a Committee to enquire into it.

.....

Dear Com. K. G.

2891

Sakchi 2.8.61.

I am glad to receive your letter after so many months addressed to Com. Panda dated 29th July 1961. You helped me a lot by sending both the money in time because again I am suffering with caught and cold, teeth trouble, slight fever etc etc.

I am following you and Com. Dang's instruction for not proceeding to words belki. However, I am putting some points before you on which I wanted discussion. I will be very glad if you let me know through letter.

1. At the time of last Raurkela Steel Mazdoor union conference, we took decision for not enrolling union membership among the operational staff. Our main concentration was among the N.M.R. I think now time is over and we should plan for entering and enrolling our union membership among the skilled hands and operational staff. Advise what to do.

2. We have to plan for formal Union conference. Last time we kept Mr. Elias as a vice president, but during this period we could not utilize him. Now some friends started questioning "why we should keep him". So, what to do in this regard. I have not made any comment on it. Advise what to do.

3. After tragic death of Sri. S.N. Misra of Blast Furnace, we formed one action committee. On behalf of the action committee we held one mass meeting, demonstration and some representation before the management. Now, I am planning to extend

this Committee. Already 65 workers attended in the first meeting. Again on 6th. there is a meeting. I am expecting this time more than 100. My plan is to form one real workers representatives "Action Committee". We will take representatives from each shift, each section, each Department. Its number will be as biggar as possible. Com. Ajit Roy will be the secretary of this committee. He is the main biggure before the workers. Entire agitation is planned on wages, Promotion, and rebty issues. First step will be to Prepare one memorandum and then conference. At the time of conference we will take decision to merge with R.S.N. union. Advise about my line, wheather it is correct or wrong.

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5. I have collected some materials for the Parliament in connection of Rawkila Plant. Advise how to send all those papers.

Please consult with elder brother and let me know his opinion on the above points. If I am wrong then please correct me. I am here with attaching my voucher. Best when we meet.

To be answered on the 18th August, 1961.

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Works Committees in Steel Plants.

*637. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 878 on the 15th March, 1961 and state:

- (a) whether registration of the Rourkela Steel Plant under the Factories Act has since been effected;
- (b) if so, whether a works committee will now be set up for the plant;
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- (d) when a works committee will be set up for Durgapur Steel Plant; and
- (e) whether the uniform Grievance Procedure for all the three Plants has now been finalised ?

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THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH).

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Steps are being taken to set up a Works Committee.
- (c) Not yet, Sir; but action is being taken to set up the Joint Committee.
- (d). Preliminary steps are being taken to form Works Committee at Durgapur Steel Project and it should be set up within a month.
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SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: May I know whether this uniform grievance procedure for all the three plants will be in conformity with the grievance procedure which has been agreed upon the Indian Labour Conference ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The hon. Member is connected with the unions and by now he must have familiarised himself with this procedure. If he wants additional information, I will supply the information or place it on the Table of the House and the hon. Member may draw his own conclusions.

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Mr. SPEAKER: It is an indirect method of saying that the hon. Minister wants notice.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE: I want to know whether elections will be held to the works committee or workers will be nominated. I also want to know whether elections will be held according to the existing law and all the unions will be consulted in the matter.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I presume that the provisions of law will be observed and action is already being initiated for holding elections in some of the plants.

SHRI K.N. PANDE: WHAT will be the main function of these committees ? Was the Labour Ministry consulted before taking a decision to form such committees in the steel plants ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The main functions are given in the rules and in the Act itself. The Labour Ministry is always consulted.

SHRI K.N. PANDE: Which Act ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There is legislation in the various States on that.

SHRI KASLIWAL: The hon. Minister has said that the works committee will be formed in the case of Rourkela and Durgapur whereas a joint committee will be formed in the case Bhilai.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There are legislative provisions in various States on these matters. The Orissa Act is applicable to Rourkela and the M.P. Act is applicable to Bhilai. So, the labour relations are governed by the statutory provisions that might be prevalent in the various States and these terminologies are derived from the local legislative measures.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: May I know whether any representations have been received by the Government suggesting that the industrial labour relations in respect of the public sector steel plants should be taken over by the Central Government and not left with the State Governments and if so what is the reaction of the Government in the matter ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There have been suggestions and counter-suggestions and so long as the existing thing does not change it should be presumed to be the reaction of the Government.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI: May I know when the Rourkela steel works was registered under the Factories Act and what is the delay in having a works committee formed ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It was registered recently. It is only a matter of few months when it was registered. On an earlier occasion I explained that some dispute was going on between the labour department of the Orissa Government and the project authorities as to whether the plant as a whole should be registered under the Factories Act or whether each department should be separately registered. It took some time to straighten that difference and now it has been registered.

SHRI YADAV NARAYAN JADHAV: May I know whether it is a fact that there is a great dissatisfaction among the workers in Rourkela plant and due to that the work is held up every now and then ?

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SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not accept that. (ends)

report from Rourkela

2. 8. 61

Dear Com.KG,

I am glad to receive your letter after so many months, addressed to Com.Ponda dated 29th July. You helped me lot by sending both the money in time because again I am suffering from cough and cold, tooth trouble, slight fever, etc.

I am following your and Com.Dange's instructions for not proceeding to Delhi. However, I am putting some points before you on which I wanted discussion. I will be very glad if you let me know through letter.

1. At the time of last Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union conference, we took decision for not enrolling union membership among the operational staff. Our main concentration was among the N.M.R. I think now time is over and we should plan for entering and enrolling our union membership among the skilled hands and operational staff. Advise what to do.

2. We have to plan for formal union conference. Last time, we kept Md. Elias as a Vice President but during this period, we could not utilise him. Now some friends start questioning why we should keep him. So, what to do in this regard. I have not made ny comment on it. Advise what to do.

3. After tragic death of Sri S.N.Misra of Blast Furnace, we formed one Action Committee. On behalf of the Action Committee, we held one mass meeting, demonstration and some representations before the management. Now I am planning to extend this committee. Already 65 workers attended ~~the~~ The first meeting. Again on 6th, there is a meeting. I am expecting this time, more than 100. My plan is form one real workers' representative Action Committee. We will take representatives from each shift, each section, each department. Its number will be as big as possible. Com.Ajit Roy will be the Secretary of this committee. He is the main figure before the workers. Entire agitation is planned on wages, promotion and safety issues. First step will be to prepare one memorandum and then conference. At the time of the conference, we will take decision to merge with Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union. Advise about my line, whether it is correct or wrong.

4. Com.Ajit Roy's dismissal case is a very strong one. Orissa Government's Labour representative(?) told in the last "Labour Consultative Committee" meeting to the management that "You have to take back Mr.Roy because his case is very strong, etc. etc." I am thinking that after some time, we should organise hunger strike on this issue and force the management to take back Com.Ajit Roy which is possible. Please advise on it.

5. I have collected some materials for the Parliament in connection with Rourkela plant. Advise how to send all those papers.

Please consult with Com.Dange and let me know his opinion on the above points. If I am wrong then, please correct me. I am herewith attaching my voucher. Rest when we meet.

Mohon Das

yes.
in detail or by letter.
keep this committee & what staff union. Don't no heavy member.
yes.
the rep. for it to be c.
SAD
21/8

BY HAND

Rourkela, 12.3.61

To Com.SAD

It is high time that I could not discuss with you on my own problem. Because I have already passed more than three years, you can easily understand my mental position. After getting inspiration from you and Com.K.G., I started Bhilai work and then Rourkela. After my hard and consistent work, Rourkela and Bhilai units have developed. Now I am feeling some thing wrong in my mind because I could not come before the workers. It is true that I learned steel industry thoroughly with its technique, its workers problems, its composition and way out, due to you, but when some times, those who are working openly in these fields are abusing me, I fell very much. One or two are trying to ignore me. Some indirectly made comment that "I have no position inside the Party nor I have any position inside the trade union - so why should we care this man". They are forgetting that they have come into this field due to me. I am therefore seriously thinking that I am an unfortunate fellow and neglected person. However, excuse me if I have made any mistake before you. I will continue my work and I am ready to face all odds and difficulties, which ever comes before me.

I am sending some materials for Parliament use. Same copy I am sending to Com.Indrajit and Com.Bhupesh Gupta for both the Houses. Through same man, I am sending one article for New Age to Com.Joshi. Of course, I have written not ~~ix~~ my original name. You might have seen my last letter dated 2nd August. In that letter, I asked for your guidance. Please excuse me if I have written anything wrong before you. Pray your good health. Now I am little better.

Yours

n d

Dear Bada.

By hand.

Rourkela. 12.8.61

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Yours

1 Dear Com. Pandhe.

By hand.

28.8.61.

Received your letter with thanks after long time. It is a good news to me that after long time syllabus for T. U. schools has come out. I will be more happy when I will get one copy through Nityananda Ponda.

It is a sad news to me that Com. Dange is bedridden and he sent to hospital. It is further sacking news to me that he advised me for not to come Delhi without his massage. We know better that he is a busy person and it is very difficult to get his time for me. However, I will wait for some time and than instead of going to Delhi I may decide some thing else.

I could not understand a exact account, what you want to mean. I sent you my July and August account with the last letter dated 2nd August. However if there is any thing please let me know clearly. You can send my September wage through com. Nityananda, along with that book.

Physically now I am alright but mental worried. Remember, I passed more than three years when entire Party is open. Best if we can meet. My love to you and your children will remain forever. Hope you are keeping good health. You?
NARESH DUTTA.

A. I. T. U. C.

I. R. N. 2990 Date.. 2.6. Aug 1967

Dear Comrade,

Rourkela
23-8-67

Namaskar. I and

Comrade Banamali Das of Choudwar will be attending the Council meeting. Comrade Mohanty will not be able to attend the meeting this time as he has to attend the sessions case of Barbil at Keonjhar. As for myself I will be reaching Delhi on 29th night a day before the Council meeting. Comrade Banamali Das is expected to reach there by 30th night.

As Comrade Mohanty was not able to come here since the last 4 months I and Com. Ajit Roy had gone to him meet him at Cuttack on 13th. We had met the Chief Minister and had represented to him about Com. Ajit's

discharge. We had also met the Lab. Secretary. We are now hopeful that the dispute will be referred to Tribunal soon after its discussion in the next Implementation Committee meeting. We had also furnished points to the Assembly members who will soon bring out an adjournment motion on Rourkela Affairs. After discussions with Com. Mohanty we finalised the annual returns. We also attended the Council meeting of the State Party at Puri. I reached here from Cuttack only yesterday.

About 3000 casual workers are proposed to be retrenched soon. We are preparing ourselves to meet that challenge.

More when we meet.

With greetings.

Yours fraternally

M. Sarda.

General Secretary
Steel Mazdoor Union
Rourkela.

268/B

New Delhi,
August 23.

Dear Mohan,

So glad to receive your letter. I am sorry you are not well still. I hope by the time this letter reaches you, you would be feeling much better.

2. Yes, we can enter operational side for membership.
3. Elect office-bearers as it suits the union and its interests. We have no comments or suggestions in this respect.
4. Keep Action Committee functioning for some more time. Let there be no hurry about its merger with RSM Union. The Action Committee and RSMU as its constituent can go on functioning even after the conference.
5. Hunger-strike of Com.Ajit is agreed to. Try all avenues and prepare well for it. Select proper time.
6. Send material for Parliament through the representative from Orissa coming to attend General Council meeting.

With greetings,

Yours

P.S. We would also send the typewriter from here after General Council.

Have you collected the loudspeaker?

7

Subject: - Delay in the Commissioning of the Basseia Iron ore handling plant

According to the contract, the above mentioned plant was to be commissioned by the middle of Dec. 1959 to supply the requirements of the iron ore of the Rourkela Steel Plant. On account of the delay in its commissioning the supplies of iron ore were obtained in 1960-61 from Barajamda and Dalli-Rajhara which involved an extra cost on railway freight of Rs. 39.35 lakhs for 1960-61 as per the working sheet attached. It is also apprehended that supplies from Barajamda and Dalli Rajhara will have to be obtained to meet the requirements at least for the next 9 months involving a further additional cost on railway freight of Rs. 51 lakhs.

The delay has been mainly attributed to the delay in the supply of fabricated steel - an obligation undertaken by the Rourkela Steel Project in spite of the advice to the contrary given in this respect on 12.10.57 by the Chief Controller of Purchase. It is also seen that there was abnormal delay in finalising the contract for the steel fabrication work which was concluded in September 1958 although as per Hewitt Robin's letter dated 19th. May 1958 crusher station steel delivery should have been completed by that month. Besides, delivery of fabricated steel was not properly progressed for completion of individual units with the result that out of 1500 tons of fabricated steel delivered at fabricate, hardly 326 tons were erected till December 1959. For the delay in the supply

of fabricated steel, The Penalty of Rs. 12,427.20 has been worked out only in respect of delay after 31st December, 1959, although the same should have been worked out with reference to the individual delivery periods for the various units of the Plant as stipulated in the contract of 5-9-1958.

3/ WORKING SHEET SHOWING THE EXTRA COST
ON FRIGHT ON IRON ORE

A. Iron ore received from Barajamda area in 1960-61. 6,01,378

- Railway freight from Barajamda to Rourkela. Rs. 10.605

- Railway freight from Barsoo to Rourkela 5.46

5.146

EXTRA COST ON RLY. freight on Barajamda iron ore per tonne.

Total extra cost. Rs. 30,94,089.81

B. Iron ore received from Delli Rajhara (Bhilai) - 56,810

- Railway freight from Delli Rajhara to Rourkela. 20.265

- Railway freight from Barsoo to Rourkela. 5.46

- EXTRA COST ON RAILWAY freight 14.805 on iron ore per ton.

Total extra cost. Rs. 8,41,072.05

C-i) EXTRA COST OF RAILWAY freight on iron ore received from Barajamda area in 1960-61 as per A. - Rs. 30,94,089.81

ii) EXTRA COST OF RAILWAY freight on iron ore received from Delli Rajhara area in 1960-61. As per B. - Rs. 8,41,072.05

Total for 1960-61 Rs. 39,35,161.86

EXTRA COST for further 9 months of 1961 on the above basis. - Rs. 29,51,371.39

Rs. 68,86,533.25

Subject - Production in the Pipe Plant

The Pipe Plant is rated at an output of 10,000 to 15,000 tons a month based on single shift basis. In consideration of the welding speeds given by M/S. Mannesmann, it was decided that the Plant should produce minimum 8,600 tons a month vide addendum to the minutes of the 117th meeting of the Committee of Directors held at Delhi on 20-4-59. The production figures for the last five months are given below.

June, 1961	370 tonnes
February, 1961	1030 tonnes
March, 1961	1310 tonnes
April, 1961	1210 tonnes
May, 1961	1837 tonnes

The actual production was thus less than 20% of the minimum estimated production of 8600 tonnes as stated above. Besides the production from coils resulted in substandard pipes over 30% as against 15 to 20%.

As per revised schedule of delivery in respect of supply of pipes to B.O.C. (P.L.) LTD. 7000 tons of pipes (A.P.S.) should have been despatched by the end of May, 1961. Till the end of May, 1961, only 2764.641 Metric tons of pipes have been despatched. It is quite evident from the above-stated facts that the delivery of pipes to B.O.C. (P.L.) will be

P.T.O

Delayed ² on account of the much lower
production and for which BOE (PL) LTD is
entitled to charge one percent of the
purchase price of the pipes as liquidated
damages under the contract.

Reasons for the abnormally low
production and in the delay in the despatch
of materials as per contracts with BOE
may please be intimated. Action taken
to step up production and to speed up
delivery of pipes to the BOE to avoid
further liability of liquidated damages
may please be intimated.

Subject:- Delay in the completion of work under
the pipe plant contract with M/s.
Mannesmann-EXPORT GmbH.

In accordance with item 10 of the above contract, the plant was to be completely erected and tested (excluding performance tests) and ready for operation by the 1st. September, 1960. The Preliminary acceptance of the plant however could be done only on the 15th. December 1960, thus resulting in a delay of $3\frac{1}{2}$ months in the erection of the plant.

As per article 32-2 of the general conditions of the contract as modified, a penalty of $\frac{1}{2}\%$ for each completed 15 days of delay was leviable with a maximum penalty of 5%. In view of the above ~~referred~~ referred delay of $3\frac{1}{2}$ months, a penalty of DM. 1,30,0250 and Rs. 1,61,250/- should have been ~~received~~ recovered. The waiving of this penalty may kindly be justified.

1. Failure to black list the Contractors who attempted to defraud the Project to the extent of Rs. 1 Lakh.

Draft PARA.

- (a) Messrs. Shah Construction Co. (P) LTD.
- (b) Ploculation Plant.

After opening of the tenders for a certain engineering works, a comparative statement of tenders was prepared on 28.2.58 in the Accounts department. At the time of sending the case for the approval of the board, it was noticed on 14.7.58 that the rates for certain

items mentioned in the comparative statement were lower than the corresponding rates appearing in the signed tenders of the Contractors with the result that the value of their tender was raised by Rs. 1 Lakh, while all the pages in the tender bore the signature of the chief engineer (Plant), the pages where the rates were increased contained only the signature of the Contractors. As the director of the Contractor's firm authorised to sign the tender admitted that the signature on the relevant pages of the tender was his own and in view of the fact that the same page was proved to have been replaced after the preparation of the comparative statement it is evident that the replacement of the page was not possible without the knowledge of the above mentioned Director.

2

As a result of a departmental investigation the services of the executive Engineer were terminated on the alleged complicity in the fraud but no action has taken against the firm in spite of their attempt on their part to defraud the project to the extent of Rs. 11 lakhs. The contract valued at Rs. 21 lakhs approximately has been entrusted to the same contractor after they agreed to reduce the valuation rates to the rates in the comparative statement as prepared in the accounts branch. The same contractors have also been ~~aw~~ awarded a further contract for Rs. 91,000 in November 1959.

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

A. I. T. U. C.

I. R. No. 3365 Est. No. 3579 SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

File No. Req. edon. Dated 22-9-1961.

Ref No. R. S. M. U

To comrade K. G. Srivastava
Secretary, A.I.T.U.C.,

Dear comrade,

Namaskar. I am enclosing herewith a receipt for the September month's subsidy.

The retrenchment of about 2500 casual workers is now hanging before us. We are taking up that issue in right earnest. A public meeting will be held tomorrow. We are planning to send a deputation to Chief Minister soon. Other actions will follow suit. A copy of the resolution will be sent to you after the public meeting.

Organising of workers' groups is in progress amongst regular workers. We have submitted our annual returns for 60-61. We have a membership of 3862. We are summoned for verification and we are preparing for that. You know I am quite new to this verification work. Com. Mohanty has not yet come here. Yet I think I can overcome this difficulty through consultations and commonsense.

We have withheld printing of the steel leaflet on interim wage rise etc for some time to complete this verification and retrenchment work. We feel that once we publish the leaflet we must briskly pursue the matter so as to raise it to an agitational level. Or else the effect of the leaflet will be lost as a proper ganda only. I hope you will agree with this.

As for the auto-cycle I had consulted at Calcutta. A Paritish type costs about 1600/=. The Lambretta auto cycle costs about 1300/= but it is not readily available. It is under controlled

sales through their agents. I have contacted the Rourkela agent. Their terms are that Rs. 250 advance should be deposited together with the application. We will get it in two or three months time. In quality also the Lambretta type is reliable. So we have decided to apply for the same.

The one I had seen at Delhi with a relative of mine was a Lambretta cycle which had worked without repairs for the last three years with an average running of 25 miles per day. To enter into the deal now ~~is~~ the union now has a bank balance of about Rs. 300/=. In view of impending expenses towards the leaflet and anti-retrenchment agitation we are not able to meet this advance of Rs. 250. So I request you to send this amount together with the October subsidy in one cheque. The rest you can send later to the agreed amount of Rs. 1000 in all. We also will prepare ourselves with Rs. 300/= to meet the balance of the cost. I hope we will be able to set aside this Rs. 300 from our anticipated collections from the anti-retrenchment agitation. Any way it will not be very difficult to get hold of this 300/= within one month. But for the immediate contingencies I would have met this 250/= advance first from the local account. So I request you to send this advance amount. To reduce bank charges kindly send one cheque only (150+150+250=550)

Please accept our heartfelt congratulations for the success achieved by your threatened hunger-strike.

yours fraternally
N. Sarda.
General Secretary.

19.9.61.

Dear Com. K. G.

I am in great pleasure to receive your last the letters. I am continuing my work with confidence, but some times when some comrades hit my mind, I became mentally disturbed. That is why I wanted to discuss with com. Durg. I may get some relief in my mind. Now I am coming to report.

At Raurkela now branches are reorganised on the basis of to push among the operational staff. I am planning for Party conference, where democratically district committee will be elected.

Then union conference. Now union office became a mess. Every body is moving and spending money at their own, nobody is giving account to anybody, no proper office time, no co-ordination and so on. I am trying to develop one team for the union office. I am expecting one team before union conference. Of course it is very difficult job, because I am functioning u. s. Uptill now orissa P. C. has not taken it seriously.

I had a plan to finish it within 1st week of October and go to Bhubaneswar again, but com. Durga Mohanty is available only in the 3rd week of October. In the other side Bhubaneswar comrades are calling me to reach earlier. So, I am unable to decide what to do. Please advise me what to do.

Central C. I. D. has come to know my presence at Raurkela. After getting this news on 4th. September, I left Raurkela. On 14th. I came and discussed with com. Nityananda.

Now I am keeping contact with some comrades through letters. I have spread the news that I left Rourkela. Just now it will be not worthwhile to avail station or Bus stand. So, I am absorbing complete M.G. and not moving any where. However, danger period is over and nothing to be worried.

I have written one letter to com. Sudhir and asked to arrange some safe place at Raipur. After getting reply from him I may go to Bilai as you advised me. I am doing well. Hope your health is alright. I am getting my allowances and sending my voucher for the month of Sept.

Yours sincerely

Mahon Das

from Com. in Rourkela

19.9.61

Dear Com.KG,

I have great pleasure to receive both of your letters. I am continuing my work with confidence but sometimes when some comrades hit my mind, I become mentally disturbed. That is why I wanted to discuss with Com.Dange. I may get some relief in my mind. Now I am coming to report.

At Rourkela now branches have been reorganised with a view to improve work among the operational staff. I am planning for Party Conference where Democratically a Dist. Committee will be elected.

Then, union conference. Now the union office has become a mess. Everybody is moving and spending money on their own, no accounts rendered, no proper office-hours, no coordination, etc. I am trying to develop one team for the union office, by the time of the union conference. Of course, it is a very difficult job because I have to function u.g. Uptil now Orissa FC has not taken the work here seriously.

I had a plan to finish the work here by the first week of October and go to Bhilai again but Com.Durga Mohanty is available only in the third week of October. Bhilai comrades are calling me to reach earlier. So I am unable to decide. Please advise me what to do.

Central CID has come to know my presence at Rourkela. After getting this news on 4th September, I left Rourkela. On 14th I came and discussed with Com.Ponda. Now I am keeping contact with some comrades through letters. I have spread the news that I left Rourkela. Just now it will not be worthwhile to avail station or bus stand. So I am observing complete ug and not moving anywhere. However, danger period is over and nothing to be worried.

I have written one letter to Com.Sudhir and asked to arrange some safe place at Raipur. After getting reply from him, I may go to Bhilai as you may advise me. I am doing well. Hope your health is all right. I am getting my allowances and sending my voucher for the month of Sept.

3.10.61

Received no answer to my last letter. Most probably you are busy. However, I am writing about some of the developments of Rourkela and Bhilai. Expect early reply.

ROURKELA - On 30th September, 617 muster roll workers have been retrenched and, of them, 500 are women. We have started agitation from 23rd September. First mass meeting on 23rd, second on 29th and third on 2nd Oct. All the mass meetings were very good. On 2nd Oct. we had a demonstration. Participants were about 400, mostly women. They demonstrated along the main sector streets. Our demand is for alternate job. About 2,607 workers will be retrenched altogether. The first phase is over. In support of our demand, we suggested the following vacancies to be filled up:
(a) Dairy farm department - about 300. (b) Vegetable farm - 200.

(c) raw materials department - for loading and unloading - 300;
(d) road construction department & - about 500; (e) Packing
section - about 100; and (f) fertilizer plant - about 1000.

~~Work~~ The management wants to hand over work of some of the departments to contractors. We know how defective would be work done by contractors. So demands are genuine and we have sent one delegation to the Orissa Chief Minister headed by Com.Ponda. Delegation has not returned till today. I am expecting tomorrow or day after. In this case, I want to mention that Orissa flood made people worried and all the retrenched personnel are Oriya. On the other side, about 600 armed forces have reached Rourkela.

Our speeches in mass meetings are tape-recorded. Management with the help of local police officers want to create terror among the workers. However, I have instructed to keep peace among the workers. Because Rejas are mostly adibasis and they are very militant. From previous experience I can say that if we fail to control them, they can go to the extreme. Because situation is tense, I am requesting you to see if you can do anything in the centre. Let me know as early as possible.

BHILAI - Just now I have received one letter from Sambal along with other papers. You also might have received the same. The news is not a surprise to me; it is only the implementation of the notorious M.P.Act. I am tempered with the situation at Jamshedpur. I know how to tackle the situation. So on the basis of my experience, I am writing to Com.Sambal and another letter to comrades. But you try to take up the issue with the Ministry concerned. We always fight for our trade union rights. Another thing you take separately, i.e., retrenchment issue. When expansion plan has been taken up by management, why are they then planning retrenchment? Remaining works-charged personnel are all skilled hands and experienced. See how it can be stopped.

Because Rourkela situation is very bad, so at present, I am not ~~leaving~~ leaving for Bhilai, though I have not received any letter from Com.Sudhir till now. This is all for the time being. Hope I will be called soon. Rest when we meet.

6.10.61

You might have received my letter dated 3rd Oct. I am narrating the latest position and programme taken by us, line suggested by me, as below:

1. Cuttack delegation headed by Ponda met Dy.Chief Minister, Mr.Biren Mitra and discussed the whole situation. He has agreed to give decision after spot inquiry. For that he sent Director of Employment, Orissa and Labour Commissioner, Orissa, on the spot on 4th Oct.

2. Our delegation met, discussed, but without any solution. Again, tomorrow one delegation is going to Cuttack to meet and finalise the issue with Biren Mitra.

3. Management is adamant. They are not ready to give alternative job to the retrenched persons, though avenues are there.

4. Government indirectly offered us to give alternative job in the railway construction which is going to be started on the line from Bondamonda to Dandakaranya. But we have

not accepted because then workers' right for employment in the Rourkela steel project will be finished.

Our movement is going on peacefully. On 4th evening, there was a mass meeting attended by 1500, where we have explained everything. We placed before the workers that it is a first victory that immediately Government representatives came to Rourkela and visited the area, etc. We have congratulated workers for their peaceful movement. We have appealed to the workers for our union membership. Already we have collected more than Rs.1500. I am expecting more.

We have taken the following tasks from tomorrow:

- a) Leaflet and postering;
- b) All the workers should be divided into 10 groups;
- c) Meeting with the Ministry again and come within 10th;
- d) On 11th, extended union executive meeting and plan for collection door-to-door from 12th. (Of course, preliminary work will be done before).
- e) If Cuttack talks fail, then Com.Ponda will go to Delhi with two or three representatives to meet with Central Ministers. Of course, he will ring up from Cuttack to you.
- f) After coming from there, we will plan for satyagraha.

Detailed discussion will be done by Nityananda there with you.

I had a mind that if this movement succeeds, then my next move will be to serve strike notice to the management for immediate increase of wages, DA, etc. I am anxiously waiting for your reply with suggestions. Other things are all right. It is upto date development.

Regarding Bhilai, I sent one detailed instruction to them which will be placed in the Bhilai Council meeting. No letter received after that from Bhilai. Hope you are in good health. Rest in the next.

Oct. 3, 1961

Dear Com.Bonda,

Thanks for your letter of 22nd
September.

2. I have consulted Com.Dange and
he is of opinion that you should pay advance
from your funds. We shall, as promised, pay
Rs.1000/- later on.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G.
(K.G.Sriwastava)

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA—1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R. S. M. U

I. R. No. 559	F-9001	1961
File No.	Replied on.....	Dated. 5-10-1961.

To
Comrade K. G. Srivastava,
Secretary, AITUC

Dear Comrade,
Namaskar. I hope you must have received the resolution passed at the public meeting of 23-9-61 and our memorandum to the Dy. Chief Minister of 1-10-61 on the retrenchment of Muster Roll and work charged workers. A delegation of 8 representatives had called upon the Dy. Chief Minister Sri Biran Mitra and had presented that memorandum. He promised us to send some high officials to enquire on the spot. The Director of Employment Orissa had come here and had heard our facts. We are again going to Bhubaneswar on 8th. to pursue the matter further. If no settlement will be arrived at then a delegation of three may proceed to Delhi within a week or ten days. Received the copy of your letter addressed to the Steel Minister.

Meanwhile there were three more public meetings with processions. Leaflets are in the press and posterings is also being done. Com Mohanty has not yet come. He is busy after Hirakud & Chowdwar affairs. At the height of such a movement we need some one's guidance on the spot preferably from ~~an~~ a M.P. We have requested com. Elias. You also instruct him to proceed soon here. It would have been

better if com. S.M. Banerji could be sent here. kindly do the needful.

After a long lull we have again come into the forefront. A success is not impossible as these 3000 M.A. workers can be reinstated in the existing construction works. Only the H.S.C. has to change its policy giving those construction works to contractors. This time a success means so much. So you will help us by sending either com. Elias or com. Banerji or both. Most probably we will be coming to Delhi kindly inform the Steel Minister before hand. We are also intimating him from our end.

Received the cheque for October.

With greetings

yours fraternally
Kityanandboda
General Secretary.

2 As you know Elias is drawing more, no H.P. would be able to bear his cost. Kindly let 2 com: Elias can come to a day or so.

189
P. M. need the decision of H.S.C. at Ranchi also. That is important because the H.S.C. should this does everything on the same lines

189

October 14, 1961

Com.Nityananda Ponda,
Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union,
ROURKELA 1

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your letter of the 5th inst., with regard to the movement against retrenchment. We are awaiting to hear from you the results of deputation to the Dy.Chief Minister and the details about the present position.

As you know, since elections are drawing near, no M.P. would be able to leave his constituency. However, you may write to Com.Elias directly at Calcutta and find out if he could come for a day.

In connection with the retrenchment issue, we would suggest that you have a deputation to meet the HSL authorities at Ranchi also. This is important since the Ministry at this end does everything only on HSL Ranchi recommendations.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

U.S.

(K.G. Srivastava)
Secretary

To

^{deputy}
The Chief Minister of Orissa,
Bhubaneswar.

268-B

Rourkela

Honourable Sir,

1. Our delegation of 8 representatives of workers of Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela, are calling upon you to represent you the case of the workers against the threatened retrenchment of Muster Roll and Work Charged workers. At the outset we have to thank you for this kind interview granted to our delegation.

2. The authorities of H.S.L. have decided to retrench 3145 Muster Roll and Work Charged workers with effect from 3.10.61. This number consists of a large number of male and female mazdoors, and some Worksarkars, mates, survey Khalasis, Keymen, Chowkidars, Water Suppliers, Masons, Carpenters and helpers etc. All of these workers had worked hard for the last 5 years right from the time of clearing the site and laying the foundations of this huge steel plant. Some of their brethren had died in accidents due to lack of safety measures. All of them are highly experienced and hence valuable workers for the steel plant.

3. The H.S.L. authorities, as usual, contend that there is no more work for these workers. But, sir, facts speak otherwise.

(a) Firstly, about 4000 workers are yet to be recruited to fill up the permanent standing force of this plant. The third blast furnace, a part of the rolling mills, the fertiliser plant, the dairy and vegetable farms are awaiting to be commissioned soon. All of these workers can be absorbed in this regular work.

(b) Secondly, even now all the construction works have not yet been completed at all. About half of the residential quarters, construction of the remaining portion of the fertiliser plant with its separate township, about half of the roads, the drains in the plant, repairing of rail tracks including packing, loading and unloading of raw materials, removing of wastes,

wastes, maintenance of roads - all this temporary work on hand is a rich avenue for fruitful employment of these workers till they are absorbed in the regular set up.

(c) But that is all a small part of the total employment potential in comparison with the huge extension work scheduled to start in January, 1962. No sensible employer would prefer to lose the experienced services of his existing workers on the eve of extension. While in Bhilai, the H.S.L. has retained the services of 6400 Work Charged workers, it would be a tragedy for the workers and the management, if the authorities throw out this small number of workers at Rourkela. In that case our 5 year plan will be defeated in its aims of planned employment.

4. While on the one hand the authorities claim that there is no more work, on the other hand the loading and unloading of raw materials, as well as construction of roads and buildings have been transferred to profiteering Contractors. Now tenders have been invited even for packing and repairing of rail tracks, which is now done by these very workers. This is a conclusive proof against the claims of the authorities of no more work.

5. Now any one can see that there is work, enough work to keep employed all these workers and even more. In fact what the authorities don't want to tell is that, all this work should be given over to contractors. The motive is, more profits to Contractors with a safe share in the loot to some of the officials without any risks, responsibility and botheration to these princely officers of the State Sector. While in Bhilai the departmental strength of the construction workers was 28000, it was only 8000 in Rourkela earning thenotoriety to Rourkela as a contractors' paradise. Now they are out to sacrifice the interests of this small balance of workers to the flames of their personal greed. They have systematically built a Capitalist Sector right in the State Sector works. That also explains for the serious construction

construction defects in Rourkela. As for our workers, sir, they have a right to work there so long work is available. The H.S.L. authorities have no right to retrench and starve out those patriotic workers who had built this plant with their sweat and blood right from its very difficult days of inception, so long work is available.

6. As for the vacancies in the regular set up, a group of officers in the personnel department of H.S.L. are highly interested to sell these vacancies to outsiders. The only way they can do it is by removing the best claimants for those jobs who are now in Muster Roll and Work Charged. It is an open secret that even a low paid job in H.S.L. fetches a bribe of Rs.300/- at the time of recruitment.

7. The ex-resident Director Sri M. Ganapati had assured the workers last year that there will be no retrenchment and all the existing Muster Roll and Work Charged workers will be absorbed in the regular set up. But his successors have chosen to flout that solemn assurance. They have created a muddle in their recruitment work by absorbing a large number of juniors and even outsiders in the regular set up. Highly senior female mazdoors were ignored to be recruited as regulars into suitable posts like sweepers, raw material lifters, and cleaners of machines and wastes. This muddle of the H.S.L. authorities has burnt their last boat for retrenchment. Now any retrenchment of seniors amongst casual workers will be illegal u/s 25 G of the Industrial Disputes Act, when their juniors in regular set up are retained in the same categories.

8. Above all, these workers, one and all, belong to Orissa and to the quota of employment reserved for Orissa. Some of their homes and fields have been washed away by the severe floods of this year. Some more have no homes and fields as they are displaced persons of Rourkela. It would be really inhuman ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~, sir, to retrench them ignoring the human aspects of the problem. We are afraid that this cruel and unwise move of the H.S.L. authorities to throw out these Oriya workers may even provoke a provincial riot, a riot between Oriyas and non-Oriyas, which you and our Union leaders detest most.

9. In conclusion we beg to submit, sir, that such a retrenchment will be wholly illegal and unjust, provocative and dangerous. This is not simply a problem of 3145 workers but a problem affecting the prestige and interests of Orissa at large. No Oriya can tolerate this retrenchment while non-Oriyas are given preference and retained in a plant situated in Orissa. You, sir, who represents Orissa have a great responsibility in this matter. The Orissa Government which is in charge of labour relations and law and order, has a grave responsibility to prevent the H.S.L. authorities from precipitating a catastrophe. We are afraid that this cruel and unwise move of the H.S.L. authorities to throw out these Oriya workers may even provoke a provincial riot, a riot between Oriyas and non-Oriyas, which you and our Union leaders detest most.

10. Our demand to stop retrenchment is not at all a sectarian demand from the view point of labourers only. Our demand, on the contrary, is to prevent attempts to sabotage the Five Year Plan, against attempts to cripple the State Sector, and against corruption in the State Sector. Our demand is as patriotic and national as it is pro-labour.

11. Now that the retrenchment orders are to be executed on 3.10.61 unhappy developments will not wait. Powerful circles in the management are at work to precipitate a tragedy at Orissa. You, sir, who represents Orissa have a great responsibility in this matter. The Orissa Government which is in charge of labour relations and law and order, has a grave responsibility to prevent the H.S.L. authorities from precipitating a catastrophe. We are afraid that this cruel and unwise move of the H.S.L. authorities to throw out these Oriya workers may even provoke a provincial riot, a riot between Oriyas and non-Oriyas, which you and our Union leaders detest most.

(5)

at Rourkela and drag your new Government to more and unpopularity. On the other hand in a resolution passed unanimously at the public meeting of 23.9.61 the workers have expressed their determination to resist this illegal, unjust and traitorous retrenchment to the last. At such a grave hour we fervently appeal to you and through you to the Orissa Government to immediately issue stay orders upon this retrenchment before 3.10.61 pending further examination of the problem on a tripartite basis, and thereby save the peace and justice in Rourkela, for which act of kindness we shall ever remain grateful to you.

Yours faithfully,

1. Nityananda Panda,
General Secretary,
Steel Mazdoor Union, Rourkela
2. A.K. Das, Worksarkar
3. Krushna Chandra Jena, Worksarkar
4. Indramani Sahu, "
5. Kashinath Parida, Mate
6. Sombari Sahu, Mazdoor
7. Chandra Bali, Mate
8. Srimati Baso, Female Mazdoor

Copy to the Editor New Age Weekly for favour of publication and informing him hereby that the Dy. Chief Minister Sri Biren Mitra assured our delegation to send immediately a high power committee consisting of the Director of Employment Orissa and the Deputy Labour Commissioner to inquire and report on the retrenchment problem.

Nityananda Panda
2-10-61
General Secretary,
Steel Mazdoor Union
Rourkela.

129 SEP 1961

RESOLUTION.

268-B

No. 347 Date

Proposed at the public meeting held at Abagan, Rourkela.

No. 23.9.61

The management of Hindustan Steel Ltd. has now threatened 3145 workers engaged in construction and operation under the name of Master Roll and work charged with retrenchment. These workers had worked hard under very trying conditions - without proper wages, proper housing and leave facilities in constructing and running this huge steel project since the last 5 years. All of them are experienced and hence valuable workers. If any of them are retrenched it would mean the height of unpleasantness and lack of foresight.

It is well known that the extension of the plant is scheduled to start in January 1962. Secondly about 4000 workers are yet to be recruited into the regular establishment to fill up the standing force. Thirdly the construction of the remaining residential sectors and some roads have not yet been completed. Loading and unloading of raw materials has been unnecessarily given to profiteering contractors. Now tenders are invited even for packing and repairing of railway tracks which was previously done departmentally by these very workers. Fourthly the Fertiliser Plant, the Dairy Farm, the vegetable farm need recruits.

While in Bhilai 6400 work-charged workers are retained for extension work it would be harmful for the workers and management if this small number of workers are retrenched in Rourkela before extension. As such there is abundant employment potential ready on hand to keep these 3145 workers engaged fruitfully. In the face of such hard realities any retrenchment of these workers would not justify the lame excuses of the management that there is no more work; At best it can justify the aspirations of some of the officers of personal Department to benefit themselves by selling the existing vacancies to outsiders. It is an open secret today that a low paid job in H.S.L. fetches a bribe of Rs. 300/- at the time of recruitment.

Above all, these workers entirely belong to Orissa, and to the quota of employment reserved for Orissa. The homes of most of them have been washed away by floods. The proportion of local people taken in Rourkela is far less than in Durgapur or Bhilai. One can reasonably question the management as to the little that was allotted to Orissa, was it only to retrench and throw into the streets? It is not only an issue which concerns the 3145 workers, but entire Orissa at large.

Lastly this retrenchment would be wholly illegal in as much as it will certainly violate section 25 G of the Industrial Dispute Act as that section does not differentiate between regular and casual workers. That section only differentiates between categories of workers. Any retrenchment of seniors in master roll cannot be carried out with impunity while the juniors in regular establishment are retained.

With all humility this meeting warns the management of the serious legal and labour complications involved in this proposed retrenchment. The workers are determined to resist to the last any such illegal and unjust retrenchment.

This meeting therefore appeals to the management and Government, especially the Orissa Govt., to intervene immediately and desist the concerned authorities from their proposed retrenchment, failing which they alone will be responsible for any bitter unpleasantness that may ensue.

Proposer :- (Nityananda Panda)
 Seconder :- (Bhubani Panigrahi)

Passed unanimously

Sd/ Ganesh Ratho
 President of the meeting

Copy to Smt S.A. Dange M.P.
 General Secretary A.I.T.U.C.
 N. Panda 25/9/61
 General Secretary
 Steel Mazdoor Union
 ROURKELA

Dear Com. K. G.

3.10.61

Received no answer of my last letter, most probably you are busy. However I am writing you below some of the developments of Rourkela and Bhilai. Expecting early reply.

Rourkela. — On 30th. September 617 master roll workers has been retrenched. Out of which about 500 are female. We have started agitation from 23rd September. 1st. mass meeting on 23rd. second on 29th. 3rd. on 2nd. Oct. All the mass meetings are very good. on 2nd. Oct. we had a demonstration, participants were about 400, mostly female. They demonstrated among all the main sector streets. Response is good. Our demand is for alternative job. About 2607 workers will be retrenched altogether. 1st. shift is over. In support of our demand we suggested the following vacancies before the management. A) Dairy farm department about 300. B) Vegetable farm - about 200. C) Raw materials department for loading and unloading - about 300. D) Road construction department about 500. E) Packing section - about 100 and F) Harbinger plant - about 1000. Some of the departments work management wants to give to contractor's. We know the contractor's work how defective. So, demands are genuine and we have sent a delegation to Orissa chief minister headed by Com. Nityananda. Delegation has not returned till today. I am expecting tomorrow or day after tomorrow. In this case I want to mention that Orissa plant made female workers and all the retrenched personnel are Orissa. In the other side about 600 armed forces has reached at Rourkela. Our speeches in the mass meetings are tape-recorded. Management with the help of local Police officers want to create ~~terror~~ terror among the workers. However, I have instructed to keep peace among the workers because Rajas are mostly Adhibasis and they are very militant. From the previous experience I can say that if we fail to control them they can go in to the extreme. ~~However~~ Because situation is tense, so I am requesting you to see if you can do anything in the centre. Let me know as early as possible.

Bhilai: — Just know I have received one letter from Com. Gambal along with other papers. You also

2
might have received the same. The news is not surprise to me, it is only the implementation of the NOTORIOUS M.P. Act. I am tingled with the situation at our jamshedpur. I know how to tackle the situation be, on the basis of my experience I am writing to com. samrat and another letter to comrades. But you try to take up the issue with Ministry concern. We always fight for our Trade union rights. Another thing you take separately i.e. retrenchment issue. When expansion plan has taken by the management and work is going on then why they are planning for retrenchment? Remaining work is largely personnel are all skilled hand at the same time they are experienced. See how it can be stopped.

Because Rawakela situation is very bad so at present I am not leaving for Bhilai, though I have not received any letter from com. but till now. This is all for the time. Hope I will be called soon. Best when we meet.

Yours

Mohan Das.

M.P.

I am in hurry so if there is any mistake in the sentence so please correct it.

6. 10. 61.

Dear Com. K. G.

You might have received my letter dated 3rd oct. I am narrating the latest position and programme taken by us, line suggested by me in the below.

1. Cuttack Delegation headed by Netijamanda met deputy chief Minister Mr. Birun Mitra and discussed the whole situation. He has agreed to give decision about spot inquiry. For that he sent Director of employment, Orissa and Labour Commissioner, Orissa on the spot on 4th oct.

2. Our Delegation met, discussed, but without any resolution. Again tomorrow one delegation is going to Cuttack to meet and finalise the issue with Birun Mitra.

3. Management is adamant. They are not ready to give any alternative job to the subinched persons. Though avenues are there.

4. Government indirectly offered us to give alternative job in the railway construction, which is going to be start one line from Boudamunda to Dada - Karanya. But we have not accepted because then workers right for employment in the R. Steel Project will be finished.

Our movement is going on peacefully. On 4th evening there was a mass meeting, attended by 1500. Where we have explained every thing. We placed before the workers that it is a first victory that immediately Government representatives came to Raurkela and visited the area etc. We have congratulated workers for their peaceful movement. We have appealed the workers for our union membership. Already we have collected more than Rs. 1500/-. I am expecting more.

We have taken the following task for tomorrow.

- A. Dealt and Posturing
- B. All the workers should be divided in to 10 groups.
- C. Meeting with the Ministry again and come within 10th.
- D. on 11th. Extended union executive meeting and Plan for Collection Door to Door from 12th. (of course preliminary work will be done before).
- E. If C. H. K. L. L. K. B.ails then com. Nitya nanda will go to DELHI with 2 or three representatives to meet with central Ministers. Of course he will ring up from Cuttack to you.
- F. After coming from there we will plan for ~~S~~ satyagraha. (Detail discussion will be done by Nityananda there with you).

I had a mind that if this movement succeeds than my next move will be to serve strike notice to the management for immediate ^{increase of} wage, P.R. etc. I am anxiously waiting for your reply with suggestion. Other things are alright. ~~It~~ -
It is up to date development.

Regarding Philai I sent one detail instruction to them which will be placed in the Philai council meeting. No better received after that from Philai. Hope you are in good health. Rest in the next.

your
Mohan Das.

C-3



2070

A. I. T. U. C. 1961
 I.P. No. 4123
 File No.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No.

Received here at.....H.....M.

268-13



EX SC 35 HOORKELA 21 23 AITUCONG NEWDELHI

=REFER MY EXPRESS LETTER THIRTEENTH 1000 RUPEES DRAFT NOT

REC'D TILL TODAY QUOTA LAPSES 25 TH HENCE EXPEDITE DRAFT IMMEDIATELY

INITYANANDPONDA

Admission file

*Me
-19/11*

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign, telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

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I. A. P. Delhi-5-61-17,000 Books.

C-3



6087



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No-

Received here at.....H.....M.

0 VL 115 ROURKELA

23

AITUCOLG NEW DELHI.

A. I. 25 NOV 1961
I.P. No. 622
File No. 1961

... HINDUSTAN STEEL MANAGEMENT TODAY TOTALLY REFUSE TO REINSTATE AN SINGLE RETRENCHED WORKER IN UTTER DISREGARD OF DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTERS APPROACH AND THEIR OWN STOMISE STOP PROVACATION COMPELLED WORKERS TO START MASS SATTYAGRAHA FROMTOMOBROW PRAY INTERIME AND KIX REINSTATE .

NITYANANDPANDA MAZDUR UNION ROURKELA.

COPIED KS 1/20

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

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S. A. P. Delhi-3-61-17,000 Books.

268-B

MUSTER ROLL WORKERS SATYAGRAHA

The H.S.L. authorities have retrenched the Muster Roll Workers and given over the construction works to contractors. This amounts to unfair labour practice and is illegal. A number of meetings and processions have been staged by the workers against this injustice. Protests have been published in all the newspapers of Orissa and in some English Dailies. 2 delegations of workers had called upon the Deputy Chief Minister Sri Biren Mitra on 1st and 11th of October. We are highly grateful to the Honible Minister for the sympathy and attepction with which he had considered our problem, at a time when he was in a precarious condition for being injured in a car accident.

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

During the second interview on 11th, after a prolonged discussion he had placed a solution, (1) that how far these workers can be engaged departmentally should be examinid on a tripartie basis (2) that he remaining workers should be engaged under the contractors in the existing rates of wages etc., (3) and that in any regular vacancies arising till the completion of construction work they should be given first preference according to their seniority.

The demand of the workers, that the remaining construction works should be done departmentally, is also the directive of the Five Year Plan. A Government wedded to socialism should naturally execute its works departmentally in its own plant and and not by crntractor. The solution given by the Dy. Chief Minister is far below this just demand. Even such a solution is also not accepted by the H.S.L. authorities. Therefore the Action Committee of the workers has decided to launch a pleace ful satya-

graha if their demand for reinstatement is not accepted within a week. Really there is no other way out.

The Regular workers also have no permanency of service. Some of them are recruited with a contract of six months or one year. There is a conspiracy to take in new workers in their place after the completion of the contract period. As such the regular workers should support this satyagraha with men, money & ideas. After this struggle the Mazdoor Union will launch a big campaign for increase of pay and abolition of contract service of regular workers. We again appeal to the Dy. Chief Minister to boldly press the Central Govt. for the withdrawal of this unnecessary and unjustified retrenchment notice.

Batakrishna Panda Working President **Nityananda Panda** General Secretary

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

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C-3

268-P



A. I. C. U. I.

R. No. Date 2-10-61

No.

30A



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

No.

Received here at _____ H. _____ M.

0 1A 2 BHUBANESWAR NC 30 AITUCONG NEWDELHI

..HINDUSTAN STEEL ROURKELA ARBITRARILY AND ILLEGALLY RETRENCHING
ORIIYA WORKERS IN MUSTER ROLL AND NONE CHANGED AND HANDING OVER REMAINING
CONSTRUCTION WORKS TO PROPITEERING CONTRACTORS STOP XXXX SITUATION
DANGEROUS AS MANAGEMENT PROVOKING SERIOUS LABOUR TROUBLE STOP OUR OVER
DELEGATION AWAITING CHIEF MINISTER AT BHUBANESWAR STOP PRAY INTERVENT
AND ISSUE STAY ORDERS PENDING EXAMINATION OF RETRENCHMENT ON TRIPARTITE
BASIS...NITYANAND PONDA MAZDOOR UNION...

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MGIMP. No. —680— 4-7-59—89,210 Bks

00PD

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA-1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R.S.M.U.

Dated 13-11-1961.

Receipt.

Received Rs. 150/- Rupees one hundred fifty only towards subsidy for the month of November 1961 from the All India Trade Union Congress.

Nityananda Panda.

GRAM : HIRAUTO

CUSTOMERS' CARS ARE DRIVEN BY OUR STAFF AT OWNER'S RISK.

PHONE : 227

HIRAKUD AUTOMOBILES

AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERS

Head Office : SAMBALPUR

AUTHORISED DEALERS FOR :-

WILLYS JEEP

HINDUSTHAN AMBASSADOR & BEDFORD TRUKS

LAMBRETTA SCOOTER.

ROURKELA

Ref. No. MB/1423/61

Dated 11. 11. 1961

Regd. With A.D.

Sri Nityanand Panda,
General Secretary,
Steel Mazdur Union,
Bisra Road,
Rourkela.

Dear Sir,

Re: Your Order for one new Lamb.
48 C.C. Scooterettee against
Bank Guarantee No. LG/37/14/61
dated 31.10.61 for Rs. 250/-

With reference to your above order you
are requested to take delivery of 1 one unit new
Lamb. Scooterettee after registration and payment
of cash Ex:our Show Room, Rourkela, at an early date.

Thanking you and awaiting your sharp
compliance, we are,

Yours faithfully,
For, HIRAKUD AUTOMOBILES,


MANAGER.

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA

Ref No. R.S.M.U.

A. I. T. U. C.		SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)
L.R. No. 6274	Date 15 NOV 1961	
File No.	Dated 13-11-1961	

To

Comrade Secretary,
A. I. T. U. C.

Dear Comrade,

Kamaskar. The retrenchment problem has reached a successful conclusion. All the 448 retrenched workers were almost daily attending processions and meetings in some part of the steel town or other. Their iron solidarity was maintained and used as a weapon in the struggle to the last. The sympathy of the regular workers and the general public was also mobilised. About Rs. 300 was collected from the public while the workers themselves contributed about Rs. 2200/=. Our representatives had to call upon the Dy. Chief Minister Orissa on three occasions. The two press conferences held at Cuttack, though somewhat costly, paid rich dividends in publicising our cause. Our cause was straight — that construction work is not yet completed and these workers were retrenched because their work was given over to contractors, hence we demand abolition of contractors from civil works and reinstatement of these 448 workers. The fact, that these workers are one and all belong to Orissa, was also played up cautiously without antagonising
P. T. O.

ROURKELA STEEL PLANT UNION

Reg. No. 231

the non-Orissa sections. The Orissa Govt. was anxious to avoid a showdown on such an issue. Last but not least we had consciously posed the Orissa Govt. as sympathetic towards our struggle and that only the H.S.L. authorities are adamant.

After working out the organisational preparations a delegation of 8 called upon the Dy. Chief Minister on 1st Oct. He ordered the Director of Employment and Asst. Lab. Commissioner to proceed to Rourkela on the next day and submit a report after enquiry. Their report was not helpful. Yet we did not prefer to attack that report to avoid dragging the Orissa Govt. against us. We sent a second delegation of 2 on 11th Oct. to the Dy. Chief Minister. We concentrated our fire on the engaging of contractors. In the presence of the Lab. Com. he agreed that Orissa Govt. would request the H.S.L. to reinstate them departmentally or under their contractors under the same conditions of service. We considered ourselves to have won the first round. Returning from there we requested the Asst. Lab. Com. to conciliate the dispute on the basis of the Minister's assurance. The management then asked him to wait till they sent their representative to enlighten him with their part of the version.

We then started a terrific propaganda

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA-1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R.S.M.U.

Dated 196 .

that the H.S.L. is not agreeing to the proposals of the Orissa Minister, which are far short of our demand. Hence we threatened the management with Satyagraha. Meanwhile full scale preparations went up to ~~defy~~ forcibly block the gates of the administrative building and court arrest. All retrenched workers were enrolled into batches of satyagrahis. Rehearsal of Satyagraha in the shape of demonstrations went on day and night with flags and mabals at the Bixra Road junction near the factory through which all the traffic passes. It was quite impressive. Police pickets were posted nearby. It was a regular preparation on a peaceful war footing or a sort of cold war, you can say.

Meanwhile the H.S.L.'s foolishness in sending their Lab. Welfare Officer was taken advantage by us. We took note of this poor show. We immediately sent a telegram to the Sy. Chief Minister saying that, that officer is supposed to defend labour interests and not to ~~to~~ openly defend management. Secondly not sending one of their executive officers ~~is~~ means showing scant respect to the Orissa Govt. and this grave problem of retrenchment. Hence no interview be given to that fellow.

P. T. - 0 .

ROURKELA STEEL MANDOPOR UNION

Ref. No. 231

That long telegram worth about Rs. 15, somehow caught the imagination of the minister. He of course met the fellow, had a brief talk and plainly told him to send their executive officers soon. The new Orissa daily "Kalinga" of Biju Patnaik gave a two column headline from "General Manager Summoned to Bhubaneswar" to settle retrenchment problem. By that the management's morale got dampened. Our union representatives were also invited to Bhubaneswar by the Dy. Chief Minister to attend that high level conf. on 2-11-61.

The high level conf. was attended by the biggest guns of the management — the Gen. Manager, the Senior Dy. Gen. Manager and the Dy. Gen. Manager (Personnel). The Dy. Secretary for Rourkela Affairs, the Lab. Com. and the Dy. Chief Minister represented the Govt. From our side com. Mohanty, myself and Bala Krishna Panda had attended. After some discussion on the legal and moral aspects of the problem the Dy. Chief Minister intervened and told the management that apart from legal considerations it is his firm request to the H.S.K. to take the workers back, ^{at least on humanitarian considerations.} He quickly pointed out that a mere request by him may not serve the workers' purpose. He then asserted

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ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA-1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R.S.M.U.

Dated 196

that his is the request of a Minister with all its practical implications and he told us to rest assured that H.S.L. will honour that request. The Sr. Dy. General Manager agreed to implement that request to the best of his ability. The Minister then concluded that if the H.S.L. authorities give due importance to this problem it would not at all be impossible for them to accommodate this small number of workers in such a big undertaking. In the course of the talks the management had disclosed that after our agitation they had decided not to retrench the rest 2700 workers in Muster Roll. You will agree that this is certainly a victory for our organisation here. I had participated in all the three delegations and had led the talks from our side. In the course of this agitation the differences with Bata Panda had been pushed to the back ground. He had worked hard to mobilise the workers from in close cooperation with Com. Ajit Roy. Com. Mohanty, badly though badly tied up in a mess at Chowdar, had attended the last and decisive conference on 2-11-61 and had lent his weight and talents to our delegation. The workers and their group leaders had remained united and peaceful to the last. The attempts of the Rourkela Mazdoor Sabha (H.M.S) to split the workers had miserably failed. The INTUC was silent all along.

ROURKELA STEEL MANDOR UNION

Reg. No. 277

We are now pursuing the ~~settling~~ settlement in its implementation. We are first giving suggestions to absorb the retrenched into regular posts. These proposals are under the examination of the Senior Dy. Gen. Manager, who is an Orissa officer of Indian Managerial Pool cadre working in the past in I.L.O. at Geneva and has recently joined here. He is quite a liberal and honest officer. In personnel affairs he would wield final power. After the search for regular posts is exhausted the balance of retrenched workers will be employed under the contractors of H.S.L. as it is now the firm policy of the Steel Authorities that all construction works both of the back log and of extension will be hereafter done by contractors.

We have succeeded only in one aspect of our demand — that of taking back the retrenched. But we have not yet succeeded in the other aspect of the demand — that of abolition of contractors in civil construction. We preferred to postpone our struggle on the latter aspect of our demand for a more opportune ~~more~~ moment, when the 3 plants can combinedly fight together and on a higher plane. The problem of reinstating these 448 workers should not be unnecessarily linked with that bigger struggle, we felt.

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O. / H. O. ROURKELA-1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R.S.M.U.

Dated 196 .

Soon after the successful culmination of the anti-retrenchment struggle we found the regular workers astir. On the historic day of ~~the~~ 7th November, the day of the first successful workers' revolution, the entire workers of both the blast furnaces and ~~the~~ about 2/3 of Steel Melting shop spontaneously struck work demanding extra wages if they work on that plant holiday of ~~the~~ Diwali. The strike was complete for all the 3 shifts. Immediately we contacted our workers and got into touch with the Blast Furnace workers most of whom like us and asked them to prepare and remain united against any counter offensive from the management. As anticipated most of them were chargesheeted on the next day (8th). While bulk of the chargesheets of Blast Furnace came to our union a small number went to the JNTUC and the bulk of the S.M.S. went to H.M.S.

Immediately we wrote to the Senior D.G.M and the Dist. Labour officer to withdraw these mass charge sheets. We told the workers not to hurry up in writing explanations and wait till our demand for withdrawal is discussed in a conciliation. The conciliation took place on 10th. The last day of answering the charge sheets.

BOURKEA STEEL MANDOR UNION

The management agreed with our argument that in the absence of special notice to work on a declared plant holiday the workers felt themselves to avail the holiday and that there was no intention to defy orders to work. They agreed to drop the charges and not penalise anybody. But they wanted that the chargesheets should be formally replied. We expressed that all these chargesheets cannot be replied for physical difficulties. The management then asked us to answer them collectively - 15 or 20 workers signing in one sheet of answer. In the public meeting booked for the evening of 10th we proudly announced this achievement and asked the workers to formally sign the explanation sheets.

It so transpired on the next day that only half the workers turned up to sign our sheets. The rest, we learnt afterwards, had coolly signed the cyclostyled sheets of I.N.T.U.C. and a few of even H.M.S. Though the other two unions had no ~~est~~ conciliation and agreement to their credit, we had that. But they had started issuing explanation sheets to workers to right from the evening 8th. My suggestion

- 9 -

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA—1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R.S.M.U.

Dated 196 .

not to lag behind in this respect, and to get our explanation sheets signed first and then negotiate for a settlement to drop the charges, was stoutly opposed by Coms Ajit Roy and Bata Panda, accusing me of the crime of constitutionalism, negotiation-ism. Even when ~~the~~ some of the workers approached us in anxiety for the explanation sheets, they brushed them aside. They were intoxicated with the wide spread nature of the strike and preferred to take a strong line. I told them that these are new workers who have struck work in a disorganised way and were too eager to steal a holiday but no definite view of a struggle and to face the consequences impending. Having enjoyed a holiday on 7th they will be quick to retreat to a position of trying to extricate themselves some how from the pang of charge-sheets; and hence let us not overestimate their power of resistance. So our dose proved too strong for them. Out of about 140 charge sheets submitted in our office only about 20 came to sign our drafted answer.

ROURKELA STEEL WORKERS UNION

Reg. No. 531

Both of them learnt this costly lesson and admitted their fault. Yet we got these 70 workers comparatively solidly is a gain on the whole. We have decided to contact the others soon as factually without reminding them in the least as to why they did not turn up to us. In that case there would be no problem of keeping aloof from us for the sake of saving their face.

The differences with Sri Bata Panda have got patched up in the course of hectic activity of last two months. Inactivity is a factor that breeds differences. Let us hope better for the future, though nothing is very certain.

Out of the funds collected in the anti-retrenchment struggle I was able to pay ~~to~~ Rs. 250 for the advance of the of the auto-cycle on 31-10-61. Fortunately I could get the quota soon from the local Lambretta Agent Mr Hirakud Automobiles. The total cost of the auto-cycle is Rs. 1350/=. I am now enclosing herewith their intimation letter for your perusal... I have to release the auto cycle within a week from today, otherwise it will be allotted to some other man.

11

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O. / H. O. ROURKELA—1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R.S.M.U.

Dated 196 .

So the transaction depends on your expeditious remittance of the promised Rs. 1000/= I therefore request you to ~~send~~ ^{to send} a Demand Draft for Rs. 1000/= in favour of M/s Hirakud Automobiles, Rourkela on any one of the four local banks (state Bank of India, Rourkela or United Bank of India, Rourkela or Punjab National Bank, Rourkela or United Commercial Bank, Rourkela). Only these four banks have their branches in Rourkela and I am having my account with the United Bank of India. M/s Hirakud Automobiles have informed me that they can accept a D.D. on any of the local banks only. So kindly do the needful quickly and oblige.

How is the health of comrade Dange and when can we expect him here?
with greetings.

yours fraternally
Nityanand Das
General Secretary.

268-B

B

Nov. 21, 1961

Dear Com.Ponda,

Thanks for your letter of 13th Nov.

Com.Dange came here on 19th and left for Bombay on 20th Nov. He has asked me to inform you that he is not in a position at the moment to send you anything. When funds permit, we will see to it. See if you can take time from the firm.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Kh.

(K.G.Sriwastava)

November 27, 1961

Dear Com.Ponda,

Your telegram of 25th on the satyagraha launched by retrenched workers. We are representing the matter to the Ministry.

Com.Elias has gone abroad for a meeting and no MP is available at present who could undertake any tour to Rourkela. You will have to conduct it on your own and we wish you success.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

mg

(K.G.Sriwastava)

Com.Nityananda Ponda,
Rourkela.

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA—1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R.S.M.UMr 368

Dated 1.12.61. 196

To

The Chairman,
Board of Directors,
Hindustan Steel Ltd.
Rachi.

268-B

A. I. T. U. C.
I. R. No. 4327 Date 6 Dec 1961 ...
File No. Replied on

Sir,

In confirmation of our talks during the kind interview at 9 30A.M. on 1.12.61 at the Rourkela House given to 3 representatives of our union the General Secretary Sri Nityananda Panda, Working President Sri Batakrishna Panda, Secretary Sri Ajit Roy where the Senior Dy. General Manager Sri P.A. Das was also present, we beg to submit the following.

Repeating what we had submitted in our written memorandum to you, we had pointed out that the retrenchment was unjust and illegal as the construction works have been given away to contractors ~~xxxx~~ completed, and that the balance of construction works have been given away to contractors. We had also pointed out the claims of these workers to regular jobs in the plant, especially where contractors have been engaged in the manufacturing process of the plant. Upon this you expressed the difficulty of managing the construction works and preferred to concentrate on production of steel only at first. You also expressed that what can be done by contractors in the private sector should be allotted to them. We of course pointed out that it is not healthy to harbour the private sector right within the heart of a public sector project. We agreed that the Govt. can give away some projects altogether to the private sector. On the whole you and Senior D.G.M. expressed that it is the laid down policy of the Steel Board to engage contractors in the balance of construction works and also the extension works. We were quick to point out that given that right to the management the security and conditions of service of the workers cannot be disturbed, and you have to keep them under you or your contractors. That is the right of the workers, where upon the senior D.G.M. said that the contractors have already engaged their own workers and are unwilling to take in these workers. You expressed that you cannot force the contractors to engage these workers.

As for the contractors in the manufacturing process the senior D.G.M. pointed out that when such is the practice

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA-1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R.S.M.U. (2)

Dated 196 .

also in the Tatas he cannot remove them. He also pointed out that some of these works are temporary. We requested to engage these workers at least as long as such works exist. But the senior D.C.M. was against removing the contractors as a matter of the policy of the Steel Board.

You then asked akza as to what had transpired before the Dy. chief minister on 2.11.61. We explained that the senior D.G.M. ably had argued the case of the management to engage contractors and there was no agreement on that point. Where upon the minister had requested the management to reinstate these workers at least on a humanitarian consideration and the management had agreed there to try ^{their} best. We continued that according to the amicable understanding reached before the minister we had met the management and placed our specific suggestions of absorption, but unfortunately the talks failed on 23.11.61. as the management refused to take back ever a single worker. Since then the workers are sitting day and night with their babies in their arms under the open sky and severe cold. You then suggested that, if 20 days was not sufficient for the management to try to take back these workers, we should have given them more time. You advised both sides to forget the past and think anew. Expressing profound pity for their sitting in this cold you agreed to reconsider their reinstatement sympathetically. At the end you expressed that you are not convinced about the points of law and policy matters in our memorandum; ~~but~~ you agreed that their reinstatement will be reconsidered by the management on humanitarian grounds. We agreed that if these unfortunate workers are taken back we need not contest on these matters of law and policy.

Upon our request to take back at least some of the workers immediately so as to ease the present atmosphere and help us to persuade the workers to return to their homes, you asked us first to end the present sitdown demonstration.

The talks then ended cordially and had all along proceeded in an extremely cordial atmosphere. No where during the talks had you allowed us commoners to feel that we were talking to the highest officer of a mighty institution the Hindustan Steel Ltd. In conclusion we thank you again for the above talks and assure you of our sincere cooperation in makin

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA—1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref No. R.S.M.U. (3)

Dated 196 .

the Rourkela Steel plant a success not only in the interests
of the workers but also the nation at large.

Your faithfully

Kityananda

General Secretary.

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION.

C-3

No.



3164



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Received here at ---H---M.

0 0 52 ROURKELA 12

AITU CONG ND.

- HSL RETRENCHED MUSTERROL EMPLOYEES SATYAGARHA AND
 HUNGERSTRIKE CALLED OFF TODAY ON LABOUR MINISTER AND SENIOR
 DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGERS ASSURANCES

-- ROURKELA STEEL WAZDOOR UNION --

CPD AT 23.30 HRS.
S

A. I. T. U. C.
 I. R. No. 4453 Date.....
 File No..... Replied on.....

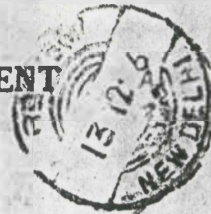
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 I.A.P. Delhi-1961.

C-3

2010



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT



Received here at _____ H. _____ M.

X T (19.00) 68 ROURKELA 12
ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS NEW DELHI.....

HUNGER STRIKE BEGINS TOMORROW AGAINST INJUSTICE BY STEEL
MANAGEMENT

SATYAGRAHI S ROURKELA

45728
48254

COPTAT 27 55 HRS "D"

A. I. T. U. C.	
I. R. No. 4444	Date..... 20/12
File No.....	Replied on.....

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.
I.A.P. Delhi-1961:

268-B

ORDINARY

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

BISRA ROAD

ROURKELA

NITYANANDA LEFT DELHI FOURTEENTH DECEMBER

AITUCONG

25/12

C-3

No.



815



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Received here at H. M.

182
= 0 SF 51 ROURKELA 22 15 SRIBASTAV ALL INDIA TRADE UNION
CONGRESS NEWDELHI.

= WHERE IS NITYANAND = ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION =

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.
I.A.P. Delhi-1961.

ROURKELA STEEL MAZDOOR UNION

Reg. No. 237

P. O./H. O. ROURKELA-1

SUNDARGARH (ORISSA)

Ref. No. R.S.M.U.

camp :- New Delhi.

Dated 14-12-1961

To

Comrade S. A. Dange
General Secretary, A.I.T.U.C.,
New Delhi

Dear comrade,

Namaskar. Sorry for not being able to see you at Delhi where I had come to represent the case of the retrenched workers to the Union ministry of labour. It was not much of a success, because of the coming elections. But this visit will help us to overcome the impasse in this retrenchment problem.

The next quota of an auto-cycle is expected to arrive towards the end of December. The dealer Hinakud Automobiles had asked me not to fail to honour this quota for which I had already deposited Rs. 250/- with them. I hope you will be able to send the amount after your return from the Soviet Union. Had it been open sales I would not have pressed you so much. I am worried

200-0
Raurkela 15.12.61

Dear Com. H. G.

You might have reached by the time this letter reaches you. I am giving you the picture for Raurkela and Bhilai and ~~and~~ advise me as early as possible.

Raurkela: - Hunger strike started from 13th morning in front of the Administrative gate. This movement is a lost one. I don't find any reason that why com. Nityamanda had started satyagraha ~~for~~ started with Rajar since 24th Nov. Before and after there was no propaganda except gate meeting. Now general workers sentiment is that "union leaders are giving unnecessary trouble to the Rajar" Reaction should have been against management. In this movement management successfully coped up. Now there was no other alternative except face saving, that is why I agreed with hunger strike problem. Up till now there was no arrest. I am expecting soon.

In the other side works Committee election is going to be held soon. I am concentrating myself on this left till now I could have been able to set up 7 candidate out of 10. Out of which 4 Party Comrade, one ex Party Comrade and 2 in our sympathisers. I am concentrating all most all the key departments, such as Blast Furnace, Coke oven, Traffic, Steel Rolling, Rolling Mill and Central Repair Shop + Garage. I am expecting at list 4 or 5. All necessary organisation has been set-up. I have given slogan for Works Committee election as a key task before the com. leaders along with propaganda for Hunger strike etc.

Bhilai: - you might have seen my previous letter on Bhilai in which I stated about election. After 25th mass meeting held at Bhilai with com. Vasudevan Naik, we have decided to hold "Workers Convention" on 23rd. & 24th Dec. All necessary propaganda meeting are going on. In this convention Com. Dange's presence will be very much

helpful. I am told that Com. Dange has given responsibility for election campaign in Chhittigar area from the national Council of the Party. If it is a fact then occasion of Workers Convention will be good for him. If 23rd. and 24th. is not possible for him then it can be shifted to 30th. and 31st. Dec. But in that case you have to inform me earlier. If in any case Com. Dange is not available then you arrange for Com. Indrajit Gupta or Com. Parvati Krishnan or Com. S. M. Banarjee or you think better for the occasion. If possible send Kedar from Gaushtapur or Taher Bhai from Buraipur. This Convention will be start for coming election, though candidate is not in our hand up till now, but I am told by Sudhir that candidate will come at the time of Convention.

Once I told you that Bhilai union General Secretary Com. Sambal Chakrabarty may leave Bhilai. That assumption became the fact. He got one job at Howra and he is living in this month. Of course after convention. We discussed this matter and all comrades agreed. At present there will be no general secretary. Work has been divided among comrades. I will manage the show without general secretary. So, in the month of January money should be sent to Com. Harindhan

I am leaving on 20th. from Raourkela for Bhilai. Therefore request to you to send your reply within 20th. Dec. on the following address. In case if you will not be able to send before that, then send to Bhilai address. I am anxiously waiting for your reply. Next time we meet, you can send answer by express.

Address:-

Sri. Subal Mukherjee

349/C. Sector. 16

Raourkela-3

List number of mine

Yours cordially

Motoni Das

Dear Com. K. G.

Raurkela. 18.12.61

By this time you might have received my letter dated 13th. Dec. I am leaving for Bhilai on 20th. so contact me through Bhilai address.

Master Ball - Hunger strike has been withdrawn day before yesterday and yesterday there is a talk with Sarga Mohanty with Senior D. G. M. and Labour Minister Orissa. There is a decision in the labour implementation committee which was held on 16th. & 17th. that inquiry will take place on the basis of 19th. Tripartite decision. Assistant Labour Commissioner will report within a month. One basic point has been decided apart from assurance for reemployment within 2 1/2 months. This time they (management) may implement. Sarga Mohanty is going today evening. One strange thing has happened that Com. Nityananda left for Delhi via Ranchi on 6th. morning but up till now there is no news from his side. Please inform Raurkela Union Office regarding his whereabouts if it is known to you. Now entire strength has been thrown for works committee election. Other things are alright. Rest when we meet. Yours Mohan Das.

Dear Com. H. G.

Bhilai 26.12.61

It is a high time that I am not getting any reply from you. I don't know what is the reason. However I must expect this time because situation is such you might have informed that Com. S. R. Dange has agreed to come over Bhilai ^{Convention} on 6th & 7th January. But detail has not fixed. Please contact and let me know, when and what time he is reaching at Nagpur? Whether he is coming by train or we will have to arrange car ~~from~~ bringing him - from Nagpur to Bhilai (15-6 miles)? Whether Com. Dhas or Indrajit is coming or not? If you are not able to contact him then let me know his whereabouts and his phone no. etc. so that we can contact from this side. But in any case you let me know the position as early as possible.

I made detail plan for the convention already we have collected nearly Rs. 1000/- more I am expecting before the convention. Demonstration, Procession has been arranged. 200 to 300 delegate from Bhilai, 7 to 9 from Raurekela some from Bargarh, Com. Kedar or Amjad from Jambhampur is expecting.

Please let me know if you have any information about Com. Nityamanda Panda. Before coming from Raurekela I have set up all types of organization for works committee election. I am expecting 5000 of 10. Please let me know about above points as early as possible. Rest when we meet. Hope you are doing well. Yours

My address:-
Mr. P. K. Borman

sector 4. Dist. Div. M. P.
Po. Bhilai

N. Chandra Rao. Rep. 11/11

Pondhe.

Bhilai. 26.12.61.

I don't know whether ca.
K. S. is there or not. You please see my
letter addressed to ca. K. S. and let me know
the position. Because I am taking one
important issue in Bhilai, so regular
information is required. Looking
to the importance please contact me
and let me know about the position.
Hope you are doing well. Rest
when we meet.

Yours

Ramesh Mukherjee

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

President: S. S. MIRAJKAR.
General Secretary: S. A. DANGE, M.P.

4/56/61-LRIV
9.12.61
G. Jayaraman

December 10, 1961

Shri L.N.Mishra,
Deputy Minister for Labour & Employment,
Government of India,
Ministry of Labour & Employment,
New Delhi.

Re: Serious situation in the Rourkela Steel Plant,
Retrenchment of 448 workmen.

Dear Sir,

This is to draw your kind attention to the serious situation that has arisen in the Rourkela Steel Plant due to the sudden and unjustified retrenchment of 448 workmen, among whom there are 386 women workers, on September 30, by the management of the Hindustan Steel Ltd.

These workers were engaged directly by the Hindustan Steel and were engaged on permanent nature of work such as maintenance of road, railways, pipe and cable trenches and so on. Most of these workers had put in 4 to 5 years of service. As you would remember that most of the workers engaged on these and other types of work have been absorbed in the regular set up of the Rourkela project, we find no justification of leaving out this batch of workmen from the regular set up on the plea "of completion of work" which has been advanced by the management as the reason for this retrenchment.

This plea is not correct and it is a fact that still one third of the construction work of roads, residential quarters and such civil engineering work are yet to be completed. What is most surprising in the situation is that while the management has put forward the plea of completion of work to justify the retrenchment, these works which were being done departmentally have been made over to the contractors who have put in new labour in place of the old workers who have been retrenched. Even in the extension project, these workers have no priority and contractors are putting their new workers leaving these retrenched workers out.

The Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union represented the matter of reinstatement of these retrenched workers before the Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Orissa on October 1, 1961. An enquiry was ordered by him and accordingly, the Director of Employment and Assistant Labour Commissioner, Orissa visited Rourkela on October 3. Following submission of the enquiry report, the representatives of the workmen again saw the Minister. A conciliation proceeding was held on October 13 at Rourkela by the Assistant Labour Commissioner but it did not yield any effective result and the management did not agree to take these workers back.

On November 2, 1961, the Dy. Chief Minister of Orissa called both the parties - composed of the General Manager, Senior Deputy General Manager and Deputy General Manager (Personnel) representing the Rourkela project and some of the representatives from the Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union, jointly discussed the matter. Following discussion, the management

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55, GIRGAON ROAD,
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अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD,
NEW DELHI.

President : S. S. MIRAJKAR.
General Secretary : S. A. DANGE, M.P.

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promised to try their level best to reinstate these retrenched workers.

The representatives of the union submitted their concrete proposals for absorbing these workmen after having returned to Rourkela. After 20 days of negotiation, the management finally refused to reinstate any worker or to provide them with any type of employment and went back completely on their gentlemen's agreement.

These retrenched workmen are literally starving and they are waiting for favourable decision of the management but nothing is forthcoming except straight refusal to take back any one.

The Chairman of the Steel Board, who visited Rourkela on December 1, agreed that the management should reconsider the matter and at least on humanitarian grounds provide the retrenched workers with employments.

but
Further negotiations were started/on December 4 but against the management refused to take back any of these workmen.

We are sure you would agree with us that to dispense with the services of workmen having 4 to 5 years of service to their credit, is not a fair proposition and it is all the more unjustified because of the fact that contractors have been appointed to complete or continue these works which the retrenched workmen were doing, with the help of new workers. Some of these jobs are in the manufacturing process or incidental thereto and there is absolutely no reason why contractors should be appointed there. This action of the management violates the principles agreed upon in the matter of employment of contractors, in the 19th Indian Labour Conference.

We would therefore request you to kindly use your good offices to bear upon the management of the Rourkela Steel Project and see that these retrenched workmen are immediately taken back to work. The management of Rourkela Project should be made conscious of the principles of the Tripartites and should be informed that such actions, as taken by them, are unbecoming of a Public Sector undertaking.

We would request you also to take a personal interest in the matter and do the needful at the earliest so as to relieve these workers and their families from the untold hardships which they are facing today.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(T.B.Vittal Rao) M.P.,