

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI.

File No. C-9

SUBJECT RESOLUTIONS. (DRAFT)
(INDUSTRIAL)

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AITUC DIGITAL ARCHIVE - 2021

Folder Code: 5 File No. C-9 S. No. _____

Digital File Code: _____

File Title: Industrial Resolutions of the 2nd
Session of AITUC

Year: 1960-61 / _____ / _____

Metadata: Scanned:

Note: _____

Viscose Rayon Industry

this 26th session of AETUC expresses its deep concern on the working conditions of the workers in ^{viscose} Rayon Industry. It takes note of the fact that Govt of India's ~~own~~ recommendations of the survey report (11th March 57) are not being implemented & this ~~to the detriment of workers~~. Causes ~~to them~~ great harm to their health.

The Rayon industry which is minting unprecedented profits in relation to its investment, has a very low considered wage (wage plus DA) the effect of which is that both basic wage & DA are very scanty in this dangerous industry.

this industry which is chemical one affects workers' health adversely because of gas and acids used in big way & therefore this session emphatically draws attention of Govt. of India to the survey report & demands the implementation of its recommendations, in full, without further delay.

This session also demands that the classification of grades & categorization be based on tripartite agreed minimum of Rs. 125 P.M. as the capacity of this industry is beyond doubt. The special skilled grade should begin with Rs. 250 as minimum. & the span of grade should be not more than 10 years & declare this industry as dangerous one.

This session further demands that -

(i) this industry should have a 5 hrs working day as per Govt. of India's survey report.

(ii) viscose rayon industry be declared as dangerous one.

(iii) to protect workers' health the management should provide ~~adequate~~ milk & other amenities as per survey report.

This session calls upon the workers in this industry to unite on national plane & ~~jointly~~ ^{unitedly} work ~~to~~ & struggle to force the Govt of India & the management to implement the recommendations of the survey report & improve wage structure.

NATIONALISE THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

The foreign oil monopolies have been gloating that India is forced to import over 90% of the petroleum products consumed in the country either as crude oil or refined ~~xxxx~~ products. They further gloated that when the proposed Govt. refineries are put into operation some two years from now, and crude oil is drawn from reserves in Assam, India will still continue to be forced to import about 70% of its requirements. Unless additional reserves are located and drawn on, this 70% will again rapidly climb to the present more than 90%.

The consumption of petroleum products at present is around 60 lakhs tons and even at a ~~xxxx~~ modest annual (recurring) rate of increase of 7%, it will amount to one crore tons and more in 1965, and ~~xxxx~~ perhaps 120 to 150 lakhs based on Planning Commission estimates.

About a hundred crores of rupees from India's ~~xxxx~~ foreign exchange resources have to be utilised to meet the present imports of both crude oil and refined products. ~~xxx~~ This drain on foreign exchange will increase four-fold by 1975.

These grim facts of the foreign monopoly grip on one of the most vital sectors of our economy and defence, obliged the Govt. of India to take up the development of ~~State~~ India's oil industry in the public/~~sector~~ which naturally unnerved the foreign oil monopolists.

But the Govt. of India, divided wit in itself, ~~xxx~~ some of whose ministers rightly want our independent oil industry to grow, while ~~some~~ others in the same Government oppose it and from within help these foreign monopolies, would not allow any drastic measures against the foreign monopolies.

The friendly help and technical know-how as well ~~xx~~ as the training facilities offered by socialist Soviet

Union and Rumania who have rich experience of developing their oil resources at a fast developing rate in all phases of petroleum industry, viz. prospecting or exploring, producing, refining and distribution, placed the Govt. of India in a position to challenge slowly the monopolistic grip of the foreign oil companies. The entire people of India rejoiced at the successful strike of oil in Cambay region of Gujerat in which India's oil technicians were assisted by Soviet and Rumanian specialists. Soviet and Rumanian monetary credits on terms favourable to India further helped the Govt. to take up the construction of oil refineries in Guahati and Barauni and the further prospects of locating a refinery in Jamnagar Gujerat. The big team of Soviet specialists now coming to help us in various ways open up the prospects of India's liberation from foreign economic stranglehold in petroleum industry, no more remaining a dream of the Indian people but a practical possibility of the immediate future.

All these developments and the declarations in 1956 of organised petroleum workers under the aegis of the ALL INDIA PETROLEUM WORKERS' FEDERATION that the continuance of Petroleum distributing industry monopolised in the hands of the four foreign companies Burmah-shell, Standard-Vacuum, Caltex and Indo Burma as a part and parcel of private sector, was a menace to the planned economic progress of India under the Second Five Year Plan and therefore demanded the immediate nationalisation of the distributing industry, obliged the Govt. of India, under the further pressure of public opinion, to peep into the racketeering nature of the foreign business of petroleum industry, particularly the pricing methods and the structure of petroleum products prices.

A modest challenge of the exorbitantly profiteering character of the pricing system of the foreign oil companies not only led to many far-reaching revelations but also to considerable savings in foreign exchange and our revenue. It is known however that the oil companies are still resisting a full probe of their empire which will yield many more crores of rupees to

the Indian exchequer. In fact, the onslaught through their henchmen on the policy of the Govt. to further develop the petroleum industry only in the state public sector, has increased manyfold even while they are obliged to give up under the pressure of public opinion some of the key positions they are holding, i.e. the infamous Indo-Stanvac project which established a record for drilling dry holes mostly at the cost of the Indian taxpayer.

The audacity of the foreign companies reached its ~~high~~ ~~xxx~~ height when the Govt. of India in its anxiety to conserve our slender foreign exchange resources, proposed recently to the foreign refineries in Bombay that they utilise the Soviet crude oil which the Govt. could acquire not only at the cheaper rates but also on a rupee exchange basis. Their audacity in refusing to take the crude oil offered by our Govt. is motivated by single fact that even such minor change dictated by national interests will spell a further doom to exorbitant profiteering character of their business in India. This profiteering character had earlier been exposed in the surrender by Burmah-shell first and by Stanvac recently of the duty protection benefit which the oil refineries had dictated as a further measure of super profits to Govt. of India in the one-sided and colonial-type agreements imposed by them for establishing their refineries in our country five years ago. It is known also that Caltex refinery is still refusing to follow suit and is insisting on its ~~xxx~~ pound of flesh.

The 26th session of the AITUC declares that foreign oil companies have no more the right to hold India to ransom. The audacious challenges they are throwing to our Govt. from day to day have to be met and can be met. ^{are made} Efforts by the Govt. to control or regulate ^{foreign oil} interests ~~are~~ entrenched in many quarters of our economy and administration from where they are bound to thwart and sabotage the feeble steps taken by our Govt. as was witnessed recently in the manoeuvres and sabotage by Stanvac of the attempt by Govt. owned Indian oil company to switch our public road transport in the first instance to the cheaper Soviet high speed diesel oil, the first consignment of Indian-owned oil recently landed in Bombay and Cochin in Govt. owned storage.

The 26th session of the AITUC declares that national interests must prevail over foreign profiteering and sabotage.

The 26th session, therefore, demands that Govt. of India nationalise all the foreign holdings in the petroleum industry and assures the Govt. that the organised working class

of our country and particularly the organized petroleum workers will fully and whole-heartedly support such a bold step which has now become imperative.

The 26th session calls upon the entire working class of our country to campaign for the ousting of the reactionary foreign vested interests in this most vital sector of our economy.

RESOLUTION ON IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

The 26th session of the AITUC notes with pleasure the steady growth in building the steel base of our economy. Work on the three steel plants in the State sector ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ is nearing completion ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and the two steel plants in the private sector have ~~been~~ also completed their expansion and modernisation programme. The session also welcomes the decision to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ build a fourth steel plant in the public sector.

The session however notes with concern the fact that this increase in steel production though significant falls very much short of the target fixed for the end of the Second Five year plan and the requirement of rapid industrialisation of the country.

It has been possible to achieve this increase in the steel production because of the ~~the~~ Soviet Union was the first country to come forward and give us the Bhilai plant in the public sector on the basis of disinterested and friendly aid in most favourable terms for India. This initial help by the Soviet Union led others to render aid.

The session views with great concern the inefficient management of the steel plants in the State Sector which ^{has} led to the infiltration of extreme corruption and nepotism, denial of democratic rights and trade union liberties of workers, violation of labour legislations and workers deplorable conditions of living and working. Despite the situation workers have discharged their responsibility towards the nation.

The session calls upon the Iron and Steel workers to remain vigilant against the act of sabotage initiated by the capitalists of the private sector who are all out to discredit the public sector ~~in~~ in order to cripple its growth because it affects their monopoly.

The AITUC is vitally interested in increasing the production of iron and steel because it lays foundation of country's independent economy. The working class is also

interested in this because this will free the country from capitalist and imperialist dependency.

~~XXXXXX~~ The session takes note of the grave situation that the workers who have completed the giant blast furnaces steel melting shops, rolling mills etc by their hard labour and sincere discharge of duty are today faced with mass retrenchment and their rich skill and experience are being allowed to go waste without utilisation in other developmental projects.

The workers in the steel industry on whose shoulder rests the important task of manning and running of this vital industry, are today faced with a number of serious problems whose solution is immediately required;

The first question is that of retrenchment of the thousands of workers in Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur who have completed the construction work and who constitute the reserve of experienced and skilled workmen in our country.

The second is that of the complete insecurity of service of even the regular workmen and the operational staff in the three new plants who are employed on a contract basis for three to five years and whose services stand to termination without assignment of any reason. Hundreds of workmen have been discharged or victimised for trade union activities in this manner in recent months in Rourkela, Durgapur^{and} Bhilai.

3. The wage structure, D.A. and other Bonuses paid to the workers in the three Plants on the ^{one} hand and in Tisco and Isco works vary widely and even in new Steel Plants workers in the same designation are paid different wages and rates. While in Jamshedpur the workers ~~gained~~ won certain gains in the wages and D.A. after the strike struggle of 1958. the basic wages of Burnpur workers have not been raised for the last 13 years. The basic wages and grades of the ~~three~~ three Steel Plants are at a considerably lower level than those won in Tisco, and even there the wages (minimum) are much lower than the textile workers.

4. While in Burnpur, production Bonus schemes are being revised to the detrimental of the money earnings of the workers, the workers in the ~~three~~ three new steel centres are not paid any Bonus even in arduous jobs. In the new steel plants, open violations ~~of~~ of the existing labour laws, refusal to pay overtime etc. is still rampant.

5. In the course of expansion and modernisation of the two private steel Plants in Burnpur and Jamshedpur, there has been a tremendous increase in the workloads and reduction of the standard force, where production has been increased by about 60% with almost no increase in the labour force. While the total wage bill in Tisco has also increased by about 30% the same has not been the case with Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.

6. The three new Steel Plants being more highly mechanised are not employing the ~~the~~ same number of workmen as in Tisco and Isco, but there too the standard force ~~is~~ has been arbitrarily fixed at a lower level than what is required.

7. The employers in the private sector steelplants are also attacking the rights of the P.S. Bonus, which has been won in the course of ~~the~~ long years of struggle. This new attack is being made in order to deprive the workers of their share of the growing profits of the ~~new~~ employers obtained through ~~higher~~ increase in workload ^{by} expansion and modernisation programmes.

8. Trade union rights and liberties are also curtailed in all the Steel centers both in private and public sector and trade unions recognised and foisted which do not command confidence and support of the majority of workers. In Rourkela, A.I.T.U.C. union and its leaders are prosecuted for holding meetings on land owned by the H.S. L. In Burnpur, leaders and workers of the United Iron and Steel workers Union were prosecuted

in a number of cases over large number of years. Hundreds of cases ~~xxxx~~
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ were lunched against the trade Union leaders in
Jamshedpur following the struggle of May 1958, and even today many of
them are pending.

The overwhelming majority fo the 400 workers discharged
and dismissed for taking part in the peaceful strike of May 1958 in Tisco
have not yet been reinstated despite repeated assurances held out by the
Govt. of Bihar that it is opposed to the mass dismissal and the demand
to refer the disputes even to a tribunal has not been accepted.

This conference therefore demands that:-

I) Construction workrs facing retrenchment in Rourkela, Bhilai
and Durgapurbe absorved as far as possible in those projects Besides this,
a National Pool of these experienced and skilled workers should be formed
who should be employed in other construction sites without any break of
service.

II) The wages and D.A. in all the Steel plants should be
standardised at a higher level than that exists in any of the Steel centres
at present.

A wage Board for the Steel Industry should be immediately
constituted. Pending the formation of the Wage Board, campaign for an imme-
diatex revision of wagesx to equal thex highest paid in the Steel Industr
y on an adhoc basisbe launched in centres where no revision has taken
palce.

III) D.A. should be linked with cost of living index.

IV) Abolition of the system of service on contract and confir-
mation of all regular workers as permanent.

V) Strict observance and implementation of all labour laws.

VI) End of discrimination against A.I.T.U.C. unions.

VII) Reinstatement of workers discharged durring the last Tisco
strike of May 1958, and whose services have been terminated in Rourkela, Bhi-
lai and Durgapur in recent times.

VIII) Formation of elected works committees in all the centres
and recognition of unions only through plebascite

3. The basic wage, grade & scale of Dearness allowance & other bonuses paid to the workers in all the steel plants vary widely.

In the Public Sector new three plants are below ^{the minimum wages fixed} ^{the norms & even less than} the Private Sector steel plants. (Bhilai & Tata)

Workers doing identical jobs are named differently, paid differently & separately. There are no standardised terms for standard occupations. As a result workers doing identical jobs are paid differently (such an anarchic condition exists in all the steel plants). Tata workers due to the last struggle of 1958 gained increase in the wage structure but the Bhilai workers doing identical similar wages structure are deprived of that higher wages structure.

The basic wages, grade & scale in the newly built Public Sector steel factories plants are at a considerably lower level than those won in TISCO, even where the minimum wages average is less than Textile worker.

Though the enhanced retention price of steel is same for all the steel plants, it appears the wages are not same in all the plants.

(6) The Public Sector steel plants are not being employed ~~more~~ ^{mechanised}

Resolution on Plantation.

The 26th Session of the A.I.T.U.C., notes that even after 13 years of independence, the position in the plantation industry has not radically changed, so as to break the monopoly grip of the foreign British interests, better the conditions of the small growers and the lacs of workers. The foreign British interests are able to force the government to take such steps as would help to maintain the status quo even at the cost of our national economy.

This is glaringly seen in the non-implementation of the major recommendations of the Plantation Enquiry Commission, all the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act and the long delay in setting up the Wage Board.

The 26th session reiterates the demand for the nationalisation of foreign owned plantations, abolition of managing agency system, ^{nationalisation} and ^{of} houses, controlling the auction, ^{or restriction of the auction in India} ~~take over of the foreign trade~~ in plantation products.

non-Indian the brokers
Calcutta + Cochin

The session stresses that all the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act be implemented early with necessary amendments to the Rules thereto, so as to make the benefited more.

The wage structure in the plantations is irrational and far below the level of need based minimum. The session while noting the inordinate delay in setting up the Wage Board, strongly protests against the attitude of the Govt in showing discrimination

by giving representation only to I. N. T. U. C. The session demands that representation should be given to all the central Organisations and setting up of Wage Board for other plantation products. The session further stresses that in view of the fact that level of price has raised too much since the last wage increase was given, interim wage increase should be given pending the implementation of the Wage Board recommendations.

The A. I. T. U. C., through its 26th session, appeals to all the workers in the plantations, irrespective of their Trade Union affiliations, to forge unity to agitate for immediate interim wage increase and other demands not only to better their living and working conditions but also save the national economy from foreign imperialist grip.

ON SUGAR WAGE BOARD.

The 26th session of the All India Trade Union Congress after having given the serious consideration to the recommendation of the Wage Board for Sugar Industry has reached to the following conclusions:

1. That the anarchy existing since long in the wage structure of the industry has been ended after all and a definite system with regard to wage structure, categorisation, nomenclatures, allotment of responsibilities etc., has been adopted and for the first time in the industry the wages and the job assignments have been standardized.

2. That irrespective of the differences that may be existing in different regions with regard to the paying capacity a national minimum of Rs. 60-1-65 has been awarded and dearness allowance in all regions has been recommended to be linked with the cost of living indices.

3. That for the first time a common scheme of gratuity applicable to the whole industry has been recommended.

4. That all these above mentioned matters represent not only an advance in principle for the entire trade union movement but also represent substantial material gain to a large majority of low paid workers and therefore they are welcome.

5. That the AITUC regrets the fact that the Wage Board rejected even the most moderate demand of the workers for a national minimum of Rs. 110/- per month on the plea that the repercussions of such a wage increase would be disastrous to the rural economy. AITUC does not accept the plea of the Wage Board as sincere. It is still of the view that even according to calculations of the Wage Board and on the basis of the existing average price level the national minimum should be Rs. 110/-. This national minimum is possible of achievement in sugar industry because index of

*Wages of sugar industry -
national minimum -
The wage is for
one month's work
for one year's work
young men's industry*

profits after providing for tax had risen to 225.0 in 1957 (Base 1950 = 100), whereas the average of all industries was only 116.4 in the same year.

6. That the Wage Board argument denying adequate wage rise is further proved unjustified from the fact that in 1959-60 season sugar workers had not only doubled the production of white sugar in comparison to 1950-51 but also overfulfilled the target of the sugar production fixed for 2nd five year plan, while the productivity per worker has risen by 63% during the same period.

7. That the recommendation of the Wage Board for the wage-rise providing for discontinuation of the facilities and amenities like free housing, fuel, light, furniture etc., or compensation of all these in money value is the most mischievous attempt at extending benefits on the one hand and taking them away from the other hand and A.T.U.C cannot accept such a proposition for these amenities have been one by the worker after prolonged struggles and sacrifices.

8. That the scheme of gratuity recommended by the wage board falls short of many agreements that exist in the industry.

9. That the denial of retaining allowance to unskilled seasonal workers is more than unfair because skilled and semi-skilled workmen could even in the off-season could procure some employment, whereas the unskilled uprooted from the land in majority of the cases cannot find any other alternative employment.

10. That the Wage Board has not only refused to grant Railway fare allowance to the workers, but in fact attacked the same where the payment of the same existed as practice or through agreements or awards.

11. That the recommendation with regard to dearness allowance being increased or decreased in the period of twelve months over 10 points is similar to that against which

Central Government employees fought a heroic battle. The AITUC cannot accept the same in this sector.

12. That the workers are disappointed over the fact that Wage Board recommendation shall be not effective with retrospective effect, whereas they have all these years have been expecting the same.

13. The All India Trade Union Congress wishes to record the fact that its 26th session that the wage board has belied hopes of sugar workers and is the first wage board to deny the need based minimum wage recommended by the 15th Indian Labour Conference despite the fact that industry is paying capacity was unquestioned.

The All India Trade Union Congress demands that the Government Of India should immediately consider over the wage rise recommendations and make it effective with retrospective effect. The AITUC further demands that the facilities and amenities that are being enjoyed by the workers at present be not cut and should continue over and above the wage rise given by the Board.

The AITUC calls upon the workers of the Sugar Industry to prepare for a struggle to defend their present hard won facilities and for forcing the employers to effect the wage rise immediately.

The AITUC is further of the view that recommendation with regard to Bonus which is for North is now linked with profits should not be given effect to and payment of bonus based on production in accordance with in accordance with the L.A.T.I. decision should be allowed to continue.

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RESOLUTIONSON ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

The 26th Session of the AITUC has considered the situation in the metal and engineering industry of our country. It notes with pride that during the last few years and particularly during the Second Plan period, the metal and engineering industry has laid the basis and a solid foundation for development of the national economy and has made great strides during this period. In the Public Sector, three steel plants have come up, the Heavy Electricals has begun normal production and construction work is going on of the heavy machine-building, foundry forge and coalmining machinery plants. Besides, several engineering plants have also come up in the Private Sector. The two steel plants in the private sector, the TISCO and Martin Burn's at Burnpur have been expanded.

The session is happy to note that it is in the Public Sector that this industry has been growing. The Session also welcomes the feature of the Third Plan of building new and bigger metal and engineering industries in the Public Sector and developing the existing ones. It, in fact, rejoices that we are overcoming our backwardness in which the imperialists left us and still wish to keep us. It wishes to emphasise that the metal and engineering industry which is fast developing and in which nearly a million workers are employed at present, has a vital role to play in building and developing our national economy.

While noting the development of the industry during this period in the Public Sector, this session wishes to record that such development could take place due to the unstinted and large measure of assistance given by the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries. It expresses the feeling of gratitude to the Governments and peoples of these socialist countries who have been largely responsible in building the base of our heavy industry.

It is also a significant fact that during the same Plan period, both production and profits in the metal and engineering industries have increased by leaps and bounds. Production in metal industry has risen by 196.7% and in the engineering by 343.4% compared to 1955, and profits in these industries went up by 2.5 times and 3.5 times respectively.

The session draws pointed attention to the fact that this increase in production and profits could not have been there but for the fact that the workers in the industry have given their fullfledged cooperation and support. The Session, therefore, records its appreciation of the patriotic role that these workers have played in building the industry.

However, it is a matter of deep regret that these profits and production have gone only to enrich the few employers both in the public and private sectors and not to increase the standard of living or bettering the working conditions of the workers. Actually while the production and the profits were shooting up so high, we notice that there has been no rise in the wages of workers commensurate with the rise in production, much less with profits, that in some cases, there has been

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either a regular depression of real wages or wages have remained frozen at the same level.

In this industry, there is no national minimum wage fixed. As a result, in some factories, the wages are so low that they get only a starvation wage equal to a flat rate of Rs.2.50 per day in a City like Bombay and even less at other places. In others, where the wage is linked with the cost of living index number, the neutralisation against the rise is never or hardly 100 per cent, thus continuously bringing down the real wage to deteriorate the standard of living still further.

In some well-organised factories, the employers manage to get better production by throwing a bait of piece rates and other incentive schemes to the workers, so that they, in pursuit of higher earnings, work more intensely, with increased workload on themselves and ultimately caused suffering and damage to their own health and longevity in the last analysis.

In order to escape any liability of direct payment, and application of labour legislation, some employers engage contractors who, on their turn, extract work from workers on scandalously low wages and under horrible conditions. They also continue to label them as temporary even if they have put years of service in the factory.

The 'apprentice' is yet another category of workers who, in this industry, are openly exploited as cheap labour. While apparently professing that the apprentices are given opportunities of learning the craft or trade, the employers exact production work from them and pay them only a miserable stipend. Even their right to join a trade union is not given to them in the Apprenticeship Training Bill which is proposed by the Government of India.

The anarchy in wage structure is yet another factor, which has exposed workers in this industry to further exploitation. Workers doing identical jobs will not find the same designation for that job, nor the same rate of wages, no sooner their place of work is changed to a different factory or region. Grades, scales and differentials, all differ. There is no rational relation with the basic minimum wage which itself is not fixed on any rational basis. The minimum need-based wage fixed by the tripartite conference has only remained in cold storage and become a matter of ridicule for employers and also the Government's Labour Department everywhere.

The AITUC protests against this state of affairs and expresses its strong resentment at the callous indifference shown by the Government of India, which, in spite of being a party to the unanimous agreement at tripartite conference, does not still constitute a Wage Board for the workers in this industry. This conference emphatically states that Wage Board is the only solution which can put an end to the present anarchy and unrestrained behaviour of the capitalists and bring about some standardisation of occupations and set proper wage differentials.

A regular well-organised and unscrupulous attack on the workers and their trade union rights in the engineering industry has also become a specific feature of policy of the employers in both sectors, particularly in Public Sector, in some places. The employers in these places have made it a point to see that the young, intelligent and educated workers of this newly-developing industry do not form trade union organisations of their own choice. In some centres, pressure is put on them to join the INTUC or other unions favoured by the employers.

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The Session strongly protests against this vicious attack on the fundamental trade union rights of workers which is becoming an attack on the security of service itself.

This session warns the Government and the employers against the unfair labour practices and disruptive tactics that are being practised with impunity, in both the Sectors. Such practices will neither help the cause of the nation nor the industrialists themselves. It urges upon both the Government and private employers to put an end to such malpractices.

The AITUC therefore calls upon the engineering workers of the country to strengthen their unity and organisation so that the offensive of the employers could be defeated and the workers are able to fight for the improvement of their living standards and working conditions.

The conference further calls upon them to rally round the following demands and forge unity of action to realise the same:

1. Set up a Wage Board for Engineering Workers;
2. Give immediate rise in the present wage;
3. Link our Dearness Allowance with the cost of living index numbers.
4. Right to join a trade union and adequate training facilities to apprentices and ~~st~~ ends linked with the cost of living index number.
5. Recognise the unions which have the majority following, determined through secret ballot.
6. Stop all disruption and respect our trade union rights.

On Motor Transport Workers and Industry.

The 26th session of the A.T.V.C. notes that the Road Transport Industry is playing a vital role in the development of the National Economy but the policies being adopted by the Central and State Govts. are not conducive to the growth of this important Industry and the condition of workers employed therein are continued to be still exploited.

This session while welcoming 'Motor Transport Workers Bill 1960' which is already passed by the Lok Sabha, notes that although it is an improvement over the existing, it has failed to satisfy the workers of the industry. The Bill still maintains the 12 hour spread over which was introduced in the Motor Vehicle Act 1939 by the British Govt. to exploit the workers and therefore its continuance in a country which is wedded to socialism is regrettable. The city and hill services need more strain and therefore it is justifiable that the working hours in these services should not exceed 42 hours a week or 7 hours a day but the introduction of 48 hours a week in these services is regrettable.

The wage structure varies from place to place and the workers continue to be exploited although the Motor Transport Industry is earning heavy profits. The Minimum wages fixed by states have failed to do justice to workers in as much as the wages fixed have no relation to the cost of living index and the nature of work that the workers have to perform in the Industry.

While the A.T.V.C. welcomes the Nationalisation of the Motor Transport Industry, it is necessary that the workers absorbed should suffer no loss either in their wages or conditions and result in no unemployment. But in practice it is seen that the workers who are being taken as fresh candidates have to suffer heavy financial loss on account of nationalisation.

The attitude of the Govts. even from the point of view of the development of the Industry is not at all upto the expectation with the result that not only the Industry is put to serious inconvenience but also the workers are denied reasonable facilities and better conditions of service.

This session of the A.I.T.U.C, therefore, demands that :-

- 1, The Motor Transport Workers Bill 1960, which is under process of enactment, be amended to provide 10½ hours spread-over with 42 hours per week and or 7 hours of work per day for city and hill services.
- 2, A wage Board be appointed immediately by the Central for standardisation of ^{uniform} grades, scales and musters.
- 3, During the process of Nationalisation of Motor Transport all the workers employed in the Private sector be absorbed in the Public sector without any curtailment of the previous service conditions and wages.
- 4, The heavy taxes ~~imposed~~ on tyres and diesel oil be reduced.
- 5, The State sector of the Industry be directed to purchase the oil supplied by the India oil company and thus achieving the purpose for which the oil has been imported.
- 6, Automobile Industry with capacity to manufacture parts be setup in the Public Sector, thus helping the growth of the Industry.

Prof: N.D. Sundrival -

Secy: I. V. Rao

ELECTRICITY.

RESOLUTIONS:-

This conference while noting the considerable progress in Power Generation during the II Plan Period views with serious concern that the working ~~and living~~ conditions of more than four Lakhs of Electricity workmen are kept discriminatively low level. The country is on the eve of the third Five Year Plan, and it has been widely accepted that the prosperity of the people and the country depend basically on the quick advance of Industrialisation and modernisation of agriculture. These two basic needs depend on the ~~proper~~ proper utilisation of Power potential and the ~~conscious participation of the Power workmen.~~ Even after 12 years of the enactment of the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1948, ~~the basic aims of the Act have not been attended to either by the Government of India or the State authorities.~~ *have not considered this aspect* The aims of cheap production and rapid expansion are obstructed by the following factors (1) Several generation plants and distribution agencies are still in the hands of British and Private companies with maximum profits as prime motive (2) The extension and construction works are continued to be left in the hands of ~~greedy~~ contractors and (3) The schemes and Development works in the Public sectors are suffering from the System of obsolete methods of bureaucratic administration. More than 50% of the workmen under the State Electricity Boards are kept as temporary for over several years and even the statutory provisions of the Labour Laws are not implemented in relation to these workmen. The very bad Industrial relations hamper the prospects of ~~im~~ improving the efficiency of this public and utility Industry. *Wages* The provisions of the Code of Discipline nor the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on "State Enterprises" published in 1959 are accepted by the ~~statutorily constituted~~ *State* Electricity Boards in 9 ~~of the~~ States. The disparities of wages and other conditions of service *very* not only between the workmen under private companies and those of the Public sector but also between the workmen under the statutory Bodies in one state and another. Hence this conference demands that the following just needs of these workmen be conceded.

There are disparities in wages & other conditions of service for State & P.U.C.

1. WAGE BOARD:- This conference views with concern that the Union Ministry for Labour has not included this important industry of Electricity Generation, Distribution and transmission among the schedule of Industries warranting uniform and fair wages and other conditions of service. This conference demands that a wage Board be appointed forthwith to determine the wages, leave benefits, retirement Benefits and the quantum of Bonus based on the accepted principles of the Tripartite, for the Power workmen in India comprising both of private companies and the statutory Industrial undertakings.

2. NATIONAL MINIMUM:- This conference demands that a national minimum ~~of Rs. 125/-~~ be conceded to the Electricity workmen and suitable upgrading of other grades, thus recognising the importance of this industry and the valuable contribution being made by these workmen to the national progress to ensure the uniformity in the working conditions of the workmen and to put an end to the discriminatively low level of working conditions.

3. DEARNESS ALLOWANCE:- While sections of Electricity workmen in private companies are getting ~~the~~ Dearness Allowance at 100% and similar workmen in several regions are paid the D.A. at 25 NP, the vast majority of the workmen are kept at less than 12 Np and the level of wages is kept at starvation level. Hence the conference demands that the rate of Dearness Allowance to these workmen be linked to the cost of living index primarily on the regional basis ~~and thus end the present discrimination and in consonance with the accepted principles of "Equal Pay for Equal Work".~~

4. SECURITY OF SERVICE:- This conference demands that the present position of insecurity be ended forthwith in relation to tens of thousands of Electricity workmen who are kept temporary even after ~~ten~~ 10 to 15 years of service and the elementary benefits of leave, P.F. and Gratuity ~~denied to them.~~ *be granted* This conference urges that the workmen who have put in ~~more~~ more than 1 year of continuous service be accorded the same facilities as their ~~brother~~ brothers in other Industrial undertakings.

Contd.....

5. EXPEDITE NATIONALISATION AND DEMOCRATISE BUREACRACY! :-

Industry
This conference notes with concern that though the principle of nationalisation has been accepted ~~in~~ by the Government of India ~~to relation~~ to the Power ~~workmen~~, there has been a ~~marked tendency in~~ ^{marked} implementation of the same ~~that is hampering the maximum utilisation of power, resources as well as the Technical resources, and reducing the rate of cost of Power~~. Hence this conference urges ~~on~~ the ~~A. D. I.~~ to take comprehensive steps to complete the nationalisation of the companies within the 3rd 5 year plan period.

In this connection it has to be noted that all the private Companies such as Martin Burn & Co., Octarvious Steel Trust, Calcutta Electricity supply Co., have earned more than 20 times their share capital invested in the Industry by now and the payment of compensation should not exceed the present assets or the Book value.

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This conference further considers that the real benefits to the country ~~to the People by nationalisation or by Public managements~~ will be ~~very~~ little unless democratic ~~steps~~ ^{steps} are urgently taken and the Red ~~p~~ Tape, wastage and Maladministration are reduced to the minimum. As a first step the recommendations of the Parliamentary committee on state Enterprises ~~are~~ to be implemented in relation to this vital and public industry.

6. NATIONAL POOL FOR CONSTRUCTION OR PROJECT WORKMEN:- This conference feels that the present policies of the State and Central Authorities in respect of the construction & Project workmen constitute a grave threat to the maintance of Industrial peace ~~and the Directive principles of Labour policies embodied in the industrial Resolution approved by the Parliament.~~ ^{with heavy remuneration} At the end of 5 to 10 years of ~~equal conditions of service to the national progress, tens of thousands of construction and Project workmen are mercilessly thrown to the pangs of unemployment and starvation. To put any end to such unfair labour practices resorted to even by statutory statutory Bodies, and to ensure the voluntary co-operation of Lakhs of workmen in the tasks of national reconstruction, This conference demands of the Government of India to constitute A NATIONAL POOL of Labour Force and thus ensure the continuity of service and transfer of the workmen from one project to another and payment of unemployment Relief during the periods of interval.~~

This conference of the 26th Session of the A. I. T. U. C. calls upon the Electricity workmen all over India to organise themselves better and forge greater links of solidarity with the rest of the organised workmen towards attaining the ~~above~~ ^{above} just demands.

MOVER:- SRI: S.C. KRISHNAN (TAMILNAD)

SECONDER:- SRI: MARKANDEYAJHA (WEST BENGAL).

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ON ORGANISATION OF

ON NATIONALISATION OF PRIVATE AIRLINES.

The 26th Session of AITUC notes with regret the delay in complete nationalisation of private non-scheduled airlines and urges upon the Government of India to nationalise all private air lines without any further delay to guarantee that no employee will be retrained at the time of nationalisation.

ON THE FAILURE OF N.C.D.C.Ltd..

The 26th session of the AITUC emphasises its deep concern over the failure of the National Coal Development Corporation, a public sector under-taking to achieve the 2nd plan target of coal production.

A target of 60 million tons of coal production was fixed in the 2nd Plan. But the Coal industry as a whole will not reach beyond 52 million tons at the end of the 2nd five year Plan. This means that the coal industry as a whole has failed to achieve the Plan target. But the failure of the N.C.D.C., which is mainly responsible for the production of coal in the public sector is greater and more deplorable. This necessitates enquiry into the affairs of the N.C.D.C. so that the same story is not repeated in future.

In the opinion of the AITUC the main reasons of the failure of the NCDC are as follows:-

- Duplicate*
- i) Absence of advance planning
 - ii) bad maintenance of machineries as a result of which nearly 50% of the newly purchased machines are idle in the main producing centre
 - iii) groupism among the officials
 - iv) discriminatory cadre policy
 - v) favouritism in the appointment to the supervisory and executive posts.
 - vi) some of the key officials being under the influence of big contractors who themselves are big coal mine owners
 - vii) ~~corruption~~ all round corruption and lethargy
 - viii) careless and anti-labour policy of the officials towards the key production workers in respect of their ~~scale~~ scales of pay, promotion, categorisation, housing, water supply, light, medical facilities etc
 - ix) discrimination against the majority union i.e coal workers union has not been recognised even after it majority following was proved in the verification done under the code of discipline
 - X) frequent breakdowns in the newly created washeries

LOCAL BODIES RESOLUTIONS.

This 26th session of the All India Trade Union Congress expresses its grave concern at the continued refusal of various state governments, Local Bodies ~~employers~~ to apply to their employees even the accepted norms in the matter of service and working conditions. Lakhs of employees of these local Bodies are, therefore, perpetually subjected to sub-human standard of living; paid a miserably low wage of Rs.14/- per month in many cases and with only a nominal D.A. Lakhs of employees in every state are denied permanency and security of service, kept as temporary hands for as long a period as 20 years; denied the benefits of Provident Fund, Medical Aid, Promotions according to seniority, annual increments etc. In fact, for the employees of most of the Local Bodies in the country, there are no proper scales of pay and no service regulations.

Most of the Labour Laws are not made applicable to them. Hours of work, Over Time payments are not being regulated. Protection is being denied to them even under the Industrial Disputes Act. Although employees of Local Bodies are covered under the Minimum Wages Act, a number of State Governments have taken no steps to determine the minimum wages admissible to them.

This Session therefore demands:

1. Wage Boards be set up at State level to go into the question of revision of grades of wages in accordance with the principles laid down in 15th Indian Labour Conference.
2. That all temporary, work-charged, contingency staff of all Local Bodies be made permanent with all benefits.
3. That Labour Laws including Industrial Disputes Act be made applicable to local bodies employees.
4. That the social benefits like provident fund, gratuity and pension schemes should be provided for the local bodies employees.
5. That the G.O. by the Central Government in respect of housing for local bodies employees ~~shall~~ ^{should} be implemented as early as possible.

Local Bodies Resolutions.

6. That ~~this conference resolves to urge upon~~ the Central Govt. and also State Governments ~~to provide sufficient funds to meet the growing exigencies of local bodies by ear-marking~~ ^{to enable Local Bodies to meet expenses of finding necessary amenities} adequate allotment from Motor Vehicle Tax, distribution of Electricity and also handing over of Motor Transports and also levy of octroi and other duties.

7. This 26th of A.I.T.U.C. appeals to all the workers of local bodies to unite for the fulfilment of the above demands and proposes to observe a demands day on 15th March to draw the attention of Authorities concerned.

Resolution

Resolution on Beedi, Cigar & Tobacco industries
adopted by the delegates of the unions concerned.

The beedi and cigar manufacturing are the main industries in India, where lakhs of workers are employed.

The trade mark ~~holders~~ owners with the sole view of escaping from implementing various labour legislations brought for the welfare of the workers like Factories Act, Industrial Disputes Act, Minimum wages Act, Shops & Commercial Establishments Act etc. have wilfully split up the factories into branches, outwork, Contract etc.

The workers employed in the Beedi & cigar industries in various states ^{are} agitating for the last many years for bringing some form of legislations to provide them the benefits as workers employed in any other industries. The Madras Government brought a legislation to protect the Beedi workers employed in this industry. The owners of the industry are making arrangements to escape from the provisions of the Act throughout the state of Madras after the Act came into force.

There are three million workers engaged in these industries all over India and they are deprived of the protection and amenities contemplated by the various labour legislations, and they are working in a very miserable condition. In order to solve the problem once and for all something had to be done on the national level.

Therefore this abn. session of the AITUC strongly believe that a central enactment is imperative to improve the working conditions and security of work etc for the workers engaged in these industries. By such a legislation, the present systems of Branches, outdoorwork, Contract work, and all other indirect method of production should be abolished, and employer-employee relationship should be established so as to make eligible the workers to enjoy ^{all the} rights and benefits of all existing labour legislations.

There should be a national minimum wage in Beedi & Cigar industries. The existing rates of minimum wages varies from district to district and State to State. This inspires the owners to shift the industry to the places where minimum rates of wages are too low.

Therefore this ^{26th} session of ATTUC requests the Government of India to constitute a wage board for Beedi, Cigar & Tobacco Industries and in which ATTUC should be given adequate representation.

passed
Chauhan
15/1/57

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(7)

2. The ~~Conf~~ Conference also regrets that
 desultory clear-cut recommendations of the Wage-
 Board & the promise contained in the Govt.
 notification ~~but~~ releasing the Wage Board
 Report, little progress has so far been
 made to secure ~~the quantum of~~ ^{adequate D.A.} for workers
 in various States. Linking of D.A. to cost
 of living indices & full neutralization of
 the rise in cost of living has all along
 been a long outstanding demand of
 the workers which was conceded by the
 Wage Board. Still employers are resisting
 the implementation ~~of~~ of the recommendation
 under one pretext or the other. The
 Mill-owners in Bengal have put forward
 the most absurd proposal ~~to~~ that increase
 in D.A. should be made dependant on
 the workers accepting their right unconditionally
 accepting the employer's right to introduce
 rationalization unilaterally. The Conference
 warns the Govt. against any further
 delay in settling this very important demand
 of the workers and calls upon it to
 forthwith set up the promised national
 Tribunal to for revising rates ~~of~~ and
 quantum of D.A. in ~~all~~ cases with
 of the industry throughout the country
 made to ~~ensure~~ in accordance with the
 principle.

2 -

begin they are allowed to be
put into practice. This attitude of the
Govt. has encouraged the mill owners to go
ahead with their high-handed schemes
of automation + rationalization without
any ~~regard~~ regard to the interests of the
workers. This offensive of the employers is
has created intense agitation + unrest
among the workers and unless the Govt.
intervenes with determination, industrial
peace in the industry will be seriously
jeopardised. This Conference, therefore,
calls upon the Central + the State Govts.
to forthwith set up ~~the~~ bipartite or tri-
partite bodies comprising of representatives
of labour on regional, as well as local
as well as unit level to ~~consider~~ ^{consider and} ~~and~~
decide all issues relating to rationalization
in accordance with the ~~accepted~~ ^{15th} ~~15th~~ ^{15th}
JLC decisions. The Conference also demands
that the Govt. should take urgent steps to
compel the defaulting managements to ~~comply~~
give the wage-increase sanctioned by
the wage board.

⊕
← (2)

3. Textile industry in India has
been in existence for almost a century
now. Besides being the oldest, it is also the
most organised + prosperous industry. The
Indian people have ^{voluntarily} made heavy sacrifices
to enable the industry to successfully meet
foreign competition. The ~~India~~ workers have
made ~~heavy sacrifices~~ ^{tried hard} to
build up the industry to its present
station without ~~being~~ ^{getting} ~~any~~ ^{any}
having been suitably remunerated for their labour.

On the other hand the Textile mill magnates have most of the time pocketed huge profits. They have not lost a single opportunity to fleece the consumer by indulging in ~~profitless~~ charging fabulously high prices. They have carried on ~~unreasonable~~ ruthless exploitation of the worker, depriving most of the time depriving him of even a bare minimum wage. ^{Never has the industry} ~~willingly~~ ^{unless compelled by circumstance;} carried out a price reduction or granted improvement in wages or service conditions of workers unless compelled by to ~~unpleasant~~ ~~circumstances~~ ~~or~~ ~~unless~~ ~~do~~ ~~so~~ ~~long~~ ~~the~~ due to the struggle & often prolonged struggle of the workers. ~~In the last few years~~ ~~the~~ ~~notorious~~ ~~performance~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~industry~~ ~~during~~ ~~the~~ ~~last~~ ~~few~~ ~~years~~ ~~provides~~ a positive proof of

In the last few years, the industry has been steadily developing ~~the~~ strongly monopolistic trends, holding the community to ransom & defying all so-called corrective means of the Govt. The latest example of the incorrigibly ~~antisocial~~ anti-people role of the industry is the recent abnormal rise in cloth prices which even its best advocates found hard to justify. Apart from such anti-people & anti-labor practices, the textile mill owners have often been found ~~in~~ ~~gross~~ ~~misuse~~ ~~of~~ ~~power~~ ~~and~~ ~~indulging~~ ~~in~~ ~~defrauding~~ ~~fraudulent~~ ~~and~~ ~~shady~~ ~~deals~~ ~~and~~ ~~practices~~, even sacrificing the interests of the shareholder. The recent experience of the working of certain mills taken over by the Govt. under the Industries Regulation Act clearly shows that the so-called uneconomic running of the mills, which started earning profits soon after their

take-over was due to ~~use~~ no other reason than the unscrupulous & rapacious dealings of ~~malpractice of~~ their ~~own~~ owners. It is, however, regrettable

that notwithstanding the existence of such irreputable evidence of misdeeds of the mill-owners, the Govt. has been miserably slow in taking ~~appropriate~~ ^{prompt} timely action in accordance with the Industries Regulation Act, ~~allowing the workers inflicting ^{unavoidable} ~~misery~~~~

subjecting the workers to unnecessary suffering & misery & putting the community to avoidable loss. The assurance given ^{in National Conference} by the Govt. that the procedure relating to take-over of mismanaged or closed units of the industry would be simplified to ensure prompt action in every case of threatened closure, has not been kept up. The conference, therefore, ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~session~~ ^{session} calls upon the Govt. to

implement ~~at~~ ^{and} this assurance ^{and also to} impose strict price control in order to protect the interest of the consumer against the ~~profit~~ ^{lust for profit} of the monopoly bourgeoisie.

④ The ~~profit~~ ^{definite} view that steps must ~~be~~ ^{be} taken by the Govt. to abolish the ~~speculative~~ ^{speculative} Cotton Market which has become a device in the hands of ~~speculators~~ ^{speculators} & speculative mill-owners to rob the cultivator ~~as well~~ ^{as well} as the consumer. It has become the biggest obstacle in the way of stabilization of cost structure of the industry.

* demands that the Conference further in view of the

Resolution

Conditions of Workers in On Handloom Industry

The 26th session of the AITUC ^{50 lakh} views with concern the plight of handloom workers ^{in the country} whose conditions are growing from bad to worse every day. It notes the fact that the so called assistance given by the Govt. in the form of rebate ^{etc} does not benefit the workers in any way.

The labour laws of the country are observed only in violation with regard to this industry. Employers are trying their level best to find out ways and means to evade almost all the provisions of the ~~labour~~ labour legislation. Secondly, the industry is not covered by various laws benefiting the workers like Shops and establishment Act, Provident Funds Act, Minimum Wages Act etc.

The Handloom workers do not get any protection whatever with regard to the lay off. During period of warping & dispen designing the weavers have to go without work which results in serious ~~employment~~ unemployment for two to three weeks in a month. ^{in some cases} they do not get any dearness allowance even ~~though~~ though the cost of living is going up as a result of which the workers live below the poverty line.

The 26th session of the AITUC considering the conditions of the handloom workers demands that

- 1) Minimum Wages Act should be made applicable to handloom industry so as to enable them to ~~at~~ secure minimum living conditions.
- 2) Granting of Dearness Allowance ~~a~~ a ~~provision~~ ~~guarantee~~ against ~~now~~ to neutralise the impact of the rising prices.

3) Shops and Establishment Act and other welfare legislation should be made applicable to the industry in urban ^{as well as in} ~~and~~ rural areas.

4) necessary steps should be taken to ensure ~~relief~~ that share of the relief and assistance given by the Govt. should reach the handloom workers also.

5) - Lay off should be paid to handloom workers during the period of forced unemployment.

~~Samsund~~

V. R. Mader

Lal Bawta Hatmag
Kangar Union
Sholapur

Com. Sorams.

South Kanara Handloom
Weavers Association

RESOLUTION ON CATERING INDUSTRY.

In the well considered opinion of the 26th Session of the All India Trade Union Congress the catering industry is an expanding and flourishing industry. It has a spectacularly great stake in the plans, earning as it does more than Rs.40 Crores of foreign exchange every year by "Service" only. There lie colossal possibilities of earning foreign exchange through this industry in view of the ^{fast} ~~first~~ growing tourist traffic, foreign and indigenous both, particularly the former one which, during the last 12 years has increased by more than 400%, whereas the bed-capacity in hotels during the corresponding period has increased hardly by 30%.

Apart from the above this industry, in view of the prevailing reality of our member on an average in family residing in towns patronising catering establishments, has an important bearing upon the health of the Indian people.

In utter contrast with the contribution which the workmen working in this industry make towards the prosperity and well being of the Nation and its people, and also the patrons of this industry, including the ~~fixe~~ foreign guests, to their entire satisfaction, their (workmen's) working and service conditions are comparatively the worst.

In many establishments the workmen have to work for from 12 to 16 hours a day. There is no weekly off. Wages are appallingly low and there is no security of service and livelihood. Other benefits such as provident fund, gratuity, bonus, medical facilities etc. are generally non-existent.

The cumulative effect of such starvation wages and inhuman living conditions is the fast deteriorating health of the workmen and their very easily becoming vulnerable to chronic ailments and fatal diseases, many of them being peculiar to this industry.

No doubt there are some statutory enactments supposed to be governing the working and service conditions of the workmen. But due to so many loop holes and exemptions, the casualties of these enactments are their own implementations.

It goes without saying that the workmen of such industries alone, who lack strong organisation and consequently the power of collective bargaining, deserve most the intervention and protection of the state on National level. There is all the more deserving a case as they number more than 30 lakhs headed by their compatriots in the Ashoka, New Delhi, with which the Government itself has entered this industry and imparted to it a national prestige and grace.

Therefore this 28th Session of the AITUC urges upon the Government of India to pass a Central Act like Plantations, Mines and Banking Companies Act etc., which should lay down the working and service conditions of the workmen and guarantee to them minimum of the National Norm of Wages, Allowances and Benefits, in commensurate with their contribution to the prosperity, well being, recreation and cultural advance of the Indian people, who, the human factors alone build and create the wealth of the Nation.

RESOLUTION
ON
PORTS & DOCKS IN INDIA

To be moved by
Dob Kumar Singh
Seconded by
S. H. Rangaswamy

With rapid expansion of imports and exports consequent upon the growing industrialisation of the country the ports and docks have come to occupy a highly strategic and important position in the development of the country.

The present volume of traffic (about 28 million tons) handled at ^{the} 6 major ports ~~such as~~ of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Cochin, Visakhapatnam and Kandla, is bound to go up ~~further~~ further during the ^{the} 3rd five year plan period.

One & half lakh port and dock workers who have been handling this ever increasing traffic are playing a very vital role in the development of the national ^{economy}. Thus the wellbeing of the and improvement of the condition of the port & dock workers is a matter of serious concern for the entire people of the country.

The 26th Session of the A.I.T.U.C is deeply perturbed to note that the Govt of India as well as the Port Authorities have callously disregarded the demands of the port & dock workers and on many occasions have gone back on their ^{from} assurance given to the workers concerned ^{from} time to time.

In November, 1956 the G.O. had appointed
 Sri P. Chowdhry I.C.S. as an officer on special
 duty (O.S.D) to enquire into the disparities
 and anomalies in the pay scales and allowances
 to class III & IV employees of Major Posts
 of India and submit proposals. Before
 publication of the report the G.O. had given
 an assurance that the recommendation
 of Sri Chowdhry would be accepted and
 implemented. However after the publication
 of the report the G.O. refused to implement
 the same and this resulted in the All
 India Post & Book Workers Strike in
 JUNE, 1958.

One & half lakh Post & Book Workers
 all over India responded to the strike
 and stood firm for 11 days
 despite firing, lathi charges, arrest,
 and calling up ~~hundreds of~~ army
 personnel for unloading of ships.
 The strike was called off on the
 intervention of the Prime Minister but once
 again the assurances that were given to
 the leaders of Post & Book Workers Federation
 were not subsequently honoured.

The Tripartite Committee under the
 Chairmanship of Sri F. Jeebhoy for
 Classification and Categorisation of Class
 III & IV employees of Major Posts of India
 which was supposed to submit its
 report before February, 1959, has not even
 even completed its deliberations ^{up to} ~~the~~ January
 January, 1961, i.e. ~~30 months~~ have rolled by.

The G.O. had also given an
 assurance on the floor of the Parliament

that the benefit of the ~~2nd~~ 2nd Pay Commission's recommendation would be extended to the Port & Dock workers. Even these meagre benefits are still being denied to these workers.

~~This session of the ATTUC strongly protests against this callous and indifferent attitude of the Govt towards the burning demands of the Port & Dock workers and demand that the assurance given by them in the past must be honoured without any further delay.~~

This session of the ATTUC fully supports the following demands of the Port & Dock workers of India and urges upon the Government their immediate acceptance and implementation.

- i) Complete de-casualisation; Confirmation of all temporary workers as permanent after six months of service.
- ii) Elimination of all Contract & casual Labour on the Port and Dock side including all categories of shore labour.
- (iii) Mechanisation and Automatic plants should not result in retrenchment and benefits of the mechanisation should be shared with the workers.
- (iv) Medical aid should be extended to workers families of all Ports and Docks.
- (v) The difference in DTA with arrears due from July 1959 to date as per 2nd Pay Commission's recommendation to be paid immediately, subject to future readjustment, if necessary, after publication of Jajbhoy Committee report.

V)

Abolition of Union Shop System at Cochin Port; Registration of all Immediate and full implementation of Secularisation Scheme at Cochin & Visap Port; Registration of all existing dock workers and to keep them under dock labor Board without any discrimination.

VII)

Implementation of the recommendation of Sri P.C. Chaudhry (O.S.S) regarding Provident Fund, Gratuity, Night work etc. and publication of the report of the Jeejethoy Committee.

VIII)

development of Cochin Port, The work eg. Sethu Samudram project, Farraka Barge and Auxiliary Post at Haldia should be included in the 3rd five year plan project and the work to be taken up in hand with right earnestness.

IX)

The minor Ports like Mangalore, Tuticorin etc. should be developed as major Ports and the remaining minor Ports should be taken over from the various State Govt by the Central Govt and brought under the Union Transport Ministry with a view to their early development.

This session of the A.T.U.C announce the Part 2 dock workers of India of full solidarity and support in their battle for better life.

RESOLUTION ON COAL

Proposer:
Kalyan Roy

Seconded by:
P. Saha Nandan

1. The 26th Session of the AITUC views with deepest concern the alarming situation in the coal industry brought about by the mine owners and the Government, resulting in severe coal shortage vitally affecting the Steel Plants and programme of national reconstruction. Even the low target of 60 million tons fixed in the 2nd Five Year Plan has not been reached and at the end of the Plan the production would be less by over 8 million tons.
2. The AITUC notes that since the beginning of the 2nd Plan mine-owners waged a constant war against the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 and the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act of 1957 and concentrated their entire ^{efforts} ~~policy~~ to scrap the Resolution and the Act, secure maximum profit through continuous rise in coal price and crush trade union movement in the Coal belts. No step was taken to improve the condition of the mines, increase the production and fulfill Plan target. On the other hand, deliberate and concerted obstructions were put to sabotage production with a view to obtain greater concession from the Government. Stowing, protective works against fire, and safety measures have been neglected leading to ^{huge} loss of coal reserve and closure of a large number of mines. Slaughter mining is also going on in some mines, particularly in the hands of the monopolists. Machinery, old and rotten in most cases are not being replaced resulting in frequent breakdowns affecting production. As a result of this policy of the employers, the condition of the mines deteriorated leading to more accidents--- loss of life and loss of coal.
3. The AITUC also notes with concern that not only the Private Sector, but the Public Sector under the National Coal Development Corporation (N!C!D!C) also failed to fulfill the target (of ¹⁵ million tons and it is apprehended that at the end of the 2nd Plan only 50% of the target ~~only~~ will be reached. This dismal picture is because of bunglings, lack of planning and coordination between various Government authorities, bureaucratic control, huge wastage and corruption and ^{unhealthy} ~~and~~ labour relations due to undemocratic functioning.)

(two)

4. This situation is further aggravated by the Signal failure of the Government to set up any of the Coal Washery Plants as envisaged in the 2nd Plan - which is absolutely essential in view of rapid exhaustion of reserve of the Selected Grade metallurgical coal required by Steel Plants, ~~Railways~~ and others. None of the three Washery Plants at Dugda, Bhojudih and Patherdih have been yet set up. The one at Kargali is in the midst of chaos. During the 2nd Plan the total coal washed is expected to be only about a million ton while the estimated requirement of the five steel plants (including the TISCO & ISCO) is 8.84 million tons. The situation will hardly improve even in the 3rd Plan when the demand of washed coal will ~~not~~ ^{rise} up to 18.14 million tons and the full capacity of the washeries to be set up will be limited to ~~only 8.84~~ ^{little more} million tons. This failure of the Government is being utilised by the Private Owners who ~~are~~ are demanding to set up washeries in Private Sector under their control.

5. The AITUC also notes with concern the unsolved problem of wagon supply and transport facilities because of lack of cooperation and coordination between the various Ministries ~~and the Government~~, and the Government and the industry, resulting in scramble for whatever wagons available, spreading confusion and deadlock all around, and severely affecting the production and despatch of coal.

6. In this overall chaotic condition in this most vital basic industry, the Government instead of moving ahead to ~~implement~~ ^{implement} the directives of the Industrial Policy Resolution, is yielding and retreating before the offensive of the mine owners and actually succumbed to their pressure by allowing them to ~~extend~~ their operation to leased virgin areas. Further instead of compelling the mine owners to ~~invest~~ ^{plough back} the huge profits for improvement of the mines etc., the Govt has now decided to give substantial subsidy to the extent of Rs. 1.20 np per ton to the private owners for raising Selected Grade I coal by deep mining operation. This will benefit only the big British-owned companies and this demand was first raised by the Managing Director of the Andrew Yule & Co and Chairman of the Indian Mining Association, controlling over 90% of high grade coal production in deep mines. The AITUC strongly opposes this move to subsidise the coal monopolists who are enjoying the highest profit in the industry.

7. In this context, the AITUC views with great concern the recent report of the American Coal Mission which has recommended the Government to give further help and encourage the Private Sector in the form of incentives, credit facilities, depletion allowance and also suggested relaxation of restrictions to import mining equipment of same manufacture. The Mission extended the offer of American aid and assistance on the basis of the report. The AITUC strongly opposes this sinister move of the American Coal Mission which is aimed at strengthening the private

monopolists and request the Government to totally reject the recommendations of the American Commission.

8. The AITUC welcomes the aid given by the Soviet Union to build up a Mining Equipment Plant at Durgapur in the State Sector and urges upon the Govt to set up more such plants in State Sector.

9. The AITUC therefore demands:-

- (i) Immediate Nationalisation of coal mines.
- (ii) Improvement of management of nationalised mines by enlisting workers' cooperation and eliminating bureaucracy,
- (iii) Coordinated programme for immediate setting up of adequate number of Washeries and Ropeways for Stowing and other protection works in the State Sector.
- (iv) Removal of transport bottleneck and ensure regular supply of required number of wagons.

~~10.~~ The AITUC notes with deepest concern the serious offensive launched by the mine owners against the coal workers to snatch away the hard-earned facilities and amenities won during the last few years. The employers have never fully implemented the various coal Awards and Statutory provisions of laws and the Government has been a silent spectator to all these violations.

10. ~~The AITUC expresses its deepest concern~~ While the AITUC notes that during the last five years certain significant gains were achieved by the coal miners and out of a chaotic wage structure and conditions of service, varying from State to State and even colliery to colliery, emerged a (1) standardised wage structure on the national scale (ii) a sliding scale of DA linked with the cost of living index with a partial neutralisation (iii) Equal wages for male and female workers (iv) Festival holidays with wages (v) guaranteed minimum wages for piece rated workers (vi) gradation and time scale for time rated workers (vii) higher rate of Sick Khoraki ~~through~~ and overtime wages and increased annual leave with wages etc, ^{& the setting up of a Court of Enquiry of contract system in coal mines} the AITUC expresses its deepest concern the/serious ^{1 at} offensive launched by the mine owners against the coal miners to snatch away these rights and facilities. The employers have never fully implemented the various coal awards and Statutory provisions of laws and the Government has been more or less a silent spectator to all these violations. On the other hand a systematic policy is being pursued with ruthlessness to eliminate women workers, to introduce contract system to a larger extent, to increase the number of casual workers with a view to circumvent the awards and other laws.

11. The AITUC strongly condemns the total apathy of the Central Labour Ministry to take swift action to implement the awards and Mining Laws and Regulations. While the workers and the trade unions, true to the spirit of Tripartite Agreements, maintained peace in the industry, the productivity and ~~per~~ out-put per-man-shift has sharply risen in the course of last three years, the employers with the connivance of the Government at ^{State} and Centre level, repeatedly violated the agreements, and to curb the demands of miners based on awards and laws, indulged in violation of trade union rights, repression, gangsterism and victimisation. No step has been taken to improve the miserable housing condition, sanitation and water supply.

12. The AITUC particularly views with deep concern the organised and planned offensive of the employers on coal workers, as manifested in the most naked form in the Raneeganj-Asansol coal belt in the recent period --- at the Modern Satgram Colliery where the police opened fire and other places. In that vast belt, the employers in collusion with ^{the Government} a powerful ~~section of the Union Labour Ministry~~ ^{make} are making a bid to impose on the workers a naked goonda raj making it impossible to carry on minimum trade union functions. Thousands of miners have been victimised and evicted from their quarters and a number of police camps have been set up in various collieries. Nearly 200 miners are at present in jail and over 400 workers and the entire union leaders are involved in ^{seventy one} series-~~es~~ of cases from murder to rape.

The AITUC also strongly condemns the deliberate discrimination by the Union Labor Ministry against the Assam Coal Miners Union, affiliated to the AITUC which ^{had to struggle to even become} ~~was even not made~~ a party to a Tribunal set up as a result of wage demands and strike by the said AITUC union. Throughout the industry, the AITUC unions are being grossly discriminated and the policy of the Government as reflected in denial of adjudications even in cases of unfair and crude dismissals is directly encouraging the employers to victimise the leading union activists.

13. The AITUC, deeply concerned at these developments, ~~put the following demands, and~~ call upon the coal miners to organise and fight unitedly to realise these demands: 1. Immediate setting up of a Wage Board for Coal Industry for revision of ^{Reduction of working hours} wage structure etc. 2. Immediate introduction of Gratuity-cum-pension for the industry as a whole 3. Payment of bonus without the present condition 4. Immediate abolition of the C:R:O: labour and contract system in all forms 5. Full implementation

of all provisions of Awards and other Laws.

6. Setting up of Court of Enquiry into all cases of accidents and strong action against the mine owners for violation of safety laws.

7. Implementation of the decisions of the Safety Committees.

8. Stop victimisation and interference in trade union rights by mine owners.

9. Stop repression and attack on trade union and civil rights & discriminatory policy towards AITUC unions by the Government.

10. Improve and reorganise the Labour Relations Machinery for better labour-management relations in the coal industry.

11. Compulsory housing scheme for the miners.

12. Institution of proper enquiry into the incidents of terrorisation against coal workers by mine owners.

13. Implementation of Das-Gupta Arbitrators' Award to Singareni Collieries and Assam Coalfields.

~~ON ORGANISATION OF~~

ON NATIONALISATION OF PRIVATE AIRLINES.

The 26th Session of AITUC notes with regret the delay in complete nationalisation of private non-scheduled airlines and urges upon the Government of India to nationalise all private air lines without any further delay, ^{and} to guarantee that no *existing* employees will be retrained at the time of nationalisation.

V. Thakur
Handwritten
Prop. of Nima
Sub. of Dharma

✓

at Kargali where some times 50% of the working hours were lost and which also seriously affected the production for a considerable period of times in the biggest ~~collieries~~ *Collieries* of the area.

It is well known and ~~xxxx~~ even admitted by the NCDC that the labour in general have cooperated with the management and similarly the coal workers union (AITUC) which is the majority union in the main NCDC centres has extended all cooperation for production and as a result of which the Giridih group of collieries were able to earn profit after nineteen years of continuous loss, but even then the NCDC has not only carried on the anti-AITUC policy but has ~~xxx~~ refused to form joint production committees for stepping up production.

rules

The administrative bearocracy is so power/minded and anti labour that they do not form works committees in general and wherever they are formed under pressure from labour they are not allowed to function and thus even in the old collieries, there is chronic lack of ~~rules~~ *rules* and working faces and non provision of other necessary working facilities and there is no forum for discussion for the same with the management.

In the collieries producing grade III coal, the output has been artificially restricted to less than half of the capacities on the ground that there is no market for grade III coal. Though it is well known that grade III coal is required in the country. This shows how the NCDC serves the interests of private sector at the cost of its own under production and heavy costs. The cost of production is also very high in the NCDC due to the above reasons.

The whole matter has been brought to the notice of the NCDC and the Ministry of Steel, Mines Fuel repeatedly, but to no effect.

The Ministry of labour and Employment is also continuing its discriminatory ~~xxx~~ policy towards ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ AITUC union. It never refers the workers demands and disputes to arbitration or adjudication, however genuine the cases may be. There are some 30 conciliation failures reports pending before the Ministry of Labour for last two years which under model principles of references are fit for reference to arbitration but the same is being denied. The model greivances procedure has ~~xxx~~ *also* not yet been accepted by the NCDC.

Under such circumstances, it is hightime that the Govt. of India constitute a parliamentary enquiry committee to go into the matter.

Resolution Commercial, Shops, Establishment employees.

(Haripada Goshpi, Convener, All India Committee)

^{26th} This session of AITUC expresses its deep concern at the deplorable living and working conditions of Shops, Establishment (including Cinema Theatres, Hotel Restaurants, Laminis, Tailorings etc) and Commercial workers in India. These workers number millions and they are possibly the worst

exploited section of the working people. The laws ^(Shops + Establishment Acts) that govern their working condition ~~are~~ provide for 10 to 14 hours a day or working ~~to~~ ^{minimum} hours. They are denied most of the statutory privileges which Factory ~~the~~ workers enjoy.

Employees' Provident Fund, State Insurance Act or such other social security measures are also not applicable to them. ^{Most of them} They are denied National and Festival holidays which ~~to these~~ other categories of working people are allowed to enjoy.

This ^{Congress} ~~conference~~, therefore, demands immediate statutory arrangements as would provide ^{for} Shops, Establishment and Commercial workers 8 hours day, National and festival holidays, retiring benefits (Provident Fund + Gratuity), State Insurance Act benefits.

This Congress calls upon Shops, Establishment and Commercial workers to get united in their Unions and to build up a countrywide movement for realisation of these demands with the support of their Unions in general.

For the List of Resolutions -

- 1) shops + Commercial establishments employees
- 2) Printing + Press
- 3) Health workers -
- 4) Engaging into death of H. Q. J. J. J.

Enquiry into Death of K. Gopalan.

The 26th Session of the
AITC is shocked by the
news that K. Gopalan, a
worker of Western India
Plywood factory who was
arrested by and kept in
Balipalam police lock-up
was found hanging ^{on 7th Jan} under
suspicious circumstances.

The Congress Session demands
that an open enquiry be
conducted on this incident
and calls upon the Govt.
of Kerala to take
immediate steps for
conducting such an
enquiry.

Men. Balachandran Menon
Suf. Sugtham

RESOLUTION ON LEATHER INDUSTRY.

The 26th. Session of AIUC notes with deep concern the miserable conditions of the workers of Leather industries, most of which are a small and cottages. Even in big medium and big industries workers are deprived of many amenities necessary for human living.

This Session calls upon all the Leather and Footwear workers to organise themselves, where there is no organization, and to strengthen All India Leather & Footwear Workers Federation in order to struggle for emancipation from all sorts of privations and miseries.

This Session also urges upon the Leather workers to respond to the call of Textile, Clothing and Leather Trade Unions international to observe the week from 6th. March to 12th. March, 61 by mobilising the workers on the following demands:-

1. Wage increases and linking D.A. with Cost of Living Index.
2. Equal pay for equal work.
3. Reduction of working hours.
4. Stopping of rationalisation and and increment of speed-up.
5. Improvement of social securities viz. ESI, Provident Fund, Gratuity, housing etc.
6. Better hygienic condition of work.
7. Protection of unemployed and adequate unemployment benefits.
8. Professional training for young workers.
9. Safe-guarding and extension of Trade Union rights.
10. Defence of freedom and struggle for democratic rights, full disarmament and world peace.
11. Formation of Wage-board and implementation of minimum wages.

M. S. Paul

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10. Defence of freedom and struggle for democratic rights, full disarmament and world peace.
11. Formation of wage-Board and implementation of minimum wages.

This 23rd Conference of the H.G. T. U. leads
its strong protest against the attitude taken
by the management of Bangabri Cotton
mills of Panichati (West Bengal, U.P.G.S.) on
the January evening the workers of the above
mills came down in the locality with a procession
for joining their union. The some goondas
engaged by the management along with
the ~~gunmen~~ ^{have} beaten the workers with lathis
and other weapons. And further the ~~workers~~
were ~~severely~~ severely wounded. The condition
of one of the workers Sri Anarendra Nath ^{Paul}
is very serious as he was removed to
medical college Hospital. The condition of
two workers are also also grave. The Police
up till now has not yet arrested anybody.
The management with collaboration of Police
and ^{with} ~~the~~ Govt has taken this attitude, so that
the workers would not be able to form their
own union.

↳ Name of the wounded persons.

- 1) Sri Anarendra Nath (In Hospital)
- 2) Saiedya Nath Kar (Local T. U. leader)
- 3)

P. Sundaram
Barkim Mukerjee

NATIONALISE THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

The foreign oil monopolies have been gloating that India is forced to import over 90% of the petroleum products consumed in the country either as crude oil or refined products. They further gloated that when the proposed Govt. refineries are put into operation some two years from now, and crude oil is drawn from reserves in Assam, India will still continue to be forced to import about 70% of its requirements. Unless additional reserves are located and drawn on, this 70% will again rapidly climb to the present more than 90%.

The consumption of petroleum products at present is around 60 lakhs tons and even at a modest annual (recurring) rate of increase at 7%, will amount to one crore tons and more in 1965. *perhaps 120 to 150 lakhs based on Planning Commission estimate.* About a hundred crores of rupees from India's foreign exchange resources have to be utilised to meet the present imports of both crude oil and refined products. This drain on foreign exchange will increase four-fold by 1976.

These grim facts of the foreign monopoly grip on one of the most vital sectors of our economy and defence, obliged the Govt. of India to take up the development of India's oil industry in the public State Sector which naturally unnerved the foreign

oil monopolists. *But the Govt. is doing, divided within itself, some of whose members rightly wish our independent oil industry to grow, which would*

The friendly help and technical know-how as well as the training facilities offered by socialist Soviet Union and Rumania who have rich experience of developing their oil resources at a fast developing rate in all phases of petroleum industry, viz. prospecting or exploring, producing, refining and distribution, placed the Govt. of India in a position to challenge slowly the monopolistic grip of the foreign oil companies. *The entire*

Both the oil Minister Malaviya and Prime Minister Nehru *are* rejoiced at the successful strike of oil in Cambay region of Gujerat in which India's oil technicians were assisted by Soviet and Rumanian specialists. Soviet and Rumanian monetary credits on terms favourable to India further helped the Govt. to take up the construction of oil refineries in Gauhati and Barauni and the further prospect of locating a refinery in Gujerat. The big team of

Page 13
me - *unhappy*
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of Govt
the people
all
unhappy

rupee exchange basis. Their audacity in refusing to take the crude oil offered by our Govt. is motivated by the single fact that even such a minor change dictated by national interests will spell a further doom to the exorbitant profiteering character of their business in India. This profiteering character had earlier been exposed in the surrender by Burmah Shell first and by Stanvac recently of the duty protection benefit which the oil refineries had dictated as a further measure of super profits to Govt. of India in the one-sided ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ^{and colonial-type} agreements imposed by them for establishing their refineries in our country five years ago. It is known also that the Caltex refinery is still refusing to follow suit and is insisting on its pound of flesh.

the 26th session of the AITUC declares that the foreign oil companies have no more the right to hold India to ransom. The audacious challenges they are throwing to our Govt. from day to day have to be met and can be met. Efforts by the Govt. to control or regulate them will not serve the national needs because the foreign interests are entrenched in many quarters of our economy and administration from where they are bound to thwart and sabotage the feeble steps taken by our Govt. as was witnessed recently in the manouevres and sabotage by Stanvac of the attempt by Govt.-owned Indian Oil Company to switch our public road transport in the first instance to the cheaper Soviet High Speed Diesel oil, the first consignment of Indian-owned oil recently landed in Bombay and Cochin ⁱⁿ Govt.-owned storage.

The 26th session of the AITUC declares that national interests must prevail over foreign profiteering and sabotage.

The 26th session therefore demands that the Govt. of India nationalise all the foreign holdings in the petroleum industry and assure the Govt. that the organised working class of our country and particularly the organised petroleum workers will fully and whole-heartedly support such a bold step which has now become

~~inevitable~~ imperative

The 26th session calls upon the entire working class of our Country to ~~launch the~~ Campaign for the ownership of the ~~sector~~ ^{sector} foreign vested interests in this most vital sector of our economy.

(ourtesy)

Session

The Conference strongly protests against this vicious attack on the fundamental trade union rights of workers which is becoming an attack on the security of service itself.

This session warns the Government and the employers against the unfair labour practices and disruptive tactics that are being practised with impunity both in ~~Public and Private~~ *both* Sectors. Such practices will neither help the cause of the nation nor the industrialist themselves. It urges upon both the Government and private employers to put an end to such mal-practices.

The AITUC therefore calls upon the engineering workers of the country to strengthen their unity and organisation so that the offensive of the employers could be defeated ^{and} were able to fight for the improvement of their living standards and working conditions.

The conference further calls upon them to rally round the following demands and forge unity of action to realise the same:

- i) Set up a Wage Board for Engineering Workers;
- ii) Give immediate rise in the present wage;
- iii) Link our dearness allowance with the cost of living index numbers;
- iv) Recognise the unions based on secret ballot;
- v) Stop all disruption and respect our trade union rights.

re. appendix

Comm. S.A. Dange

THE DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Exposure Hazards: Cases of manganese poisoning have been seen from the inhalation of excessive amounts of dust in the mining, grinding, sorting, sieving, packing and loading of manganese ores and in the manufacture of manganese steel in which the manganese is first fused in an electric furnace. In Great Britain no case has been recognized in the manufacture of dry batteries. Of a number of persons exposed, few are susceptible to the disease. Manganese poisoning produces two entirely different effects; the first is an attack on the brain with strict localization to the extapyramidal motor system, a condition discovered in France in 1837, and the second an increase incidence of pneumonia first noted in Germany in 1912.

Historical Summary.

In 1937, Couper described five cases of poisoning in men employed in grinding manganese dioxide in the manufacture of chlorine for bleaching powder in France.

Their skin is constantly covered with a layer of oxide, and the air which they breathe is impregnated with a multitude of molecules of this oxide which are introduced into their lungs by respiration. In 1821 a young man apparently in good health, being employed at this work, presented symptoms of paraplegia which becoming worse, forced him at the end of some months to stop work. After having tried without effect the medicines used in paralysis, he absented himself from the neighbourhood for a year, and at the end of this time having returned, it was evident that he made little progress toward recovery. In the following year another workman, similarly employed in grinding manganese and apparently enjoying the beat of health, fell equally ill. It not being suspected that manganese produced poisonour effects, he was permitted to work for several months with the exception of short intervals employed in treatment. As the paralysis ~~incree~~ increased manganese was finally suspected to be the cause and the workman moved to another region. After this time there was no augmentation of symptoms at this end of six years the patient was in good health. During the height of the disease the weakness of the contractile muscles was much greater in the legs than in the arms. It was of such nature that the patient recled in walking and learned forward when he wished to walk. The arms were some what weak and there was difficulty in speech. He was not able to make himself understood by a person at a trunk muscles had the appearance of a paralytic. Saliva ran from the mouth during speech. There was no trembling of any part of the body, no colic, constipation nor deragment of digestion. He was given mercurials, vesication of the head and ~~axax~~ dorsal spine, and strychnine, but all without effect.

Parkinsonism in Manganese workers:-

It is a point of great interest ~~xx~~ the Parkinson's famous Essay on the Shaking Palsy which first laid down the clinical characteristics of extra-pyramidal motor disease was published in 1817, four years before Couper first observed a case caused by manganese dioxide. But what he ~~worktaxx~~ wrote was overlooked, and in 1901 von Jakach described three cases resembling disseminated sclerosis in men employed in drying manganese dioxide in Austria. In 1919 in Boston, U.S.A. Edsall, Wilbur and Drinker, published an article on ~~xxxxx~~ manganese poisoning resulting from inhalation of ~~o~~ Britain were reported by Charles in 1922. They were ~~xxxx~~ three men who had been exposed to the dust of manganese ores from nine months to three years. They had developed apastic paralysis of the lower limbs which had incapacitated them for work from three to five years

little distand away and other sensation and intelligence was unaffected. The

Manganese dust in a separating mill first cases recognised in Great.

Cases of manganese poisoning were still occurring in England in 1934 when four men, exposed for years to the dust of pyrolusite, showing classical Parkinsonism, were seen on Merseyside by Owen. By 1945 Fairhall was able to find in the Literature 353 cases of Manganese poisoning which had occurred since the first report by Couper in 1837. At least seventy four more cases have been published since 1945; so that the disease can no longer be called a very rare.

Neurological Symptoms:

The symptoms and signs include languor and sleepiness by day but insomnia by night muscular pains, including cramps in the calves, unsteady gait, weakness and stiffness of the limbs and involuntary movements varying in degree from a fine tremor of the hands to gross rhythmical movements of the arms, legs, trunks and head. Occasionally uncontrollable laughter or crying occur and there may be impulsive acts such as running, dancing, singing and uncontrolled talking. Sometimes forced movements occur in which the patient falls, without being able to make the effort necessary to save himself. Attacks both of unprovoked irritability and of euphoria are known.

Extrapyramidal Syndrome:

In 1953 Degan and Beretic described ten cases of manganese poisoning which occurred in a factory making manganese alloys in Yugoslavia. The men had been exposed for periods between eighteen months and twelve years to the dust of pyrolusite and to fume from furnaces making ferromanganese, spiegeleisen, silicomanganese and silicospiegel. All cases gave a history of weakness of the legs; sometimes there was weakness of the arms too. Nearly all the patients complained of muscle cramps. They showed a mild form of Parkinsonism; in two cases the signs were unilateral. There was slapping gait with retropulsion and propulsion, and in one case the so-called cock-walk. Rhythmic retortory tremor of the hands tremor of the extended tongue and increased muscle tone of the lead-pipe type were present. The tendon reflexes were not increased and the plantar responses were flexor. The patients had mask-like facies and sialorrhoea but no disturbances of ocular movement. Cobb (1934) pointed out that diminution of convergence accommodation response so characteristic of post encephalitic Parkinsonism does not occur in chronic Manganese poisoning.

Prognosis:

Although men seriously poisoned are lifelong cripples, the condition is not lethal. Charless (1922) agreed with others as to the similarity between this form of poisoning and progressive lentiginous degeneration, except that in manganese poisoning the condition remains stationary or improves when exposure ceases. The emotional alterations are usually transient only; the extra-pyramidal symptoms and signs it is unusual for as many as 10 per cent to recover sufficiently to resume work. In the remainder the weakness, spasticity and tremor render impossible any return to the former employment.

Morbid Anatomy and Histology.

The pathological changes in the body of a manganese worker who died of cardiovascular-renal disease at the age of sixty-nine, after fourteen years of disability from manganese poisoning, were described by Canavan, Cobb and Krinker (1934). There was atrophy of the frontal lobes of the brain, shrinkage and distortion of the basal ganglia and internal hydrocephalus. Histological studies showed gliosis and degenerative lesions of the nerve cells, -

particularly in the optic thalamns, globus pallidus, lenticular nucleu caudate nucleus and the putamen. In the ten patients exposed to the dust of pyrolusite described by Degan and Beretic (1953), liver function tests revealed no abnormality. Of five cases subjected to liver biopsy, four showed no histological changes and one showed pigmentation by a substance which gave a negative iron reaction.

Experimental Manganese Poisoning:

In 1924 Mella produced Manganese poisoning experimentally in four monkeys by administering every day for a period of eighteen months manganous chloride by intraperitoneal injection. The animals developed choreic movements, passed into a state of rigidity and finally developed tremor resembling paralysis agitans. Gross morbid changes were found in three animals in the lenticular nucleus and the liver. These experiments afford an explanation of the symptoms in most of the cases described. The extrapyramidal motor system is picked out by the poison, hence the rigidity, difficult gait, retro-pulsion, prppulsion, mask like faces, sleepiness, Parkinsonian tremor and uncontrollable laughter.

High Incidence of Pneumonia near a factory:

In 1921 Brezina first drew attention to the unusually high incidence of pneumonia in men handling manganese ores. He reported that five out of ten men working in a pyrolusite mill had died of pneumonia in two years. In 1933 Baader ascribed the high incidence of pneumonia amongst dry battery workers to manganese dioxide, while Heine (1943) pointed out the high incidence of pneumonia in men handling pyrolusite in German factories. The erection in 1923 of an electrical plant for manganese smelting at Sauda in Norway was followed by a tenfold increase in the mortality rate for pneumonia in that area. A pall of smoke which overhung the town was found to contain particles, less than 5 microns in size, of oxides of manganese (Riddervold and Halvorsen, 1943).

Pneumonia in Men making Potassium Permanganate.

Lloyd-Davies (1946) described his observations on men employed in the manufacture of potassium permanganate. The manganese content of the atmospheric dust to which they were exposed, expressed as manganese dioxide, varied from 41 to 66 per cent; practically all the particles were below 1 micron in size, and 80 per cent were below 0.2 microns. During eight years the number of men exposed varied between forty and 124. Besides a high incidence of pharyngitis and bronchitis they showed an incidence of pneumonia which varied from 1,500 to 6,300 per 100,000 in the period 1938 to 1945, compared with an average of seventy three for the same period amongst the rest of the male employees. The response to sulphamides and resolution of the lung were slower than in ordinary lobar pneumonia, but no persisting pulmonary lesions were observed either clinically or radiographically. Exposure of mice to the dust of oxides of manganese led to interstitial infiltration of the lung with mononuclear cells and finally to consolidation with necrosis and haemorrhage.

Preventive Treatment.

Manganese poisoning can be prevented by the application of local exhaust ventilation, both at the furnaces to remove fume and at the packing and sieving apparatus to remove dust. Respirators may

be worn which combine active charcoal for absorbing vapours and a cotton wool filter to trap dust. Personal hygiene is important and the worker must wear protective clothing, and gloves, since the occurrence of skin absorption is established. Adequate supervision and routine medical examination are essential. These measures are attended with good results. Applied in one particular factory they removed all risks of poisoning encountered by the workers over a period of six years.

Symptomatic Treatment:

No effective method to increase manganese excretion is known. The use of 2,3 dimercaptopropanol (British Anti Lewisite, BAL) is without effect. Symptomatic treatment includes simple anodyne for muscular pain and barbiturates for insomnia. For the rigidity, Gentle exercise, passive movements and massage are useful. Some relief may be obtained by hyoscine hydrobromide given three times a day as a table of gr.1,100. This usually renders movements more free and relieves the tremor for a few hours after each dose is taken. Patients often become bedridden and therefore need institutional treatment. It is then necessary to take great care of the skin, since the immobility of the trunk greatly increases the liability to the formation of bed sores.

Nutrition and Toxicity(7) .

Manganese is an essential element in both animal and plant life, deficiencies leading to various nutritional diseases. In humans the daily dietary intake is about 4 mg. Normally the blood contains 0.012 mg. per 100 ml., and manganese is also found in tissues, bones, liver and lymph nodes. Workers exposed for extended periods of time to relatively high concentrations of manganese-bearing dusts, as in mining, grinding, and smelting of ore, some times develop an intoxication. Acute intoxication is practically unknown and chronic intoxication with disablement is relatively rare. First symptoms include language, weakness, bronchitic symptoms, and spastic difficulty in walking. Chronic conditions of rigidity, muscular stiffness and possible psychological disturbances may seriously disable but do not shorten life. If the worker is removed from the contributing environment while still in the initial stages, recovery is complete. The tentative allowable concentration set as a war standard by the American Standards Association was 60 mg. per 10 cubic meters of air.

copy.

Appendix

to Report on Manganese Poisoning, Research
done in European Countries

MANGANESE POISONING WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO
M/S ELECTRO METALLURGICAL WORKS (P) LIMITED, DANDELI.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Ferro Manganese production in open rotating Elkem type Electric furnace of M/S. Electro Metallurgical works (P) Ltd. Dandelli started in March, 1957. There were three batches of six workers each, working on the charging platform of the furnace where atmosphere is highly saturated with Manganese dioxide dust, there was no proper ventilation at this place. After working in this place for about a year the workers started getting affected by a then unknown and undiagnosed disease. Initial symptoms of the disease were of a varied nature. Most of them similar to that of Paralysis. At first, when two of the workers were affected by this disease it was never suspected that inhalation of manganese dioxide dust was the reason. Gradually when all the workers working in that particular place were affected a few of them were sent to Miraj for observation and treatment. The disease was not diagnosed there nor was the cause detected. After remaining in the hospital for about six months, these workers were discharged with no appreciable improvement.

The Medical Officer of the Miraj Hospital who had treated the case visited the factory and suggested that the working place should be properly ventilated and workers should take bath immediately after their work hours.

This was promptly done by the company by removing windward sidewalls and making arrangements for bath.

In addition to this a new system of rotation was introduced, where formerly the same workers used to work permanently at the charging level for eight hours, now they work only four hours at charging level and four hours away from the place for a fortnight and another fortnight away from place ^{for} complete shift of 8 hours.

Thus, formerly where only three batches were exposed to the Manganese dioxide dust now every worker in the Factory is exposed to it in turn, though for a shorter duration.

The first batch of mine workers affected by this disease was declared permanently disabled and given compensation accordingly^{ly} and sent home.

It was expected that the rotation system would minimise the danger to exposure but this measure has also failed miserably short of adequate, and there is a sudden eruption of the symptoms of this disease among an alarmingly large number of workers.

The management just ignores to take ~~action~~ action and leaves the workers to face their destiny as best as they can.

The Chief Inspector of Factories, Bangalore, visited the factory about a month ago and written complaint was lodged with him. Nothing has come out of it yet.

It was suggested to the management that an exhaust draft fan be fitted in the Chimney of the furnace so that the charging platform will be clear of Manganese dioxide powder and smoke. The Management replies that order for such a fan has been placed with manufactures of the furnace about a year ago and nothing could be done in the matter for the time being.

I request our interested comrades to look into the matter and do something about it.

Coimbatore,

Dated/ 7/1/60.

~~for Karnataka Manganese Mines Workers~~
Union

for Electric Metallurgical Employees
Union Dandoli

D.V. Singh

Gen. Secy.

Resolution on Glass factories

There are ~~many~~ quite a large number of workers working in the glass factories throughout India. The conditions of these workers are pitiable. In various factories the managements are not honouring the Factories Act. as a result the workers are forced to work more than twelve hours in a day. There is no service condition. Total ^{minimum} wages are fixed at Rs 35/- per month. Also the workers are denied the P.F. Provident Fund Act. ~~and~~ the P.F. Employees P.F. Act the factories producing more than 500 tons are covered. ~~But~~ Also a large number of home workers also are working in these factories. The maternity benefit and other facilities are denied to these female workers. This Conference demands that the Factories Act and other facilities should be implemented to these industries.

On Coir Industry ^{By: P. G. Padmanabha}

~~Response~~

The 26th session of the A. I. T. U. C views with great concern the serious crisis in the Coir Industry which affects a million workers depending on the industry.

The Conference regrets that neither the Central Government nor the State Government are realising the seriousness of the situation and the gravity of the problems facing the industry.

The Conference urges the Central and State Government to take immediate steps to halt the collapse of the industry as a whole and to rehabilitate the thousands

of workers who are already
thrown out of employment
by taking the following immediate
steps

- (1) The Coir Industry be given a reasonable share from the allocation under the third five year plan made for the regeneration of declining industries.
- (2) New industries be started to absorb workers thrown out of employment.
- (3) A trading corporation for the Coir Industry be set up with a view to reorganising the industry on a sound footing.

Proposer: Stanli Salves

Woolen Textile

Member: P. L. Dutta

Resolution.

This 26th Session of the All India Trade Union Congress meeting at Coimbatore takes a serious note of the deplorable conditions of the woolen textile workers consisting about 28,000 in organised units in India.

While on one side there is a drive for modernising the industry, the Government of India has failed to take note of the peculiar condition of this industry where practically 95 per cent of raw materials have to be imported while curtailing the import quota ~~of~~ ^{of} raw materials year to year resulting in unemployment for thousands of workers.

This session also notes that while the profit capacity per rupee of investment in this industry is higher than cotton-textile industry, the wage-level as well other working conditions are much below than existing in cotton textile industry.

This session further takes a serious

note of the fact that quite a ^{large} number of workers are employed temporarily during May/June to December/January and thrown out of employment thereafter without any benefits such as retention allowance ~~and statute~~ as in the case of sugar mill workers and are also deprived of other statutory benefits.

This session, therefore, feels that:

- 1) The 1954-55 import quota should be the basis for issuing import licences, to maintain
- 2) The retention allowance should be given to all workers employed seasonally.
- 3) ~~The~~ A Wage Board or a National Tribunal for Woollen Textile Industry should be constituted by the Government.
- 4) Exemption from excise duty to small units should be withdrawn.
- 5) Till such time an interim relief of 25 percent of existing wages should be given immediately to compensate the rising cost of living.

①

On Mines other than Coal.

This 26th Session of A. I. T. U. C expresses its concern about the deplorable working and living conditions of nearly 3 lakhs of workers in Iron, Manganes, Copper ore mines, Gold and Mica, ^{magnésite} mines. There is no security of service to the workers engaged in these mines. Closure of ~~many~~ manganes and mica mines has become a normal feature on the plea of loss of markets in the foreign countries. Several workers in the Gold mines at Kolar have been retrenched on the ground that the reefs have been exhausted. Even the various labour legislations are not implemented. Little attention is paid to the safety provisions in these hazardous and arduous occupations. The Government also

has not so far promulgated the Metalliferous mines regulations under the Mines Act 1952, notwithstanding the fact eight years have elapsed since the act has been enforced. This has encouraged the mine-owners to exploit the workers.

The wages of the workers is low and does not bear any relation to the nature of the work, while the mine-owners have been making huge profits. Even in places where minimum wages Act has been enforced the wages are less than the minimum fixed for other industries in the region.

The organization and functioning of the unions in several mining areas is made well nigh impossible due to the brutal repression launched by the

(3)

Government against the office-bearers,
and workers
The office-bearers, are being implicated
in murder and dacoity cases as in
Gua and Barabil, and multi-

This session of A.I.T.U.C welcomes
the recent steps taken by the Govt of
India in working certain iron ore mines
in the public sector.

It is necessary that if the iron ore
production has to be stepped up for
maintaining the supply to the five
~~all~~ steel plants and export and
earn foreign exchange proper industrial
relations have to be maintained.

Similarly with a view to earning
foreign exchange necessary for the
development of the industries in our
Country the export of manganese
and Mica and conserving foreign
exchange the production of Gold

(4)

and Copper has also to be maintained and be increased.

This A.I.T.U.C Session demands of the Govt of India to take steps immediately for upward revision of wages of workers in the following:-

a) Iron ore, Mica, Gold, Manganese and Copper mines.

b) Adequate welfare facilities and accomodations quarters and cheap grain facilities.

(c) Statutory bonus scheme

d) Withdrawal of all cases launched against the office bearers of the trade unions at various places

e) Nationalization of foreign owned mines like C.P.M.O. Co. and ~~to start with the entire trade the export~~

1) S. K. Sanyal. Trade be ~~Controlled~~ owned entirely
2) ~~Secured~~ by the State Trading Corporation
Mover. Secured by M. T. Warshtham.

Resolution on printing Press industry

This 26th session of the All India Trade Union Congress deals with concern the service conditions of the employ workers in the printing presses in the country.

Printing industry in this country is one of the old industries and is rapidly expanding in every corner of the country.

Though there is a standardization of jobs in the industry, wages are not standardized even city to town wise not to talk about state wise. Though in certain states wages are ~~wherever~~ ^{fixed} under the Minimum wages Act, in certain states like Kerala and other parts of the country such as Mangalore, steps are not taken to

implement the wages. Despite the memorandums, and representation by the trade unions, state - Govts have not moved in the matter of implementation.

The Govt of India which instituted an enquiry into the news paper industry by the Press Commission, failed to make did not make any enquiry into regarding working conditions of press workers other than working journalists. The Govt of India further set up a Wage - Board to fix wages for the working journalists alone. ~~and thereby~~ The discriminated

Govt has only failed to refer the question of wages of the press workers other than working journalists to the Wage-Board but despite the demand in this respect from press workers all over the country refused to constitute a Wage-Board for the press workers.

This Senior. Star Caden-
the Govt's attitude of discrimination between workers and workmen

In the press industry statutory benefits accrued to the working journalists - a section of press workers ^{are} ~~is~~ denied to the other sections of the press

Workers.

Another feature of this industry is contract Labour. ~~in every~~ in state,

large number of projects all over the country, jobs are got done through contract Labour thereby denying full employment to the workers.

This seminar therefore demands

- (i) That the Govt of India and state Govts should take ~~im~~ immediate steps to implement award, Minimum wages fixed under the M.W.A

and agreement

(ii) Abolish Contract system
in the industry

(iii) To extend all the
benefits accruing under the
Working Journalists Act to
the non-working journalists workers.

E L E C T R I C I T Y .

RESOLUTIONS:-

This conference while noting the considerable progress in Power Generation during the II Plan Period views with serious concern that the working ~~and living~~ conditions of more than four Lakhs of Electricity workmen are kept discriminatively low level. The country is on the eve of the third Five Year Plan, and it has been widely accepted that the prosperity of the people and the country depend basically on the quick advance of Industrialisation and modernisation of agriculture. These two basic needs depend on the ~~most~~ proper utilisation of Power potential and the conscious participation of the Power workmen. Even after 12 years of the enactment of the Electricity (Supply) Act in 1948, the basic aims of the Act have not been attended to either by the Government of India or the State authorities. The aims of cheap production and rapid expansion are obstructed by the following factors (1) Several generation plants and distribution agencies are still in the hands of British and Private companies with maximum profits as prime motive (2) The extension and construction works are continued to be left in the hands of greedy contractors and (3) The schemes and Development works in the Public sectors are suffering from the System of obsolete methods of bureaucratic administration. More than 50% of the workmen under the State Electricity Boards are kept as temporary for over several years and even the statutory provisions of the Labour Laws are not implemented in relation to these workmen. The very bad Industrial relations hamper the prospects of ~~im~~proving the efficiency of this public and utility Industry. The provisions of the Code for Discipline nor the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on "State Enterprises" published in 1959 are accepted by the statutorily constituted Electricity Boards in 9 of the States. The disparities of wages and other conditions of service vary not only between the workmen under private companies and those of the Public sector but also between the workmen under the statutory Bodies in one state and another. Hence this conference demands that the following just needs of these workmen be conceded.

1. WAGE BOARD:- This conference views with concern that the Union Ministry for Labour has not included this important industry of Electricity Generation, Distribution and transmission among the schedule of Industries warranting uniform and fair wages and other conditions of service. This conference demands that a wage Board be appointed forthwith to determine the wages leave benefits, retirement Benefits and the quantum of Bonus based on the accepted principles of the Tripartite for the Power workmen in India comprising both of private companies and the statutory Industrial undertakings.

2. NATIONAL MINIMUM:- This conference demands that a national minimum of Rs.125/- be conceded to the Electricity workmen and suitable upgrading of other grades, thus recognising the importance of this industry and the valuable contribution being made by these workmen to the national progress to ensure the uniformity in the working conditions of the workmen and to put an end to the discriminatively low level of working conditions.

3. DEARNESS ALLOWANCE:- While sections of Electricity workmen in private companies are getting the Dearness Allowance at 100% and similar workmen in several regions are paid the D.A. at 25 NP, the vast majority of the workmen are kept at less than 12 Np and the level of wages is kept at starvation level. Hence the conference demands that the rate of Dearness Allowance to these workmen be linked to the cost of living index primarily on the regional basis and thus end the present discrimination and in consonance with the accepted principles of "Equal Pay for Equal Work".

4. SECURITY OF SERVICE:- This conference demands that the present position of insecurity be ended forthwith in relation to tens of thousands of Electricity workmen who are kept temporary even after ~~ten~~ 10 to 15 years of service and the elementary benefits of leave, P.F. and Gratuity ~~denied~~ denied to them. This conference urges that the workmen who have put in more than 1 year of continuous service be accorded the same facilities as their ~~in~~ brethren in other Industrial undertakings.

5. EXPEDITE NATIONALISATION AND DEMOCRATISE BUREAUCRACY! :-

Industry
This conference notes with concern that though the principle of nationalisation has been accepted ~~by~~ by the Government of India ~~in~~ relation to the Power ~~workmen~~, there has been a marked tendency in implementation of the same that is hampering the maximum utilisation of power, resources as well as the Technical resources, and reducing the rate of cost of Power. Hence this conference urges ~~on~~ the G.O.I. to take comprehensive steps to complete the nationalisation of the companies within the 3rd 5 year plan period.

In this connection it has to be noted that all the private, Companies such as Martin Bura & Co., Octarvious Steel Trust, Calcutta Electricity supply Co., have earned more than 20 times their share capital invested in the Industry by now and the payment of compensation should not exceed the present assets or the Book value.

This conference further considers that the real benefits to the country⁺ to the People by nationalisation or by Public managements will be very little unless democratisation steps are urgently taken and the Red ~~p~~ Tape, wastage and Maladministration are reduced to the minimum. As a first step the recommendations of the Parliamentary committee on state Enterprises are to be implemented in relation to this vital and public industry.

6. NATIONAL POOL FOR CONSTRUCTION OR PROJECT WORKMEN:- This conference feels that the present policies of the State and Central Authorities in respect of the construction & Project workmen constitute a grave threat to the maintenance of Industrial peace and the Directive principles of Labour policies embodied in the industrial resolution approved by the Parliament. At the end of 5 to 10 years of cruel conditions of service to the national progress, tens of thousands of construction and Project workmen are mercilessly thrown to the pangs of unemployment and starvation. To put an end to such unfair labour practices resorted to even by ~~statutory~~ statutory Bodies, and to ensure the voluntary co-operation of Lakhs of workmen in the tasks of national reconstruction, this conference demands of the Government of India to constitute A NATIONAL POOL o Labour Force and thus ensure the continuity of service and transfer of the workmen from one project to another and payment of unemployment Relief during the periods of interval.

This conference of the 26th Session of the A.I.T.U.C. calls upon the Electricity workmen all over India to organise themselves better and forge greater links of solidarity with the rest of the organised workmen towards attaining the ~~above~~ above just demands.

MOVER:- SRI: S.C.KRISHNAN (TAMILNAD)

SECONDER:- SRI: MARKANDEYAJHA (WEST BENGAL).

.....

Camp: Coimbatore,
January, 10th, 1961.

Dear Comrade Secretary,

A meeting of delegates of local bodies held in Delhi Camp on 6-1-61. 31 delegates of 9 states participated in it.

One delegate from each state reported about the working conditions of his own local bodies employees. After report, it was found that the wages of the employees is too meager in some conditions even below the subsistence level. Lakhs of employees are working as contegency labour which their work is that of permanent nature.

After reporting a Committee was formed to prepare a resolution on the condition of these employees. Hence I am submitting this resolution to A.I.T.U.C. Office to be placed before the sessions.

Yours Comradely,

s. p. Singal

Som Prakash Singal.
Uttar Pradesh.

LOCAL BODIES RESOLUTIONS.

This 26th session of the All India Trade Union Congress expresses its grave concern at the continued regusal of various State Governments, Local Bodies Employers to apply to their employees even the accepted norms in the matter of service and working conditions. Lakhs of employees of these local Bodies are, therefore, perpetually subjected to sub-human standard of living; paid a miserably low wage of Rs.14/- per month in many cases and with only a nominal D.A. Lakhs of employees in every state are denied permanency and security of service, kept as temporary hands for as long a period as 20 years; denied the benefits of Provident Fund, Medical Aid, Promotions according to seniority, annual increments etc. In fact, for the employees of most of the Local Bodies in the country, there are no proper scales of pay and no service regulations.

Most of the Labour Laws are not made applicable to them. Hours of work, Over Time payments are not being regulated. Protection is being denied to them even under the Industrial Disputes Act. Although employees of Local Bodies are covered under the Minimum Wages Act, a number of State Governments have taken no steps to determine the minimum wages admissible to them.

This Session therefore demands:

1. Wage Boards be set up at State level to go into the question of revision of grades of wages in accordance with the principals laid down in 15th Indian Labour Conference.
2. That all temporary, work-charged contingency staff of all Local Bodies be made permanent with all benefits.
3. That Labour Laws including Industrial Disputes Act be made applicable to local bodies employees.
4. That the social benefits like provident fund, gratuity and pension schemes should be provided for the local bodies employees.
5. That the G.O. by the Central Government in respect of housing for local bodies employees shall be implemented as early as possible.

Local Bodies Resolutions.

6. That this conference resolves to urge upon the Central Govt. and also State Governments to provide sufficient funds to meet the growing amenities of local bodies by ear-marking adequate allotment from Motor Vehicle Tax, distribution of Electricity and also handing over of Motor Transports and also levy of octroy and other duties.

7. This 26th of A.I.T.U.C. appeals to all the workers of local bodies to unite for the fulfilment of the above demands and proposes to observe a demands day on 15th March to draw the attention of Authorities concerned.

ON THE FAILURE OF N.C.D.C. Ltd.

The 26th session of the AITUC emphasises its deep concern over the failure of the National Coal Development Corporation, a public sector under-taking to achieve the 1st plan target of coal production.

A target of 60 million tons of coal production was fixed in the 2nd Plan. But the Coal industry as a whole will not reach beyond 52 million tons at the end of the 2nd five year Plan. This means that the coal industry as a whole has failed to achieve the Plan target. But the failure of the N.C.D.C., which is mainly responsible for the production of coal in the public sector is greater and more deplorable. This necessitates enquiry into the affairs of the N.C.D.C. so that the same story is not repeated in future.

In the opinion of the AITUC the main reasons of the failure of the NCDC are as follows:-

- i) Absence of advance planning
- ii) bad maintenance of machineries as a result of which nearly 50% of the newly purchased machines are idle in the main producing centre
- iii) nepotism among the officials
- iv) discriminatory cadre policy
- v) favouritism in the appointment to the supervisory and executive posts.
- vi) Some of the key officials being under the influence of big contractors who themselves are big coal mine owners
- vii) ~~corruption~~ all round corruption and lethargy
- viii) careless and anti-labour policy of the officials towards the key production workers in respect of their ~~scale~~ scales of pay, promotion, categorisation, housing water supply, light, medical facilities etc
- ix) discrimination against the majority union i.e coal workers union has not been recognised even after it majority following was proved in the verification done under the code of discipline
- X) frequent breakdowns in the newly created washeries

Resolution on Cement Wage Board Recommendations
and its Implementation.

1. This XXVI Session of the A. I. T. U. C. expresses its deep concern at the inordinate delay in the implementation of the Recommendations of the Cement Wage Board and urges upon the Govt of India to take prompt and effective steps to secure full and proper implementation without further delay.

2. This Session of the A. I. T. U. C. notes with regret that although the Board accepted the need based norms of the XV Indian Labour Conference but failed to evolve and recommend the Wage structure in accordance with them.

3. It is strange that the Wage Board violated the very principle it laid down i.e. the necessity of a Uniform national wage for the Cement industry by recommending two different wages: Rs 10 1/50 ^{np} Consolidated wage at 123 ^{All India general} C.L.I with 1949 = 100., and ^{DA} Rs 1.59 ^{np} rise for every 2 pts and Rs 94/- and ^{DA} Rs 1.47 ^{np} for every 2 points rise in C.L.I above 123 for ~~Saurashtra-Gujarat~~ Saurashtra - region and rest of India respectively.

over 123 C.L.I.

4. The Wage Board in failing to give service weightage ~~to~~ and by clubbing senior and junior employees together, has created deep discontent and stir amongst all sections of the Cement employees.

5. The Wage Board has done gross injustice by recommending a cut of Rs 3/- from the recommended ~~increased~~ wages for so called labour welfare activities by the Management.

6. By Recommending phasing of benefits to workers in any unit where benefits recommended may be over Rs 26/- according to a few, the Wage Board has provided a handle to the employers to escape with impunity full implementation even if the higher benefit accrues to a single worker.

7. Even to date the Govt of India has not fulfilled its solemn assurance given in the Industrial Tripartite meeting in June 1960 to remove this phasing by modifying its resolution on the Wage Board Recommendations.

8. This session notes that the Wage Board had rejected the employers' plea to grant increased work loads before granting any wage increase, declaring that the existing work loads are already too high.

It is therefore deplorable that the Govt while directing the employers to implement the Wage Board recommendations has also permitted them blatantly to increase further work loads.

9.

The A. I. T. U. C. condemns the tactics of the employers in inordinately delaying implementation of the 32 existing units the Wage Board recommendations have not been implemented yet in 10 units and where it is implemented grave injustices ^{adverse} are being committed ~~by~~ by the re-categorisation of semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled workers and by unjust phasing of benefits. The employers are further, withdrawing the hard won Concessions and resorting to unilateral retrenchment at a time when the Joint Constituted Committees are still inguring into work loads and Standards to present a fait accompli.

10.

The A. I. T. U. C. regrets the Callous indifference of the Govt of India which despite its assurance + decision of the Tripartite Industrial Committee + ~~dispite~~ despite of several representations of Unions + Federation + the A. I. T. U. C., has not set up the Central Standing Machinery to give proper interpretations of disputed aspects for amicable implementation.

This ~~26~~²⁵ session therefore demands:

11.

- ① Immediate steps for proper implementation of the recommendations.
- ② Setting up of Central Standing Machinery.
- ③ Service weightage at the rate of one increment for every 2 years of service.
- ④ No adverse effect to any employee in the implementation of recommendations and providing necessary adjustments at unit levels.
- ⑤ Ban on further increase of workloads & retrenchment.
- ⑥ Removal of unjust phasing.
- ⑦ Stopping and refund of Rs 3/- in the name of welfare activities from the recommended wage.
- ⑧ Application of Samashtha-Gujarat region wage and DA rates to all the units in the country.

The A.I.T.U.C. urges upon the Govt of India to take prompt steps for immediate implementation and convene the meeting of the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Cement urgently to consider the situation.

The Session calls upon all the Cement
 Workers in the Country to unitedly
 agitate for the securing the benefits
 of the recommendations without anomalies
 and to Consolidate the gains.

Coinbatore
 11th January 1961.

Proposed: N. Sathyavaran Reddy
 President
 All India Cement Workers Federation

Seconded: ~~_____~~ K. K. Sinha
 Gen. Secretary
 President
 United Cement Manufacturers Union,
 Jehinkpuri, Bihar

ON JUTE INDUSTRY + WORKERS

The 26th session of the AITNC welcomes the long-overdue appointment of a Central Wage Board for the Jute Industry including a representative of the AITNC. The AITNC hopes that the Wage Board will do justice to the 2½ lakh jute mill workers of West Bengal, Andhra, Bihar, U.P., + Madhya Pradesh who are among the worst paid & exploited of workers in this country.

The AITNC wholeheartedly supports the demands of the jute workers for ^{an immediate, interim relief & for} a minimum living wage, sliding-scale system of D.A., Bonus, proper gradation of pay scales, special allowance for night work, etc. In order to achieve these demands, it is necessary for the various jute workers' unions in different centres to coordinate their activities + carry on a united campaign to secure maximum possible gains from the Wage Board.

At the same time, the AITNC notes with grave concern the continued offensive of capitalist rationalisation in the Jute industry, which has already resulted in the retrenchment of about 1 lakh workers since 1949, including about 25,000 women; imposition of heavy workloads on both modern + old machinery; & mass-scale replacement of permanent workers by so-called badli wallas, casual + temporary hands. This has led to complete insecurity of service, + creation of a vast army of "surplus", semi-employed workers which acts upon the trade union movement + helps the employers to keep living standards unduly depressed, while company profits are rising steadily.

Despite continuous protests + agitation by the trade unions of all shades of opinion, the Government of India has lent its full support to the Indian Jute Mills Association's schemes of rationalisation without any care to implement the tripartite agreement on Rationalisation reached at the 15th Indian Labour Conference for safeguarding employment + the workers' other interests.

The AITNC strongly protests against this reactionary policy of the IJMA + the Government and demands :-

- 1) Full adherence to the provisions of the 15th ILC agreement on Rationalisation;

* West Bengal

- 2) Immediate fixation of the permanent cadre in all mills at the rate of at least 3 workers per loom;
- 3) Stoppage of the practice of recruiting more & more new hands to the "badli" list;
- 4) Permanency of service for those registered badlis who have worked ^{continuously} for more than 3 months;
- 5) No further reduction in the volume of employment of women workers;
- 6) No arbitrary reduction in labour complements on non-modernised machinery;
- 7) No further extension of double-loom working.

The ATVC also regrets to find that the Jute industry - one of the principal earners of the country's valuable foreign exchange resources - has been left completely at the mercy of the powerful monopolists, speculators, & traders from the raw material to the finished goods stage. As a result, there has been uncontrolled profiteering & speculation in the forward trading markets, thereby seriously damaging our export markets while the raw jute cultivating peasant is also fleeced & deprived of an economic price. Lakhs of people are thus suffering due to this anti-national policy of gambling with a strategic industry for the sake of private profits.

The ATVC therefore demands in the interests of the country that the following steps be taken immediately to stabilise the industry as a national asset & to remove its control from the selfish clutches of private monopolists:

- 1) Statutory fixation of minimum prices for raw jute purchase from the growers;
- 2) State purchase & storage in order to prevent undue depression of prices, & requisitioning of illegal raw jute hoards in the hands of speculators & traders;
- 3) Firm measures to suppress speculation in Forward Markets trading;
- 4) Diversification of jute goods production by the mills;
- 5) Export trade in jute goods to be nationalised;
- 6) Development of new markets abroad & also of the domestic consumption of jute goods.

TRADE UNION RECORD

(FORTNIGHTLY)

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

VOL. XVII NO. 9

MARCH 5, 1961

PRICE: 20 nP.

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HOMAGE TO THE MEMORY OF LUMUMBA

SOLIDARITY WITH THE CONGOLESE PEOPLE

WFTU STATEMENT

Calls for Complete Evacuation of Belgian Troops and Trial of the Murderers

The news of the murder of Prime Minister Patrice LUMUMBA and his colleagues, at the direct instigation of Tshombe, the hired agent of the Katanga Mining Union and of the Belgian colonialists, has aroused the indignation of the workers of the whole world. In all countries, they are demonstrating their wrath and anger.

The sordid murder of the leader of the Congolese movement for national independence, who had been legally elected by the great majority of his people and enjoyed the support of the African people and of all anti-colonial forces throughout the world, is a new and vain attempt by the imperialists to suppress the victorious struggle of the African people by the use of terror.

It represents a serious threat to the cause of freedom and independence in Africa, and to the cause of peace. It unmasks and exposes to the whole world the role of the Belgian monopolies, colonialist government and all the other imperialist forces who have systematically inspired and organised the worst possible attacks

against the sovereignty of the legal government of the Congo under the cloak of the United Nations. These attacks were directed in particular against the Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba.

It places a new and heavy responsibility on the Secretary-General of the United Nations whose attitude facilitated and made possible the murder of Lumumba.

Patrice Lumumba died as a hero, killed by the agents of the monopolies and colonialists. He has become the symbol of the

desire for independence in the Congo and throughout Africa which rouses all anti-colonialist forces to rally and work for the final eradication of colonialism. His example will inspire the struggle of the Congolese people to safeguard their unity and territorial integrity and to win complete independence.

In paying homage to the memory of this courageous fighter against colonialism, the WFTU, speaking for its 107 million members, expresses its deep sympathy and solidarity with the workers and people of the

Congo and Africa.

Adding its indignant protest to that of all democrats and of all who oppose colonialism, the WFTU insists on the final and complete evacuation of Belgian troops from the Congo and the trial and condemnation of Tshombe and all who are directly and indirectly responsible for the murder of Patrice Lumumba.

It calls on all workers and trade unions to increase all forms of demonstrations of solidarity with the Congolese people and workers.

UNITED STRIKE OF JUTE WORKERS IN WEST BENGAL

More than two lakhs of Jute Workers resorted to a general strike on February 13, in West Bengal. The strike was resorted to as a protest against the unilateral decision of the employers resulting in cut in working hours as well as wide-scale retrenchment of workers. The strike was complete and peaceful.

The call for the strike was given by Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union (AITUC) and National Union of Jute Workers (INTUC) and supported by Federation of Jute Workers, UTUC and HMS.

Following the strike, a mass meeting was organised by the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union and therefrom a procession of several thousand workers went to the head office of the IJMA

where they demonstrated against the action of the employers.

In a memorandum to IJMA, it was demanded that (a) full 48 hours work in a week must be immediately reintroduced in all Jute Mills; (b) compensation must be paid to those workers who have suffered financial losses owing to the reduction of working hours; and (c) the recommendation of M. C. Banerjee, Chairman, Spe-

cial Committee must be implemented forthwith.

The protest token strike of Jute Workers on February 13, was the second one where all Jute Workers unitedly decided to strike for their demands. The earlier united strike was on December 14, 1959, following which a Wage Board was appointed for the Jute Industry by the Government of India.

In a resolution passed in the mass rally of jute workers, on February 13, it has been pointed out that the reduction of working hours by the employers on the plea of shortage of raw jute was nothing but a part of a wider plan to torpedo the work of the Jute Wage Board.

THE CONGO AND ITS HEROES

So Patrice Lumumba has been murdered. The apprehensions of the world on this count have proved to be true. The inaction of the UNO and of its General Secretary, Hamarskjoeld, to give adequate protection led to this despicable murder.

With Patrice Lumumba have been murdered, Joseph Okito, President of the Senate and Maurice Mpolo, Minister for Defence of the first Government of the independent Congo.

These cold-blooded murders were followed by more murders. The butchers of the Belgian puppet rulers in Kasai province have killed a number of top political leaders of the Congo in a most shameless and cruel manner.

Among these killed, were, Fiantin, former President of Orientale province; Major Fatiki, police chief of Orientale; Gilbert Nzuzi, leader of National Youth Movement; Christophe Muzungu, Pierre Elen-gesa, Yangara and others.

These leaders were arrested and then handed over to the self-proclaimed ruler of South Kasai, Kalonji, as part of the deal in which Lumumba was handed over to Tshomba for 50 million Belgian francs.

The murder of the revolutionary leaders of the Congo, who represented the resurgent spirit of Africa that is freeing itself from the shackles of slavery, by the henchmen of Belgian imperialists, is yet another proof of the vile attempts of the imperialists to establish neo-colonialism.

But this cold-blooded and pre-meditated murder, which cannot be compared with any other political murder in the world, cannot put an end to the struggle of liberation of the colonial people. The fire of freedom-struggle cannot be put out by spilling of blood of the leaders of the Revolution.

Patrice Lumumba is dead. But his clarion call to freedom, which no prison could silence, will not be stilled by the grave wherever might it be. Patrice Lumumba will remain in the minds of people as the embodiment of hope, courage and struggle of the millions of people under the bondage of slavery and colonial oppression. His yet unknown grave will continue to inspire the fighting people with greater determination and stronger conviction in the world over for the complete eradication of hated colonialism.

Democratic people all over the world have unhesitatingly voiced their thunderous protest

A MORNING IN THE HEART OF AFRICA

By Patrice Lumumba

For a thousand years you, Negro, suffered like a beast,
your ashes strewn to the wind that roams the desert.

Your tyrants built the lustrous, magic temples
to preserve your soul, preserve your suffering.
Barbaric right of fist and the white right to a whip,
you had the right to die, you also could weep.

In your totem they carved endless hunger, endless bonds,
and even in the cover of the woods a ghastly cruel death
was watching, snaky, crawling to you like branches from
the holes and heads of trees
embraced your body and your ailing soul.

Then they put a treacherous big viper on your chest;
on your neck they laid the yoke of fire-water,
they took your sweet wife for the glitter of cheap pearls,
your incredible riches that no body could measure.

From your hut, the tom-toms sounded into the dark of night
carrying cruel laments up mighty black rivers
about abused girls, streams of tears and blood,
about ships that sailed to the country where the little man
wallows in an ant-hill and where dollar is the king,
to that damned land which they call motherland.

There your child, your wife were ground day and night
by frightful, merciless mill, crushing them in dreadful pain.

You are man like others. They preach you to believe
that good white god will reconcile all men at last.
By fire you grieved and sang the moaning songs
of homeless begger that sings at stranger's doors.

And when a craze possessed you and your blood boiled
through the night
you danced, you moaned,

Like the fury of a storm to lyrics of a manly tune
a strength burst out of you for a thousand years of misery
in metallic voice of jazz, in uncovered outcry
that thunders through the continent in gigantic surf.

The whole world, surprised, woke up in a panic
to the violent rhythm of blood,
to the violent rhythm of jazz,
the white man turning pallid over this new song
that carries torch of purple through the dark of night.

The dawn is here, my brother, dawn! Look in our faces,
a new morning breaks in our old Africa.
Ours only will now be the land, the water, the mighty rivers
which the poor Negro was surrendering for a thousand years.

And hard torches of the sun will shine for us again,
they'll dry the tears in your eyes and spittle on your face.
The moment when you break the chains, the heavy fetters,
the evil, cruel times will go never to come again.

A free and gallant Congo will arise from the black soil,
a free and gallant Congo—the black blossom, the black seed!

(Reproduced from Link Newsmagazine)

against this murder and held the imperialists and their stooges responsible for this crime.

The Belgian gunmen and their gangster allies under Tshombe in Katanga stand condemned as the organisers of this crime.

But their guilt is shared by others—Kasavubu and Mobutu who handed the leaders of the legally constituted Government of the Independent Congo, over to Tshombe. Those in charge of the United Nations, especially its Secretary-General Hamarskjoeld, who allowed the

armed Belgian Fascists to help the traitors in their fight against Lumumba are also responsible for these murders.

The supporters of Lumumba with their headquarters in Stanleyville, control half of the country and they have already set up a Government headed by Gizenga and the support for this Government is growing daily. This Government has already been recognised by many countries.

The colonialists want to maintain their grip so that they can continue their robbery of

the wealth of Congo. Not only Belgians, but also powerful groups in Britain, France, West Germany and the United States are involved.

The biggest Uranium mine in Africa is in Katanga. From this mine, the United States obtained the Uranium for its first atom bomb that killed and maimed millions in Hiroshima. This mine is under the control of the Belgians.

Katanga is one of the most profitable mining regions in the

(Continued on page 6)

AFRICA : Countries and Years of Independence



Note: Areas not shaded are still under occupation.

0 1000 2000 km.

AFRICA

ETHIOPIA: Capital: Addis Ababa. Area: 359,000 sq.m. Pop: 20 M.

Oldest of free African countries, with monarchy dating back to 200 B.C. Came under Italian occupation during war. **LIBERIA:** Capital: Monrovia. Area: 43,000 sq. m. Pop: 1.5 m.

Established in 1847 as haven for negroes freed from slavery in U.S.A. financed by U.S. capital.

EGYPT: Capital: Cairo. Area: 386,198 sq. m. Pop: 25 m.

Freed from British occupation in 1922. Constituent of the United Arab Republic. A force that African people have come to accept but whose role in Africa is received with doubt by certain other newly freed countries.

LIBYA: Capital: Tripoli. Area: 1.76 sq. m. Pop: 1.2 m. Former Italian colony; came under British and French occupation after War. Granted independence under U.N. decision in 1951.

MOROCCO: Capital: Rabat. Area: 154,100 sq. m. Pop: 10 m.

Former French colony won independence in 1956. Yet to

find stable democratic government.

TUNISIA: Capital: Tunis. Area 48,195 sq.m. Pop: 4 m.

Stable, democratically elected government headed by Bourguiba. Has in recent years begun to align itself with Asian-African bloc. Keenly interested in liberation of Algeria.

SUDAN: Capital: Khartoum. Area: 967,500 sq.m. Pop: 9 m.

Independent since 1956 after period of British-Egyptian condominium. Came under military rule in Jan. 1959.

GHANA: Capital: Accra. Area: 92,000 sq.m. Pop: 6.7 m.

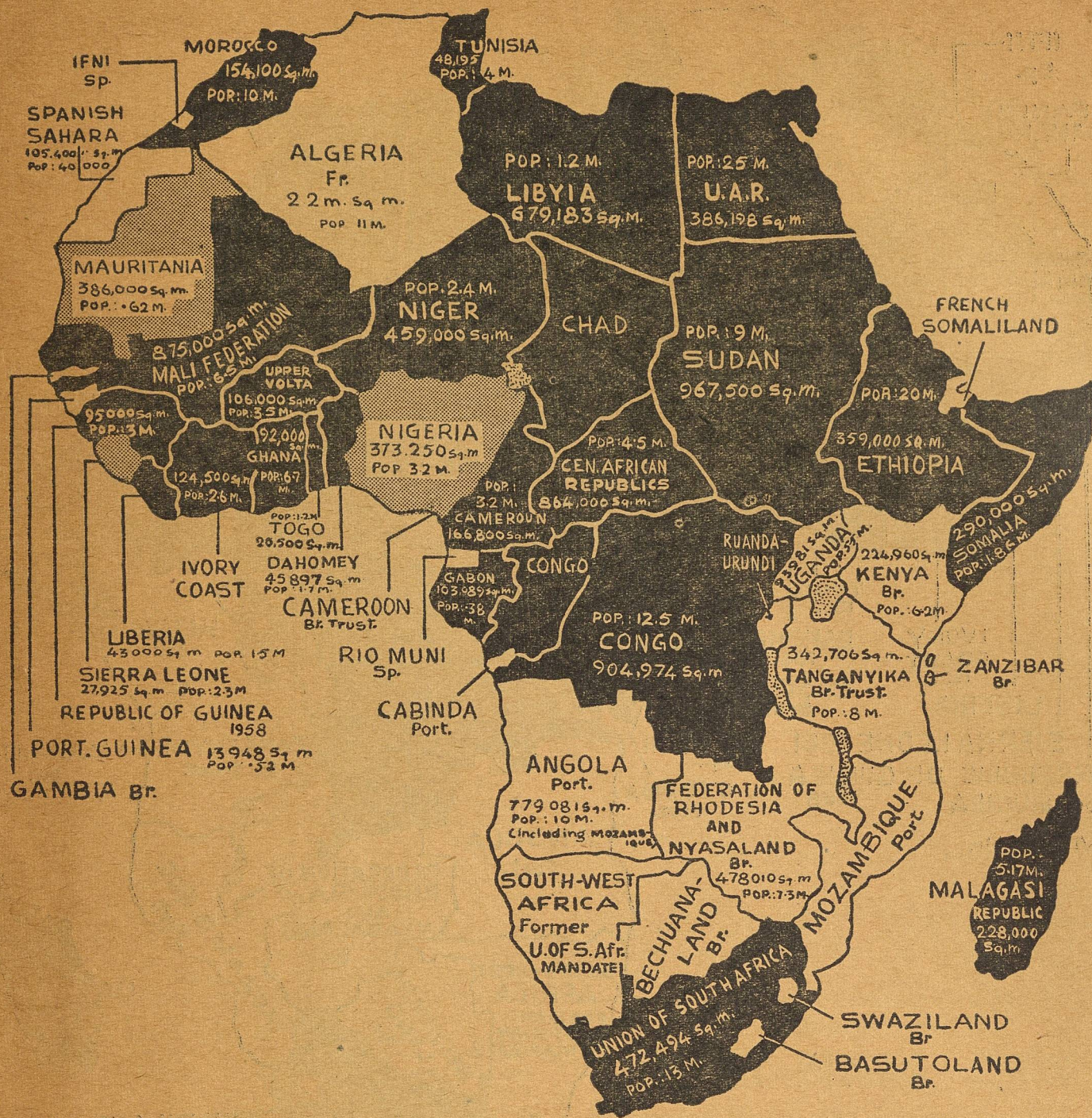
Freed by Britain after six years of intense anti-colonial struggle by Convention Peoples Party in 1957. On July 1, 1960 formally became a Republic within the Commonwealth. Nkrumah has announced that Ghana will subordinate its sovereignty in the interests of a United Africa.

GUINEA: Capital: Conakry. Area 95,000 sq.m. Pop: 3 m. Guinea broke from French Community under option given by 1958 French Constitution. Entered into Union with Ghana.

CAMEROON: Capital: Yaounde. Area: 166,800 sq.m. Pop: 3.2 m.

(Continued on page 4)

AFRICA : Area and Population



Note: Areas not shaded are still under occupation.

0 1000 2000 K.M.

Africa

(Continued from page 3)

CAMEROON REPUBLIC: Capital: Lome. Area: 20,500 sq. m. Pop: 1.2 m. French administered U.N. trust territory, became free on April 27, 1960.

CONGO (Republic): Capital: Leopoldville. Area: 904,974 sq. m. Pop: 12.5 m. Under Belgium for nearly 70 years, granted independence on July 1, 1960 following African uprisings.

SOMALIA: Capital: Mogadishu. Area: 290,000 sq. m. Pop: 1.86 m.

NIGER (Republic): Capital: Niamey. Area: 459,000 sq. m. Pop: 2.4 m. Independent since August 2, 1960.

IVORY COAST: Capital: Abidjan. Area: 124,500 sq. m. Pop: 2.6 m. The President of Ivory Coast is a trusted French stooge. Proclaimed independence, August 1960.

UPPER VOLTA (Republic): Capital: Ouagadougou. Area: 106,000 sq. m. Pop: 3.5 m. Proclaimed independence, August, 1960.

UNION OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLICS: Area: 864,000 sq. m. Pop: 4.5 m. Consisting of Central African Republic Chad and French Congo. Formal transfer of power in 1960.

GABON: Capital: Libreville. Area: 103,089 sq. m. Pop: 380,000. Gabon did not join the Union of Central African Republics but became independent in 1960.

MALI FEDERATION: Capital: Dakar. Area: 875,000 sq. m. Pop: 6.5 m. Composed of Senegal and Soudan, former French colonies, became independent within the French Community on June 19, 1960.

MALAGASY REPUBLIC: Capital: Tananarive. Area: 228,000 sq. m. Pop: 5.17 m. Former French territory, became independent on June 26, 1960.

DAHOMEY: Capital: Contonon. Area: 45,897 sq. m. Pop: 1.7 m. Among the most advanced of French speaking African territories, became independent within French community on August 1, 1960.

NIGER (Republic): Capital: Niamey. Area: 459,000 sq. m. Pop: 2.4 m. Independent since August 2, 1960.

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FRENCH SOMALILAND: POP: 20 M.

ETHIOPIA: 359,000 sq. m., POP: 20 M.

SOMALIA: 290,000 sq. m., POP: 1.86 M.

RUANDA-URUNDI: 224,960 sq. m., POP: 6.2 M.

UGANDA: 224,960 sq. m., POP: 6.2 M.

KENYA: 224,960 sq. m., POP: 6.2 M.

TANGANYIKA Br. Trust: 342,706 sq. m., POP: 8 M.

LIBERIA: 43,000 sq. m., POP: 1.5 M.

SIERRA LEONE: 27,925 sq. m., POP: 2.3 M.

PORT. GUINEA: 13,948 sq. m., POP: .52 M.

ANGOLA: 779,081 sq. m., POP: 10 M. (Including MOZAMB.)

FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND Br.: 478,010 sq. m., POP: 7.3 M.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA Former U.O.F.S.Afr. MANDATE:

BECHUANA-LAND Br.:

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: 472,494 sq. m., POP: 13 M.

MOZAMBIQUE Port.:

SWAZILAND Br.:

BASUTOLAND Br.:

MALAGASY REPUBLIC: 228,000 sq. m., POP: 5.17 M.

MAURITANIA: (in the French Community). Capital: Noukchott. Area: 386,000 sq. m. Pop: 620,000. Islamic Republic to be free within French community in 1961.

Promised full independence 1961.

TANGANYIKA: (U.N. Trust Territory under British Administration). Area: 342,706 sq. m. Pop: 8 m. Nyerere leader of Tanganyika African National Union has secured an elected African majority in the territories legislature. Not yet independent.

SIERRA LEONE (Britain): Ca-

(Continued on page 5)

SINGARENI COLLIERY DISPUTE SETTLED

Memorandum of settlement arrived at between the management of the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., and their workmen represented by the Singareni Collieries Workers' Union, during discussions held on the 6th February, 1961 at Kothaguidim in regard to the question of implementation of the decision of arbitrator (Colliery disputes).

The Singareni Collieries Workers' Union was represented by (i) T. B. Vittal Rao, President, (ii) M. Kumariah, General-Secretary, (iii) I. Surya Rao, Joint Secretary and (iv) Shaik Mahaboob, Working Committee Member.

Since the implementation of the Award of the All India Industrial Tribunal (Colliery Disputes), the workers employed by the Singareni Collieries Co., Ltd., have been brought on par in general with the workers employed in the coal-fields in Bengal and Bihar insofar as their rates of pay and other emoluments are concerned.

The Award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal of India has also been applied to the workers employed by the Singareni Collieries Co., Ltd. The implementation of these two awards has given rise to certain anomalies and allied issues requiring immediate decision.

Some of the issues were decided upon locally and implemented.

As regards the rest of the collieries in India, 31 items under dispute were referred for arbitration to A. Das Gupta, in accordance with the terms of agreement reached between the organisations of

employers and workmen in relation to coal industry.

The Singareni Collieries Co., Ltd., and the workers employed by the Company were not made parties to this arbitration, although some of the issues had a bearing on the terms and conditions of service of the workers employed by the Singareni Collieries.

As it was considered necessary that the Singareni Collieries should continue to be treated along with the industry for all the benefits of the Award of Shri Das Gupta, these issues were discussed in great detail between the management and the representatives of the workers. The following terms of settlement were arrived at as a result of these discussions.

TERMS OF SETTLEMENT:

1. The parties agreed to abide by the decision of the Arbitrator (Colliery Disputes) in respect of such of the items as are relevant to the Singareni Collieries.

2. If a doubt arises in regard to the extent to which any of the items should be applicable to our collieries, the parties agreed to settle details in respect of such items by mutual discussions.

3. The decision of the Arbitrator (Colliery Dispute) will be made applicable with effect from the date from which the Government of India agree to allow the price increase for the selling price of our coal to the same extent as the price increase allowed on two recent occasions by the Government of India for the rest of the Collieries where the decision of the Arbitrator has been implemented—vide Government of India Notification Nos. SO. 842 April 1, 1960 and SO. 2112 August 24, 1960, i.e., an aggregate of Re. 0.12 nP. per ton.

STATEMENT ABOUT OWNERSHIP AND OTHER PARTICULARS ABOUT TRADE UNION RECORD (FORTNIGHTLY)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Place of Publication: | NEW DELHI |
| 2. Periodicity of its publication: | FORTNIGHTLY |
| 3. Printer's Name: | K. G. SRIWASTAVA |
| Nationality | INDIAN |
| Address | 4 ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI |
| 4. Publisher's Name: | K. G. SRIWASTAVA |
| Nationality | INDIAN |
| Address | 4 ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI |
| 5. Editor's Name: | K. G. SRIWASTAVA |
| Nationality | INDIAN |
| Address | 4 ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI |
| 6. Names and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital: | ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
4 ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI |

I, K. G. SRIWASTAVA, hereby declared that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

February 28, 1961

Sd.
K. G. SRIWASTAVA
Publisher

WORD PEACE COUNCIL SESSION

NEW DELHI, MARCH 25-29

The World Peace Council is meeting for the first time in India from March 25 to 29, 1961. Thus for the first time, we in India will have the opportunity and the honour to greet the leaders of the world camp of peace.

The Session will discuss the crucial issues before the peace-loving millions. The question of disarmament, the brave struggle of little Cuba fighting against the giant U. S imperialism, the heroic fight of Algerians against the French colonialists, the mighty upsurge in Congo which is sought to be drowned in blood by the imperialists, their indigenous agents aided by the U. N., the mighty struggle in Laos—in fact, all these and other questions which concern the preservation and defence of peace and the defeat of imperialism, will be discussed by this Session.

There will be a special convention on the issue of liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule.

The trade unions in India have always played a big role in the anti-imperialist and anti-colonial struggle whether in our own country or elsewhere and have, along with other sections of our people, supported a policy of peace.

A great responsibility devolves upon the trade unions to mobilise full and widespread support for this Session. All

unions should send messages of greetings and solidarity to the World Peace Council at Delhi, should help in collection of funds and should send the maximum number of delegates to attend the Session.

The All-India Peace Council has printed 10 naye paise chits for mass collections. The unions should obtain books from the All-India Peace Council for sale among workers. All delegates will be entitled to attend the session and arrangements for lodging are being made. There will be a convention of trade unions on one of the days where the specific role which TUs can play to make their work more effective on these questions will be discussed.

Various delegates from other countries will be touring some of the States before the Session starts. The trade unions should join in, and in fact take the initiative, to see that thousands gather to give a befitting reception to these leaders and to hear their message of peace and solidarity.

SATISH LOOMBA,
Secretary, AITUC

Africa *****

(Continued from page 4)

pital: Freetown. Area: 27,925 sq.m. Pop: 2.3 m.

Promised full Independence within the commonwealth in 1961.

KENYA (Britain): Capital: Nairobi. Area: 224,960 sq. m. Pop: 6.2 m.

Already promised democratic self-government with more reasonable representation for African majority.

BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND, SWAZILAND (British): also moving towards self-government.

FED. OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND (British): Capital: Salisbury. Area: 478,010 sq. m. Pop: 7.3 m.

Constitutional commission now working out new constitution for Federation. African opposition to white settler rule sparking out off and on. UGANDA (British Protectorate): Area: 93,981 sq. m. Pop: 5.5 m.

Agitation for freedom going on. Talks for self-government for Uganda in London met with failure in 1960.

UNDER COLONIAL RULE

ALGERIA: Capital: Algiers. Area: 2.2 m. sq. m. Prop: 11 m.

A decade old struggle for freedom: from France going on. Algerian provisional government in exile led by Premier Ferhat Abbas.

ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE (Portuguese). Total Area: 779,081 sq. m. Pop: 10 m.

Little known Portuguese colonies where brutal colonialism and slave labour flourish.

SPANISH SAHARA. Area: 105,400 sq.m. Pop: 40,000.

Morocco is attempting to get the Spaniards out of her part of Sahara.

SPANISH GUINEA: Area: 10,039 sq.m. Pop: 134,000.

PORTUGUESE GUINEA: Area: 13,948 sq.m. Pop: 520,000

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Capital: Cape Town: Area: 472,494 sq.m. Pop: 13 m.

A white minority rules with fascist cruelty over African majority which continuously fights back. Seg-government policy. The government trying to set up a Republic and do away with even the moderating influence of Britain. The government is also refusing to let go of the 320,000 sq.m. of S. W. Africa, populated by over a million Africans.

PROTESTS ON LUMUMBA'S MURDER

DEMONSTRATIONS

NEW DELHI

Over three-thousand people demonstrated for more than two hours in front of the residence of the Belgian Ambassador in New Delhi on February 15, shouting anti-imperialist, anti-Belgium, anti-UN slogans.

Demonstrators led by the Delhi State Trade Union Congress and various trade unions in the city and surrounding townships affiliated to the All-India Trade Union Congress demanded immediate dismissal of the UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjold and punishment for those who are responsible for the murder of Patrice Lumumba, the first Prime Minister of the Congo and his two colleagues.

Other organisations which participated in the demonstrations were the All-India Youth Federation, the Delhi Students' Federation and the Delhi State Peace Council.

A large police force numbering over three hundred cordoned the building throughout the day. The US Embassy, the Belgium Embassy, the UN Information Centre and residence of some of the Western envoys were heavily guarded.

MADRAS

Thousands of demonstrators besieged Belgian Consulate on February 14, to protest against the massacre of Lumumba and his colleagues.

Popular mobilisation of protest against the murder in Congo was planned by the city trade unions and youth associations.

Demonstrators paraded the thoroughfares demanding removal of the UN Secretary-General, Hammarskjold and effective United Nations' action to disarm the Mobutu gangsters.

There were demonstrations before the United States Consulate and the British High Commission also. Demonstrators carried placards denouncing imperialist role in the Congo Tragedy.

All over the Madras State people went into mourning on hearing news of Lumumba's death. Workers joined a massive rally in Madurai to register their protest against the brutalities. Protests rallies were held at Coimbatore, Dindigul, Sivakasi, Tuticorin, Tiruppur and Trichy.

The Tamil Nad Trade Union Congress in a statement called for working-class mobilisation against the imperialist conspiracies in the Congo. The statement said that the murder of Congo patriots was a direct challenge to the Afro-Asian people struggling for independence and democracy.

BOMBAY

A joint meeting held under the auspices of Maharashtra Committee of the AITUC, United Trade Union Committee and Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee on February 15, condemned the cold blooded

murder of Lumumba and his associates. The meeting demanded resignation of U. N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold and greeted the heroic struggle of the Congolese patriots for independence. The meeting was addressed by S. S. Mirajkar, President AITUC, Datta Deshmukh, MLA, Vinayak Bhawe and Bajaj.

COIMBATORE:

Textile workers all over Coimbatore district numbering nearly fifty thousand observed a two-minute strike and silence on February 20, to mark their protest against the murder of Patrice Lumumba.

The action was in response to a joint call issued by the AITUC-affiliated Coimbatore District Mill Workers Union and the HMS-affiliated Coimbatore District Textile Workers Union.

BELGHARIA (W. BENGAL):

The workers employed by Mohini Mill No. 2 at Belgharia observed two-minute silence in the factory on February 15 in response to the call of Textile Workers Union (AITUC). The management had objected to any such observance but defying the orders, the workers did observe silence for two minutes. There was also a mass meeting.

(Note: We have received a number of resolutions and reports from various places in connection with the protest actions against the murder of Patrice Lumumba and his colleagues. We regret that due to shortage of space, we could not publish all the news items. Editor)

STORY OF LUMUMBA'S MURDER

The deposed Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba was actually murdered nearly three weeks before his assassination was announced.

This has been disclosed in the report on the murder published in a New Delhi newsmagazine. According to

THE CONGO . . .

(Continued from page 2)

world, rich in copper, cobalt, tin and uranium. The biggest mining company here is owned by foreigners—two-fifths by British, another two-fifths by Belgians and one-fifth by Frenchmen. And the Americans are now trying to take over the whole thing for themselves.

So here can be seen the pattern of the unholy trinity, with big money interests holding on to the resources which belong to the people of another country—the Congo.

This fact explains why the imperialist block was so keen to get rid of Lumumba and why they refused to call on the Belgians to withdraw their troops from the Congo and conspired to stifle the voice of independent Congo.

This heinous crime cannot be allowed to go unpunished.

the report, Lumumba and his two colleagues were killed on January 18.

The report of his killing was kept a closely-guarded secret till the U.N. Conciliation Commission made attempts to meet the jailed former Prime Minister. Only when it became difficult for the Congolese authorities to hold back the news, they announced that Lumumba had jumped jail and was later killed by some villagers.

It is reported that Lumumba was killed by a Belgian who chopped his ears and sent them to the Belgian hench-

26th Session

Resolution on Scheme for Labour Participation In Management

The 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress has considered the scheme for labour participation in management which the Government is trying to introduce in several industries.

The Session notes that though the Government has been urging that this scheme be introduced, very few employers have undertaken it. Even in Public sector undertakings the scheme has not been enthusiastically welcomed.

The AITUC is of the opinion that this much-trumpeted scheme has found very little enthusiasm among the employers, both in private and public sectors.

There has been a tendency to use this scheme by the employers for only raising productivity and the moment it does not serve their purpose, to give it a goodbye.

HMT is a glaring example of this tendency. There the scheme has been suspended by the management simply because the union raised the just demand of increase in emoluments of the workers, even though the union and the workers are willing to continue it.

Alongwith the mass of democratic people of the world over, we also demand:

Recognise the Gizenga Government; Punish the murderers; Withdraw all Belgian troops from the Congo; Remove Hammarskjold from the Secretary-Generalship of UNO; Immediate release of all political prisoners; Trial of Tshombe, Mobutu and Kasavubu for all their crime; and Convene the Congolese Parliament under UN protection.

The Government of India must now recognise the Gizenga Government, the successor to Lumumba. The Government has expressed indignation at the murder and demanded a change in the policy of the UNO. This must be followed by recognition of the Gizenga Government as the lawful authority in Congo.

man Kalonji. The Yugoslav News Agency TANJUG, quoted by the Soviet News Agency TASS, reports that two Belgians were involved in the killing.

It is also reported that "Okito (President of the Congolese Senate) was the first to be shot and pushed into an open grave. Mpolo (Minister of Sports and Youth in the Lumumba Government) was next to be dealt with. Lumumba's turn came last. Before he was killed he was brutally tortured". TANJUG report, however, says that Mpolo was killed when Okito leaned over him to see if he was dead, Okito too was shot in the neck with a revolver.

The rights of the workers' representatives under the scheme are very very limited and in fact do not correspond to the scheme for workers' participation in management in Socialist countries or even in Yugoslavia.

This Session is of the opinion that, nonetheless, the situation in our country demands that whatever machinery is available and can be utilised for the defence of the workers' interests and industrial progress, the AITUC should participate in it. This scheme should be utilised to whatever extent possible to fight bureaucratic management, to have a check on wastage and corruption and defend the interests of the workers.

AITUC NOMINATIONS

P. V. Upadhyaya, General Secretary, Hotel Mazdoor Sabha, Bombay has been nominated by the AITUC, as a member of the Administrative Committee of the Trade Union International of Food, Tobacco and Beverage Industries Workers.

S. Krishnamurthy, has been nominated as an alternate member to this seat.

DOHAD FIRING COMMISSION'S FINDINGS

The one-man commission of Justice R. B. Mehta of the Gujerat High Court has justified the police firing except two rounds, by the police, on the morning of July 12, 1960 during the Central Government employees strike near the workshop of the Western Railway at Freel, Gunj and Dahod in Panchmahal district.

The report was released on February 21. The Commission has not justified the firing in the afternoon of the same day near police lines at Freel and Gunj. It said that no warning was given in this case and the position was not such that firing was essential at the moment when the firing was opened. There was also no question of self-defence at the time of the firing. The Gujerat Government have accepted both the findings.

Dange Speaks On President's Address

Following are the excerpts from S. A. Dange's speech in the Lok Sabha on the President's Address to Parliament on February 20:

FOREIGN POLICY

The most outstanding illustration of foreign policy was the stand which India took in the UNO in supporting the Resolution on anti-colonialism, which demanded that these countries which are still held in slavery should be free. That certainly was an unequivocal stand and true to the traditions of our country's foreign policy which has been shaped in the last ten years by our Prime Minister.

The second outstanding fact to which attention of the country and the world is drawn relates to the events in the international field—the most cruel and cold blooded murder of the Prime Minister Lumumba of Congo. It has truly shocked the conscience of the world. Our Prime Minister expressed the sentiments of our country when he gave his interview and said that it was premeditated cold-blooded murder and that in Congo no longer can the UNO take the position that it was taking so far.

So far, the attitude of the United Nations that they would not intervene in the internal affairs of a country practically led to the endorsement or encouragement of the actions of the Belgian fascists and the result was that when the Congolese were unable to defend their Prime Minister, the Belgians were able to arrest him and shoot him.

CONGO AFFAIRS

As we were situated there, I do not know what was our position, the position of the Indian Mission which was functioning as part of the UN Mission in Congo. That subject might later on crop up and we should like to hear from the Government side what Sri Dayal and his associates were doing when Prime Minister Lumumba was snatched away from the protection of the United Nations which he had already sought.

Nobody in this country has supported even indirectly the action of the fascists in Congo and in fact, in our country, there was an expression of indignation and demonstrations by workers, by students, by citizens and all sections of the populations against this cold-blooded murder. It was, however, a strange sight to see that the Indian police were more vehement in beating the demonstrators than sympathising with

the expression of indignation at the murder of Prime Minister Lumumba.

I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that particularly in Bombay, when demonstrators approached the place of demonstration, they were so severely and brutally attacked that one wondered whether the police were wounded and two MLAs were sent to hospitals; a number of workers and city corporators were wounded and even operations in the hospital had to be carried out in order to save them from their wounds.

TWO ATTITUDES

The indignation of the people at the murder, the support of the Government to the policy of the democratic people in Congo and their indignation at the murder of Lumumba and yet, this savage attack on the demonstrators.

If it were in defence of diplomatic personnel — diplomatic personnel who are in danger of losing their lives — one could understand police intervening, but when no such thing exists, this behaviour in several towns was rather a sad affair.

I cannot draw the policy conclusions from it. I would not say that thereby the foreign policy suffers. But then it has got a certain blot, and it does show there is some vacillation somewhere and there is not that readiness to express indignation that the people want to.

BORDER QUESTION

The President's address refers to the report of the Indian official team in regard to the delineation of the borders of India and China. I am one of those people who believe that the Indian officials have done good work and that they have presented a strong case about our border, and that it is no longer a problem of vagueness.

The borders are being shown here and there and their coordinates are defined; the places are defined and the maps are being presented and history is being presented, and they are done in such an efficient manner that I think the officials have done a good job. And as officials—they are not politicians—they had no powers to come to any agreement. But officials as such they had certainly done a good job.

But then merely delineating and presenting a strong case has not ended the problem and it was not expected to because the problem can only be ended by the two Governments sitting together and negotiating

now on the basis of the case presented.

Here is our case. Obviously the Chinese have not accepted our case. They do not think it is a strong case, because obviously they were not expected to silently gobble up all the maps that were presented to them, all the history, all the survey that were presented to them and say: "All right, salaam, we will accept it!"

No one can expect that. They certainly presented their maps and survey and their history and again, the problem remains in a deadlock. It is an advance and it has advanced one step further only in this: that both sides now have put the co-ordinates and geography and history together for the people to see and to judge.

Therefore, under such a condition, it is now for the Governments to take steps, and it is for the Government of India—I cannot simply press the Government of India, but also the Government of China, as a citizen of India—to take it up and I say that the question be taken up now on a political level.

A GOOD JOB

The officials have done their job. Let the politicians of the two Governments now do their job, and if a problem of Burma can be resolved, there is no reason why the problem about Indian and Chinese borders cannot be resolved. So, on this question, the next step would not be, as some of my hon. friends would like to do; more sabre-rattling will not help, because this is not the age of sabre-rattling on either side or on any side.

Everybody knows that, because we do not do sabre-rattling even in the case of Pakistan. The thing is lying there for ten years and all our sabres are in the sealboard. There also, we are doing the same thing. Even in Goa we are not resorting to sabre-rattling. We do demand it. But somehow or other, some people like to do some sabre-rattling only in regard to China.

I would say in regard to Pakistan border also that Pakistan has no right to negotiate about the borders with China—absolutely none. Kashmir being our area, that area is also ours, and no Government has a right to negotiate with Pakistan on the disposal of those border areas.

Here too, I am not guided by press reports. Even the Prime Minister has not confirmed the press reports. Therefore, I am not prepared to assume that China has started negotiating and then to be indignant and agitated about it though every-

body has a right to be indignant about it if it really happens.

Therefore, on that question also my position is very clear: that Pakistan has no right and it would not be correct for any other country including China—there is no other country anywhere there I think—to negotiate with Pakistan. It would not be correct either on moral or political grounds, because the position is that those parts are ours.

ROLE OF UNO

As regards the United Nations the role that they were playing in the Congo was not a good role which is influenced by the way in which the Secretary-General, Hammarskjöld, was listening to the advice of his imperialist advisers and not others. With that caution I would say that the foreign policy is certainly one of which our country and our people should be proud.

If the Address had put it in a rather inspiring language, I would have been very glad. But I think that addresses of this kind are not supposed to be inspiring. I think by their very nature, they are supposed to follow the style of a postal gazette, than on inspiring Address.

I am not reflecting on the President—of the style I am saying. It is a catalogue. The catalogue is a good one, excepting for the note of caution or reservation which I want to introduce in it, that the foreign policy should be pursued with greater consistency and greater opposition to the colonialism in the United Nations.

THE PLANS

coming to the home policy, what is the picture of the home policy? The picture as taken at the end of the Second Five-Year Plan and the beginning of the Third Plan? If you pose the question what are our accomplishments on the eve of the Third Plan when this House met and the President addresses it, I would put it like this.

If you sum up the achievements of the five years of the Second Plan, I would say in the matter of industry have we achieved anything! Of course, we have achieved a good deal, which is a great thing. The first great thing we have achieved in the last five years is to lay down the basis of certain heavy industries which have broken the blockade which the imperialists wanted to impose on us in the matter of our development.

In the first Plan they would not give us this, that, or anything. They used to say: "You look after your agriculture and a little irrigation, and all the old engines which were dilapidated because of war. And after you develop that later on think of something else."

And it was a wrong thing, as Prime Minister said, not to have thought of heavy industry.

It was fortunate in the Second Plan we corrected ourselves. Emphasis was laid on

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Dange Speaks . . .

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the heavy industry and especially in that sector where we are the most dependent. Everybody can shake his finger and upset our economy if we have no iron and steel, no coal, no oil and no heavy machinery. Now we have made up.

Not that it is enough compared to the size of our country. Considering the vast size, the vast population and our needs, what is being done is nothing for a country of four hundred million. Even if you go to four million tons of steel what is it? Twelve million people of Czechoslovakia has got six million tons of steel production.

A small country like Luxemburg produced three million tons of steel with a population, of a million or so. So, compared to our needs it is not enough. It is not a question of comparing our needs it is not enough. It is not a question of comparing our needs with what is being done.

We have established a heavy industry. Certainly it is not to the satisfaction of many people even in this country. How many big industrialists there are who are satisfied with the proposal that we are going over to a fourth steel plant, and these industrialists who object to that are the arch-enemies of our country; they are anti-nationalists in that they object to the growth of iron and steel industry in this country.

OIL POLICY

Not only that. How many people are satisfied with the discovery of oil? When oil is found in Gujerat, it sinks the hearts of imperialists outside, that their monopoly is getting broken. This is the condition. The oil programme of the Government has been going on correct lines. In spite of that, I find that even in this country there are people who are sorry that in every well dug, oil is being found. They feel they are being buried in every well dug for oil. They are sorry that India is becoming strong.

Therefore, it was a sorry spectacle to see that when the Government of India bought oil from the Soviet Union which has been of crucial help to us in combating the deadlock which was being imposed on us, and when that oil was being offered by the Ministry from State to State and from Corporation to corporation, State Ministries of the Congress itself were trying whether they could not buy Burmah-Shell and Stanvac oil. It was to save a pie here and a pie there.

Tenders were invited and we know how in tenders somebody underquotes somebody else. These tricks were played when the Government of India with its oil programme were telling the States to buy this oil, because not only was the oil cheaper, but it was one of tactics and strategy. Even if it were five pies dearer than Burmah-Shell and Stanvac, it

should have been bought. Now there are explanations coming forward, but I would like to see what is going to be done in that matter later on.

SUMMING UP THE DEVELOPMENTS

However, summing up the developments of five years on the eve of the Third Plan, the basis of heavy industry is being laid; the basis of oil industry is being laid; the basis of iron and steel is being laid. That means we have broken the blockade that was imposed on us.

We know Durgapur is held by the British that Rourkela is held by the Germans. We know how the help has come. We know when it came. When we decided, as a correct line, not only to take help from the Western sector, but also to take help from the socialist sector, then only the gentlemen of the West were brought into a mood to give us their proposals in the iron and steel sector. And yet today they are trying as much as possible to sabotage certain lines of development.

As I said, we support the Plan. But how do we support it? The Plan has two contents. We support the Plan on one content and not on another. The Plan has a country inside it. In so far as every development of the Plan leads to the independent economic development of the country, we support the Plan. We support the country in the Plan.

But we do not support the class in the Plan. Because inside the Plan there is a class which is trying to grab everything, trying to steal foreign exchange, trying to get the State sector abolished.

The crucial development in the Plan is the development of the State sector and every Indian, every citizen who wants the development of the country's economy ought to support the extension of the State sector.

The modifications in the industrial policy that are being tried by some people, taking away certain strategic industries from the Industrial Policy Resolution and handing them over to the private sector is a suicidal step. Therefore the country in the Plan we support; the class in the Plan we do not support. We criticise them.

The Plan is being grabbed by some people for their private interests, for their class interests and not for the country's interests. Therefore, we have got an attitude of support to the Plan on one side as well as criticism of the Plan on the other.

DENATIONALIZATION?

For example, take the State sector in industry. We have heard in the question hour even today that when we have developed certain units of industry on the basis of taxes we imposed on the people, from the money we took from the people, these gentlemen come up

and say now that you have developed it, you sell it to us.

There are some people who are ready to sell it. We tax the people for building these industries, later on you sell it to these gentlemen for making profits out of it. What is this policy? Is that a correct line?

Then they say: "The report is still private". It has leaked out in the Press. One newspaper in Bombay complained, when it was leaked out to one paper, why not to us and they expressed satisfaction that at least Government is thinking of denationalisation of the State sector—privatisation of the State sector. From the House there ought to be condemnation of any such policy; the House should unite and tell the Government, "For God's sake do not take a step in that direction."

A beautiful plant like the Hindustan Machine Tools. . . . A Member: It is only a rumour.

Dange: There are rumours. That is why I am asking you.

Tangamani: The Mazumdar Committee' Report is there.

Dange: A committee was appointed with an official as Secretary. Why was a committee appointed to think of such a thing. Whether you sell later on is not another thing; that you should appoint a committee to think of such a proposition means there is something black in it.

A DENIAL?

Morarji Desai: No such committee has been appointed.

Tangamani: The details of the report have already appeared in the Press.

Dange: I will take it for granted that no such committee was appointed, no such decision was taken and that there is no danger of any unit in the State sector being sold out to any private concern. I take that assurance.

Morarji Desai: No assurance is necessary where nothing is happening. It is only his imagination.

Speaker: He refers to a committee—Mazumdar Committee—which was appointed. Was a committee appointed?

Lal Bahadur Shastri: There is a committee, but the point which they have considered is this. He says we propose to sell out our public concerns to private people.

Tangamani: Shares.

Lal Bahadur Shastri: It is only being theoretically considered if in case a new venture is set up in the public sector whether we could raise a certain percentage—10 or 15 per cent—of shares from the public, whether public shares could be raised and they can participate in that public venture. That is the basic idea. It can never be a public sector project unless Government own 51 per cent of shares.

Dange: I am basing myself on the reports from very responsible business journals.

Lal Bahadur Shastri: The question of HMT was raised this morning also. It is a fantastic idea. HMT is one of our best projects, we can never

conceive of selling out even a single share to anybody.

Dange: I am very glad about that pronouncement and that clarification that there is no danger of these best things which we are creating with people's money being sold either completely or even partly to the extent of 5 or 10 per cent of shares to anybody in the private sector. I am glad to have got at least some clarification on this matter.

So far as the State sector is concerned, Government should certainly be warned about this. Even though they may not themselves think about it, the private interests are going to try it. They have an eye on the LIC an eye on the HMT, an eye on the Sindri factory.

Business journals belonging to the monopolistic sector are discussing these propositions and it is certainly a good thing that these propositions are buried once and for ever, that there would be no danger of halting the development of the State sector and its extension, but that there would be concerted attempts to extend the sector in bigger and bigger spheres of industry, which is very vital for the development of the country.

AGRICULTURAL REFORMS

The foundation of the economy as it exists today and which we are building is agriculture. There we have failed. Production has increased by about 40 per cent no doubt, but still that increase is not based upon any firm progressive step in land reforms that will ensure a continuous rise in production on a rising basis.

There it is all crisis, because our attitude to land reforms is vacillating and is not clear. We once call for co-operatives, but when some interests attack them, Government retreat. We call for abolition of landlordism, but still tenants are thrown out and huge areas of lands are still held in private hands.

So, the agricultural sector remains in danger and I feel that is one of the most vital parts of our economy. Everybody is agreed about it, but we are not making progress in spite of our tractors, big farms and so on. That is one sector which is not capable of treatment which we are giving to the industrial sector.

It is easier to build a steel plant, but it is not so easy to build up a huge mechanised farm and by that meet the needs of our country in the matter of food and raw materials. Therefore, even if we start imitating the tactic of Suratgarh farm with huge machines and establish 10 or 20 farms like that, as proposed by certain industrialists, that is not going to solve the agricultural problem.

It can only be solved by the right line taken at the Nagpur resolution. But that resolution has been put in cold storage because of certain contradictions inside those very people who fought for that resolution in the Congress; and since Congress is

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A MESSAGE TO SOUTHERN RAILWAY WORKERS

By S. GURUSWAMY, President, Dakshin Railway Employees Union

YOU are already aware of the present state of Trade Union affairs on the Southern Railway. For more than one year, I did not advisedly participate in the activities of Dakshin Railway Employees' Union. This has not helped matters. Now that the two Unions decided to merge and are working as one and I have been called upon to play an active part as the President of the United body at a critical period in our history, I desire to address a few words.

Railwaymen to whatever denomination they may or may not belong must come under a common banner. We must forget our petty differences. We must forge unity first with those who are willing to unite and next with those who hesitate or are not so willing. I am determined to see that cheap criticisms on party basis are avoided or discouraged and attention of the men focussed on common issues.

After the Central Government Employees Strike last year, the Central Government have proclaimed their decision to withdraw fundamental trade union rights. In the aftermath of the situation forced on the suffering railwaymen, main issues have been blurred and even forgotten.

Firstly, Trade Unions under the amended Act have to collect a subscription of a minimum of Rupees Three per head per year. 160,000 workers on the railway have to be completely unionised. Trade Union enrolment has suffered a setback due to post-strike developments although relief for the prosecuted has been attempted at various places.

Recognition of the most representative organisation on the Southern Railway has not been granted and the Railway Management thereby has violated the Code of Conduct which Government are anxious to enforce in other spheres. The future of Joint Standing Machinery, the structure of Trade Unions without violating I.L.O. Conventions 87 and 98, the Recognition Rules that will be newly framed and other similar matters will all undergo far reaching changes this year and we should not be inactive in the face of these developments.

Even in regard to implementation of the Second Pay Commission Recommendations, the cost of Living Index (All India Working Class Consumer Index) has been standing at 126 which has been 11 points above the datum figure of 115 since July last year and therefore additional dearness allowance is becoming due.

Implementation of the Pay Scales and Allowances has resulted in a loss of Rs. 5/- to Rs. 10/- per employee in most cases if the Finance Minister's statements on November 30, 1959 are to be properly interpreted. Even good part of the Recommendations has not yet been implemented.

Compensatory allowances have to be revised according to latest position. The First Pay Commission fixed higher allowances for Bombay on the basis

of its population in 1941 when it was 14.89 lakhs for Bombay City and 16.95 lakhs for Greater Bombay. The position in Madras City, according to the Corporation Statistics was it had a population exceeding 17 lakhs even two years ago.

Forfeiture of Seniority of Ex Grain Shop Staff continues despite the assurance to the contrary given by the Member, Staff Railway Board, early last year. There are numerous important issues to be tackled but the first pre-condition for success is unionisation of all 100,000 Southern Railway employees.

We are to face the difficulties with firm faith in our future and resolve them to the best of our abilities. We cannot look

back upon an unhappy past. We must strengthen Dakshin Railway Employees Union which is functioning with Headquarters in Madras City under my Presidentship which affords the best scope and hope for Unity and Progress.

This Union is not for or against any political party and is open to every Railway Employee on Southern Railway if he believes in trade union movement.

Now that General Elections are coming next year, railwaymen should not be victims of parties and politics and the passions which they generate.

I therefore call upon every railway worker on Southern Railway to rally round under the common banner of Dakshin Railway Employees' Union, Madras, first by paying Re 1/- only for the first quarter of 1961 and fully participating in its activities to build up a powerful union to fight reaction, bring unity and enable us to fulfil our responsibilities in the present situation.

MESSAGE FROM BURMA TUC

On behalf of the militant working people of Burma and on my behalf I heartily salute to your historic 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress and extend our heartfelt and warmest greetings. We are deeply grateful for your fraternal invitation but owing to the unavoidable circumstances we feel very much regret that we are unable to send our delegation to your National Congress.

However, we are fully convinced that though we live apart in different countries our aims are closed at one proletarian heart. We hope your delegates would take keen interest to discuss the common tasks of trade union unity, for defence of the rights of the workers, trade union rights and democratic liberties and for preserving peace in Asia and the world over. We wish your session will be crowned with success.

Long live the friendship and solidarity between the Burmese and Indian working class!

Long live the international working class unity!

Long live peace!

—THAKIN LWIN
President

Dange Speaks . . .

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the ruling party, they themselves have to be told whether they are going to put into effect that resolution and thereby correct the agricultural situation in favour of the people.

WHO GARNERS GAINS

The question that arises is, who is benefited by these developments? Who is gathering the major gain from these developments? If you put that question, it is very clear that the rich are getting richer and the poor have not grown less poor.

That is the picture in the country. That economy is developing in such a way that rich are getting richer simply means the development of capitalism and nothing else.

The State sector is in the hands of the State, but even then, it is subject to capitalist influence. Therefore, while one should be proud about the development, the net gain and the step forward that has been taken, one should be sorry that the step is not yet benefitting the masses of the people. That is a very sad spectacle.

Take the matter of wages. We get wage increase from the wage boards. The President's address refers to it. But every wage board report has taken at least two years to come into existence and every recommendation is stalled for months, including the recommendations of the Pay Commission, as we have seen. These recommendations are not given effect to.

For example, the recommendations in regard to cement and

sugar are still hanging fire. In these questions, the approach is, whenever it affects the workers, then there is hesitation, vacillation and almost a retreat from positions which are forced by the action of the workers.

For example, even on the question of the strike by Government employees which has been referred to in the address, my friends know what is the position. The question of victimisation is still dogging us and people are victimised for no plausible reasons, just because certain authorities want them to be victimised either for political reasons or other reasons. It is a problem for every Ministry.

It is not only a problem for the Ministry—the Ministry thinks once a person is dismissed there is no problem—it is a problem for every party, a problem for the country, a problem for the whole of the working class.

PLAN AND WORKERS

On the question of wages of workers the Plan is not functioning the proper way. On the question of the rights of workers the Plan is not functioning in the proper way. On the question of relief to the citizens the Plan is not yet functioning in a proper way.

If you give attention properly to them, then these developments which belong to the country and are based on the sacrifices of the people will benefit the people and will certainly strengthen our country and our people. Now that is the lag that is not mentioned in the President's Address.

Only one side is presented. Wage Boards are appointed, but what about their effects? Even their effects are nullified by the price rise which has been mentioned. The price rises are still incapable of being controlled with the result that whatever wage increase you give, tomorrow it is upset.

Therefore, our slogan has been: link up every wage increase and every wage to dearness allowance automatically so that at least what is given today is protected. That was the central slogan of my organisation, the All India Trade Union Congress.

Because, Government and the boards may increase the wages; next day, Government realises they cannot control the price and the effect of the wage increase is upset.

So, the blessing of wage increases is turned into curses because they are not able to control the price-line. Therefore, the best system should have been to link up the wages with the dearness allowance or cost of living.

So, on this question what I can say is on this matter the policies are not pro-working class and pro-peasant. The Plan for the country is being used by the capitalists. The Plan is developed by the whole country with the sacrifices of the people, the sacrifices of the intelligentsia and all classes, including the capitalists even.

But the gains are only going into the hands of one class. And unless this correction is made, we shall not go forward, as we ought to go forward, in the matter of social progress, making the whole thing available to the country.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL COUNCIL OF MONGOLIAN TRADE UNIONS

Dear Friends,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to extend brotherly and warm greetings of the working people and the trade unions of the Mongolian People's Republic to the 26th Session to the glorious Indian working class, and also to express our heartfelt thanks to Comrade S. A. Dange, General-Secretary of the AITUC, for the kind invitation extended to the representatives from Mongolia enabling us to participate in this great gathering today.

I am equally happy to convey our deep thanks and appreciation to the working people of Coimbatore and the Chairman of the Reception Committee as well as to all those who have made this wonderful preparation for this conference and welcomed us to your glorious city.

The Mongolian trade unions always have had fraternal feelings towards the AITUC and have watched with admiration the heroic struggles waged by this militant organisation for the good of the toiling workers in this country and rejoiced at its success and achievements.

Today, we feel happier still to attend this conference for the first time, as representatives of the Mongolian trade unions and be in your midst, the leaders and members of the militant trade unions of the AITUC. It is, I believe, will no doubt be of immense help to the further strengthening of the brotherly relations between the working peoples of our respective countries.

We have gone through and heard with attention the reports, including that of Comrade S. A. Dange, on the activities of the AITUC. We hope your deliberations and the decisions taken at this session will help further strengthen the struggle for trade union unity, for improving the working and living conditions of the Indian workers and for peace.

Since its inception in 1920 at the largest industrial city of Bombay, during these forty years, the All-India Trade Union Congress has made great advance in uniting and organising the forces of the working class in this subcontinent, to defend the interests and rights of the toiling workers and fought for the national independence of India.

Thanks to the heroic struggles for the liberation of the country from the yoke of foreign imperialists and for improving the standards of living of the working class, the AITUC has become a mighty and militant organisation, fighting for the interests of the toiling masses.

The AITUC, we know well, is playing an important part in the national and international trade union movements. It is an active member of the one hundred and one million strong World Federation of Trade Unions and firmly supports the progressive activities of the WFTU.

The Mongolian Trade Unions, being a member of this lofty world organisation—the WFTU, the centre of the coordination of the international trade union movement,—are in full support of the noble activities of the AITUC and hope that the AITUC will achieve greater successes in the struggle for strengthening unity of the working people in this country and for the defence of their interests.

Today, under the circumstances of the increasing aggressive activities of the imperialists threatening the fate of humanity, the Mongolian

trade unions actively favour for further cooperation among our sister trade unions.

The Mongolian working people and their trade unions, together with all the progressive forces throughout the world, strongly condemn the shameful acts of the colonialists and imperialists in Algeria and in interfering in the internal affairs of the Congo, Laos and other countries and the attempts to bring their freedom and independence to naught.

Dear Friends, may I take this pleasant opportunity of being present at your Session here, to say a few words about my country and about our working class and its trade unions at large? I think this would help, at least to some extent, in knowing something of each other's activities in this particular field.

Forty years back, in 1921, there was a people's revolution in Mongolia, which put an end to the internal oppressive forces and drove out the foreign colonialists and, thus, freedom and independence were brought to our country.

As a result of this Revolution, drastic changes took place in Mongolia. New branches of socialist industry and agriculture, equipped with modern techniques have come into existence and a new working class was born. Trade unions were organised. As you know, the conditions in which trade unions were organised and grew in our country were naturally different. And we work and labour in different conditions too.

At present, over 90% of the

industrial and office workers are organised in trade unions. The trade union organisations are a mighty factor in the life and the development programme of the whole nation.

Trade unions in our country are always in support of the government policy and stand for carrying out every steps taken by it, because our government policy is aimed at raising the living and working conditions as best as possible.

Owing to the joint efforts of the working class and the people of Mongolia, the feudal backwardness in which we lived 40 years ago was done away with within a short historical period. Today we are building socialism, having escaped the capitalistic stage of development. We can say that socialism is making good progress in every field of life of the country.

Various branches of national industry, modern means of transport and communications are advancing today in our country. Now, 50% of the gross national product is output from industry alone. It may be mentioned that the active participation of the trade unions in these fields was an important factor in effecting the rapid transformation.

As far as agriculture is con-

or another educational institution in Mongolia.

National arts, literature and science have advanced rapidly for the good of the people.

Every year witnesses an increase and advance in the well-being of the people. And public health service is organised well and medical science is in progress. There is hardly any corner or part in the country where no hospital or dispensary is functioning in Mongolia today. Medical service is free to all, and at present, there is one doctor for every 1,000 people of the population.

I must say that the disinterested and sincere assistance from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries was and is an important factor in the realization of these achievements attained by our country. With the further increased assistance from our friends, the Mongolian people are determined to advance their country in the direction of further development and prosperity.

In the next five years, it has been stipulated that the advance in agriculture and industry should be at a tempo of rapid development, with a view to raise industrial output twice and the area under grain crops by three times. As a result, Mongolia will make great advances as an industrial and agrarian country.

The Mongolian trade unions organise the working people for the progress and advance of the nation and educate them in the spirit of high productivity and are responsible for further raising of the living standards and the cultural level of the people and in defence of their interests.

The trade unions in our country take an active part in the economic planning, and in introducing new production methods in industry and elsewhere. They participate in everything that might affect the interests of the workers, either directly or indirectly, such as fixation of working hours, wage level, or securing better living and working conditions, leave facilities, etc. Without the consent of the trade unions, no overtime work or work during holidays is allowed.

In our country, the duration of working hours in light or food industries is limited to 8 hours. Special food and clothing, and shorter working day of 7 hours, are provided for the workers engaged in hard labour. Duration of the working time on the days before public holidays is limited to 6 hours. Social insurance is run by the trade unions in the country.

Industrial and office workers are granted 14 to 26 days of paid leave every year. There is 80% discount in the cost of having rest at State-owned sanatoria or rest homes provided for the industrial and office workers. In case of maternity, three months' leave before and after the delivery is granted, with wages paid in full. And, in the case of old age or disablement, 100% of wages are paid to industrial and office workers.

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Z. DAGWA SPEAKS

cerned, veterinary science, mechanised farming and modern agricultural techniques are now in common use in our country as against the nomadic animal husbandry which predominated formerly. The settlement of the nomadic rural population has started. The herdsmen are entirely different today. Until recently, in our agriculture, private ownership predominated but it has now been turned into big collective farms or cooperatives formed on a voluntary basis.

In view of this change, in the field of animal husbandry, great progress has been made and the animal wealth of the country has increased. Now there are 27.9 heads of animal per capita in our country. Also the area under grain crops have been greatly expanded.

Thanks to 40 years of the tireless labour and efforts of our people, Mongolia has become an agrarian and industrial country.

There was a cultural revolution too and illiteracy among the adult population in the country was eliminated. Elementary and middle schools, specialised colleges and higher educational institutions were set up everywhere. Seven-year education and four-year schooling system has been introduced in towns and in villages respectively.

Free education is provided to all. The higher educational establishments in our country, turn out specialists for various branches of the national economy and culture. At present 137.6 people out of every 1,000 are able to study at one

Secretary, Central Council of Polish Trade Unions

Dear Comrades, Friends and Delegates,

PERMIT me to express the feelings of the entire Polish working class and to convey, on behalf of the Central Council of Trade Unions, to you and to all the members of the great militant trade union organisation of the Indian working class—the AITUC—and to all the working people of your country, most cordial, fraternal greetings and the best wishes for success in your struggle for the consolidation of national sovereignty and the development of your beautiful great fatherland, India.

The Polish working class is perfectly well aware of the difficult road, full of self-sacrifices which your people covered, a people with an old culture and rich historical traditions, of struggle against the foreign rule.

The Polish trade unionists want to express their feelings of sincere friendship and, at the same time, their deep respect for your militant trade union organisation which, being a member of the World Federation of Trade Unions, serves indefatigably the cause of the consolidation of unity of the international trade union movement.

We fully appreciate the great merits of your trade union organisation and of the entire Indian working class and their contribution to the struggle of all the progressive forces of the Indian nation, which adhere to the principle of fighting for an easing of international tension, for peaceful co-existence of countries with different social systems, who are in favour of the complete and universal disarmament, the preservation of peace, who actively oppose the cold war, colonialism and imperialism.

Among the many important problems on which concentrates the attention of the working people in our country and throughout the world, that of lasting peace has been given priority. Today, the very existence and the future of mankind depends on peace.

The Polish people suffered the most terrible losses during the last war, started by the Nazi invaders. More than six million human beings lost their lives in our country during this war. Thirty-eight per cent of the durable national property was destroyed. That is why our people are fully justified in watching with uneasiness the danger inherent already today in the reborn forces of aggressive militarism in West Germany, equipped with modern destructive weapons supplied by the Western Powers belonging to NATO.

Five years ago, the Paris Treaty limited this army to the conventional weapons only; today rockets and all sorts of guided missiles are being produced in the German Federal Republic. Voices are raised more and more frequently about the transformation of NATO Army detachments into a so-called "fourth atom power".

So you can see how meaningful the assurances of the

peaceful intentions of the West German Government are and why our people are convinced that it is their duty to arouse the vigilance of the entire world in regard to this serious danger to peace, namely the West German militarism.

Our people, our working class and with them, the whole progressive public opinion of the world, most determinedly protest against the acts of lawlessness committed by abusing the United Nations flag by the defenders of the colonial regime in Congo.

With indignation, we condemn the new adventurous armed acts in Laos, committed by the right-wing rebels, enjoying the armed help of the USA. The Polish working class most determinedly condemns colonialism in its classical, today already obsolete, form, as well as all types of neo-colonialism, combining the economic dependence of economic-

raise the economic potential of the country.

This is, after all, in the conditions of our system, free from exploitation, the only road to raise the standard of living of the community and thereby, a road leading to the deepening of the superiority of the forces of peace over the imperialist forces of war. In this peaceful competition between two different systems participate all socialist countries, including Poland, a country which, after having thrown off the yoke of exploitation of native and foreign capitalists, has entered the road of a rapid all-round development.

During the twenty years of the rule of the bourgeoisie and landlords after the first world war, the production of the main industrial articles in Poland was unable to surpass the level of 1913. Today, after 15 years of the rule of the people's power, the per capita industrial production in Poland has increased eight times.

This was possible due to the fact that today the working people is the master in its country. The people are working for their benefit, and this means that everyone in Poland has work and earns his bread, and also has free access to education. Side by side with the growth of production, improvement of the living conditions can also be noticed from year to year. During the last five years, real wages of workers increased by 28-29 per cent.

The rapid rise in the standard of living is possible as a result of the rapid increase in the national income whose

working person, is personally interested in the best possible economic results of the establishment in which they work.

The socialist countries not only develop their own economy at a rapid rate, but they also grant, to a much larger extent, disinterested help to less developed countries, to raise themselves from backwardness and to liberate themselves from economic dependence from foreign monopolistic capital.

The cooperation between socialist countries and all other countries regardless of their political and social structure, including the cooperation between Poland and India, is proof of the economic and political relations of a new type which is taking shape, relations to which no strings are attached.

I can assure you, Comrades, that our working class ardently desires a further development of this cooperation for the mutual advantage of our peoples. Love of peace, the joint efforts to consolidate the unity of the working people throughout the world, to bring about progress throughout the world, the deep consciousness of international solidarity—this is the firm foundation on which our cooperation is based.

Please receive our assurance that just as until now, we shall continue to watch your daily work and your achievements with cordial feelings of friendship and fraternal solidarity on the part of the working people of People's Poland.

WTT. HANKE Speaks

ally less developed countries with political dictation.

We are of the same opinion as stated by Comrade Dange in his report that the times of colonialism are gone, once and for ever and that there can today no longer be any nation on earth deprived of the right of being a sovereign State.

Disarmament and a guarantee for lasting peace is the guiding line for all the countries of the powerful camp of socialism. This policy encounters the full support of all the progressive forces in the world.

The Indian people also make a great contribution to the cause of peace and cooperation among nations and the attitude adopted by India in regard to many key problems of international policy gained recognition throughout the world and strengthened its authority among the peoples of the Asian continent.

Our people who are building socialism, our working class and its trade unions consider the struggle for the consolidation of peace as the most important task in their efforts to bring about the development of the productive forces and to

dynamic force can be best illustrated by the way it grew during the last ten years. If we accept the 1949 level of the national income as 100, then it increased by 1959 to 226.

This growth bases itself on the tremendous development of the fundamental branches of our economy. During the current year, our mining industry passed 100 million tons in the extraction of hard coal annually, while the highest coal output before the war amounted to 38 million tons. We are at present at the threshold of a new Five Year Plan which will be a plan of the fundamental technical alteration of our economy, the expansion of our raw material base and the further increase in the well-being of the population.

Having in mind our demographic situation, we provide in our Plan, the proper conditions for our youth entering the labour market, by creating approximately 800,000 new workplaces during the coming Five Year Plan. These are no easy problems but we are solving them successfully, because the entire working class, every

DAGWA . . .

(Continued from page 10)

The Mongolian trade unions, in cooperation with the All-India Trade Union Congress and other sister organisations, affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions have tirelessly fought for international unity of workers, for peace throughout the world and against imperialism and the colonial yoke.

Our trade unions consider it essential to further strengthen the unity and solidarity of the workers the whole world over, for achieving universal disarmament, for a lasting peace and for peaceful coexistence, and in support of national independence movements, for protecting the interests of the working people and their trade unions.

Dear friends and comrades, In conclusion, I take the liberty, on behalf of the Mongolian trade unions to wish the All India Trade Union Congress every success in their work in defence of the interests of the glorious working people of your country and for peace throughout the world, and for the activities aimed at insuring the solidarity of international trade union movement.

Long live the friendship between the peoples of Mongolia and India!

Long live the brotherly cooperation between the trade unions of India and Mongolia!

LEGAL NOTES

We quote below the relevant portion of a judgement given by Mr. Justice Tamba and Mr. Justice Gokhale of the Bombay High Court on January 18, 1961, in the matter of four petitions filed by S. Vasudevan, E. X. Joseph and others, challenging the validity of Sec.4(A) and 4(B) of the Conduct Rules of Government Employees as well as Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance promulgated by the President of India, banning the strike of Central Government employees in July 1960.

While their Lordships have held the Rule 4(A) and the Ordinance as constitutional, they observed that Rule 4(B) was violative of fundamental rights conferred by Article 19(1) of the Constitution.

Regarding the Constitutional validity of Rule 4(B) their Lordships observed in their judgement:

It is urged by Mr. Singhwi (Counsel for the petitioners) that Rule 4(B) infringes the rights conferred on the petitioner by Article 19(1) (b) & (c) of assembling peacefully and without arms and of forming Associations or Unions.

In our opinion, this contention is well founded. The Rule in terms makes membership of an un-recognised Association or membership of an Association of which recognition has been withdrawn, a disciplinary offence.

That being the position, there cannot be any doubt that it is violative of the right conferred by Article 19(1) (c) of the Constitution to form Associations or Unions.

Even though the Rule in

terms does not prohibit Government servants from forming Associations or Unions, by making membership of un-recognised Associations a disciplinary offence, it has in substance done so and in considering infringement of fundamental rights, it is the substance of infringed act or rule that matters and not the form.

* * *

We fail to understand how a Government servant by merely being a member of a Service Association which is not recognised by the Government or whose recognition has been withdrawn, by it, would endanger public peace, safety and tranquility.

* * *

The possibility of the power being arbitrarily exercised cannot be excluded. The fundamental rights of Government servants to form Associations or Unions have thus been made subject to the arbitrary discretion of the executive of the Government. There appears to be hardly any necessity for imposing such restrictions in the interest of public peace, safety and tranquility.

IISCO SETTLEMENT

MEMORANDUM of settlement under Section 12(3) of the Industrial Dispute Act, between the management of Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd., and its workmen as represented by the Asansol Iron & Steel Workers' Union regarding profit sharing bonus in respect of the Company's workers at Brunpur & Kulti as also between the management of the Company and Gua Mines Workers' Union regarding profit sharing bonus in respect of workers of the Ore Mines of the Company at Gua Manoharpur and Chiria.

Following are the terms of settlement:

(a) That this agreement shall come into force with effect from the year 1959-60 and remain in force for four years, namely 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62 and 1962-63.

(b) The Agreement will be subject to any modifications which might be necessary as a result of any national decision regarding basic wages and/or Bonus systems concerning the Iron & Steel Industry;

(c) This scheme shall apply to all workmen of the Company at its Works at Burnpur & Kulti and the Ore Mines at Gua, Manoharpur and Chiria other than convenanted staff.

(d) Bonus shall be payable only to those employees who have been in continuous service throughout the financial year during which profits have been earned.

(e) Continuous service shall mean a period of service unbroken by discharge or resignation and shall include all periods of authorised leave, training (Apprenticeship and probation).

(f) The quantum of Bonus will be fixed as follows:-

1959-60: 25% of the amount of the money distributed to the Equity Shareholders or 46.8 lacs whichever is greater sub-

ject to a maximum limit of 48.8 lacs.

1960-61: 25% of the amount of the money distributed to the Equity Shareholders or 49.8 lacs whichever is greater subject to a maximum limit of 52.3 lacs.

1961-62: 25% of the amount of the money distributed to the Equity Shareholders or 53.3 lacs whichever is greater subject to a maximum limit of 55.8 lacs.

1961-62: 25% of the amount of the money distributed to the Equity shareholders or 56.8 lacs whichever is greater subject to a maximum limit of 59.8 lacs.

It may be mentioned that based on the present wagebill the above payment will represent approximately as follows:

1959-60	72-75 days
1960-61	76-80 "
1961-62	80-85 "
1962-63	85-90 "

(g) In the event of reorganisation of capital the Company reserves the right to revise the scale of Profit Sharing bonus mentioned above. Similarly in the event of any fundamental change affecting the intention and spirit of this settlement, the Union also reserves the right to represent accordingly.

NPC Annual Meeting Commissions Set up

The annual meeting of the National Productivity Council was held at New Delhi on February, 13, presided over by Manubhai Shah.

It was decided to set up five tripartite commissions to investigate productivity and allied problems in five industries to begin with. These five industries are — Cement, Rayon, Electric Motors, Bicycles and Jute.

The Commissions will have on them representatives of the Planning Commission, Technical experts, Cost Accountants and employers and workers. Each commission will complete its work in three or six months.

The NPC decided to pay particular attention in imputing knowledge and training to trade unionists and workers. Another decision taken was to hold tripartite conferences on productivity at regional level. These will be followed by similar conferences at State level.

In the elections to the Governing Body and the NPC, Satish Loomba was reelected to represent the AITUC and A. C. Nanda was elected to one of the seats reserved for LPCs.

26th Session

FRATERNAL FOREIGN DELEGATES

World Federation of Trade Unions

- Sugiri, Secretary, WFTU
- Mahendra Sen

All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, USSR

- Andrei I. Schevchenkno, Secretary, AUCCTU
- Ismail R. Rahmatov, President, Tashkent Regional Council of TUs
- Vadim Chulitsky

International Labour Office

- V. K. R. Menon, Asian Regional Director

Central Council of Rumanian Trade Unions

- Alecu Costica, Secretary
- Henter Gavriila

Ceylon Trade Union Federation

- A. Jayasuriya
- K. A. D. Gunaratne
- V. Ponnambalam

Central Council of Polish Trade Unions

- Wtt Hanke, Secretary

Central Council of Mongolian Trade Unions

- Zandir-yn Dagwa, Vice-President

- Shagdarin Tsegmid

Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions

- Horn Dezso, Secretary
- Gedeon Pal, Dy. Editor-in-chief, "Nepszava"

All-Indonesia Trade Union Centre (SOBSI)

- Njono, President
- Harsono

Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, GDR

- Wolfgang Beyreuther, Member of the Presidium

- Bernhard Schunke, Head of the International Department.

26th Session

RESOLUTION ON RELEASE OF LONG TERM POLITICAL PRISONERS

The 26th Session of the AITUC views with grave concern the continued incarceration of a number of T.U., Kisan and political workers for over 10 years particularly in the States of Madras, West Bengal, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

In Tamilnad K. Balathedayethe Meenakshimathan, C. A. Balan are among those still languishing in jail along with 11 other comrades in Madurai, Coimbatore and Cannanore jails.

In West Bengal and Bihar, they include Panna Das Gupta, Kansari Halder, Anwar Ali, Sadhan Gupta, Manik Hazra, Bodi Alam and Kakdwip prisoner and others.

This Conference is firmly of view that the continued detention of these public workers is nothing but an act of political vindictiveness on the part of the Government. This Conference demands immediate release of all these public workers at least before January 26, 1961 so that they could take their rightful place in the public life of our country.

RESOLUTION ON OIL AND PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

The foreign oil monopolies have been gloating that India is forced to import over 90% of the petroleum products consumed in the country either as crude oil or refined products.

They further gloated that when the proposed Government refineries are put into operation some two years from now, and crude oil is drawn from reserves in Assam, India will still continue to be forced to import about 70% of her requirements.

Unless additional reserves are located and drawn on, this 70% will again rapidly climb to more than 90%.

The consumption of petroleum products at present is around 60 lakh tons and even at a modest annual (recurring) rate of increase at 7%, will amount to one hundred lakh tons and more in 1965, and perhaps 120 to 150 lakh tons based on Planning Commission estimates.

About a hundred crores of rupees from India's foreign exchange resources have to be utilised to meet the present imports of both crude oil and refined products. This drain on foreign exchange will increase four-fold by 1976.

These grim facts of the foreign monopoly grip on one of the most vital sectors of our economy and defence, obliged the Government of India to take up the development of India's oil industry in the public State sector which materially unnerved the foreign oil monopolists.

But the Government of India, divided within itself, some of whose Ministers rightly want our independent oil industry to grow, while some others in the same Government oppose it and from within help those foreign monopolies, would not allow any drastic measures against the foreign monopolies.

The friendly help and technical know-how as well as the training facilities offered by the Soviet Union and Rumania who have rich experience of developing their oil resources at a fast rate in all phases of petroleum industry, viz., prospecting or exploring, producing, refining and distributing, placed the Government of India in a position to challenge slowly the monopolistic grip of the foreign oil Companies.

The entire people of India rejoiced at the successful strike of oil in Cambay region of Gujerat in which India's oil technicians were assisted by Soviet and Rumanian specialists.

Soviet and Rumanian monetary credits on terms favourable to India further helped the Government to take up the construction of oil refineries in Gauhati and Barauni and the further prospects of locating a refinery in Gujerat.

The big team of Soviet specialists now coming to help us

in various ways, open up the prospects of India's liberation from foreign economic stranglehold in petroleum industry. This prospect no more remains the dream of the Indian people but a practical possibility of the immediate future.

All these developments and the declaration of 1956 of organised petroleum workers under the aegis of the All India Petroleum Workers' Federation that the continuance of Petroleum Distributing industry monopolised in the hands of the four foreign companies Burmah-Shell, Standard-Vacuum, Caltex and Indo-Burma as a part and parcel of private sector, was a menace to the planned economic progress of India under the Second Five Year Plan and therefore demanded the immediate nationalisation of the distributing industry, obliged the Government of India, under the further pressure of public opinion, to peep into the racketeering nature of the foreign business of petroleum industry, particularly the pricing methods and the structure of petroleum products prices.

A modest challenge of the exorbitantly profiteering character of the pricing system of the foreign oil companies not only led to many far-reaching revelations but also to considerable savings in foreign exchange and our revenue.

It is known however that the oil companies are still resisting a full probe of their empire which will yield many more

crores of rupees to the Indian exchequer.

In fact, the onslaught through their henchmen on the policy of the Government to further develop the petroleum industry only in the State public sector, has increased manifold even while they are obliged to give up under the pressure of public opinion some of the key positions they are holding, i.e. the infamous Indo-Stanvac project which established a record for drilling dry holes mostly at the cost of the Indian taxpayer.

The audacity of the foreign companies reached its height when the Government of India in its anxiety to conserve our slender foreign exchange resources, proposed recently to the foreign refineries in Bombay that they utilise the Soviet crude oil which the Government could acquire not only at the cheaper rates but also on rupee exchange basis.

Their audacity in refusing to take the crude oil offered by our Government is motivated by the single fact that even such minor change dictated by national interests will spell a further doom to exorbitant profiteering character of their business in India.

This profiteering character had earlier been exposed in the surrender by Burmah-Shell first and by Stanvac recently of the duty protection benefit which the oil refineries had dictated as a further measure of super profits to Government of India in the one-sided and colonial-type agreements imposed

by them for establishing their refineries in our country five years ago. It is known also that Caltex refinery is still refusing to follow suit and is insisting on its pound of flesh.

The 26th Session of the AITUC declares that foreign oil companies have no more the right to hold India to ransom. The audacious challenges they are throwing at our Government from day to day have to be met and can be met.

Efforts by the Government to control or regulate interests are entrenched in many quarters of our economy and administration from where they are bound to thwart and sabotage the feeble steps taken by our Government as was witnessed recently in the manoeuvres and sabotage by Stanvac of the attempt by Government-owned Indian Oil company to switch our public road transport in the first instance to the cheaper Soviet High Speed Diesel Oil, the first consignment of which recently landed in Bombay and Cochin in Government-owned storage.

The 26th Session of the AITUC declares that national interests must prevail over foreign profiteering and sabotage.

The 26th Session, therefore, demands that Government of India nationalise all the foreign holdings in the petroleum industry and assures the Government that the organised working class of our country and particularly the organised petroleum workers will fully and wholeheartedly support such a bold step which has now become imperative.

The 26th Session calls upon the entire working class of our country to campaign for the ousting of the reactionary foreign vested interests in this most vital sector of our economy.

26th Session

MESSAGE FROM CGT, FRANCE

The message from the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), Paris, France, reads:

On the occasion of the 26th Session of the AITUC, in the name of the CGT and in the name of the workers of France, we send our warmest greetings; and through you, we send our greetings to the workers of India.

We greet their struggles for better living and working conditions, in defence of their hard-won rights, for better economic and social conditions, for national and international unity, for general and total disarmament, and for peace and friendship amongst all peoples.

Dear Comrades, we would have been happy indeed if our central trade union organisation could have sent a delegate to be present in your deliberations. Such a delegation would also have been able to convey to the workers of India our wholehearted support to your just struggles.

But the situation at present obtaining in France makes it, necessary for every single member of our unions to remain in our country. Our trade unions are now entering a new phase in our struggle for united action of the working class against the employers, to combat the personal power of de Gaulle, and the actions of the extremists, for a negotiated peace in Algeria and for the revival of democracy.

We send you our greetings once again for a most successful conference and to the workers of your country. Every single one of your victories is of encouragement to our own struggle for the common aims of workers of all countries.

Long Live the 26th Congress of the AITUC! Long live the friendship and solidarity of the workers of our two countries!"

The message was signed by Germaine Guille, Secretary, Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT).

BONUS SETTLEMENT AT JAMNAGAR

The Woollen Mill Kamdar Union (Swatantra), Jamnagar successfully concluded a settlement concerning profit sharing bonus for year 1959-60.

According to the settlement, the workers will receive more than Rupees two lakhs as Bonus, which in terms of pay means one day's extra wages over the amount of bonus received in the previous year. It may be noted that the profit of the company was less this year compared to the previous year.

The terms of the settlement, among others, envisages payment of bonus equivalent to about 48 days wages to all workmen. This is represented in the settlement as 1/7th of annual earnings plus 4 days wages.

All workmen who have worked for more than 78 days in the year shall be entitled to Bonus.

ON ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

THE 26th Session of the AITUC has considered the situation in the metal and engineering industry of our country. It notes with pride that during the last few years and particularly during the Second Plan period, the metal and engineering industry has laid the basis and a solid foundation for development of the national economy and has made great strides during this period.

In the Public Sector, three steel plants have come up, the Heavy Electricals has begun normal production and construction work is going on of the heavy machine-building, foundry forge and coalmining machinery plants. Besides, several engineering plants have also come up in the Private Sector. The two steel plants in the private sector, the TISCO and Martin Burn's at Burnpur have been expanded.

The session is happy to note that it is in the Public Sector that this industry has been growing. The Session also welcomes the feature of the Third Plan of building new and bigger metal and engineering industries in the Public Sector and developing the existing ones.

It, in fact, rejoices that we are overcoming our backwardness in which the imperialists left us and still wish to keep us. It wishes to emphasise that the metal and engineering industry which is fast developing and in which nearly a million workers are employed at present, has a vital role to play in building and developing our national economy.

While noting the development of the industry during this period in the Public Sector, this session wishes to record that such development could take place due to the unstinted and large measure of assistance given by the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries.

It expresses the deep feeling of gratitude to the Governments and peoples of these socialist countries who have been largely responsible in building the base of our heavy industry.

It is also a significant fact that during the same Plan period, both production and profits in the metal and engineering industries have increased by leaps and bounds. Production in metal industry has risen by 196.7% and in the engineering by 343.4% compared to 1955, and profits in these industries went up by 2.5 times and 3.5 times respectively.

The session draws pointed attention to the fact that this increase in production and profits could not have been there but for the fact that the workers in the industry have given their fullfledged cooperation and support. The Session, therefore, records its appreciation of the patriotic role that these workers have played in building the industry.

However, it is a matter of deep regret that these profits and production have gone only to enrich the few employers both in the public and private sectors and not to increase the standard of living or bettering the working conditions of the workers.

Actually while the production and the profits were shooting up so high, we notice that there has been no rise in the wages of workers commensurate with the rise in produc-

tion, much less with profits, that in some cases, there has been either a regular depression of real wages or wages have remained frozen at the same level.

In this industry, there is no national minimum wage fixed. As a result, in some factories, the wages are so low that they get only a starvation wage equal to a flat rate of Rs. 2.50 per day in a City like Bombay and even less at other places.

In others, where the wage is linked with the cost of living index number, the neutralisation provided against the rise is never 100 per cent, thus continuously bringing down the real wage to deteriorate the standard of living still further.

In some well-organised factories, the employers manage to get better production by throwing a bait of piece rates and other incentive schemes to the workers, so that they, in pursuit of higher earnings, work more intensely, with increased workload on themselves and ultimately caused suffering and damage to their own health and longevity in the last analysis.

In order to escape any liability of direct payment, and application of labour legislation, some employers engage contractors who, on their turn, extract work from workers on scandalously low wages and under horrible conditions. They also continue to label them as temporary even if they have put years of service in the factory.

The 'apprentice' is yet another category of workers who, in this industry, are openly exploited as cheap labour. While apparently professing that the apprentices are given opportunities of learning the craft or trade, the employers exact production work from them and pay them only a miserable stipend. Even their right to join a trade union is not given to them in the Apprenticeship Training Bill which is proposed by the Government of India.

The anarchy in wage structure is yet another factor, which has exposed workers in this industry to further exploitation. Workers doing identical jobs will not find the same designation for that job, nor the same rate of wages, no sooner their place of work is changed to a different factory or region.

Grades, scales and differentials, all differ. There is no rational relation with the basic minimum wage which itself is not fixed on any rational basis.

The minimum need-based wage fixed by the tripartite conference has only remained in cold storage and become a matter of ridicule for employers and also the Government's Labour Department everywhere.

The AITUC protests against this state of affairs and expresses its strong resentment at the callous indifference shown by the Government of India, which, in spite of being a party to the unanimous agreement at tripartite conference, does not still constitute a Wage Board for the workers in this industry. This conference emphatically states that Wage Board is the only solution which can put an end to the present anarchy and unrestrained behaviour of the capitalists and bring about some standardisation of occupations and set proper wage differentials.

A regular well-organised and unscrupulous attack on the workers and their trade union rights in the engineering industry has also become a specific feature of policy of the employers in both sectors, particularly in Public Sector, in some places.

The employers in these places have made it a point to see that the young, intelligent and educated workers of this newly developing industry do not form trade union organisations of their own choice. In some centres, pressure is put on them to join the INTUC or other unions favoured by the employers.

Message From

VIET-NAM CGT

We have received your letter of October 10, 1960, and we sincerely thank you for the invitation to our organisation to send a delegation to the 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, to be held at Coimbatore, in January 1961.

We deeply regret that this time we are not able to send a delegation to attend your Conference, and we sincerely apologise.

On behalf of all workers, employees and trade unions in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, we heartily extend to the Conference and to all its delegates our most fraternal and warmest greetings.

In the past years, the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) has actively struggled for the unity and interests of the Indian labouring people, for the solidarity of all working classes in the world, and for peace in South East Asia and in the world.

The successes won by the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) have contributed an important part to the common struggle of the trade unions all over the world against the war-mongering design of imperialism, led by the U.S. imperialists, and have greatly inspired the

The Session strongly protests against this vicious attack on the fundamental trade union rights of workers which is becoming an attack on the security of service itself.

This session warns the Government and the employers against the unfair labour practices and disruptive tactics that are being practised with impunity in both the Sectors. Such practices with impunity Such practices will neither help the cause of the nation nor the industrialists themselves. It urges upon both the Government and private employers to put an end to such malpractices.

The AITUC therefore calls upon the engineering workers of the country to strengthen their unity and organisation so that the offensive of the employers could be defeated and the workers are able to fight for the improvement of their living standards and working conditions.

The conference further calls upon them to rally round the following demands and forge unity of action to realise the same:

1. Set up a Wage Board for Engineering Workers;
2. Give immediate rise in the present wage;
3. Link our Dearness Allowance with the cost of living index numbers;
4. Right to join a trade union and adequate training facilities to apprentices and stipends linked with the cost of living index numbers;
5. Recognise the unions which have the majority following, determined through secret ballot.
6. Stop all disruption and respect our trade union rights.

Vietnamese working class and people in their struggle for the reunification of Vietnam, against the US imperialists' flagrant violations of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina, and against their deeper and deeper interference into the southern part of our country.

The Vietnamese working class and trade unions believe that the 26th Session of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) will gloriously succeed to mapping out the line for the Indian working class to go forward, victory after victory, in their struggle for their interests as well as in the struggle for the international solidarity of all working classes and for peace.

We sincerely wish the 26th Session of All-India Trade Union Congress may brilliant successes.

Long live the friendship between the working classes and peoples of Vietnam and India.

Long live the international solidarity of all working classes in the world.

Long live world peace.

—HOANG QUOC VIET
President
General Confederation of Labour

COIR INDUSTRY IN KERALA

The Coir Industry is the most important industry in Kerala. More than 12 lakhs of people depend entirely upon it for their livelihood.

The industry which began to establish itself on an organised footing in the town of Alleppey in the year 1859 and which recorded steady progress for a pretty long time, is now on the decline. It had at one time an annual out-put to the tune of 15-17 crores of rupees. This is now reduced to 10-12 crores of rupees.

The industry has two sectors, a spinning sector and a manufacturing sector. Spinning sector consists of various processes such as retting of coconut husks in water, extraction of fibre from retted husks and the spinning of yarn from the fibre.

These processes are being done largely on an un-organised fashion throughout the coastal belt of Kerala. The manufacturing sector also consists of various processes such as weaving of mats, mattings, carpets etc., stenciling, colouring, shearing, sorting, presting and other ancillary work. These are carried on entirely in well established factories. There has been no change worth-mentioning in the spinning sector ever since the inception of the industry.

The picture of the manufacturing sector is deeply disturbing. It is so completely upset that the coir industry is now on the verge of collapse. The production of coir goods is dwindling at an alarming rate and it is gradually migrating from this land to European countries like Holland and Belgium. Countries like Australia, New Zealand and France which used to buy our manufactured coir goods have gradually sliced down their import and instead they are now purchasing raw fibre and yarn. These European countries are starting their own manufacturing establishments with the coir yarn that they import.

They make coir goods prohibitively dear and get down yarn cheaper. Also the freight rate for sea-borne coir goods is nearly five times that for yarn. Our country is actually degenerating to the level of a colony supplying raw materials for the industries of Europe. Between 1946-47 and 1953-54, the export of yarn rose from 4,76,891 cwts. to 7,60,523 cwts., while the export of manufactured coir goods shrank from 3,66,820 cwts. to 2,43,688 cwts.

It must be borne in mind that in 1937-38, the export of manufactured coir goods by far exceeded that of coir yarn. It is sad that the Central Government and the State Government are not realising the fact that our country is losing heavily on account of this state of affairs.

The annual report of the Travancore Chamber of Commerce points out that in 1954-

55, 11,05,459 cwts. of coir yarn and 4,49,695 cwts. of coir goods were shipped from the Cochin Harbour and the port of Alleppey.

The average price realised is Rs. 49.7 per cwt. for coir yarn and Rs. 75.6 per cwt. for coir products. Calculating on this basis, the total price of 11,05,459 cwts. of yarn is approximately Rs. 5,50,000 and that for 4,49,695 cwts. of finished products like mats and mattings, carpets etc., is roughly 37,00,000.

From this, it will be seen that raw yarn and fibre has fetched 52 per cent more than the price of coir goods. On the other hand, if the entire export consisted only of finished goods, the total amount would have been nearly three crores and forty-two lakhs of rupees.

Unrestricted export of raw yarn and fibre to European countries in increasing quantities and the gradual migration of the production of coir goods from this land is no doubt, the major cause for the decline of this industry; but there are other causes also for it, like the undesirable competition among the industrialists for securing more foreign orders and the various questionable practices adopted by them for compensating the loss occasioned thereby such as the debasement of the quality and standard of goods, the export of inferior stuff against orders for superior quality and deception of foreign buyers.

All these factors have contributed in no small measure to the ruin of this industry which is in fact now on its last legs.

Already as many as 46 coir factories have been closed in Kerala.

No. of factories closed at each centre

Alleppey	—	21
Shertallai	—	16
Quilon	—	4
Cochin	—	3
Calicut	—	2

Thousands of workers have been thrown out of employment. There were more than 50,000 workers engaged in this industry in Kerala at one time. The corresponding figure at present is 17,000.

The following table gives one an idea of the huge proportion that unemployment has assumed since the post-war period of 1947-49.

	No. of workers		
	Before 1947-58	No. of workers 1959-60	No. of workers thrown out.
Alleppey	23,000	6,500	16,500
Shertallai	16,000	4,500	11,500
Cochin	5,000	3,000	2,000
Calicut	2,000	1,500	500
Paravoor & Gakkom	1,000	500	500
Vaikom	1,300	1,000	300
Quilon	3,000	Nil	3,000
	51,300	17,000	34,300

In Messrs. Darragh, Small & Co., Alleppey, where there were 1,600 workers in the year 1947-48, only 464 workers are working at present. The Pierce Lesslie & Co., had at one time 1,200 workers at their Alleppey factory, but now they have only 186 workers.

Even these 186 workers are under notice of retrenchment. These facts and figures clearly show how disquieting the situation is. On a modest estimate, more than 34,000 workers have been thrown out of employment as a result of the crisis in the coir industry.

What is more disquieting is that mass retrenchment of workers is still going on and that even the workers who are engaged in the industry at present are getting only 3 to 4 days' work a week.

It is regretted that neither the Central Government nor the State Government nor the Coir Board are realising the seriousness of the situation that has developed in the coir industry, the gravity of the problems that it is facing and the abject poverty and privation that the workers engaged in this industry are enduring as a result of the present crisis.

The Central Government, the State Govt. and the Coir Board must declare the Coir Industry as a declining industry and take immediate and effective steps to provide employment to the workers who were thrown out due to closure of manufacturing establishments and other reasons.

SUGAR CONVENTION AT BAHERI

IN a meeting on February 21, 1961 the United Chini Mill Mazdoor Federation at Lucknow decided to call an All-India Convention of the Sugar Workers at Baheri, Bareilly District, on March 17-18, 1961, to consider the situation which has arisen after the Wage Board Recommendations.

In this connection it has been decided to approach all the Unions in Sugar Industry and other All-India Trade Union Federations.

March 8, 1961 will be observed as "Demands Day" to urge the Government of India to immediately enforce the recommendations of the Wage Board which is long overdue.

The Unions in this respect have been directed to arrange meetings and demonstrations at their mill gates and residential areas.

26th Session:

Message From JAPAN

On behalf of the Japanese workers united in the General Council of Trade Unions (SOHYO), we would like to send our hearty congratulation for the 26th Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress that is one of the most militant workers' organization for the peace, freedom and the better life of workers.

For the many difficult task in our country, we regret that we cannot send our delegates in spite of your kind invitation. Please convey to the workers affiliated to your organization our assurance that Japanese workers are always on your side.

At the same time, taking advantage of this opportunity, we would like to express our wholehearted gratitude for your warm support for our struggles against the Japan-U. S. Treaty of Security. Our struggles are not yet over, of course. On contrary, the struggles for peace, national independence and rights of workers will develop in the wider scale. We would like to ask the further support of your organization.

We wish heartily the further advance of the unity among workers in your country through your successful struggles and the stronger solidarity and friendship between workers of the both organizations through our common works.

Through a resolution the Government of India has been requested to enforce the recommendations without delay with the modifications suggested by the Federation as well as the AITUC, HMS and the UTUC.

Mahadeo Singh, President, Hind Mazdoor Sabha addressing the meeting welcomed the above two decisions and assured the Federation of full cooperation in making the Convention a success.

The meeting was presided over by Sibban Lal Saxena, MP.

Plantation Workers To Observe Interim Relief Week

The Secretariat of the AITUC has given a call to all affiliated unions in plantation industry to observe a week from March 12 to 19 demanding interim increment till final report of Wage Board.

AITUC, UTUC & HMS Joint Memorandum To Labour Minister

S. A. Dange, General-Secretary, AITUC, Sibban Lal Saxena, Vice-President, HMS and B. D. Shukla, Vice-President UTUC, addressed a joint memorandum to Gulzari Lal Nanda, Labour & Employment on February 15, regarding the recommendations of the Sugar Wage Board. S. A. Dange, Sibban Lal Saxena, Tridib Chowdhury alongwith some other important trade union leaders in Sugar Industry met Labour Minister Nanda on February 23, and discussed the matter in detail.

Following is the text of the memorandum:

Our organisations consider the recommendations of the Wage Board for Sugar Industry very unsatisfactory and unjust and biased in favour of the employers. According to the Nimbkar Committee Report 1948, the wages of Sugar workers including Dearness Allowance will have to be fixed about Rs. 90.00.

This Report was shelved by the U.P. Government. The Sugar Tariff Board recommended its implementation in the year 1950, but to no avail.

Thus Sugar workers have suffered through out.

Still we are unanimous in our request that the unanimous recommendations of the Board for which workers waited for three years, be implemented without delay.

To remove some of the glaring defects in the recommendations of the Board, we suggest that the following modifications should be made in them by the Government to ensure industrial peace in the Sugar Industry.

(a) The linking of the Dearness Allowance for any month with the cost of living index should be made on the basis of rise or fall for each point in the preceding month as recommended by the Nimbkar Committee, and the cost of living index prevailing in any month in the nearest centre falling in each of the four regions should be adopted as the basis for making these calculations.

The Dearness Allowance recommended by the Board should be given in full to all employees whether they opt for the basic wage recommended by the Board or for the existing basic wage obtaining at present by deducting the D.A. recommended by the Board.

(b) 62% of the Sugar Factory workmen, who have been placed in the category of unskilled seasonal workmen, have been denied retaining allowance during the off-season months in the name of meagre wage-rise given by the Board.

Almost all the Committees of enquiry into labour conditions in the Sugar Industry before this Wage Board have recommended retaining allowance to this category of workmen to an extent ranging from 5% to 50% of the consolidated wages. Sugar Labour is most keenly agitated over this question of retaining allowance.

We think that the Government should modify this recommendation and do justice to them by allowing at least 25% of the consolidated wage as retaining allowance to this category of workmen.

(c) In view of the fact that Bonus Commission as envisaged by the Board has already been set up by the Government of India, the recommendation of the Board with regard to bonus, should not be implemented, until the Bonus Commission may finally decide the issue, the existing system of payment of bonus on the basis of production as prevalent in Uttar Pradesh be allowed to continue.

(d) The unkindest cut has come through the recom-

mendation to do away with the existing facilities enjoyed by a large number of workers. The doing away of such facilities as free and concessional housing, free and concessional supply of fuel, light, household accessories and supply of food material at subsidised rates would result in almost entirely neutralising the wage rise awarded by the Board.

In view of the fact that the minimum wage as agreed at Delhi Tripartite Convention has been denied, in no case the monetary value of these be adjusted against the wage rise and the existing agreements, awards and conventions providing for these facilities be allowed to continue.

In this connection the railway fare being given at present by many mills should not be disturbed.

(e) The Gratuity Scheme recommended by the Board has ignored the well known and established principle laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement in the case Indian Hume Pipe Co. versus its workmen that the workmen's claim for gratuity will not be affected by the payment of retrenchment compensation.

The Wage Board has made observation contrary to the above recommending that retrenchment and gratuity shall not be paid simultaneously. Under these circumstances the recommendation of the Wage Board in this respect needs modification.

The gratuity should be paid on the basis of the whole wage i.e. basic plus D.A. and there should be no upper limit to its payment as provided for by the Board by putting a ceiling to 15 years.

In case of the seasonal workers too the payment of gratuity be no less than half month's wages for each season for which the workman was employed.

The recommendation of the Wage Board are based on the present strength of labour in the various sugar factories in the country. No further retrenchment in the strength of labour in a factory existing on 1.1.59 should, therefore, be permitted.

And if the crushing capacity of a factory is increased subsequently a proportionate increase in the labour force be done on agreed principles.

(g) The recommendations of the Board in respect of standardization of grades of the various categories of semiskilled and highly skilled workers should not be left to the mercy of the employers, which will lead to much bitterness and discontentment and prolonged litigation.

We propose that the Government lay down that disputes in connection with the categorisation of workers in the various grades recommended by the Wage Board should be decided by experts mutually agreed upon by impartial arbitration.

(h) The recommendations of the Wage Board with regard to the industrial workers in the sugar industry should also be made applicable to the workers on sugar farms owned by the sugar factories, as they are part and parcel of the sugar factories and contribute very materially to the profits of the sugar factories concerned.

We hope that the Government would modify the recommendations of the Wage Board as suggested in the foregoing paragraphs and will incorporate them in their resolution in order to ensure industrial peace in the Sugar Industry.

Committee To Study Rate Of PF Contributions

A non-official resolution proposing an increase in the rate of provident fund contributions under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme from 6 1/4 to 8 1/3 per cent was rejected by the Lok Sabha on February 18, after the Deputy Minister for Labour, L. N. Mishra, had announced that the question would be considered at the meeting of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mines to be held in March. •

The sponsor of the resolution K. K. Warriar (Communist) had argued that the basic wages of the 3,50,000 colliery workers had been so low that their provident fund accumulations would be too little to be of any use to them.

GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS SUGAR WAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government of India by their Resolution No. WB-7(30)/60 dated February 23, 1961 has decided to accept the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for the sugar industry subject to the following:

(a) Workload studies

Government has taken note of the Board's recommendations that workload studies be undertaken in the sugar industry and that such studies should be preceded by reasonably specific programme of implementation drawn up in consultation with the organisation; of the interests concerned. Government propose to consider the matter further in consultation with the parties.

(b) Bonus

Government commends the bonus formula for the North and Central regions recommended by the Wage Board. If,

however, the parties concerned in any of the States included in these regions agree to adopt any other formula for determination of bonus payable in respect of a particular period, they may be allowed to do so.

(c) Government requests employers, workers and State Governments to take immediate steps to implement the recommendations of the Wage Board. Government expects that the parties will show a spirit of accommodation in interpreting and implementing the recommendations and difficulties, if any, will be solved by mutual negotiations and agreement.

26th Session

Message From Pancyprrian Federation Of Labour, Cyprus

We thank you for your circular of October 10, re: the 26th Session of the A.I.T.U.C.

Unfortunately it will be quite impossible to send our fraternal delegate, but we want to assure you and all the comrades of the A.I.T.U.C., that the workers and the people of Cyprus are following with interest and with feelings of solidarity, the struggles of the Indian working class for a better and happy life.

Please convey to your Congress our best and most sincere fraternal greetings.

5 DEC 1960

Phone : 24-3831

Bengal Motion Picture Employees' Union

(REGTD. NO. 925)

President :

PROF. HIRENDRANATH MUKHERJI, M. P.

Hony Gen. Secretary :
SRI HARIPADA CHATTERJI

126A, Dharamtalla St. Calcutta-13

City Office :

107, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta-14
Phone : 24-3912

Dated 12.12.60

To
The Com. Srivastava,
Secretary, AITUC,
4, Ashok Road,
New Delhi.

Dear Com. Srivastava,

I send this draft resolution to be moved in the coming session of AITUC. Please do the needful and oblige.

With greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Haripada Chatterji
General Secretary.

Bengal Motion Picture Employees' Union

(REGTD. NO. 925)

President :
PROF. HIRENDRANATH MUKHERJI, M. P.

Hony Gen. Secretary :
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City Office :
107, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta-14
Phone : 24-3912

Dated.....

Resolution on Commercial workers' movement and organisation.

This conference of AITUC feels it urgently necessary that a co-ordinated movement and organisation of all types of commercial and mercantile employees (including employees in shops, establishment, cinema, hotel restaurant, banks and mercantile offices) should be built up in India and as a first step towards that state organisations and state movements in these lines to be built up on sound footings.

This conference, therefore, directs the state TUCS to render all help to affiliated or non-affiliated Unions of these types to do the needful in these regards. "

To be moved by Com. Haripada Chatterjee, (General Secretary, Bengal Motion Picture Employees' Union).

5 DEC 1960

Coffee Board Labour Union

(REGD. No. 320)

Central Office : 107, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta-14

PRESIDENT :

SRI A. K. GOPALAN M.P.

VICE-PRESIDENTS :

PROF. HIREN MUKHERJEE M.P.
PROF. N.C. BHATTACHARYA M.A.LL.B, M.L.C
SRI K. SUBBARAO B.A (HONS) LLB.
SRI HARIPADA CHATTERJEE

GENERAL SECRETARY :

M. A. JAFFAR

TREASURER :

O. V. VELAYUDHA

Ref. No. 3TU-3/60.

Dated 12. 12. 19 60.

To
The Com. Srivastava,
Secretary, AITUC,
4, Ashok Road,
New Delhi.

Dear Brother,

I send this draft resolution which is to be moved in the coming session of AITUC at Coimbatore, Com. Haripada Chatterjee our Vice-President, will move it in the said conference on our behalf and Com. A.K. Gopalan, M.P., our President, will support it.

With greetings,

Yours sincerely,

M. A. Jaffar
General Secretary,
C. B. L. U.

Coffee Board Labour Union

(REGD. No. 320)

Central Office : 107, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta-14

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PROF. HIREN MUKHERJEE M.P.
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SRI K. SUBBARAO B.A (HONS) LLB.
SRI HARIPADA CHATTERJEE

GENERAL SECRETARY :

M. A. JAFFAR

TREASURER :

O. V. VELAYUDHA

Ref. No.

Dated 19 ..

Resolution on Coffee Board Workers'.

"This conference of AITUC deploras the attitude of the Coffee Board as expressed in the reversal of a good number of workmen in Coffee Houses to lower posts and in effecting unfair and unjust wages cuts and curtailment of their existing benefits since 1957.

This conference also strongly protests against Coffee Board's denial of wage-increments, incremental pay-scale, Gratuity,, Bonus and other due benefits to the Class IV staff in Coffee Houses, Coffee Depots and Coffee Research Station centres spread throughout India.

This conference urges upon the Coffee Board and commerce and industries Ministry of the Government of India to meet the most moderate claims of the Coffee Board Workers in the interest of industrial peace a harmony".