

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस  
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, ASHOK ROAD, NEW DELHI.

Party

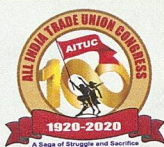
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PARTY

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

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1961



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4, Ashok Road,  
New Delhi.  
February 23, 1961.

The Secretariat,  
Communist Party of India,  
New Delhi.

Dear Comrades,

Some sections of the victimised Government employees desire to launch a hunger-strike to draw people's and Government's attention to their problem. Some party members are also involved.

As it is a question which may affect all India TUs. and Party, it is necessary that our Party centre should discuss it and take a decision. I am sending my note on it.

The Bengal P.C. has also sent a letter on the matter.

I suggest meeting to-day or tomorrow. I shall be going out of Delhi on 25th.morning.

Yours fraternally,



(S.A. DANGE)

	<u>Dismissed Discharged</u>	<u>Compulsory Retiree</u>	<u>Still Suspended</u>
			50 about.
Defence	50	1	
AUDIT	69	11	16
Regional Director of food	-	-	5
<u>20.2.61</u> P & T	36	15	21
			332
Rly	119	-	
<u>10.2.61</u> Civil Aviation	-	-	3
Income Tax	-	-	9
Overseas Communication	-	-	5
	<u>274</u>	<u>27</u>	<u><del>391</del> 441</u>
			391
			274
			27
			<u>692</u> 50
			742

20 FEB 1961

THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL GOVT.  
EMPLOYEES' & WORKERS' UNIONS AND ASSCNS.  
W e s t B e n g a l

249, Bepin Behari Ganguly St,  
C a l c u t t a - 12.  
February 18, 1961.

Resolution adopted at the meeting of the General Council of the Co-ordination Committee held on 16. 2. 61.

"This meeting of the General Council of the co-ordination -- Committee of Central Govt employees' and workers' Unions and Associations, West Bengal, held on 16.2.61 learns with concern the decision of two esteemed comrades of Central Govt Employees movement - Sri E. X. Joseph, Secretary General of All India Non-Gazetted Audit And Accounts Association and Sri O. P. Gupta of the National Federation of P. & T Employees, to go on hunger strike for an indefinite period from 7.3.61 for reinstatement of all victimised employees and restoration of recognition of Unions.

The causes for the vindication of which two valued comrades of ours are impelled to take this grave decision are no doubt painfully agitating the minds of the Central Govt employees and workers throughout the country. The General Council after a -- thorough and careful deliberation are compelled to observe that the decision to undertake fast is most inopportune at this moment and considering all aspects of the present situation - the state of movement of the Central Govt.employees which has received a serious set back after the last strike from which it is yet to recover, the proposed hunger strike, if undertaken, will fail to achieve the desired result and cause further demoralisation in the minds of the employees.

The General Council further observes that any individual action, howsoever well intended, will be totally incapable of bringing about a change in the present situation. The purpose of any movement whatever ~~x~~ might be its form must be to mobilise the mass of the employees behind the same. But the present situation of different unions and associations of Central Govt.employees -s does not warrant any such possibility of rallying in the least the Central Govt employees behind this move for hunger strike far less of creating any amount of public opinion in its favour which alone can bring the necessary pressure on the Govt of India for changing its attitude. The position being so, the General Council holds that the proposed hunger strike is destined to be an action completely isolated from the mass of the employees and the result, experience has taught us, is sure to be disastrous.

The General Council ~~can~~ not but observe that experiences, recent and remote, have shown that hunger strike even when undertaken at the crest of a movement has failed to lead anywhere near the desired result which all the more points to the need for utmost caution against any hasty move when the state of the movement in the Central Govt employees and in other spheres is at the lowest ebb. The path on the otherhand lies in concerted and sincere efforts for building up the movement by ~~activising~~ the ~~xx~~ members and revitalising the unions in different centres however difficult the process may be.

The General Council regrets to note that the decision of hunger strike has been arrived at without any ~~xxx~~ prior consultation with different organisations of Central Govt. employees and workers at any stage, although the same has wide impact on the entire

p.t.o.

continued  
2nd page

entire Central Govt. employees and workers in India. Such unilateral move on the part of an individual or even of a single organisation which, in fact, lands the entire Central Govt. employees in a difficult situation without giving them any opportunity to have their say in the matter, is not only wrong but tends to impair the precious unity of the Central Govt employees which indeed has so far been the guiding principle of all our movements.

The General Council registers its firm opposition to the proposed hunger strike by Sri E. X. Joseph and O. P. Gupta and would earnestly request them to refrain from taking recourse to such action at this juncture.

16/2/61  
(K. G. BOSE),  
16/2/61.  
PRESIDENT.

# COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

## WEST BENGAL HEADQUARTERS

64-A, LOWER CIRCULAR ROAD :: CALCUTTA-16

Telegrams : COMMUNIST

Telephone : 44-5999

13th February, 1961.

Com. Jyoti Basu.

Dear Comrade,

You have seen in the paper that comrades from Central P & T and Audit are going to start hunger strike from 7th March, 1961.

The otherday I met the Central Co-ordination Committee. Except one all of them are strongly against this step.

Now the point is, who has decided this course of action. Did any Party body has approved this ? What are we to do when this hunger strike begins. I think there is no plan to mobilise support for this.

My reaction is that it should be stopped, otherwise it will be a complete failure, and creat demoralisation among the employees. You should intervene in this matter.

I hope you shall talk with the Central leadership regarding railway movements. The S.E. Zonal fraction is not functioning because its authority is challenged by some comrades of other states. I think you should impress upon the Central leadership, that when they cannot look after this, then they can leave it to Bengal for its guidance as its (SE) headquarter is in Bengal, and this should be the general principle regarding all the railways.

Yours fraternally,

*Promode Das Gupta*  
(Promode Das Gupta). 15/2

It is now seven months since the strike of the Government employees ended.

At first there were thousands under threat of dismissals. After a review of cases by Government and negotiations, there still remain about 742 cases. Of these 274 are outright dismissals, and 27 are compulsorily retired. Cases of suspension whose hopes or fears are not yet finally decided are 441 (approx).

The decisions in these cases are taken not necessarily by the Minister, but most by officers on the spot, through general guiding lines for action have been circulated to all heads of departments.

Since the strike, trade union activity has not revived to any appreciable extent. In some services, they are at a very low level. In some there is some attempt to revive. In some, because of the nature of industry, the revival is more. But on the whole, the front is more or less in stagnation.

The main reason for this is not that the employees do not want to work. The main reason is that unions have all been derecognised and without recognition, Government service unions can do very little. Even general mobilisation for meetings becomes very difficult because of the conduct rules. Factory areas alone can do work through meetings. In this even, the railways are dead, except in a few places.

It is necessary to enliven the situation. The victimised are not so very big in number as to provide the driving force for the movement to revive. But then they are a very live wire as an issue. Every serviceman feels for them.

What kind of campaign can be taken up for them? Any action by the employees is totally ruled out in the present stage.

Hence, the leaders of the Audit service, who are very well organised, proposed to stage a hunger-strike "to draw the attention of Government and people to their pitiable conditions". The Audit leader, Joseph, got the sanction of his Working Committee to go on hunger-strike, period to be decided by him, as would be necessary.

He was to have gone on hunger-strike on 8 or 10th December when the Parliament was sitting. Then he consulted other leaders, if they would join.

The P&T leader, O.P. Gupta supported the move, and the December date of hunger-strike was postponed and posted for March 7th.

What are the reactions?

The Bengal P.F. has sent me a letter enclosing the decision of the West Bengal Committee of the Joint Council of Action of Government Employees of West Bengal. The resolution opposes the move. First on the ground that it will not succeed in realising the demand and will lead to further demoralisation and secondly because hunger-strikes as such are no good.

We had a meeting of some of the leading comrades in the various Federations. The majority favoured some action. The Comrade from West Bengal objected in terms of his resolution.

The Secretariat should consider the problem.

My views are as follows, which I outlined before the meeting:

I think some action, which will not involve the employed workers directly, is necessary to stir the placid situation. Such an action is the hunger strike.

It should be undertaken by some well-known leaders of the Federation.

It should be staged in the principal towns.

Those who are discharged workers should join in groups of two or three along with the known leaders.

Those who are in employment should be specifically asked that they are NOT expected to take any action in support of the hunger-strike as would jeopardise their jobs.

The object of the hunger-strike is only to draw the attention of the Government to the misery of those who have been dismissed or suspended and to the unfairness in not restoring recognition to the Unions. The objective must be framed in suitable words.

Non-government employees and workers should demonstrate in sympathy.

The hunger-strike, of course, should not last long, since it is in the nature of only a strike for protest.

The leaders of various federations should be expected to sympathise. But perhaps S.M. Joshi, Peter Alvarez etc. may not. They should at least not issue statements against it. A leader like Dalvi must be tapped before hand.

Some statements by Gupta and others are already issued on this. They should be reframed as these statements make it look as if it is a hunger-strike for fulfilment of demands. Such presentation of the question is not right.

The organisational unity of the Federation and the Unions should be guarded. If the hunger-strike becomes a pretext to break it, it should be dropped. At present the position in this matter is not clear.

If 7th March does not give enough time to mobilise, it can be postponed. Home Minister Pant's is also one consideration to postpone by a week or 10 days.

But it should be taken up in this session of Parliament and preferably before the new T.U. Bills and conduct rules regarding Government employees are introduced. A little stir before would be helpful to the T.U.s.

The hunger-strike will not be a prolonged one. The AITUC should call other TU centres to help. It should also talk to S.M. Joshi, Dalvi and others about it before launching.

It is not possible nor advisable to call and consult the Executives of the Federations or Unions. The Federations are waiting for recognition. Therefore, they should not be formally and officially asked to propose or support such an action. Hence individual leaders do it. It has the appearance of individual action, but it is necessary to be so. There is no other way and to be all quiet so long is also not good.

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(The main lines of this note were approved by the Secretariat. Further steps are to be taken on this basis. This is to be conveyed to Committees concerned.)

(A postponement to give for the above directives to take effect will be arranged from Bombay after consultation with Joseph)

24.2.1961.