

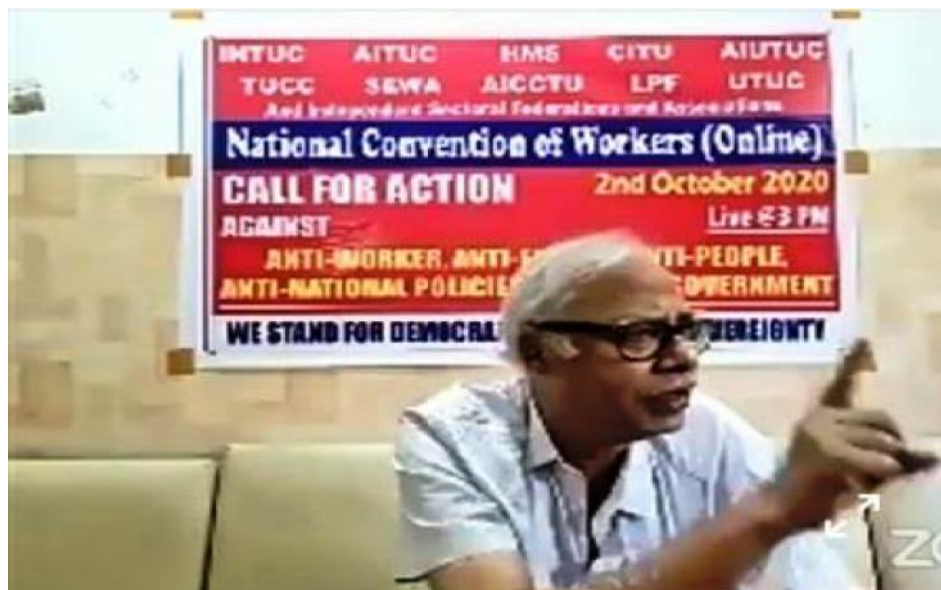


THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

Workers National Convention

(2 October 2020)



CITU General Secretary Tapan Sen addressing online Workers National Convention

Workers National Convention

Organised by all 10 central trade unions (CTUs), except BMS; and independent national federations; above 1.25 Lakh leaders and activists of the trade union movement in India attended the Workers National Convention online on 2 October 2020. The National Convention unanimously decided Countrywide Workers General Strike on 26 November 2020 against Modi-led BJP Government's anti-workers, anti-peasants, anti-people and anti-national policies.

The National Convention was addressed by G. Sanjeeva Reddy, President of INTUC; Amarjeet Kaur, General Secretary of AITUC; Harbhajan Singh Sidhu, General Secretary of HMS; Tapan Sen, General Secretary of CITU; Shankar Dasgupta, General Secretary of AIUTUC; G. Devarajan, General Secretary of TUCC; Soinia George of SEWA; Santosh Roy of AICCTU; M Shanmugham, M.P., General Secretary of LPF; and Shatruijeet of UTUC.

The National Convention unanimously adopted the Declaration which strongly condemned the onslaught on the basic democratic and Constitutional rights of the workers, farmers and common people by Modi-led BJP government at the Centre and their State Governments. The Convention condemned the divisive machinations played out by the BJP governments to tear up the secular fabric of our society by implicating all those who express dissent.

The convention expressed support and solidarity with the struggles of different sections of the society and all sections of workers; noted militant resistance struggles of the workers against privatisation, corporatisation, FDI etc in various sectors including the Railways, Coal, BPCL, BSNL, Finance Sector etc.

The Convention adopted resolutions in support with the UP Electricity employees strike struggles, proposed strike struggles of Coal workers and of Defence sector employees.

The Convention extended full solidarity with the farmers struggle demanding withdrawal of anti-farmer agri-laws, passed without even allowing voting on them; and declared to continue to support and express solidarity in all forms to the farmers' struggle at national level and in any part of the country.

The convention expressed serious concern over the increasing violence against women and condemned the Hathras rape and demanded justice to the victim.

The Convention adopted countrywide action programme prior to strike including - joint conventions at state, district, industry/sectoral level in October 2020; - grassroot level campaign upto mid November.

One Day Strike is in preparation for more intense, more tenacious and longer struggles ahead. The Convention called upon all the working people, whether unionised or not, affiliated or independent, whether from organised sector or unorganised sector, to intensify the united struggle and make the call for countrywide general strike on 26 November, 2020 a total success.

WORKING CLASS**OCTOBER 2020****EDITORIAL BOARD****Editor****K. Hemalata****Working Editor****J.S. Majumdar****Members****Tapan Sen****R. Karumalaiyan****Amitava Guha****H. S. Rajput**

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Capitalist 'Neo-Normal'

The report of the CITU Working Committee meeting, being held online on 19-20 October 2020, may become a historic document from the perspective of trade union movement; for the reason that it characterised the present situation as '*abnormal*' since the onset of Covid-19 pandemic, which the capital, their corporates and rulers are propagating as '*neo-normal*'.

Generally, it is the understanding of the people that this abnormal situation due to Covid is *temporary* and that normalcy, as it was, will be restored once pandemic situation is over.

But, this abnormal situation is created due to Covid plus, under its cover, by the fast measures being taken by the rulers for exploitation and expropriation of the people, their assets and natural resources for continued profiteering of capital when capitalist economy failed leading to all round and deepening economic crises.

These are combined with authoritarianism; suppression of the voice of dissent; restriction on demonstrative physical collective opposition; suppression of democratic and human rights with fascistic trend. This is the '*neo-normal*' which has been set-in permanently to enforce their *neoliberal* economy.

CITU report indicated this development and set programme to face it through much wider people's alliance, the producing working forces in the core, at micro level, both in rural and urban areas, in the most organisation coordinated manner discarding all ritualism and command system.

Uttar Pradesh

Electricity Employees Magnificent United Struggle & Victory

Prem Nath Rai

General Secretary, CITU UP State



Moradabad



Anapara Power Plant

Bulandshahr

The 'Work Boycott'

15 lakh electricity employees in Uttar Pradesh including permanent and contract workers, junior engineers, sub-divisional officers, executive engineers and superintending engineers – all united under the single banner of UP Vidyut Karmachari Sanjukta Sangharsha Samity (VKSSS) of their respective 18 organisations in all the production and distribution units of the state public sector Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (UP-PCL) - were on indefinite 'Work Boycott' since early morning of 5 October, after giving sufficient advance notice and pre-strike warning agitations.

Their single demand to Yogi Government was to stop privatisation move of UP-PCL and notification to privatise Puvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd, (PVVNL), the power distribution entity of UP-PCL for the entire Eastern UP comprising of 5 of the 18 administrative divisions of the State.

In response, Yogi Government hired engineers and others from NTPC, BHEL and others to take charge of PVVNL units; district administration deployed top officials in all its installations and also outside; deployed massive police force and asked army to stand by.

To break the unity of the employees the Government attempted to hold discussion separately with the constituents' organisations of the Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity. But, all unions / associations, including BMS affiliates, stood firm and refused to hold separate discussion and demanded meeting only with the Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity.

Ultimately the Government held marathon meeting with the Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity from 2 to 5 October, but failed as the Minister-in-Charge, who was present in the meeting, directed the administration not to sign the agreed draft of agreement at the last moment after getting telephone call from 'higher up'.

In the meantime, 'Work Boycott' became total in all generation and distribution units; hired personnel failed and general tripped. With that Yogi Government also tripped.

Immediately, the Chief Minister formed a Ministerial Subcommittee which held discussion with the Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity at 3.30 PM on 6 October and the agreement was signed same evening and the 'Work Boycott' was called off.

CITU has sent congratulatory message to Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity for their magnificent success of the struggle pushing the Yogi Government back.

The Landmark Agreement

The signed agreement states that (1) *"Puvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited ke vighatan ebam nijikaran ka prastab wapas liya jata hai"* (Dismantling and privatisation of PVVNL proposal is being withdrawn); (2) *"Iske atirikt kisi anya byabastha ka prastab bicharadhin nahi hai"* (Other than this, no other arrangement is under consideration); (3) *"U.P. me vidyut vitaran nigamon ka vartaman byabastha me hi vidyut vitaran me sudhar hetu karmacharion ebam abhiyantraon ko viswas me lekar sarthak karwahi ki jayegi"* (In U.P. by taking the employees and engineers into confidence, effective efforts will be made for improvement in power distribution within the DISCOMs present system of power distribution); (4) *"Karmacharion ebam abhiyantaon ko viaswas me liye bina Uttar Pradesh me kisi bhi sthan par koi nijikaran nahi kiya jayega"* (In U.P. no privatisation will be made without taking the employees and engineers into confidence); and that no disciplinary action would be taken against the striking employees and all related cases withdrawn.

It is a landmark agreement in the background of pending Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020; Union Finance Minister's thrust of electricity privatisation in her five tranches of post-Covid relief package and funding to States; and the ongoing united and militant countrywide agitation of the electricity employees against electricity privatisation.

The Genesis

Modi government and its Power Minister R. K. Singh have been publicly vocal for all out privatisation in the name of 'electricity reforms'. When the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020 was brought in public domain, the notification gave time for response till 5 May. On 1 June the electricity employees resorted to countrywide agitation against it. The Government extended the date of response till end July. The organisations of the employees, others and at least 15 State Governments raised objection to several provisions in the Bill. Pending these, the Union Government advised the State Governments that within the present Act, electricity distribution could be privatised. Privatisation of PVVNL was initiated by Yogi Government under this advice.

During countrywide solidarity action with coal workers, the Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity staged demonstration at the UP-PCL headquarter, *Shakti Bhavan*, in Lucknow on 28 August and submitted memorandum to the Chairman of UP-PCL. During discussion, the Chairman

informed the Samity that PVVNL's AT&C loss reached to 41%; that PVVNL would be dismantled and three separate units would be established at Gorakhpur, Varanasi and Meerjapur and those would be contracted out to private companies.

The Warning Agitations

Immediately, the Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity served notice on 24 August; held meetings in all units of PVVNL during 1-18 September; and held meetings before all electricity establishments throughout the State. On 28 September, to commemorate Shahid Bhagat Singh's birthday, a torchlight procession was brought out in Lucknow, after a meeting, which was prevented by the police resorting to lathi charge and arrest of the leaders and several employees against which there were immediate statewide courting arrest by the electricity employees and the Government was forced to release all from detention across the State by late evening (*CITU Centre Bulletin 6; 1 October 2020*).

This was followed by 3 hours 'Work Boycott' since 29 September and Indefinite 'Work Boycott' on and from 5 October. The rest is history.

The Earlier Agreement on Privatisation

6 October agreement is the second agreement between the Yogi Government and the Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity against electricity privatisation. Earlier in 2017, notification was issued by Yogi government for privatisation of electricity in 5 major cities, including Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Lucknow, Moradabad and Meerut; and 7 districts of Ballia, Itawa, Mau, Rai Bereilly, Jalaun, Kanauj and Saharanpur in the name of 'Power Corporation Integrated Service Provider'.

Against this notification the Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity led statewide agitation and on 5 April, 2018 agreement was signed between the Government and the Sanjukt Sangharsh Samity by which the notification was withdrawn. In that agreement same points in the same language was recorded, as in point (3) and point (4) as above, in the present agreement of 2020. (*The Working Class; May 2018*)

Electricity Employees' Victory in UP – A lesson

Prasanta N Chowdhury

Convener, NCCOEEE

Modi and Yogi Governments were taught a befitting lesson by the Vidyut Karmachari Sanjukta Sangharsh Samity (VKSSS), UP with a single arrow. Name of the weapon is total unity of the employees.

Privatisation, being the central aspiration of Modi regime under cover of tall words like *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, has been blown out through this struggle, with prolonged consistency; and not only made the unity of the UP electricity employees victorious, but also conveyed a positive message to the working class of the country struggling against the moves of the NDA government to sell all the public assets of the whole country.

UP cohesion and magnitude of the unity of the workers and engineers, BMS dared not to keep itself abstain from the VKSSS. Similar total unity was also noted in the 3 days' strike of the coal workers opposing commercial mining through International Competitive Bidding. The working class of India conveyed red salute to coal workers. Class unity of electricity employees of UP and coal workers of India orchestrated in the same tune. In solidarity to

coal workers struggle, National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) observed National Energy Security Day on 18 August.

'Yogi Magic' in UP was defeated by the unity of electricity employees there. Responsibility of defeating 'Modi Magic' in the country is on all sections of the working people. National Convention of Workers on 2 October with participation of more than 15 lakh workers has announced their challenge. Nationwide strike on 26 November is to carry on this struggle.

At the call of NCCOEEE, all its constituents staged massive demonstrations across the country beginning on 29 September in solidarity with struggling UP electricity employees. Thousands of letters were sent to the UP CM from the 3 million electricity employees and engineers' organisations in the country.

From the experience of struggle of UP, NCCOEEE demanded that Standard Bidding Document in addition to Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 be scrapped. Government of India does not have any legal right to dictate / advise the States relating to their property giving to private hands. Electricity struggle is centered to keep pro-socio-economic character of electricity. Unity of workers and employees will compel the government to change its policy of bidding the country for sale.

CITU's Support

On 5 September, CITU General Secretary issued statement congratulating the joint struggle committee of electricity employees and engineers for its fearless struggle against the anti-worker anti-people privatisation of electricity and its determination to continue with its second phase of struggle of indefinite strike to stop privatisation; and extending full support and solidarity with their struggle.

CITU called upon all its units across the country to send solidarity messages to the Vidyut Karmachari Samyukt Sangharsh Samiti of Uttar Pradesh supporting their anti-privatisation struggle. CITU also called upon the people of UP and the entire country to support the struggle in all possible ways.

CITU condemned the BJP state government for their attempt to unbundle the Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd and privatise it. The government's decision to privatise electricity sector would increase electricity rates and make electricity, an essential service for people, out of reach to the poor, particularly those in the remote rural and tribal areas.

CITU also condemned UPPCL management for trying to intimidate and threaten joint struggle committee leaders, instead of discussing with them, and issued notice to 18 leaders threatening them of imprisonment under ESMA, National Disaster Management Act etc.

The struggle against privatisation of electricity is not the struggle of the electricity employees alone. It impacts all sections of society, the common consumers, the peasants, industries and industrial workers. But the BJP government at the centre is going ahead with the Electricity Amendment Bill 2020, which will lead to steep increase in the electricity charges. Thus it is imperative on all sections of the people to oppose this Act along with the electricity employees.

CITU demanded of BJP government at the Centre to immediately withdraw the disastrous Electricity Amendment Bill.

It called upon the people to come together against privatisation of electricity and tell the BJP government in unambiguous terms – '*We Will Not Allow Privatisation of Electricity in Any Manner*'.

AIKS Greeted UP Electricity Workers' Struggle and Victory

In a statement on 9 October, All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) greeted the UP electricity employees for their united struggle and victory and stated, "In the context of mounting struggles of the peasantry and working class across the country against the pro-corporate Farm Acts and Labour Acts, the victory of the electricity workers of UP gives tremendous confidence and strength. AIKS expresses its strong solidarity with the electricity workers of UP and cherishes that the unity of workers and peasants will compel the government to change its policy of bidding the country for sale to corporate houses."

Punjab

Anganwadi Employees Massive Protest; Against State Govt. Attempt to Weaken ICDS

Led by All Punjab Anganwadi Mulazim Union (AMU) of CITU, about 8,000 Anganwadi employees (Workers and Helpers) coming from 11 districts of Punjab marched to the residence of the State Education Minister in his home district of Sangrur, staged demonstration, held rally and public meeting on 12 October.

They were protesting against Punjab Government's decision to open nursery schools in all government schools and issuing order to send all children of 3-6 years age group to go to these nursery schools. For this purpose, the government also sanctioned nearly 9000 posts of nursery teachers. The scheme will ultimately lead to closure of nearly 26,000 Anganwadi centres in the State.

The March was led by Anganwadi employees' national federation, AIFAWH, President Usharani, its General Secretary A. R. Sindhu, CITU State General Secretary Raghunath Singh with the Union's leaders Harjeet kaur, Shubhash Rani, Amrit Kaur and others.

Through the district administration, the Government conveyed its decision to hold meeting of the Ministers and concerned officials with AMU on 15 October 2020. The Union announced that if the Government fails to give concrete assurance on the issue and address the concern of the employees at that meeting, it would intensify agitation.

This nursery school scheme of the Government weakens ICDS; is against the scientific concept of early childhood care and education through Anganwadis under the Women and Child Development ministry; and is to give legitimacy to the mushrooming private nursery, kindergarten schools.

The Government took the decision without any study, preparation for infrastructure and the resources; and when even failing to recruit regular teachers in the vacant posts.

In 2017, the Government came out with such a proposal for the first time; but, due to the agitational resistance by AMU, the Government came to an agreement with the Union that no child from Anganwadis would be shifted to these nursery schools. Government again took this decision suddenly under cover of Covid pandemic and lockdown.

Earlier on 2 October, the foundation day of ICDS, the Anganwadi employees coming from 9 districts gheraoed the Minister for WCD in her home district. But, she left home through backdoor avoiding the meeting with the Union. This forced the Union to stage agitation on 12 October.

INDUSTRY & SECTOR

Defence

Corporatisation Process of Defence Production on Hold

The Defence employees under their four federations – AIDEF, INDWF, BPMS and NPDEF – had served joint strike notice on 4 August 2020 against Modi government's attempt for privatising public sector defence production through corporatisation of its Ordnance factories and had resorted to agitation to culminate into indefinite strike from early morning of 12 October. All central trade unions and independent national federations stood by them and declared countrywide militant solidarity action.

On 19 September, through PIB statement, the Ministry of Defence announced their intention to go ahead with corporatisation proposal stating, *"The Cabinet Committee on Security in its meeting held on 29.07.2020, has approved to convert Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), a subordinate office of Ministry of Defence, into one or more than one 100% Government owned corporate entities, registered under the Companies Act 2013;"* that *"The Government has taken note of the strike by workers of OFB against the proposed corporatisation and their concerns in the notice"*; and that *"An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Defence"* to oversee corporatisation process and address the employees' concern.

As the date of indefinite strike approached, the Government found out a face saving formula to keep the corporatisation process on hold and avoid the employees' indefinite strike.

The conciliation meeting before the CLC (C) was held on 9 October; understanding was reached and minutes were signed in which it was stated that - corporatisation process will be on hold during conciliation process - and – the workers called off the indefinite strike.

It is agreed by both the parties that in respect of strike demands dated 04.08.2020, during the pendency of ongoing conciliation proceedings, the Employer will abide by the provisions of Section 33(1) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Unions will not proceed on proposed strike from 12.10.2020.

(From the photocopy of the Minutes of the Conciliation Meeting)

'No change' in all demands-related issues in the strike notice during conciliation process is in the provision in Sec. 33(1) of I. D. Act.

It was further agreed that bilateral discussion may be held between the unions and EGoM, along with the Secretary of Defence Production. However, according to Government they would discuss the employees' concern about their conditions of service as announced in the PIB statement of 19 September; while the unions emphasised on the total demands under conciliation which include, as recoded in the minutes and noted below.

The Union leaders stated that the Govt. of India, Ministry of Defence has unilaterally decided to corporatize Ordnance Factory Board which is against the assurance given by different Defence Ministers and Secretaries, Department of Defence Production.

and

They all demanded that the decision of the corporatization of Ordnance Factory Board be withdrawn and an Expert Committee be set up to conduct a study on increasing the efficiency and quality of output of Ordnance Factories.

Port & Dock

Indefinite Dharna at Cochin Port



Led by Cochin Port Joint Trade Union Forum, indefinite Satyagraha movement commenced in Cochin Port on 2 October against the move of the Ministry of Shipping of the Government of India aimed demolishing the public ownership of major ports into corporate entities through of Major Port Authority Bill.

Also agitation is also against the Government and the Management to desist from the proposed move, once again, of the foreign company DPWorld when it failed to full fill its commitment in respect of the 1st stage of ICTT at Vallarpadom, pushing Cochin Port into precarious financial position. The trade unions raised several other issues also.



Workers & People Opposing Privatisation of JNPT Terminal in Maharashtra



Workers of JNPT (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust) of all five unions at Uran in Maharashtra jointly staged demonstration and held meeting on 10 October in front of the administrative building of JNPT against Modi Government's attempt to outsource the Container Terminal of JNPT. Out of total 17 port container terminals in India, the container terminal of JNPT is India's largest; only one in public sector and profitable. Rest 16 ports have already been outsourced.

The move has triggered discontent among workers as well as villagers in the area, who also came to oppose it. There are 1,430 workers, employed by JNPT, whose jobs depend on the container terminals operation. More than 4,000 people of the surrounding areas are also dependent on JNPT for their livelihood. Local CITU leader Patil said that support from all trade unions is encouraging for the workers who will fight it out.

All political parties expect BJP and their leaders, including Sharad Pawar, are supporting the workers and the people's demand on JNPT. Shiv Sena MPs Srirang Barane (LS) and Sanjay Raut (RS), NCP MP Sunil Tatakare (LS) all met the Minister of Shipping and opposed privatisation of JNPT terminal.

Steel

Protest in front of Bhilai Steel Plant of SAIL



Hindusthan Ispat Theka Shramik Union (CITU) staged demonstration and dharna in front of Bhilai Steel Plant gate on 9 September and submitted memorandum on 10 point demands. The protest was staged in response to the call of Steel Workers Federation of India (SWFI) of CITU to protest in front of all SAIL establishments on 8-9 September

demanding early wage settlement which is due for than 44 months causing hardship to both permanent and contract workers.

Despite Covid-19 pandemic, SAIL in July 2020 registered record sale, up by 29% in domestic and 349% in export. In 2019-2020 SAIL's Profit Before Tax was Rs.3170,66 Crs and Profit After Tax was Rs.2021 Crs. This could not have been possible without dedicated work by the employees, the unions said. Yet, the workers wage settlement is kept pending for more than 44 months causing hardship to them particularly during this pandemic. Last settlement's several provisions, like HRA, pension etc; are yet to be properly implemented by the management.

BHEL

BHEL's Plan of Forced Early Retirement

Guided by NITI Aayog and referring to Government of India's (GoI) policy of early forced retirement, the key public sector enterprise, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited designed plan for forced '*early retirement*' of its 40,000 employees on the ground of being '*unfit to continue in the jobs*' on management-fixed criteria of 'performance' or on 'medical ground' for the employees who completed 50 years of age and 15 years of continuous service.

In the background of introduction of 'fixed term employment' in labour law during Modi regime, this 15 years criteria is almost becoming 'fixed-term employment' to replace current permanent employees. This obviously is setting tone for the private sector to follow.

In this regard, BHEL corporate HR-head issued a circular, addressed to HRs of all BHEL's 31 units / establishments across the country, on 7 September 2020 which inter alia states as reproduced below. It also referred to Government of India's policy '*in public interest*' in this regard indicating BHEL's early retirement plan of employees also '*in public interest*'.



भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड
Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

From: Manoj Singh, SDGM (HR), BHEL, Corp. Office, New Delhi

To: Head of HR, BHEL



No. AA: HR:GTCP

Dated: 07.09.2020

Sub: Implementation of Provisions related to Premature Retirement in General Terms and Conditions of Service regarding

Reference is invited to HR Manual Para 8 of the General Terms and Conditions of Service pertaining to Pre-Mature Retirement of employees. As per the provisions, Management may pre-maturely retire a regular employee of the company who has completed 15 years of continuous service in the company and has attained 50 years of age on the criteria of performance and medical unfitness.

Accordingly, cases of all employees who attain the age of 50 years and have completed 15 years of continuous service are screened for the first time and every year thereafter for arriving at the list of employees meeting any of two laid down criteria of Performance or Medical unfitness for consideration of the Screening Committee for further continuance in service or otherwise. The policy is similar to provisions of FR 56 (j) in Government of India.

CTUs Denounced Government's Revival of Forced Retirement Scheme

The Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and Sectoral Federations and Associations (CTUs) in its meeting held on 31 August 2020, unanimously denounced the renewed move of the Government of India to unilaterally and arbitrarily impose conditions for forced premature retirement on the Government employees vide the Office Memorandum (OM) No. 25013/03/2019-Estt.A-IV dated 28 August 2020 issued by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel and Training, Govt of India and demanded its immediate withdrawal.

Such move of the Govt of India reflects their autocratic attitude towards the basic rights of the employees, the workers and their unions; and revealed by their hell-bent bid to alter all labour laws of the country to impose conditions of virtual slavery on the workers and complete abrogation of labour rights in favour of the employers; dismantling of public sector and some govt departments against national interests.

CTUs called upon the Govt employees and their organizations to unitedly and resolutely oppose such autocratic and arbitrary OM with the assurance of wholehearted support in their struggles by the entire trade union movement of the country.

BSNL

Countrywide Protest against 4G Cancellation



Srinagar, J&K



Shillong, Meghalaya



Salem, Tamilnadu



Karnal, Haryana



Berhampur, Odisha



Hyderabad, Telangana

United under All Unions and Associations (AUAB) of BSNL, BSNL employees observed 'Black Day' on its 20th Foundation Day on 1 October 2020 by staging countrywide hunger strike before its establishments wearing black badge to register their

protest against Modi government's sinister moves to kill BSNL by cancellation of the 4G tender, floated by BSNL, stopping BSNL from launching its 4G service; and the management's failure to protect the interest of BSNL in respect of allocation of 4G Spectrum, thereby ensuring that it never gets revived. This is a conspiracy to help Reliance' Jio to take over country's entire online communication network.

Coal

Coal Workers Warm-up & Warning Agitations



8 October Protest at Singrauli of Northern Coalfield Ltd

Pursuing their 12 point demands including - cancellation of auction of 41 coal mines for commercial mining, re-scheduled on November 9; - opposing any attempt of privatisation / disinvestment of PSU coal companies; - opposing attempt to separate CMPDIL from CIL; - for compensation and jobs to the land losers and rescinding Coal India Annuity Scheme 2020; - against any unilateral decision of closing coal mines; - workers service related 5 demands; for withdrawal of anti-workers Labour Codes and anti-farmers three farms Acts; - and punitive action against administrative personnel for excesses committed during 2-4 July coal workers strike; the Sanjukt Morcha of coal workers federations of CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS and BMS in their joint notice announced their warning agitational programmes in all collieries and establishments of central PSU, Coal India Ltd in all coal bearing States; and Central-State Joint Sector PSU Singareni Coal Company Ltd in Telangana by staging demonstrations and submitting memoranda to the CMDs on 30 September; staging demonstrations, holding gate meetings and mass campaign on 1 October at local level and massive dharna and demonstration in all units of both coal PSUs across the country on 8 October.

These are warming up agitations and warning signals to the Government for intense and widest agitation on or before the target day of 9 November auction day.

Scheme

Anganwadi Employees Countrywide Protest

Thousands Observed 'Save Anganwadis Day'



Andhra Pradesh



Telangana



Kerala



Puducherry



Maharashtra



Gujarat



Madhya Pradesh



Himachal Pradesh



J&K



Chhattisgarh



Bihar



West Bengal

On the eve of 45th Foundation Day of ICDS on 2 October; thousands of Anganwadi employees (Workers and Helpers) observed countrywide “Save Anganwadis Day” on 1 October 2020. Project level massive mobilisation took place in 14 States.

This mass protest on *Save Anganwadis Day* was the culmination of massive grass root level campaign among the Anganwadi employees and beneficiaries; highlighting the Government’s policies which are severely affecting activities of ICDS in respect of nutrition, health and education / Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE); of New Education Policy, 2020; and emphasising on children’s right to nutrition, health and education; and need of strengthening ICDS.

5Lakh Letters to MCD Minister: Campaign Continues

AIFAWH has launched campaign of sending 5 lakh protest letters to the Union WCD Minister, Smriti Irani under registered post / courier service highlighting on the exploitation of Anganwadi employees; as a befitting reply to her false statement in the Parliament.

In a shocking incident, Union WCD Minister, in reply to a question in Lok Sabha on 2 September stated, “*In the recent past no complaint regarding the exploitation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers has been received in the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).*”

This statement of the Minister is against the truth of innumerable protests and memoranda sent to the Minister on the exploitation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. AIFAWH centre has submitted a dozen complaints and lower level committees have sent innumerable complaints during last six months narrating the exploitation during the pandemic and lockdown putting the lives of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers under risk; on non-implementation of minimum wages, retrenchment without pension or gratuity, no social security, non-payment of wages etc.

‘Fixed Term Employment’ Backdoor Policy to Legalise ‘Hire & Fire’

Nishith Chowdhury

On ‘Fixed Term Employment’, the new system of employment for fixed duration; the BJP-led NDA Government in the Centre, for last few years, has been moving in planned manner to give special benefits to the domestic and foreign corporates in the name of ‘Labour Laws Reform’. It is one of the major concessions being granted to them.

Step by Step Introduction through Executive Order

In October 2016, the government first introduced ‘Fixed Term Employment’ in apparel sector. Later in 2017, to promote the so-called ‘Make in India’ and ‘National Skill Development Mission’, it was introduced in the leather industry and footwear sector. In 2016, the government amended the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules to introduce ‘Fixed Term Employment’ in all industries and issued gazette notification on 16 March 2017 ignoring the active opposition of the organized trade union movement and, thus, legalized it for all industries.

Now-repealed Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules under the Act specified the matters to be included in the Standing Order specifically to classify the workmen as to whether ‘*permanent, temporary, apprentices, probationers, or badlis.*’ Accordingly, the definitions of different types of employments were specified in Schedule-1 of the Model Standing Order Rules framed under the Act.

Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules was amended and notified through Gazette on 6 October, 2016. In its Schedule, in item 1, ‘*after the word “badlis,” “fixed term employment workmen in apparel manufacturing sector”*’ was inserted and specified in the Rules through GSR 976 (E). It was extended to ‘*leather industry and footwear sector*’ in 2017 followed by ‘*employment in all types of industries*’ through amendment and gazette notification on 17 March 2018, thereby, legalizing this system of employment in all sectors.

The Eye Wash

At the same time, changing the rules in this regard, it was stated in Schedule 1 - ‘*A “fixed term employment workman” is a workman who has been engaged on the basis of a written contract of employment for a fixed period provided that (a) his hours of work, wages, allowances and other benefits shall not be less than that of a permanent workman; and (b) he shall be eligible for all statutory benefits available to a permanent workman proportionately according to the period of service rendered by him even if his period of employment does not extend to the qualifying period of employment required in the statute*’ [G.S.R. 235(E)].

In the same notification, a provision is also there that permanent posts would not be abolished as a result of this new system of employment. A new section 3A was inserted in the Rules specifying, ‘*(3A) No employer of an industrial establishment shall convert the posts of the permanent workmen existing in his industrial establishment on the date of commencement of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central (Amendment) Rules, 2018 as fixed term employment thereafter.*’ Further item (6A) in Rule 5 is substituted as ‘*(6A) Number of fixed term employment workmen;*’ ensuring the specifying number of Fixed Term Employees (FTEs) in the Certified Standing Orders of any establishment.

Thus, from these, it may be presumed that, as a result of this notification, the workmen under '*Fixed Term Employment*' - shall be entitled to similar working hours, wages, allowances and other benefits as those of the permanent workers and they will also get other statutory benefits including gratuity at the same rate proportionately for the period of their service; - total number of such workmen, to be employed in the industrial establishment, will also be specified in the certified standing order; and - that, such appointment will not result in abolition of permanent posts. The employers are now able to hire workers in this system directly without any contractor in-between.

Situation in Other Countries

In many other countries, such system of fixed term recruitment has been in place for several years, but there is a time limit. In Belgium a person can be employed for a maximum of four times of two-year term each; in France two times of one-year term each; in Germany three times of two-year term each. UK has a provision of granting status of permanency after four years of continuous service as fixed term employee; in China and Vietnam maximum two terms is allowed and making them permanent thereafter. But, in our country there is no cap on the number of times or the fixed-term of years for fixed term employment.

Backdoor Legalisation of Hire and Fire

The Contract Labor (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 also did have some hurdles for the employers in hiring contract workers in perennial jobs though such provisions in the law were totally ignored not only by the private entrepreneurs but also by state-owned enterprises. Country's trade union movement also virtually failed in invoking such provisions in the Act. Most of the provisions of the, now repealed, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 governing the hiring of contract workers, are kept in the newly enacted Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code in diluted form to the advantage of the employers.

In addition, the Industrial Relations Code 2020 has been exempted in all industrial establishments by increasing minimum number of workers threshold from 100 to 300, thereby, excluding 70% of industrial establishments and 74% of the organized sector work force from all the labour laws granting the extraordinary power of 'hire and fire' at the sweet will of the employers. Those exempted 70% industrial establishments are not required to have any Certified Standing Order for regulation of employment. For those employers, the fixed time employment is almost same as 'Hire and Fire' being legalized.

But the matter did not stop here. The Industrial Relations Code, was hurriedly and forcibly passed in the Parliament on 23 September 2020, repealing the three Acts viz., Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Trade Unions Act, 1926.

The definition of "*fixed term employment workman*" in Schedule 1A of the modified Rules of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, notified on 16 March 2018 through G.S.R. 235(E), has been retained in the newly enacted Industrial Relations Code 2020 with modification that such FTEs will be entitled for gratuity payment if they work for one year. Sections 26 to 39 of the I. R. Code say a lot about the Standing Orders and the points to be included in the Standing Orders specifying in Schedule 1 of the Code. It has further been said that the Central Government would announce the Model Standing Orders at a later date.

But surprisingly, the provision that no employer of an industrial establishment shall convert the posts of the permanent workmen existing in his industrial establishment as fixed term employment is nowhere visible in the I R Code. Naturally, speculation is ripe as to why such unscrupulous silence in the Code. '*Firms can now convert permanent jobs into fixed-term contracts*' has been the headline of the print media, including *Deccan Herald*, *Business Standard* Delhi edition on 5 October 2020. So, will the employers be allowed to convert the posts of permanent workmen to Fixed Term Employees in future? If there are no permanent posts and, for that matter, no permanent employees, the provisions of getting *same and similar wages and benefits* in the fixed term employment will become utterly unfounded.

The Experience

What is the recent experience? As on date, even under Central Government, in Alliance Air (a subsidiary of AIR India), all the operational employees flying the aircrafts are under fixed term employment and their wages and benefits are much less than the regular employees of Air India. Similarly, in ONGC, a large section of workers in exploration work are on fixed term employment for years together but are paid much less than similarly placed regular workers of ONGC. Hence the tall talks of granting similar working hours, wages, allowances and other benefits to the fixed term employees are basically a deceptive and manipulative ploy to legitimize the fixed term employment.

Conclusion

The fixed term employees, under constant threat of discontinuance of employment altogether and allurements of renewal of the term-employment, will not be in a position to assert and demand those facilities from the employers.

It is amply clear that this fixed term employment provision is designed virtually to do away with the very concept of regular employment in organized sector with dubious intent of minimising labour cost and also to ultimately eliminate trade unions from the workplaces to ensue hassle free exploitation by the employers.

Asset Monetisation of PSUs

Modi government has set the ball rolling for asset monetisation in the PSUs (selling the assets including land). Niti Aayog has already identified assets owned by PSUs for monetisation and the list is now being vetted by various ministries.

So far, the list includes Indian Oil Corporation, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Kolkata Metro, Dedicated Freight Corridor and National Highways Authority of India.

These are in addition to the Indian Railways, where the government has already started the process for seeking participation from the private sector in running trains and for redevelopment of metro stations. Power Grid has been asked to monetise transmission lines worth Rs. 20,000 crore in two phases.

This has emerged in the backdrop of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) granting a nod to the Maharatna PSU for monetisation of assets through Infrastructure Investment Trust model. In addition, various ministries have also been asked to identify such assets and share the list.

The process is categorised under the broad definition of 'disinvestment'. For FY21, the Centre is planning to raise Rs 2.10 lakh crore from disinvestment.

INTERNATIONAL

Protest in Indonesia against New Labour Law



Worker protest in Bandung

"Police fired tear gas at the protesters from several high schools and universities as they tried to approach the palace compound, turning roads into a smoke-filled battleground. The protesters hurled rocks and bottles." "Similar clashes occurred in large cities all over the country, including Yogyakarta, Medan, Makassar, Manado and Bandung."

Those were the screaming headline and reporting in the corporate media in India on 10 October about the protest against the omnibus law including labour in Indonesia.

No doubt there were violent protests; no doubt the students were in protest against the new law in Indonesia; no doubt the students there have legitimate grievance being concerned about their future; but such reporting in the print media in India is a deliberate attempt to divert attention from the real issue; to hide the organised trade union movement in Indonesia against the new law; and suppression of democratic voice of protest - all in service of the capital.

The press also reported that Indonesia's Security Minister Mohammad Mahfud, flanked by the Military Chief and other top leaders, told a televised news conference late on 8 October that protesters were insensitive to the conditions suffered by people who are struggling against Covid-19 and financial difficulties. National Covid-19 task force spokesperson Wiku Adisasmito said, "We remind you that we are still in a pandemic condition, there is a public health emergency." Anti-people law can be passed in pandemic; but, for protest against it, there comes the 'emergency rule'.

The so called omnibus 'Job Creation Law' was hurriedly approved by the Indonesian Parliament on 5 October, 7 out of 9 political parties supporting it, just before the countrywide workers general strike on 6-8 October.

The new omnibus law is over 1,000 pages long, amends 79 existing laws, relaxing all protocol for business; enforcing slavery conditions on the workers and over-rides environmental protocol for domestic and foreign corporates.

It abolishes sectoral minimum wage; reduces severance pay from maximum 32 months to 19 months; increased overtime to 4 hours a day and 18 hours a week; reducing two weekly off days to one day; reducing restriction on outsourcing including hiring workers from outside the country.

The law has been made inviting transnationals in expectation of their exit-China soon. Indonesian's Chambers of Commerce & Industry has welcomed it.

At the call of the trade unions joint forum, thousands of the workers resorted to countrywide 3 days strike on 6-8 October and thousands staged demonstrations in cities and industrial centres. The Confederation of Indonesian Trade Unions (KSPI) said that over 2 million workers representing 32 labour unions and federations took part in the strike and rallies for several days beginning on 6 October.

The police in Jakarta blocked the streets leading to the Parliament preventing the workers from holding a mass rally there; and detained at least 200 high school students who attempted to reach the compound. Across the country several workers and students were arrested. A coalition of 15 activists groups including trade unions and students led the movement.

WFTU on Tele-Working

(16 September 2020)

“Tele-working has had a negative effect on the working conditions of the workers, such as the **increase of the workload**, the demand of the employers that the employee be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the non-provision of internet connection and necessary software, the non-provision of free ergonomic equipment by the companies (suitable chairs, large screens, etc.), the costs of which are borne by the employees.

Also, through tele-working, workers work in isolation from their colleagues, with negative effects on trade union action, on the organization of their claims but also on their mood and psychology.

Work from home makes it impossible to control violations by the employer, e.g. forced or unpaid overtime, since inspections by the labor inspectorate are not carried out. In the event of an accident at work while tele-working, the employee is alone and helpless at home, while it is much easier for employers to hide the nature of the accident as an occupational one and escape their responsibilities.

There have even been demands from companies to install cameras in the homes of “tele-workers” to monitor all their movements, leading to a complete violation of their basic rights and dignity.

On the occasion of the Pandemic, governments seek to generalize and legalize this form of work, making it a form of work that employers can impose unilaterally, and for as long as they wish, or on a permanent basis, reducing their operating expenses and intensifying the exploitation of workers.

In the IT, education, health, banking and other sectors, governments aim to maintaining tele-working after the end of the Pandemic.

In countries like India, tele-medicine is also being promoted, of course not as an aid and complement to modern, public and free healthcare for all, but as a “stopgap” in the face of huge, tragic shortcomings in health structures and the consequences of these shortcomings, that workers have been violently experiencing during the Pandemic.

The militant trade unions of all countries must oppose these plans of governments and employers, which are part of the broader plan for workers and the poor to pay for the effects of the Pandemic and the lockdowns on economy, for the new economic crisis.”

Protest against Gangrape and Brutal Murder of Dalit Woman in Hathras

Delegation to Hathras



Mass organisations delegation meeting victim's family

A 6-member delegation, representing four national organisations CITU, AIKS, AIAWU and AIDWA; visited Gulgarhi village in Hathras of Uttar Pradesh on 4 October and extended solidarity with the landless family of the Dalit woman who was gangraped and brutally murdered by the landholding upper caste men. It is with great difficulty that the delegation could meet the family of the victim after detention by the police and 3 hours long wait. The village was cordoned off and neighbours terrorised.

The delegation conveyed their condolences to the parents of the victim Ramadevi and Omprakash and other members of the family. The inconsolable family members shocked by the barbaric incident held the BJP Government responsible for their daughter's death. The mother of the girl narrated how the police in an inhuman way have cremated her child without allowing her to even have a look. She also said that her daughter has named the culprits before her death. The police intimidation in each step also was questioned. The father-in-law of the brother of the girl was manhandled by the officials.

The girl's father Omprakash told the team that they do not have faith in the BJP State Government or in the CBI enquiry announced by them. The family wanted a judicial enquiry supervised by the Supreme Court. The team supported the demand and assured all support for the same including legal support. Omprakash, who worked at Asansol in West Bengal earlier, said he was acquainted with the Red Flag, our organisations and requested support in their struggle for justice.

This Mahadalit agricultural labour family has no land except their house. They do not have any income but the agricultural jobs in the fields of handholding upper castes for which one get Rs.200 as daily wage. The family is under continuous threat by the upper caste landlords. One neighbour said that the family of the victim is being threatened of dire consequences.

The delegation comprised of Vijoo Krishnan, Joint Secretary of AIKS, A. R. Sindhu, Secretary of CITU, B. Venkat, General Secretary and Vikram Singh, Joint Secretary of AIAWU, Punyavathi, Treasurer and Asha Sharma, Joint Secretary of AIDWA. They were joined by Uttar Pradesh state leaders - Brijlal Bharti of AIAWU, Bharat Singh of AIKS, AIDWA leaders and CPI(M) Aligarh district secretary md. Idris.

Yogi Government Condemned; SC Supervised Investigation Demanded

On behalf of four organisations - CITU, AIKS, AIAWU and AIDWA - their national general secretaries - Tapan Sen, Hannan Mollah, B. Venkat and Marium Dhawale respectively – issued joint statement strongly condemning the acts of the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh by trying to shield the perpetrators of the crime of gangrape and brutal murder of Dalit women at Hathras; remaining indulgent to the threatening and terrorising activities of landlord groups against the poor agricultural labour family of the victim.

The criminal way this case as well as cases of rape, atrocities against women and Dalits is being handled by Yogi Adityanath Government, he has no right to continue as the chief minister of the State, the statement said.

They also expressed concern about the increasing atrocities against women and Dalits.

While extending all support to the efforts for justice to the victim in Hathras, they called for all class and mass movements to launch nationwide campaign together against atrocities perpetrated on the Dalits and women as an integral part of the struggles against the anti-corporate anti-neoliberal struggles in the country.

Regarding Hathras gangrape and brutal murder case, the four organisations demanded – (i) Time bound effective enquiry of Hathras case under the supervision of Supreme Court; - (ii) Exemplary punishment to the police officers and other officials who had derelict their duty; - (iii) Ensure safety to the family of the victim; and (iv) Ensure implementation of Justice Verma Committee recommendations.

Left Parties' Delegation to Hathras



A joint delegation of CPI(M) and CPI visited Hathras and met the victim's family. In a joint statement the parties stated that the delegation consisted of the CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury with Polit Bureau Member Brinda Karat; CPI Genral Secretary D. Raja and national secretary Amarjeet Kaur; their UP state Secretaries Hiralal Yadav and Girish Sharma visited the family of the unfortunate victim of a brutal gang rape and eventual death of the 19 year old Dalit woman.

The delegation expressed its complete solidarity with the family at their grievous loss. The delegation assured that the Left parties will unflinchingly strive to ensure that justice is delivered and the perpetrators of this horrendous crime are severely punished.

Both the parties have stated that handing over the investigation to the CBI will not ensure justice, given the agency's recent track record. An independent investigation under the supervision and monitoring of the courts must be done.

Countrywide Protest

CITU, AIKS and AIAWU gave joint call of countrywide protest on 13 October, 2020 against Hathras Dalit woman's brutal gangrape and murder case and demanding Supreme Court guided investigation.



National leaders in dharna at Jantar Mantar

New Delhi: National leaders of CITU, AIKS, AIAWU, AIDWA, SFI and BAA including the general secretaries – Tapan Sen of CITU, Hannan Mollah of AIKS, B. Venkat of AIAWU, Mayukh Biswas of SFI – and Maimoona Molla of AIDWA, Saurabh Kumar of Bhumi Adhikar Andolan (BAA) participated in the dharna and addressed the meeting at Jantar Mantar.

Other national leaders at the Centre including S. Dev Roye, M. L. Malkotia, A. R. Sindhu, A. Guha and J S Majumdar of CITU; Vijoo Krishnan and A. Krishnaprasad of AIKS; Vikram Singh of AIAWU and Asha Sharma of AIDWA also participated in the dharna apart from their Delhi state leaders.

Delhi state committee of CITU held such protest at several locations in Delhi NCR.

Kerala: More 7091 persons joined the Protest at 1205 places in 13 districts. At Thiruvanthapuram, the dharna was inaugurated by AIKS leader and CPI(M) Polit Bureau member S. R. Pillai and attended by CITU state president Anathalavattam Anandam and others.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Protest demonstration was staged against the rape and brutal murder of the Dalit girl in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh and also against the atrocities against Dalits, women and other socially oppressed sections in the country. A large number of workers, including good number of women workers assembled at Tiranga Park, Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair in the evening with candle lights and staged demonstration.

Jammu & Kashmir: Trade union organizations affiliated with CITU held protest demonstration in Srinagar against the brutal gang-rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras,

UP. Carrying placards and banners, the protesters raised slogans against the perpetrators of this heinous crime.

Uttarakhand: In the state capital Dehradun, CITU staged demonstration at Gandhi.

Punjab: Protest demonstrations were staged at several places in all districts across the state by CITU and by its affiliated unions joint and also independently burning effigies of Modi and Yogi Governments. *(Report from other states are awaited)*

Kerala



Tripura



Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Chhattisgarh



Uttarakhand



Punjab



Shyamal ‘Sharane’

(Remembering Shyamal)



Leading from the front



Left Front Chairman Biman Basu releasing ‘Shyamal Sharane’, commemorative booklet on the CITU departed leader Shyamal Chakraborty at CITU office in Kolkata

Comrade Shyamal; We will always remember you

K. K. Divakaran

General Secretary, AIRTWF & National Secretary, CITU

Comrade Shyamal Chakraborty has left us forever, but really he is still with us even today. His image is etched in the hearts of the toiling people of Bengal, especially in the memory of transport workers of our country. As far as a CITU leader is concerned, the leader and masses are one. Com. Shyamal was a great example for this.

He has written many articles and books which are mostly in Bengali. He has taken a pivotal role in building the left movement especially the trade union movement in Bengal. Comrade Shyamal will be remembered forever for his contributions in the campaign against the communal virus which is spreading all over the country.

On 3rd July 2020, I spoke to him over phone to discuss and finalise the August 5th joint programme of Road Transport Federations. He endorsed the proposals and replied that our efforts to strengthen the unity should be intensified further.

As you are aware, he was a good organizer and a campaigner in all aspects. Once Com. A. Soundararajan (Tamil Nadu CITU President) told me about his speech he delivered in a public meeting organized by Tamil Nadu Transport Union at Madurai. Thousands of

workers along with a large number of local people were gathered there. The speech was very inspiring and it attracted more and more people. While explaining the task of the working class role to change the society, he cited many things from Ramayana and Mahabharata which inspired the audience. Thereafter, on many occasions the workers demanded his participation in the meetings.

Till the Visakhapatnam conference of our Federation, he was over Working President and in this conference he was elected as President. In 1992, I had an opportunity to visit Bangladesh along with Com. Shyamal Chakraborty and Late. Com. Narayana Saha. We participated in a conference of transport workers and also spent about 3 weeks there. During this period, he was a Minister for Transport in the Ministry led by Com. Jyoti Basu. Before leaving Bangladesh, we visited his parental house and spent there about one hour. After that, there was a big reception in a local school which was founded by his grandfather to promote the literacy among the illiterate villagers. The whole village gathered there in the school to receive Com. Shyamal, the grandson of the founder of the school.

His contributions in expanding our organisation throughout the country cannot be underestimated. He always stood for unity and struggle and taught message to all his comrades.

As we are aware, we are passing through a difficult period. The challenges are many. Our Prime Minister is repeatedly saying that the Nation's affairs are in safe and in competent hands. When the Corona Virus started to spread, he had invoked "Mahabharatha" imagery to promise a decisive victory in 21 days. That was also turned out to be just one more empty promise. Now we are having the world's 2nd largest Corona Virus case load, behind USA. Com. Shyamal was also a victim of this virus.

The attacks on the working class and all sections of the working people have been intensifying since this Modi Government came back to power in May 2019. The economic slowdown and the deteriorating economic conditions are a product of the neo-liberal policies pursued by the Modi Government. In order to get out of this crisis, the Government is giving more and more concessions to the corporate. The job loss and the raise of unemployment are products of the policy pursued by the Government.

As part of these growing resistances to the Modi Government pro-corporate and pro-foreign capital policies, more and more struggles are to be organised. The farmers are also joined with the workers to oppose anti-farmer policies of Modi Government. Now our focus is on demands concerning employment and wages. The protest actions should be able to mobilize ever where. Now different sections of people are coming out in defence of their lively hood and rights. These struggles should be linked to the fight against Hindutwa Authoritarianism which is attacking the democratic rights of all citizens and depriving them of civil liberties.

The loss of a tall leader like Shyamal Chakraborty is a loss to the oppressed working class who are exploited by the ruling class mercilessly. We pay respectful homage to the departed leader Com. Shyamal Chakraborty and convey heartfelt condolences to comrades and his daughter and family members.

Militant State Rally & Meeting of Anganwadi Employees in Punjab

(12 October 2020)



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