

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS – TAMIL NADU: A PROFILE

In June 1969, a special conference was held at Coimbatore to discuss the line of approach of S.A. Dange and some others within the A.I.T.U.C. This line of approach was rejected by a considerable number of Trade Union leaders within the AITUC as compromising and de-stabilising the unity of the working class. In the Coimbatore conference, it was resolved to strengthen the unity of working class in their struggles and fight for them from within the AITUC. However, this task was made impossible by the Dange group, which projected the views of the minority, while at the same time undermining the spirit and majority strength of the workers in their struggles. This group led by Dange had held a conference, after which a split in the AITUC became inevitable.

To fill the vacuum created by the absence of an organisation which could provide leadership for the workers to carry on their struggles against exploitation and bringing about unity of the working class the Centre of Indian Trade Unions was formed in a conference held in May 1970 at Calcutta (now Kolkata). The task of forming an ad hoc State Committee of the CITU in Tamil Nadu was entrusted to Com, R. Umanath.

In Madras on 3-8-1970 at 2 p.m., 102 delegates from various districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the meeting, which was presided over by former Mayor of Madras, MR. S. Krishnamurthy. An adhoc State Committee consisting of 16 members was formed.

1. R. Umanath, Secretary
2. A. Nallasivan, Assistant Secretary
3. S. Krishnamurthi
4. A. Balasubramaniam
4. K. Ramani
5. K. Anandan Nambiar
6. V. Karmegam
7. J. Hemachandran
8. C. Govindarajan
9. D. Balan
10. K.M.Haribhat
11. S.A.Thangaraj
12. S.Mannarsami

13. D.Janakiraman
14. M.Nanjappan
15. B.Kasinathan, all members.

The office of the CITU-TN was to function from Room No:17, Old Legistalors' House, Mount Road, Madras – 600 002.

A. Nallasivan, who was the Assistant Secretary, was to be in-charge of the State Committee office.

In this meeting, it was decided to hold the State Conference in December 18 - 20, 1970 at Madurai.

It was also decided that one delegate for every for every 150 members would participate in the Conference.

This meeting passed resolutions :

- In support of prolonged strike at the Nellikuppam Sugar Factory
- Condemning the action of the role of the Government in trying to break the strike of the workers.
- To lift the lock out of 1 1/2 years in Southern Structural.
- Condemning the anti labour policy of the state Government in the lock out of Standard Motors Company.
- To lift the lock outs in Shanmuga Mills at Rajapalayam and Lakshmi Cotton Mills at Madurai.
- To implement the promises given by the State Government to the Beedi Workers of North Arcot District.

Source: The aforesaid details are found in the news report, that appeared in "Theekathir", Tamil daily, the extract of which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The following is briefly summary of the proceedings of the Conferences of the CITU – TN.

FIRST CONFERENCE :

This conference was held on 16 – 18 July, 1971 at Madurai.

A. Balasubramaniam delivered the Welcome address.

P. Ramamurthy delivered the Inaugural address.

R. Umanath presented the work report.

The Conference, based on the work report, discussed, reviewed and analysed the important struggles during the period between 1967 and 1971, which are given below:

- The Rodier Mill, Pondicherry, in which 7,000 workers were employed, was on strike in October 1969. The workers demanded 16% bonus for the year 1968. A Joint action council was formed at the initiative of activists who later joined CITU. Workers were lathi charged. There were protests in the form of gherao, stay-in strike, etc., 11 activists were arrested and 28 were suspended.
In 1970, again the workers went on strike demanding 18% bonus for the year 1969. 7000 workers participated in the strike from October, 15- 20, 1970.
- 500 workers of Aralvaimozhi Co-op. Textile Mill; Kanyakumari District went on strike for one month from 10-3-1970 seeking implementation of the terms of the Dec. 1962 settlement arrived at Coimbatore on workload, the 1956 Coimbatore settlement on wages and the 1960 Madras settlement on dearness allowance.
- Neyveli Lignite Corporation workers went on strike from 2-5-1970 to 5-5-1970 demanding payment of salary, DA and other allowances which were fixed 5 years before this strike. 17,000 workers participated. Out of the 15 unions, 2 joint councils were formed for holding talks. Devanbu, a worker died in police firing. Hundreds of workers suffered injuries in teargas, lathi

charge and firing by police. Police ransacked houses, women were attacked and molested.

- 72,000 electricity employees and staff protested against non-implementation of pay scales that were fixed in 1959. During February to May 1970, the workers held protest rallies, hunger strikes, long marches, mass casual leaves for more than three days, etc.
- 2,400 workers and staff of EID Parry sugar factory at Nellikuppam, went on strike for 61 days from 17-6-1970 to 16-8-1970 demanding higher bonus and wages. The DMK government declared this strike as illegal. The workers held protest and long marches. Complete hartal was observed on 22-7-1970.
- 40,000 Beedi workers of North Arcot District went on strike from 20-6-1970 to 7-7-1970 demanding work for 6 days a week, supply of Beedi leaves, Bonus etc.
- 1300 workers of HindustanTeleprinters, Madras went on stay-in strike from 22-7-1970 to 5-8-1970 demanding higher minimum wages for unskilled workers.
- 1500 transport workers of 11 transport companies in Coimbatore went on 8 day strike from 16-11-1970, demanding implementation of the recommendations of the transport workers wage board. 350 buses did not ply. 7 bus companies entered into a settlement at the end of 8 days. 500 workers of the remaining 4 bus companies continued the strike for 94 days. The workers of Coimbatore district, 50 unions in Tiruppur alone, expressed their solidarity to the striking workers.
- 1600 workers and staffs of Kaveri Paper Mills went on 15 days strike from 26-10-1970 demanding 20% bonus.
- 2000 workers of MRF, Madras struck work from Mid-April for more than 80 days demanding increase in salary and DA.

- 400 workers of Sankari Cements went on stay-in strike from 8-6-1971 demanding reinstatement of 5 dismissed workers. More than 1000 quarry workers went on strike on 19-7-71 in support of the cement factory workers.

The total number of Unions affiliated to the CITU, at this time was 101 and the membership 57,133.

The following office bearers were elected in this Conference:

President	:	K. RAMANI
General Secretary	:	R. UMANATH
Treasurer	:	V. KARMEGAM

Source: The aforesaid details are found in the Invitation for the first conference and the work report, in Tamil, running to 40 pages, submitted by the Secretary, which have been scanned and stored in the CD.

SECOND CONFERENCE:

The second conference of the CITU-TN was held on December. 20 – 23, 1973 at Madras.

It was presided over by K. RAMANI

V.P. Chintan delivered the welcome address, wherein he focussed on the origin and development of the Trade Union movement, with particular reference to Madras,

R. Umanath, the General Secretary, submitted the General report. This report summarised the important struggles during the period from 1971 to 1973.

Source: The aforesaid General report presented in the conference, containing 21 pages in Tamil had been scanned and stored in the CD.

A. Nallasivan, Assistant Secretary, submitted the work and organisational report.

This report summarised the work of CITU, during 1971 – 73, which included -

- CITU Policy propaganda week, observed from 12-9-1971 to 19-9-1971.
- Demonstrations that were held to express solidarity to the people of West Bengal, who were facing political oppression.
- Demonstrations and strikes, held during August and September, 1971, demanding release of V.P.Chintan, Hari Bhat, Parameswaran and Kuchelar, who were detained under MISA.
- Agitations against price rise during September, October, 1972.
- Rallies, demonstrations and picketing against unemployment in October, 1972.
- Propaganda on responsibilities of Centre and State Governments in avoiding power-cut from October 1972 to June 1973.

This report also summarised the solidarity movements held in support of -

- Powerloom employees of Pallipalayam
- MRF employees of Madras
- Plantation workers of Valparai
- Sugar Factory workers of EID Parry, Nellikuppam and Co-operative Sugar factory, Kallakurichi
- Victimised workers of Sangagiri Cement Factory
- State Transport workers of Kanyakumari District.

This report also gave information on the formation of Industry-wise Unions / Federations in the following sectors:

- Textiles
- Cement
- Beedi
- Tanneries
- Tamilnadu Small Industries Corporation (TANSI)
- Electricity
- Public Works Department
- Sugar
- State Transport

- Handloom
- Plantations

Source: The aforesaid details are found in the Work and Organisational report, containing 24 pages in Tamil, submitted by A. Nallasivan, Assistant Secretary, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The total membership of the CITU-TN, was 95,000 and the number of Unions, affiliated to the CITU was 190.

The following office bearers were elected in the conference :

President : K. Ramani
General Secretary : R. Umanath
Treasurer : V. Karmegam

THIRD CONFERENCE :

The third conference was held on September 18 – 21, 1980 at Trichy. It was presided over by K. Ramani, President of CITU-TN, who focussed on the existing political situation in the country and the State and stressed on the need for the workers to fight against divisive forces, which were trying to divide the people in terms of religion, caste, language, region etc.

Source: The aforesaid details are contained in the “Presidential address”, presented in the third conference running to 8 pages in Tamil, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The General Secretary’s report submitted by R. Umanath, summarised the important struggles, that were held during the period between 1973 and 1980, which are as follows :

- Strike by 6,000 workers of TVS, Madras.
- Strike by 2,000 workers of TI Cycles, Madras.
- State level strike of 1,50,000 textile workers.
- Strike by Electricity employees.

- Strike by 2,500 workers of Lakshmi Machine Works, Coimbatore.
- Strike by 1,200 workers of HTL, Madras.
- 184-days Strike by workers of SIMCO Meters, Trichy.
- 124-days Strike by Pallipalayam Paper Mill Workers
- Strike by 17,000 workers of NLC.
- 184-days Strike by 1,000 women workers of Ambattur Clothing Factory, demanding Trade Union Rights.

The General Secretary's report also summarised the following solidarity movement held in support of :

- Employees of Lakshmi Machine Works, Coimbatore.
- Employees of SIMCO Meter, Trichy.
- Workers of LGB Motors, Karur.

Source: The aforesaid details are contained in the "General Secretary's Report", presented by R. Umanath, in Tamil, running to 28 pages, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The third conference discussed the following draft resolutions, which were passed after incorporating the amendments brought about by the delegates. These resolutions are listed below :

- Against Price rise.
- Greetings to West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala Governments.
- Demand for Minimum Wages, Housing Plots for small farmers and agricultural workers.
- Against fraudulent fixation of Cost of Living Index.
- Against Power-cut.
- Demanding abolition of Contract labour system.
- Demanding proper Bonus Policy.
- Demanding dissolution of Bureau of Public Enterprises.
- Condemning violence against women.
- Demanding parity in wages, employment opportunities, Maternity benefits, Creche facility, equal opportunity in technological training and abolition of night shifts for working women.
- Demanding proper industrial policy.
- Demanding relief for crisis in small industries.

- Demanding reference of industrial disputes for adjudication.
- Condemning violence against SCs and STs.

Source: The aforesaid details contained in the “Draft Resolutions”, published in the third conference, in Tamil, running to 20 pages, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The total membership was 1,27,309 during the third conference.

The following office bearer were elected in the third conference:

President	:	K. Ramani
General Secretary	:	R. Umanath
Treasurer	:	A.K. Padmanabhan

FOURTH CONFERENCE:

The fourth conference of the CITU-TN was held on December 28-31, 1983 at Coimbatore.

The conference was presided over by K. Ramani, whose address focussed on:

- the International situation with reference to dangers of war, the need for peace, the concern on increasing expenditure of the U.S. on weapons;
- the national situation with reference to the foreign policy, Srilankan issue;
- economic crisis, oppressive legislations, divisive forces, operating in the country;
- the activities of divisive forces like Hindu Munnani, Rashtriya swayam Sevak and certain Christian organisations, in Tamilnadu;
- anti-labour policy of the AIADMK led state government; and,
- the increasing industrial crisis, closures and retrenchments.

Source : These details are contained in the “Presidential address” circulated in the fourth conference, in Tamil, running to 23 pages, which has been scanned and stored in the CD.

The Report of the General Secretary presented by R. Umanath, which focussed on

- the growth and the development of the CITU in the state
- the important struggles and the experience, therefrom
- the deepening crisis in the industrial sector
- the experiences from the joint action
- the formation of National Co-ordination Committee” (NCC) in the state and the hurdles faced by CITU
- Solidarity movements
- the duties of the working class towards the unemployed and the agricultural workers
- the anti-labour policy of the state government
- issues relating to working women

The General Secretary’s report also viewed the following with concern :

- the stagnation of the CITU organisation in key sectors like Transport, Electricity, Railways and Ports.
- the marginal increase of membership by 25,000 during the period from 1980-83
- the functions of the state committee and the need for improving it.

Source : The aforesaid details contained in the “Report of the General Secretary”, presented in the fourth conference, in Tamil, running to 54 pages, have been scanned and stored in the CD.

The draft resolutions that were discussed and passed with amendments, included the following :

- On danger of war – need for peace.
- On anti-labour policy of Central Government.
- On anti-labour policy of State Government. (AIADMK)
- Against price rise
- On Centre-State relations
- Against Denial of democratic rights

- On working women
- Against divisive forces
- On demands of farmers and agricultural workers
- On massacres in Srilanka
- On minimum wages
- On cost of living index
- Demanding nationalization of textile mills
- On the struggle of Jute mill workers
- On abolition of contract labour system
- On casual workers and apprentices
- On closures, lock-outs and industrial sickness
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Source : The aforesaid details are available in the document entitled “Draft Resolutions”, presented in the fourth conference of the CITU, running to 32-pages in Tamil, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The following office bearers were elected in the conference :

President	:	K. Ramani
General Secretary	:	R. Umanath
Treasurer	:	D. JANAKIRAMAN

FIFTH CONFERENCE:

The fifth conference of the CITU-TN was held on September 21 – 24, 1989 at Nagercoil.

The third state conference of the Working Womens’ Co-ordination Committee, Tamilnadu, was held a day before the starting of the fifth conference of the CITU-TN.

**Report of the 3rd State Conference of the
Working Women’s Co-ordination Committee (WWCC)
held on September 20, 1989, at Nagercoil.**

It has been of great significance for the CITU, when it started organising the working women in Tamilnadu, under the banner of “Working Women’s Co-ordination Committee”(WWCC).

The first All India Conference of the Working Women’s Co-ordination Committee was held in April 1979. Subsequently a special conference for the formation of WWCC in Tamilnadu was held at Trichy, in which the organising committee was formed. In it’s third state conference, a work report of the WWCC was presented by Mythili Sivaraman, who was the convener of the state organising committee.

This report highlighted the following among other issues :

- Status of women in India
- Employment oppurtunities for women
- Status of rural women
- Women in unorganised sector
- Statistics relating to working women in Tamilnadu
- Organised struggles of working women

This report contained details regarding :

- participation of Tamilnadu representatives in the five All India conferences of WWCC.
- participation in the All India Anganwadi employees conference.
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The efforts made by WWCC-Tamilnadu, in organising women employees, among Electricity Workers, State Government employees, Railway employees etc., were also described in the report.

This report discussed the views of WWCC in the following issues:

- Maternity leave
- Night shifts
- Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
- Women in Trade Unions

This report listed various demands of the working women including the following:

- Hostels for working women in important cities and Trade Centres.

- Rest rooms and toilet facilities in work places.
- facilities and to grant time for nursing mothers to feed their children at work places Creche.
- Contractors, to provide creche, drinking water, toilet facilities for women, who are contract employees and construction women.
- To provide skilled employment opportunities for women.

Source: The aforesaid details are contained in the Report of the WWCC, submitted in the fifth conference of the CITU-TN, in Tamil, running to 20 pages, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATE CONFERENCE OF THE CITU-TN

The fifth conference was presided over by K. Ramani. His presidential address focussed on the economic crisis faced by the country and the serious threat to the sovereignty of the country from the US and other imperialist forces. The President in his address dealt concern with the increasing pressure on the country to privatise service sector and the related problems faced by the working class in the form of increase in workload, retrenchment, lay-offs, lock-outs, etc. This speech also laid emphasis on the need to go in for joint action, in facing issues and laid stress on the functions of the National Campaign Committee and the role of CITU in it.

Source : The aforesaid details are found in the booklet entitled “Presidential address” by K. Ramani in the 5th Conference of the CITU –TN, held on 1989 September 21 – 24, running to 20 pages in Tamil, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The General Secretary R. Umanath presented the Work Report.

This report initiated a discussion on the various struggles during the period between the 4th and 5th conferences of the CITU. The notable among the struggles were :

- In the years 1983, 84 there were strikes by Simpson workers and B & C mill workers in Madras demanding increase in wages against increase in workload and victimisation; there were strikes by workers of Karur Mills, Nellikuppam EID Parry Sugar Factory and Government owned Rubber Plantations of Kanyakumari against retrenchment; and the various joint struggles, strikes and “bandhs” that were organised by CITU, AITUC and LPF against the anti-labour policies of the AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu.
- In the year 1985, the focus shifted from closures to wage issue of textile workers in the state and a series of agitations in this regard. However, CITU-TN, reviewed this aspect and decided to carry on the agitations against closures, retrenchment, etc., alongside the struggle of the textile workers.
- In the year 1986 the workers of Binny Beach Engineering Works, Madras went on strike demanding lifting of the lock-out, while the workers of Mettur Mills demanded for reopening of their mills.
- In the year 1987, the Kaveri Mills at Pudukottai and Mahalakshmi Mills and Nagammal Mills at Kanyakumari were under lock-out. The workers went on series of agitations demanding work.
- On January 17, 1988, CITU-TN held special conference against closure of factories at Madurai. About 800 delegates from all over the s/tate participated in this conference.

The General Secretary’s report also listed out several agitations against the anti-labour policies of the central and state governments.

This report had given details of solidarity movements held in support of :

- Workers of Ashok Leyland, Hosur in 1985.
- Port and Dock labourers in 1984
- Teachers who went on strike in December 1985
- Fishermen who were injured and died due to polic firing
- Workers of Uma Parameswari Mills, Trichy
- Workers of Asiatic Oxygen, Madras and Tuticorin
- Workers of Rallis India, Ooty.
- Workers of Sakthi Foundaries in Periyar District
- Workers of Apollo Tubes, Ranipettai.

The main thrust of the General Secretary's report was on building the unity of trade unions and working class.

This report also gave details of the work and progress of the CITU-TN, the vital sectors including electricity, transport, railways, harbour, public sector, textiles, engineering, cement, sugar, local bodies, water and drainage board, co-operatives, minerals corporation, unorganised sector, handloom, powerloom, hosiery, beedi, tanneries, plantations, constructions, etc.

The report also highlighted the important issues and the views of CITU-TN with regard to -

- minimum wages in the state
- contract and casual workers
- working women
- small farmers and agricultural works
- Child labourers
- Unemployed youth
- Caste, Communal and divisive forces
- Minorities, SCs and STs.

Source : The aforesaid details are found in the "General Secretary's Report" released in the 5th state conference in Tamil, running to 131 pages, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The Conference elected the following as office bearers :

1. President : K . RAMANI
2. General Secretary : R. UMANATH
3. Treasurer : D. JANAKIRAMAN

SIXTH CONFERENCE :

The 6th conference was held on April 21-24, 1993 at Salem.

The welcome address was delivered by V. Ramasami, Chairman of the Reception committee.

Source : The aforesaid speech entitled "Welcome address" with 2 pages in Tamil is scanned and stored in the CD.

The conference was presided over by K. Ramani. In his presidential address, he focussed attention on the work situation, the desire of American imperialism to dominate the world, the national situation, the planned attack on the working class by the Government, the existing situation in Tamilnadu; the growth of people's movements; and the need to strengthen people's unity against casteist and communal onslaughts.

Source : These details contained in the document entitled in "Presidential address" in Tamil, running to 8 pages, is scanned and stored in the CD.

The work and organisational report was presented by the General Secretary R. Umanath. This report was given in two parts.

The first part consisted of the work report which listed out the following events:

- "Bandh" observed on 6-2-1991 against the formation of the Central Ministry under Prime Minister Chandrasekar against democratic norms.
- Agitations focussing on the elections and the need to defeat congress (I) in the centre and AIADMK in the state.
- All India General strikes on 29-11-1991 and 16-6-1992.
- All India Rally at Delhi on 25-11-1992 and "Bandh" in Tamilnadu on 24-11-1992.
- "Bandh" on 10-12-1992 against demolition of Babri Masjid.

This report highlighted the functions of **National Campaign Committee** (NCC) in Tamil Nadu as follows :

- that the CITU-TN was committed to implement all the decisions of NCC in Tamilnadu.
- That All India trade unions did not actively participate in NCC activities in the state and that since the Labour Progressive Front was not a member of the NCC at the All India level, there were difficulties in involving them.

- That CITU-TN planned joint actions to implement NCC decisions made at the National level.
- That AITU, LPF and NLO came forward to participate in joint actions and that HMS joined in a few occasions.

The work report listed out the following solidarity movements held in support of :

- contract workers of electricity board
- casual workers of railways
- private transport workers
- Ganapathi Mills workers of Tirunelveli and B&C Mill workers of Madras
- Tribals of Vachathi Village who were attacked by police and forest officials
- Brick-kiln workers of Haryana state

The work report focussed attention on the important agitations including those demanding -

- amendment to payment of Bonus Act
- bonus for textile workers
- proper and fair elections for co-operatives
- wage settlements for transport and electricity workers
- wage increase, increase in DA in major sectors

The second part of the Report was on the organisation of the CITU-TN. This part gives details of the functioning of the district level and state level committees of the CITU-TN and about the industry-wise federations. Further, this report listed out the failings in proper functioning and suggested corrective measures to improve the organisation.

Source : The aforesaid details are contained in the document entitled Work report and organisational Report consisting of two parts with 96 and 50 pages in Tamil, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The treasurer presented the income and expenditure report for the years 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Source : The aforesaid details are contained in the document entitled "Income Expenditure Report", in Tamil, with 15 pages, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The resolutions passed in the conference included the following :

- Homage to B.T. Ranadive and others
- Condemning police atrocities in the state
- Demanding wage increase for electricity workers
- Demanding regularisation of wages and wage increase for contract workers of electricity board
- On the ESI scheme
- On the Provident Fund Scheme
- On the issues of workers of unorganised sector
- On implementation and fixation of minimum wages
- Demanding amendment to payment of Bonus Act
- On the Pension Scheme

Source : The aforesaid details are contained in the document entitled "Resolutions", in Tamil, running to 13 pages which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The following office bearers were elected in the conference :

President	:	R. Umanath
General Secretary	:	T.K. Rangarajan
Treasurer	:	D. JANAKIRAMAN

SEVENTH CONFERENCE :

This conference was held on March 6-8, 1997 at Madras.

The welcome address was delivered by N.M.SUNDARAM, General Secretary, All India Insurance Employees Association.

The conference was presided over by R. Umanath.

The General Secretary T.K. Rangarajan, presented the work report, which contained two parts.

The first part of this report dealt with the Trade Union work, carried out by the CITU-TN, which included the following :

- The CITU was consistently fighting the industrial crisis, closures, retrenchment and the anti-labour policies of the Centre and the State Governments.

- About 1.5 lakhs workers from the unorganised sector, participated in the All India strike, on 14-7-1993.
- While observing People's Unity Week, between 9th and 15th August, 1993, August 11th was observed as Workers' Day.
- "Jail Bharao", agitation was held on August 19th, 1993 and a bandh was observed on 9-9-1993, against the economic policies of the government.
- "Dharna" and other agitations were held during November – December 1993, against the imposition of Industrial relations Bill.
- Several agitations were held against approving the "Dunkel Draft" and amendments to patent clause, in 1996

The first part of the report highlighted the joint action of trade unions, both in the industry-wise and factory-wise struggles. The notable among these struggles were in the transport, electricity and textile industries. The CITU-TN also joined the small entrepreneurs in fighting against the government policies.

This report also states that CITU-TN was involved in solidarity actions in support of :

- the tribals of vachathi village against police atrocities;
- the workers of Binny mills, who were fighting against closure;
- the plantation labourers of Kozhukku Malai Tea Estates, who were on strike; and
- the Postal, Bank, Insurance, Central Government employees, who went on strike

The CITU-TN, had also expressed solidarity and provided relief measures to

- the people of Maharashtra , who suffered in the earth-quake;
- the people of Andhra and Tamilnadu, who suffered the cyclon and floods;
- the people of Cuba, who suffered the economic blockade by the US.
- the trade unions of the Yugoslavia; and
- the Srilankan Tamils;

The important struggles listed out in this report are the following :

- the three month's long strike, from June 1993, in Tuticorin Coats factory
- the transport workers' strike from 2nd to 7th November, 1993
- the three days strike by the local body workers
- the two months old strike of the employees of NTC showrooms in 1993.

The second part of the General Secretary's report, focussed on the state of the organisation in various industries and factories. It also stated that the total membership was 2,28,107, which showed a rise of 50,000 members in four years. The Report also indicated the functions of the different district committees and about the state committee alongwith suggestions to improve the functioning.

This report had also stated in detail about the state Working Womens' Co-ordination Committee (WWCC), which held its fifth state conference in December 28-29, 1996 at Trichy. 186 delegates from 25 districts participated in this conference. An organising committee consisting of 35 members with Rajeswari as the convener, was formed.

This report also listed out the future programme and contained seven annexures, giving various statistics.

Source : The aforesaid details are contained in the document entitled "General Secretary's Report", presented in the 7th conference, running to 65 pages in Tamil, which is scanned and stored in the CD.

The following office bearers were elected in the conference :

President	:	J. Hemachandran
General Secretary	:	T.K. Rangarajan
Treasurer	:	D. JANAKIRAMAN

EIGHTH CONFERENCE :

The 8th conference was held on September 27th – 30th, 2000 at Madurai. The welcome address was delivered by P. MOHAN, M.P., The conference was presided over by J. HEMACHANDRAN, M.L.A.,

The report of the General Secretary presented by T.K. Rangarajan, consisted on three parts :

The first part of the report dealt with the work of the CITU-TN, in the background of the various left and democratic movements in the country, the general decline in the economy, the state of industries in Tamilnadu and the anti-labour policy of the Central Government and the various social security schemes.

This report listed out the important agitations which included -

- the strike by workers of the unorganised sector demanding minimum wages among other issues, which was observed on 9-9-1997
- the strike by Public sector employees against privatisation, which was observed on 2-2-1997
- The state level rally held on 3-4-1997, to focus on the rights of working people
- The All India strikes on 11-12-1998 and 11-5-2000.

This report analysed the roll of non-government organisations, casteist organisations and other trade unions among the working class.

The second part of the report focussed on the working women and contained the following observations for initiating discussions;

- that 9.73% of the working population in cities were women, while 27.06% of the working population in villages were women.
- 87% of the rural women employees were engaged in agriculture related activities, thereby leaving very few women to participate in trade union activities
- 90% of the women labourers, were employed in unorganised sectors
- the employment opportunities for educated women had declined to 2% in the 1990s, from 11.08% in the 1980s.
- that women workers suffered casualties, with the onset of liberalisation

This report focussed on the need for organisation and the issues facing working women.

The third part of the report dealt with the organisation and the functions of various committees. The membership that was accounted for at the end of 1999, was 2,76,435 and the increase in the membership was mainly from among construction, Beedi, Handloom, Loading and unloading and tailoring workers.

This report also gave details about the work of the CITU, in the state level federations affiliated to it. It also focussed on the democratic functions of the committees, the training of cadres, the functions of district committees and the future programme.

Source : The aforesaid details are contained the “The General Secretary’s Report” presented in the eighth conference in Tamil running to 66 pages, which is scanned and stored in the CD.