

For General Council
Members Only

No.1
26 December 1963

CIRCULAR ON NATIONAL CAMPAIGN OF THE TOILERS OF INDIA

Dear Comrades,

In these circulars on the National Campaign, we wish to inform you briefly about the progress of activities undertaken to implement the decisions of the Trade Union Conference on D.A. Bonus and Nationalisation held at Bombay on 13-14 December 1963.

1. DECISIONS OF THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE: The National Campaign Committee at its meeting held in Bombay on 15 December had taken the following decisions:

(i) The Resolution adopted by the Conference in Bombay should be translated into all regional languages and given widest publicity by the State TUCs.

(ii) It was decided that to help the campaign, the following pamphlets should be brought out, by 7 January 1964:

1. Prices and Taxes
2. Wages, D.A. and Index
3. Minimum Wages
4. Bonus
5. Nationalisation of Export-Import Trade
6. Nationalisation of Sugar Industry
7. Nationalisation of oil industry
8. Nationalisation of banking industry
9. State trading in foodgrains and fair prices for agricultural produce.

Specific responsibilities were assigned to comrades to prepare the pamphlets: On minimum wages - Com. Balachandra Menon; On Prices and Taxes - Com. B.D. Joshi; On State Trading - Com. Elias; On Sugar Nationalisation - Com. Ram Asrey; On Bank nationalisation - Com. K.T.K. Tangamani; On Bonus - Com. Satish Loomba. Efforts are being made by us to prepare the other pamphlets also.

A circular has been sent by us to the State TUCs to send material on minimum wage questions to Com. Balachandra Menon, to help in preparation of the booklet on the subject.

(iii) State Conferences on D.A., Bonus and Nationalisation: It was decided by the Committee that State Conventions should be held as far as possible before the end of January 1964. Accordingly, Kerala convention will be held in the second week of January, in U.P. towards January end, in Andhra Pradesh by 3rd week of January, in Gujerat on 25-26 January, in M.P. by last week of January, in Punjab on 15th January, in Delhi on 18th January. A regional convention is being held at Bhilai on 18-19 January. Other States have informed that they would decide on the dates and inform the AITUC, except in the case of Tamilnad which can hold the convention only in March 1964. The Bihar convention would meet on 28-29 January at Jamshedpur.

(iv) Bulletins - The Committee decided that fortnightly cyclostyled bulletins should be issued by State TUCs on the campaign.

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2. CONFERENCE OF METAL AND ENGINEERING WORKERS - An all-India conference of Metal and Engineering workers will be held at Hyderabad on 1-2 February 1964. Our engineering unions should be activated to prepare for this conference and build up maximum mobilisation over the issue of a Wage Board for engineering industry as well as other common demands. Efforts should be made to send the largest number of delegates to the Engineering Conference at Hyderabad. The National Federation of Metal and Engineering Workers has set up a study group to prepare a report to the conference. On the all-India campaign day of January 12/13, the engineering unions would also organise demonstrations and meetings to highlight their demand for Wage Board, along with the other national minimum demands outlined by the Bombay Conference.

3. MEETING OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNION REPRESENTATIVES - It was decided at Bombay that a meeting of organisers of trade unions of Public Sector workers should be held at Hyderabad on 3-4 February 1964. The AITUC has sent circulars to our affiliates in public sector units to send reports and factual material on conditions prevailing in public sector units in order to prepare a comprehensive document for the Hyderabad meeting.

4. DELHI TEXTILE CONVENTION - A convention of Delhi textile workers was held here on 22 December. The convention endorsed the resolution of the Bombay Conference and demanded immediate revision of the current series of Consumer Price Index Numbers. It was decided to take out a mass deputation of over 15,000 textile workers to the Union Labour Minister, Shri G.L.Nanda and present a Charter of Demands to him on 13 January 1964.

5. INSURANCE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDEX FRAUD: The fifth General Conference of the All-India Insurance Employees Association which met at Nagpur on 17-20 December has decided to initiate a movement for correction of the fraudulent index numbers. The insurance employees are entitled to get a revision in D.A. (10% for class IV and 7½% for Class III employees) if there is an average 10 point rise over 126 (all-India index) during a 12-month period. Thus like the Central Government employees, the fraudulent index is depriving them also of higher D.A.

6. TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES CONFERENCE DEMANDS STEPS TO CORRECT INDEX. The Conference of the All-India Telegraph and Telephone Employees Union which met at Trivandrum on December 20-22, has demanded effective steps to control prices, increased D.A., and steps to ensure the scientific computation of the consumer price indices.

ORGANISE

7. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN DELHI/DEMONSTRATION on D.A. issue - Over ten thousand employees participated in the demonstration before Parliament organised jointly by the Confederation of Central Government employees (P&T, civil aviation, income-tax, accounts & audit employees, etc.) and the unions of civilian defence workers and Central Secretariat employees. Later they marched to the residence of Finance Minister Shri T.T.Krishnamachari and submitted a memorandum demanding immediate rise in D.A.

8. AWARD ON D.A. & BONUS REVISD BY SUPREME COURT - By a judgment on 18 December, the Supreme Court revisd an award of the Industrial Tribunal, Delhi and directed that the workmen of Bhanamal Gulzari Mal Private Ltd. and three other concerns should be paid D.A. at rates varying between Rs.20 and Rs.35 a month, in addition to the existing wages. The Court also directed the introduction of a gratuity scheme for those workmen of the Head Office who had served the company for 15 years before the introduction of the statutory provident fund scheme. The bonus issue was remanded back to the Tribunal.

The Supreme Court on another appeal upheld the award of bonus by the Tribunal and dismissed the appeal of the management of Podar Plastics Ltd. The management had argued that the tribunal was wrong in not allowing the company to make a deduction for the notional remuneration of Mr. K.R. Podar, a director, who was engaged in supervising and managing the affairs of the company. If this sum of Rs. 5000 per month was allowed, the management argued, there would be no surplus left for payment of bonus. The Supreme Court in a judgment on 19 December rejected the contention of the management and observed that although the Full Bench formula for the calculation of bonus was based on notional figures, it would not be permissible for the employer to make it still more notional by introducing claims for prior charges on a purely hypothetical and fictional basis. In this case, in fact, no payment had been made to Mr. Podar and it would be unfair to allow such a deduction to be made notionally, merely to depress the figure of the available surplus. The case is revealing as it highlights the lengths to which unscrupulous employers could argue to deny bonus to the workers.

9. JOINT ACTION WITH U.T.U.C. IN KERALA - In Quilon district in Kerala, a broadbased movement is developing under the joint auspices of the CPI, the RSP, and unions of the AITUC and UTUC, in the campaign against rising prices. It has been planned that batches of volunteers from these organisations, ranging from 10 to 101 will demonstrate in front of the collectorate, taluq and village offices and also have a token one-day fast. In other districts of Kerala also, the campaign is going ahead.

10. OFFICIAL INDICES - The latest release by Government on the All-India Consumer Price Index Number has stated that during October 1963, the index appreciated by one point and stood at 138. (1949 = 100)

In Delhi, as per the 1960-based index, the November figure was higher by two points and stood at 115.

But the wholesale price index (all India - base 1952-53 = 100) is stated to have receded by 0.5 per cent to 133.6 during the week ended 23rd November 1963 as compared with 134.3 for the earlier week. The index is said to be lower by 1.7 per cent when compared with the corresponding week of the previous month, i.e., October, 1963, and hither by 3.6 per cent than that of a year ago.

11. BONUS IN NANGAL FERTILISER FACTORY - The management of the Nangal Fertiliser factory, in the State Sector, has agreed to pay a month's wages (including D.A.) as bonus to the workers. This is the first time that bonus has been declared in this factory. During the second year of production, the company made a net profit of Rs. 88 lakhs.

12. BONUS COMMISSION MEETS NEXT WEEK - The final meeting of the Bonus Commission will be held next week in Bombay.

PUBLICITY FOR THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN - Attention of the Members of the General Council is being drawn to the necessity to arrange for maximum publicity to the National Campaign. Efforts should be made to get reports published in the local and all-India press and articles written highlighting the main problems. It is requested that reports may also be promptly sent to the AITUC office so that through our central press communique, maximum publicity could be arranged.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,
K.G. Sriwastava
(K.G. Sriwastava)
Secretary

ALL - INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

5-E Jhandewalan,
Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

For General Council Members Only

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CIRCULAR No.3
9 January 1964

P R E P A R E F O R A C T I O N !

Dear Comrades,

As the All-India Demands Day is approaching fast, the campaign has to move into a new phase - the preparations for action. Com.S.A.Dange, our General Secretary, in an article in the NEW AGE (dated Jan.12, published today in Delhi) has outlined the immediate tasks. Extracts from the article are reproduced below, for immediate guidance:

"At the (Bombay) Conference we made it clear to the government and the big gentry of the employers, that we would begin our national campaign on January 1, and that they have thirty days to tell the workers of India what positive steps the government and the employers will take on the questions posed before them by the whole TU movement.

"February is the month of budgets, the month when the government and the ruling Congress Party has to decide either to reduce the taxes on the poor and seize the fattening purses of the monopolies or to go the same old way of the vested interests and face the challenge of the toiling masses and their democracy and socialism in action. Let the ruling classes choose soon, as the Budget Day is not far off.

"The Campaign Committee, therefore, wants all trade unions and mass organisations to give formal notices to the employers and the interests concerned of their demands, begin to establish action committees and work for liaison and united front with all those working class organisations, who have similar demands and action in view.

"We must work for unity of action in order to achieve success and defeat the manoeuvres of monopoly capital and its supporters.

"Exasperated by the growing misery, even now in many areas and factories, workers have been compelled to resort to strikes, in the face of employers' haughtiness and adamant refusal to concede. In many cases, the workers and trade unions are waiting to synchronise their individual factory or trade action in the general strike that is envisaged, if the government and the employers refuse to settle the main demands, which have been voiced unitedly by all organisations. Thus all the mighty currents of the toiling masses are on the move to act and win.

"Let all forces unite for action, an all-national action, which asks for nothing more than practical fulfilment of promises already made to the people and of principles accepted by the

nation; an action, which is nothing but in defence of democracy and well-being of the people and calls a halt to the anti-democratic march of monopoly and reaction."

The State TUCs and General Council Members are requested to move immediately on the lines indicated above.

2. EXPERT COMMITTEE ON BOMBAY INDEX SUBMITS REPORT: Following the protest sent by the AITUC (See Bulletin No.2) to the Central Government and the Maharashtra Government over the delay in the publication of the Expert Committee's Report, we received a telegram from the Maharashtra Labour Minister that the Committee's report would be submitted on Jan.7. According to press reports, this has been done and the State Government has promised to release the report along with their decision on it within two weeks.

3. REPORTS FROM STATES: Working Committee of the Punjab STUC at its meeting at Jullundur on 3 January, has called upon the unions to observe 12, 13 and 14 January as Demands Days in pursuance of the decision of the Bombay Conference. It was also decided to call a convention of all trade unions in the State on Jan.26 at Ludhiana. The Committee appealed to trade unions of all affiliations to join in the convention. After a discussion on the question of price rises, the Committee formulated the demand for 25 per cent reduction in prices and 25 per cent increase in dearness allowance, and asked for linking D.A. with the index, providing for full neutralisation, in line with the Bombay Conference charter. On minimum wages, the Committee formulated the demand that in all industries where the wages had been fixed and the statutory period of five years had elapsed, minimum wage committees should be appointed at once. In other industries like chemicals, sports-goods, rubber, glass and ceramics, leather, etc., where such wages had not been fixed, minimum wage committees should be constituted at once.

In Punjab, in all the industrial centres, the campaign has proceeded apace. Mass demonstrations of workers have been held in most of the centres, along with the inauguration of the national campaign. A demonstration of house-wives was also held in Ludhiana recently.

In Bihar, the State TUC has printed 10,000 copies of the National Council resolution in Hindi. The State Convention, as already reported, is to be held at Jamshedpur on 28-29 Jan. In Patna, Jamshedpur, Dehri-on-sone and Jharia, the price data is being independently collected by the unions to expose the fraudulent index published relating to these centres by the Government.

The Orissa STUC is holding the State Convention on D.A. and Bonus at Cuttack on 29 January. The STUC has already organised a round of public meetings and meetings of executive committees of affiliated unions to report on the Bombay Conference decisions. The Committee has also written a special letter to almost all the registered trade unions functioning in the State intimating them about the decisions on the National Campaign and inviting them to join the State Convention. The campaign has been taken to the mining area also and the Hirakud aluminium workers are also joining in. In Cuttack, the local units of the Kisan Sabha, Youth Federation, Communist Party and Students Federation are cooperating with the STUC, to intensify the National Campaign.

In Mysore, the South Kanara Trade Union Council has decided to observe Jan.12 as the Demands Day. The Council at its meeting held on 29 Dec., endorsed the resolution of the Bombay Conference. In plantation areas, Demands Day will be observed on 12 & 13 Jan. at Chikmagalur and Saklasapur.

4. INTUC MOVE: The INTUC is reported to have advised its Pradesh Branches and Federations to raise demands for linking D.A. with the consumer price index, as per the agreement reached in the Standing Labour Committee.
5. H.M.S. DECISIONS: The Working Committee of the HMS which met in Hyderabad last week is reported to have decided to call an all-India convention in Bombay in February to devise measures to compel the employers and the Government to concede the workers legitimate and reasonable claims, including the claim for a "restitution of the D.A. defrauded from the workers to which they are legally and morally entitled." The HMS also called upon Government to extend to all employees the system of sliding scale of D.A. fully neutralising price fluctuations in both public and private sectors, so that there would not be any fall in real wages. The HMS unions have also been asked to step up agitation in all industrial centres for a "thorough impartial probe into the manipulation of all the consumer price indices in all cities." It was demanded by the HMS that in the matter of construction of price indices, the Government should set up an impartial permanent commission headed by a chairman with judicial experience, in which representatives of employers and workers should be included.
6. A.I.B.E.A. TO COLLECT TEN LAKH SIGNATURES ON NATIONALISATION DEMAND: The Central Committee of the All-India Bank Employees' Association has called upon its units to collect ten lakh signatures on the demand for nationalisation of the banking industry. The AIBEA also decided to campaign for revising the faulty consumer price indices.
7. D.A. RISE FOR BHARAT BARREL EMPLOYEES: By an agreement with the General Engineering Employees Union, the Bharat Barrel & Drum Manufacturing Co., Bombay, has agreed to increase the workers' D.A. by Rs.18 per month, by raising the present rate of D.A. of 83% of the textile scale to 100 per cent. The D.A. increase will be effective from September 1963 for over 500 workers of the engineering factory.
8. WESTERN RAILWAY UNION DEMANDS AD HOC RISE OF Rs.10 IN D.A. By a resolution adopted in the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Western Railway Employees Union (AIREF), held at Baroda on 19-20 December, the union has demanded an ad hoc increase in D.A. at the flat rate of Rs.10, till the arbitrators give their award on the question of increase in D.A. to neutralise fully the increased cost of living. The resolution noted that the official indices do not reflect the actual increase in cost of commodities and it was demanded that there should be a revision in the computation of the index.
9. JOINT CAMPAIGN IN VISAKHAPATNAM: A joint meeting of representatives of 16 trade unions in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) was held on 20.11.63 and as decided therein, a joint demonstration and public meeting was held on 29 Dec., on the following demands: (1) Reduction in prices (2) Rise in D.A. (3) Proper computation of cost of living indices (4) Minimum bonus, and (5) Upgrading Visakhapatnam City from 'C' to 'B' class. Of the 16 unions, there were 3 INTUC unions, six independent unions and seven AITUC unions. Unions of port workers and employees, civilian defence employees, P&T, municipal, hospital, railway and Brooke Bond company employees, along with motor transport and rickshaw workers participated in the joint demonstration and meeting. Trade unions under the leadership of Sri B.S.Mallikarjunarao (INTUC), an old TU leader of Visakhapatnam participated in the procession and meeting, along with the local AITUC leaders. The joint meeting was widely publicised in the press in Andhra Pradesh.

10. Pamphlet on Nationalisation of Banks - A pamphlet prepared by some Congress MPs on nationalisation of banking is being sent along with this circular. The points made therein may be utilised in the campaign.

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The Bihar STUC has informed us that the Circular on National Campaign which we have been issuing has been most useful and that the material contained in the circular has been used effectively in the Patna Hindi Daily, JANASAKTHI. We would like to know if other STUCs were also able to use the material for publicity in papers friendly to us.

Please see that the reports on the observance of the Demands Day are sent promptly to the INTUC office.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G. Sriwastava

(K.G. Sriwastava) *9 Jain*
Secretary

FOR THE ATTENTION OF STATE TUCs and SUGAR UNIONS

In the TUR of 5 Dec., we had explained how the sugar mill magnates are depriving the workers of legitimate D.A. The All-India Index to which the sugar workers' D.A. is linked has risen to 138 points, i.e., 15 points over 123 at which the Wage Board had fixed the earlier D.A. If the sugar unions have not yet placed their demands on this question so far, they should do so immediately. In the light of the higher cane price and sugar price fixed by Government, the INTUC has also demanded for D.A. rise for sugar workers. The campaign over this should therefore be stepped up without delay so that the higher D.A. is achieved during this season itself.

A L L - I N D I A T R A D E U N I O N C O N G R E S S

5-E Jhandewalan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi 1

MOST URGENT

CIRCULAR

23 March 1964

To All State Committees
To All Members of the General
Council of the AITUC

Dear Comrades,

The AITUC views with grave concern the outburst of communal riots specially in working class areas and centres. We have already appealed through the press to the unions and our functionaries to make all-out efforts to improve the situation in these centres and take preventive measures in others.

In this connection, the AITUC welcomes the initiative of the Home Ministry in setting up tripartite machinery for maintaining communal peace and amity in working class centres and for taking effective and timely steps against communal disturbances. The AITUC considers that it is the first and foremost duty of every trade union to fight against the spread of communal poison in the working class. If the working class falls a prey to the dark forces of communal reaction, the very basis of the trade union movement is completely knocked out in a country like ours.

Reactionary and communal forces in our country are trying to justify these communal disturbances as some sort of a natural reaction to what is happening in East Pakistan. Communal passions are being roused and workers are being told that retaliation is the only way to help the minorities in East Pakistan. Demands are being raised even for an exchange of population as a solution to the communal problem.

The AITUC calls upon all its affiliates to fight against such propaganda and see that it is not able to mislead the working class. The minorities in India are as much a part of the Indian people as the majority community and not hostages to be held responsible for the misdeeds of the Pakistan ruling circles. The working class has to be made aware that just as in Pakistan the Ayub regime is resorting to communal disturbances to suppress the democratic movement, so in India communal disturbances are a weapon in the hands of Indian reaction to suppress, divide, disrupt and defeat the growing working class movement. Communal disturbances in India not only do not help the minorities in East Pakistan, they actually strengthen the Pakistani ruling circles in their attempt to crush the widespread democratic and secular movement in Pakistan for such demands as the introduction of an adult franchise.

It is therefore the sacred duty of every trade unionist in every part of the country, to mobilise the entire strength of the working class movement to defeat the reactionary designs of dark forces of communal reaction and maintain and build the unity of the working class. At the same time, the AITUC demands from the Government, urgent and effective steps against groups and newspapers who have been spreading communal propaganda in the country.

.../...

Trade unions in disturbed areas should immediately form committees, move in the areas (wherever necessary with passes from the authorities concerned), issue leaflets and posters and take every conceivable method to bring the situation to normalcy. The Home Ministry had a discussion with representatives of Central TU organisations here yesterday and agreed to give facilities to such work. Regular reports should be sent to the AITUC office and difficulty, if any experienced, immediately informed.

The TUs should also attend to the immediate question of relief in the riot-affected areas.

In all industrial centres, the trade unions should actively campaign for communal harmony and class unity and in apprehended trouble spots, utmost vigilance should be exercised to isolate the trouble-makers and with the help of the authorities, take prompt action against anti-social elements before they could do any mischief.

This work should be treated as part of the Campaign of the Toilers. Only by maintaining class unity, irrespective of caste, religion and colour can we move ahead.

THIS IS A PRIORITY TASK.

Please send us reports of your activities in this connection.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

K.G. Sriwastava

(K.G. Sriwastava) 23/3
Secretary

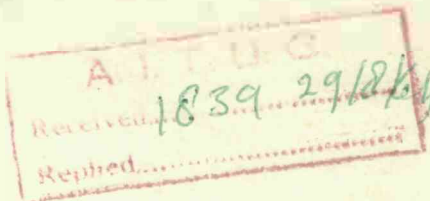
Copy of statement issued by Com. K.G. Sriwastava, Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, on 21 March 1964 to the press:

" Reports of recent happenings in certain centres indicate that the communal demon has begun to raise its ugly head, threatening national and **lass** unity in these industrial towns. Vested interests are obviously behind this orgy and it is necessary that the organised working class movement should be vigilant, intervene in time and devote all its energies to defeat communal reaction.

" The AITUC appeals to all workers and trade unions to unitedly strive to isolate the communal reactionaries and the anti-social elements, to organise peace squads in affected areas and preserve communal harmony.

" The AITUC hopes that the working class in this country which has had a proud tradition in upholding communal harmony will rise to the occasion and in alliance with all democrats, decisively intervene to foil the attempts of communal reaction".

The General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
5, Jhandewalan,
Rani Jhansi Road,
New Delhi-1.



Dear Comrade,

The food situation in the country is getting serious every day. United actions of the workers have taken place in various parts of the country and the response of the workers was magnificent.

However, there is no visible change in the policy of the Government. Not a single demand raised in the 11-point charter of demands has been conceded by the Government.

The last General Council in December 1963 gave a call for an All-India strike to achieve the demands raised in the 11-point Charter of Demands. However, the call could not materialise so far due to various reasons. It is necessary to take the stock of the situation and suggest immediate steps to make the country-wide action a great success.

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I would, therefore, suggest/a special meeting of the General Council should be convened as early as possible. I learn that the National Campaign Committee has been convened on 5th September. However, in view of the importance of the subject I suggest that a special meeting of the General Council would be of great use in finalising the programme of action.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

4, Asoke Road, New Delhi.
26-8-64.

S. T. Kohli

(S. T. KOHLI)

Committed. File.

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