

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS
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SUBJECT CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT.

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1960 - 61

(NR)

Trade Union Situation in Rlys. ①

A meeting of the delegates working on Rly Union (AIRF) wholetime or parttime was held in Coimbatore under the presidentship of Com. Satish Lumba Secretary ALTUC. The following comrades were present.

Com. Indrajit Gupta on behalf of ALTUC.

(C.R.) Coms Joglekar Bombay (C.R.) Mahendra (Sicandrabad)
Gupta (Agra). Dindayal Verma (Kurudwadi)
Kashyap (Nagapur Kar (Nadad all C. Rly.

(W.R.) Trevedi (Baroda). Gupta (Agra)

(N.R.) → Natha Singh (Delhi) Baba Kartar Singh (Punjab)
Surjit Singh Lucknow) K.R. Verma (Saharanpur U.P.)

(E.R.) ! — None

(S.E.R.) Mushtaqe, ~~Bolespur~~ (Bolespur), P. Majumdar (Tata) Mahant
Panda (Ranerkela). (Orissa)

(S.R.) K.A. Namotar ex M.P. Golden Rock.

(N.F.) ! — Barin chandhury. Ghosh — from Assam

(N.E.R.) ! — None (Request was given by Assam
comrades)

The following agreed to come but could not be present! — Rabem Reay (E Rlys Bihar)
Ali Amjad (Bihar S.E. Rly) Ram Ashree (U.P.)
Kabir Krishnan (S Rly, Kela) S.P.P. Kishore
Shorapur (Kela S.Rly). R. K.L. Narsingh kam-
S.E. (New Hyderabad) Ramlu.

Com Trivedi (Baroda)

(2)

W.R. ^ Removed from service in Baroda division
38, under suspension 37.

Dohad where Rlymen were killed during strike
old Red Flag Union workers are being victimized

Firing! - Report of the one man Commission would
be against the workers.

901. Rlymen Baroda division (W.R.) were on strike
Rolling cases are going on against 70 Rlymen.

J.C.A. almost dead.

Day to day function is being carried by the
AIRF union. Membership has started from this
month.

Campaign against victimization is being carried on.
on whole of W.R. 69 Rlymen have been dismissed
and 396 workers are under suspension.

In Agra + Ratlam division we are working in
NFIU union.

C. Rly 52 Removed from service (18 are Trade apprentices)
66 under suspension. (AIRF Report on 10th Dec. 60)

Sicandarabad division! - 30 dismissed. 8 removed
9 under suspension. 41 criminal cases
going on.

7 Branches in the town. 6 under AITUC
influence

The legal defence committee has collected 3300
(2500 from Rlymen + 800 from others).

D Harassment of workers in workshop.

A section of INTUC is giving evidence against
Rlymen under suspension.

P.S.P (H.M.S) + Malik Arjun Rao have been
discredited.

H.M.S. + Congress elements are now trying
to regain their old position.

on line! 4 M.G. under AITUC influence
2 H.M.S (B.G.) one under independent

③
Only two union workers have been transferred.

Recently e.c.s (Bank Coop.) elections were held in Secunderabad division: AITU Radical element have captured all seats.

After this election the attitude of the officers have changed. They discuss Rlyman's cases + problem with union leaders unofficially.

Membership stand still But day to day functioning has started.

J.C.A. Not Functioning

Sholapur division! - almost no strike. All have been taken back to duty.

Some organizers have been transferred.

These transferred have created fear complex.

Division organizer of union (AIRF) (N.M.S.) withdrew the strike on 11th night.

Nagpur No strike. & about a dozen arrested at least 2 have lost jobs & two are under suspension.

Jubbulpur No strike. N.M.S. man betrayed so no strike in the division.

Bombay! - About 50 thousands went on strike. Day today functioning have started in Bombay branches. (8 branches)

Transfer of union militant is the order of the day. Five branches of Bombay division are still non-functioning.

In Nagpur, Jubbulpur division day to day functioning has started only at Wardha, Nagpur + Jubbulpur.

Thane division only Agra functioning.

No news from Bhopal division.

George Fernandes along with Mathai (Rlyman) & one of the office ~~branches~~ ^{union} ~~branches~~ ^{secretary} Mathai of AIRF, have started bet work for the functioning of their

Newly started "Central Rymer's union". (4)

Fernando has taken tour of all those places specially where there was no strike like Nagpur, Jabalpur & Jabal. He has got influence in Parel workshop. V.T. Some in Bhusawal. His unions led demonstration before G.M. office was a failure recently.

N.R. (Delhi)

In Delhi though there was no strike still 30 fighting trade union workers were arrested & 8 are still under suspension. Union membership has started from the end of the year.

Fear complex is there among the workers.

There was clash with NFIR union.

Day to Day Union Functioning has started.

J.C.A. is not dead but the P.S.P. influence is almost finished.

81 Removed from service (71 Trade APP). 69 under suspension.

Ferozpur Division: - Two branches & Divisional Seat under AIRC influence.

Defence Fund: - 3000/-

Union leadership has done nothing for Relief work. ✓

We are working in AIRF & NFIR Both the unions.

Allahabad & Tunda Divisions: - No strike.

600 union membership ✓

Day to day functioning of the branches has started. specially the divisional office at Allahabad with our help.

At Allahabad 79 Rymer's ~~to~~ should be were arrested.

Lucknow: - 100% strike. 2000 arrested.

12000/- Defence Fund collected.

3000 Membership has not yet started.

Recently there were elections of Co-op. credit society

⑤

AIRF union captured 82 seats out of 83.
In Lucknow institute + canteen election
AIRF followers have been elected.

NER: - There was strike in Gorakhpur
workshop + many other places but
the number of workers involved was
not more than ten thousand.

At present 10 Ryman (including 5 Trade
App) have been removed
from service. 58 are under suspension.

NFR: - No strike as AIRF ~~is~~ withdrew
the strike notice on this Ry. in
Assam but there was strike in
Katihar division in Bengal + Bihar.

SR: - Twenty thousands Ryman's were on strike
on Ex-S.G.R.

Golden Rock. About 2000 were on strike.
on 16th half day stay in strike.

Two loco full strike. Rest partial.

Good strike in ^{workshop +} Paramboor, Coach Factory too.

1500 Arrested.

14 are under suspension in Coach Factory

EX-SM'S: - Protest demonstration in Baijwada
+ Auntakal.

EX-MYSORE Ry: Mysore workshop full strike.

Banglore: - Partial

Rest Poor.

on Ex-S.G.R. Defence Fund collected 10000/-
Ten thousands Rupees

All have been taken on duty except five
(one driver + 4 in workshop). 50 Ryman Reverted.

Loss 50/- to 75/- P.M. for two yrs.

Day to ^{Day} unions ^{are} functioning -
only conference on 21st + 22nd.

In spite of N.F.I.R. unions registration being cancelled as they failed to produce their account, membership etc for check up ~~their registration has been cancelled~~. still they have recognition.

It is expected that fighting union would come up in whole S.R.

J.C.A. Not properly functioning.

E.R. - No Report as none from Bengal out of about 200 delegates had any report. But there was the Best strike in E.R. in Bengal + Bihar. Specially in Bihar the influence of A.I.T.U.C has gone up.

S.E.R. About 50000 (fifty thousands) Ryomen went on strike from one to five days. Good strike in Bengal. + walkair proper.

5000 went on strike in Bilaspur Region including about 1500 in Nagpur. In Bilal about 500 in Raipur 500. In Ra Bilaspur 100. Rest in Raipur, Chindwara + line. Strike was spreading on 17th when it was withdrawn.

Dismissed 6. + about 70 persons are under suspension including twenty facing criminal charges.

Nearly fifty thousands were collected in whole Ryot about ten thousands in Bilaspur Region i.e. Nainpur, Chindwara, Nagbhir Nagpur, Gondia, Rajnandgaon. Raipur, Bilal, Bilaspur, Shahdol, Nainindragarh etc.

~~Not on 21st~~

(7)

Decision & Conclusion: Situation is now or
never. N.M.S. is discredited.
If AITUC. goes to organize the AIRF
Union in a grand way.

No Parallel unions or Federation
But work in AIRF unions

- ② Main stress on Membership of
the union as only few months left for
the ending of the financial yr.
- ③ ~~Struggle~~ for Defence work to be
Continued.
- ④ J.C.A. to be converted into
Central Govt. employees Trade
Council.
- ⑤ AITUC Leadership to call a
meeting of Rly comrades in Feb 61
for guidance.

Mustafaque
c/o Dr. M.S. Beesoon
Dayalbandh
Bilaspur (M.P.)
S.E. Rly.

Garden Reach Textile Workers' Union

(REGD. NO. 463)

(Affiliated to All India Trade Union Congress)

Q77, AKRA ROAD, CALCUTTA-24

Ref. No. _____

196 .

C-13

1..... Article 6.

- (a) An annual contribution at the rate of ten (10) naye paise per full paid member, subject to a minimum of Rs. 20/- out of which, $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the collections will be given by the AITUC to the State Committees..... "

2..... Article 16.

No amendment is needed. (Your proposed amendment would not be fair to the big Unions.).

.....

TRADE UNION RECORD

(FORTNIGHTLY)

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Vol. XVII, No. 2

NOVEMBER 20, 1960

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WARM
GREETINGS TO
LOUIS SAILLANT
ON HIS
FIFTIETH
BIRTHDAY

See page 3

20,000 Rendered Jobless—Workers Deprived of Rs. 4.75 Crores

JUTE WORKERS ACT TO DEFEND JOBS, FOR INTERIM RELIEF

The jute millowners seem to be intent to sabotage the work of the Jute Wage Board, even before the Board has hardly commenced its work.

They have created a "crisis" situation and with that they want to strike hard and dictate their terms on the Wage Board, the workers and the Government.

They have sealed looms on a vast scale. Over and above the 9 per cent of the loomage already sealed, they have shut down work on another 10 per cent of total loomage in the industry.

Twenty-thousand workers in the jute industry in W. Bengal have been rendered jobless, because of the sealing of looms.

The millowners allege that sealing of looms has been forced on them because of bad supply position of raw jute. Facts belie their statement. It was officially stated by Government that prospects of the jute crop in India and Pakistan were not unfavourable compared with last year (*Statesman*, November 11).

The so-called agreement reached between the representatives of the Government and the Indian Jute Mills Association on November 10 gives little comfort to the workers. The "agreement" sanctions the sealing of additional 8 per cent of loomage, i.e., only 2 per cent less than what the mills have now sealed, over and above 9 per cent sealed earlier.

Under the auspices of the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union (AITUC), the jute workers have launched a powerful agitation against

the unemployment and also to demand immediate grant of interim relief by the Jute Wage Board.

In one area, a joint meeting was held with the participation of AITUC and INTUC unions. In Anglo-India Jute Mills, Kankinarah, where 258 looms were sealed affecting a large number of permanent workmen, the workers staged a protest strike for two hours. Later, a joint committee comprising representatives of all the unions, has been

formed to conduct the struggle unitedly.

WORKERS DEPRIVED OF RS. 4.75 CRORES

The Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union, in its memorandum to the Jute Wage Board, demanding interim relief, pointed out that by depriving the workers of their legitimate dues in respect of compensation for the rise in cost of living index, the jute millowners in W. Bengal saved at least Rs.

4.75 crores since the last award.

The union therefore stated that the jute workers are entitled to an immediate grant of interim relief whose quantum, on account of losses suffered since the last Tribunal Award, amounts to Rs. 240 per worker.

Following is the text of the memorandum submitted to the Wage Board:

Dearness allowance in the jute industry in West Bengal has always been paid at a fixed and flat rate, unrelated to fluctuations in the cost of living indices over specified intervals.

(Continued on page 2)

Circular To Unions

ALGERIA DAY NOVEMBER 30

The Secretariat of the WFTU has given a call to observe November 30 as a Day of solidarity with the workers and Trade Unions in Algeria.

In a letter to the National Trade Union Centres, Louis Saillant, General Secretary WFTU, appealed that they "should organise on the same day in every country the greatest possible number of campaigns for solidarity with the General Union of Algerian Workers and, in a wider sense for the right of Algerian people to Freedom and Independence".

The letter further states: "Since in November 1960, the colonialist war in Algeria has entered its seventh year, the trade union organisations should undertake to increase their efforts and join with all those who are asking that the rights of the Algerian people should be recognised and applied. "On this Day of International Working Class Solidarity, workers all over the

world should express their determination to put an end to the war in Algeria by forcing the French Government to negotiate on the faithful application and guarantee of self-determination which will be a basis for Algerian independence."

The AITUC calls on all its affiliated unions to observe this day by organising demonstrations and mass meetings. Resolutions should be passed in the meetings condemning the war in Algeria and supporting Algerian independence, copies of which should be sent to the French Ambassador in Delhi. Reports of these meetings should be sent to the centre.

This international day should demonstrate the deep feeling of the Indian working class towards the heroic workers and people of Algeria who are fighting against colonialism and for world peace.

AITUC SECRETARIAT

Bhopal Heavy Electrical Project Workers' Strike

Nearly 2,500 out of the 2,700 trainees and workers employed in the Heavy Electrical Project, Bhopal, struck work on October 13, in protest against the failure of the management to absorb the trainees in the regular cadre of the project even after completion of the stipulated training period.

Workers also complained of nepotism in promotion and preparation of merit list and non-payment of production allowances.

The strike was withdrawn on October 15 and the workers on the evening shift resumed duties.

Shakir Ali Khan, President, Madhya Pradesh Committee of the AITUC, in a statement on October 14, said that it was most unfortunate that the work of a premier project like the heavy electrical plant was allowed to suffer due to the failure of the management to concede the legitimate and just demands of the trainees.

JUTE WORKERS DEMAND INTERIM RELIEF

(Continued from front page)

Nevertheless, the actual quantum of D. A., whenever it has been fixed by awards of successive Omnibus Tribunals, has been adjusted upwards or downwards according to the cost of living index (CLI) figures (12-monthly average) prevailing at the time of each Award.

This has been the practice followed since 1948. The jute workers have never enjoyed the benefit, as in other major industries of the country, of an automatic adjustment of D.A., on a sliding scale, to changes in the CLI. In this respect, even workers of jute mills in Andhra and Kanpur, for example, are more favourably placed than those of West Bengal—the premier seat of this industry.

The absence of the sliding-scale system of D.A. has inevitably led to sharp declines in the workers' real wages. No compensation has been provided to them for steep rises in the CLI in the intervening period between two Tribunal Awards. The extent of neutralisation has, naturally, also been arbitrary and fluctuating.

These considerations have a vital bearing on the determination of the issue of Interim Relief for the workers pending the final recommendations of the present Wage Board.

II In the absence of any monetary emoluments other than basic wages and D.A. paid by the Jute mills in West Bengal, it has become customary to take the combined minimum quantum of these two elements (basic wage plus D.A.) for the purpose of assessing how the workers' incomes have fared in relation to prices and the CLI.

Successive Omnibus Tribunals awarded as follows:-

Year of Award	Calcutta C.L.I. (Annual Average)	Min. Basic Wage	D.A. (Fixed)	Total Emoluments
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1948	325	26.00	32.50	58.50
1951	355	26.00	37.37	63.37
1955	325	34.67	32.50	67.17

The last Award (1955) has since been terminated. Nevertheless, it is interesting to remember that this Award provided that the wage structure laid down by it should not "be subjected to any increase on account of cost of living index, unless this index figure rises above 355". (p. 54 Emphasis ours).

In terms of extent of neutralisation for the rise in the CLI (on the basis of a pre-war minimum wage of Rs. 22 p.m.), the allowance made by the Tribunal Awards was as follows:

Year	CLI	Total Emoluments	Percentage of Neutralisation
1948	325	Rs. 58.50	74
1951	355	Rs. 63.37	73.7
1955	325	Rs. 67.17	91.25

Obviously, any subsequent rise in the CLI after 1955 would automatically mean a fall in the extent of neutralisation, and a decline in real wages, if emoluments remained at the 1955 figure.

III And this is precisely what has happened. With no further addition since 1955 to the minimum total emoluments of Rs. 67.17 p.m., the Calcutta CLI has moved steadily upwards and the extent of neutralisation has correspondingly decreased, viz:

Year	CLI	Percentage of Neutralisation
1955	325	91.25
1956	347	83.8
1957	368	76.6
1958	387	71.5
1959	387	71.5
1960 (Jany. to August)	400	68

It will thus be seen that although even in terms of the 1955 Award, the workers were entitled to an upward revision of emoluments in the event of the CLI going above 355, no such revision has in fact been made despite the CLI figures being well above 355 from 1957 onwards and that, too, on a consistently upward curve.

What this has meant in terms of loss in real wages, hardship and suffering, and inevitable growth in indebtedness of the workers can easily be imagined.

IV A study of the three Omnibus Awards shows that when the CLI rose or fell by 30 points (325 to 355, and 355 to 325), the Tribunal increased or decreased the D.A. by a sum of Rs. 4.87 p.m. or 16.23 Naye paise per point.

Although the basis for this per-point adjustment was fixed quite arbitrarily and is not acceptable to us, it provides a yardstick for measur-

ing the minimum amount by way of increased emoluments to which the workers were entitled during 1957-60 (even in terms of the old Award of 1955) and of which they have been deprived.

Year	CLI	Extra points above 355	Amount due at 16.23 nP. per point, per month	Amount Due for 12 months
1957	368	13	Rs. 2.11	Rs. 25.32
1958	387	32	Rs. 5.19	Rs. 62.28
1959	387	32	Rs. 5.19	Rs. 62.28
1960	400	45	Rs. 7.30	Rs. 87.60
(Jany. to Aug.)				
Total Amount Due from 1957 to 1960:				Rs. 237.48

luments of Rs. 67.17 and what is desirable varies between Rs. 18.00 to Rs. 20.00 p.m.

(b) Even if it is accepted that cent per cent neutralisation is not immediately prac-

At the most modest estimate it is clear that by depriving the 200,000 workers of their due in respect of compensation for the rise in CLI above 355 the millowners in West Bengal have saved an amount of at least Rs. 4.75 crores since the last Award.

In our opinion, a prima facie case for interim relief for the Jute workers was already established in December 1959 when the Industrial Committee for Jute met in Calcutta under the chairmanship of the Union Labour Minister. It was agreed at that meeting that the forthcoming Wage Board's terms of reference would explicitly direct it to go into this question and, in view of its urgency, to make its re-

commendations thereon within a period of two months from commencing its work.

It is our view that interim relief, in the context of the specific background of the jute industry as narrated above, has no meaning unless the workers are given relief or compensation at least to the extent of the amount which was their legitimate due and of which they have been unjustly deprived, as shown earlier.

Hence, we demand that this amount of approximately Rs. 240/- be paid by way of Interim Relief to every worker in the Jute industry of West Bengal, the payment to be made in one or more instalments.

V The Wage Board may also consider the workers' claim for Interim Relief from some other points of view.

(a) In the case of proverbially low paid workers as in the jute industry, there is every justification for giving them 100 per cent protection against the rise in cost of living. On the basis of the pre-war minimum wage, of Rs. 22 p.m. (as calculated by the first Tribunal) and with the CLI standing at between 387 and 400 during the last three years, the minimum emoluments should be between Rs. 85 and Rs. 88 p.m., if cent per cent neutralisation is aimed at. In that case, the gap between the existing total emo-

mentable, and only 91.25 per cent neutralisation, as awarded by the 1955 Tribunal, should be maintained, the workers are entitled to an additional Rs. 15 p.m. at a CLI of 400.

(c) Further, even if the completely arbitrary per-point adjustment basis of the Tribunal (16.23 nP. per point) is applied consistently, we find that the minimum pay packet of Rs. 67.17 fixed in 1955 for a CLI of 325 would require to be increased by Rs. 10.06 p.m. for a CLI of 387 and by Rs. 12.17 p.m. for a CLI of 400.

It must be remembered that the aim of Interim relief should be to enable the worker at least to maintain his real wage, as last determined, against any erosion, until the Wage Board is in a position to make its final recommendations. This Wage Board is the natural successor to the long line of Tribunals which has preceded it. It should take not only the present but also the very relevant past into consideration when deciding this issue.

VI We, therefore, claim that, in view of all the factors presented above, the Jute workers are entitled to an immediate grant of Interim Relief whose quantum, on account of losses suffered since the last Tribunal Award, amounts to approximately Rs. 240.00 per worker.

Should the Wage Board prefer to assess the quantum of relief required pending the Board's final recommendations, simply on the basis of the existing CLI, then, too, we have shown that an amount varying between Rs. 10.06 p.m. and Rs. 20.00 p.m. is due to the worker. But in the event of adopting this method of calculation, we would demand that payment be made with retrospective effect from 1958, i.e. when the CLI reached 387.

A CORRECTION

In the feature "25 Sessions of AITUC", published in our issue of October 20, 1960, it was wrongly mentioned that V. S. Deshbandhu was the General Secretary at the Calcutta session in 1931. This should be read as S. V. Deshpande. We regret the error.—Editor, T.U.R.

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AITUC
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New Delhi.

LOUIS SAILLANT IS 50

Thirty-four years of trade union activity in the service of the working class, and 15 years as General Secretary of the WFTU, having more than 100 million members and of which he is one of the founders—such is the admirable record that Louis Saillant can present to his class on his 50th birthday.

Our readers and the workers generally have read so many articles and speeches by Louis Saillant; they have heard mention so many times of his name and his activities, which are inseparable from the struggles now being waged by the international working-class movement, that naturally they would like to know more about this trade union leader who has done so much on their behalf.

We therefore give a brief summary of his life so far, which all those who work and fight with him hope will be long, full of health and enriched still more by his personal contribution to the struggle which workers throughout the world are waging so that the cause of true freedom, true social justice and brotherhood among all peoples may prevail.—EDITOR.

Louis Saillant was born on 27 November 1910 in Valence, in the south-east of France. Of working-class origin, he began earning his livelihood as soon as he finished elementary school, and became an apprenticed wood-carver in the furniture industry.

Very soon, at the age of 16, he took part in the trade union movement. At 19, he became secretary of his trade union branch. By the time he was 21, he was secretary of the Federation of Woodworkers' Unions in the Drome Department.

His dynamism and gifts as an organiser were such that in 1937, members of his Federation asked him to leave the old Union headquarters in Valence and to take up the post of Federal Secretary in Paris.

And so, in 1938, he was elected member of the CGT Administrative Committee, at the age of 28. He was also a member of the Administrative

Committee of the International Federation of Workers of the Building and Wood Industries.

As soon as the Second World War broke out, Louis Saillant was called up. When the armistice was signed in 1940, he returned to civilian life and for four years fought underground against the Nazi occupiers.

In August 1940, after getting in touch again with the CGT, he entered the underground movement to reorganise the trade union forces and became part of the clandestine Federal Headquarters of the CGT.

After three years in the French people's struggle against Nazism, he was appointed CGT representative on the National Resistance Council on 27 May 1943, and in September of that year he became a member of the Permanent Secretariat of that body.

On 11 September 1944, after Paris had been liberated and while the war against Hitler

continued, Louis Saillant was unanimously chosen President of the National Resistance Council.

After the collapse of Hitler's army under the attacks of the Red Army, the Allied Forces and the People's Resistance Movements, the French trade unions were firmly convinced of the need for unity among labour forces throughout the world, to ensure a lasting peace and to protect the interests of the working class.

The CGT nominated Louis Saillant its fraternal delegate to the British Trade Union Congress in October 1944. In the last few months of that year, many useful discussions were held between the British, French and Soviet trade unions in preparation for a World Trade Union Conference. Along with Benoit Frachon, Louis Saillant was a member of the CGT delegation which attended the first session of the Franco-Soviet Trade Union Committee from 9 to 19 January. On 6 February 1945, in the presence of the most eminent trade union leaders from every country, the World Trade Union Conference opened in London with Louis Saillant as Vice-Chairman.

Louis Saillant took a most active part in the debates, particularly those concerning the admission of trade unions from Italy, Bulgaria, Rumania and Finland and on the future of Germany.

As Secretary of the 13-member Committee appointed by the Conference to draft the Constitution of the future World Federation of Trade Unions, Louis Saillant travelled with the Committee to San Francisco.

He submitted the Com-

mittee's conclusions to the Congress Conference held on 25 September 1945 at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris. With the adoption of the Constitution, which governs the WFTU activities today, the World Federation of Trade Unions was born and world unity in the trade union movement at last became a reality.

The young Secretary of the CGT was unanimously elected General Secretary of the WFTU by acclamation. Since that time, Louis Saillant's entire activity has been identified with that of the WFTU.

Once the programme and Constitution had been approved unanimously, his loyalty to them became a sacred principle. For that reason, he opposed the divisionists in 1949 and refused to set the WFTU on the road to class collaboration and submission to imperialist monopoly interests.

Because of the way he held to his principles and his dynamic conception of the post of General-Secretary, he was unanimously re-elected at the 2nd, 3rd and 4th World Trade Union Congresses held in July 1949, October 1953 and October 1957.

In recognition of his untiring activity on behalf of peace and for the defence, and later the restoration, of international trade union unity, he was awarded the International Lenin Peace Prize in November 1958.

All these who have worked and fought with him join in congratulating Louis Saillant on his 50th birthday and on his 34 years of tireless activity on behalf of the working class and for peace; they wish him long life and good health at the head of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Long life to Louis Saillant, and good health so that he may continue his work for many years to come at the head of our WFTU!

STATE SECTOR STEEL WORKERS' DEMANDS

ROURKELA

The Second Annual Conference of the Rourkela Steel and Mining Mazdoor Congress held on October 30 demanded immediate appointment of a wage board for steel workers pending which the workers should get an interim basic wage of Rs.60 for unskilled, Rs. 80 for semi-skilled, Rs. 150 for skilled and Rs. 250 for highly-skilled jobs. The meeting further demanded a consolidated pay of Rs. 75 p.m. for temporary workers in construction instead of Rs. 1.75 nP paid per day. A. C. Roy presided over the meeting which was attended by delegates from various departments in the steel plant.

The conference passed a resolution demanding safety devices to workers working in dangerous operations.

By another resolution the conference demanded absorption of temporary workers in regular set up. It suggested that doubling of the capacity of the plant should start from 1961 without any gap and not from 1962.

The conference further demanded, among others, ten per cent profit bonus to workers employed by Hochbief Gammon Contractors, provision for meeting places in every "sector", withdrawal of cases for holding meeting at Ambagan, and provision of alternative quarters before demolishing the labour colony near the gas tank.

The conference also demanded that facilities for entering the factory premises should be given equally to all unions. At present they are given only to INTUC union.

It was decided to change the name of the union to "Rourkela Steel Mazdoor Union" and affiliate it to the AITUC.

The conference was greeted by Ali Amjad, Dr. U. Mishra, Nihar Mukherjee and D. C. Mohanty, General Secretary Utkal STUC.

An Executive Committee of 41 persons was elected consisting of S. A. Dange as President, B. K. Ponda as Working President and Nityananda Ponda as General Secretary.

BHILAI

Nearly ten thousand workers attended the rally held at Bhilai on October 9, under the auspices of local branch of the National Federation of Metal & Engineering Workers of India. Sudhir Mukerji presided over the meeting which was addressed by Homi Daji, M.L.A., General Secretary MP-TUC and B. N. Mukerji.

The meeting demanded immediate constitution of a wage

board for steel industry, adequate quarter facilities and treatment of workers as equal partners with the management of Industry. Emphasising the urgent need for providing alternative jobs to workers before retrenchment, the meeting urged the Government not to allow the skill and experience of thousands of workers to go waste.

An appeal was made to the workers to participate in the signature campaign on a memorandum as a first step towards securing their legitimate demands.

MUNICIPAL WORKERS' UNION, ERODE

A sum of Rs. 458 was collected from the workers by the Municipal Workers' Union, Erode in aid of the family of Karuppan who expired on August 23. He was one of the founders of the union and was its President till his death.

Victimisation Of Central Government Employees

It was alleged at a press conference at Calcutta by K. G. Bose, President, Co-ordination Committee of Central Government Employees' Unions in W. Bengal (*Swadhinata*, November 1) that a new wave of victimisation of employees followed the arrival of R. L. Mehta, Joint Secretary to the Union Labour Ministry, to conduct the inquiry into the strike.

It is reported that the Union Home Ministry has written to the W. Bengal Government not to interfere in this regard. It will be recalled that following the pressure of public opinion and the agitation by the employees' organisations and political parties, Dr. B. C. Roy, the W. Bengal Chief Minister, had prevailed on the Union Government to be lenient in dealing with the employees who went on strike in W. Bengal.

R. L. Mehta, apparently, was not satisfied with the manner in which departmental heads dealt with the employees who were on strike and was reported to have asked for sterner measures, K. G. Bose said.

Several instances of new attempts at victimisation were quoted by K. G. Bose. One employee with 24 years' service in the Calcutta P & T had all his increments cut, as a punishment, and he will draw only the salary which he got when he joined service! Two others had their eight increments cancelled.

Authorities are digging up old cases in order to take action on the employees.

R. L. Mehta is reported to have sought information from departmental heads why instances of victimisation were so few in W. Bengal where the strike was so successful.

According to information, as on November 1, there were 69 suspended employees in S. E. Railway, in W. Bengal, 41 in Defence establishments, 13 in P & T, 5 in A. G.'s Office, 3 in Regional Directorate of Food, 7 in Customs, 6 in income-tax, 7 in CPWD and 1 in civil aviation.

So far, in W. Bengal, 11 workers were dismissed in S.E. Railway, 14 in defence establishments, 6 in P & T and 3 in A. G.'s Office. In the P & T Workshop, 6 employees are likely to be dismissed from service.

Eighty employees were demoted as a punishment and increments withheld in the case of about 186 employees.

K. G. Bose said that 17 employees in S. E. Railway are still facing trial and 81 employees are likely to be dismissed from service. 250 railway workers have been served with charge-sheets.

In S.E. Railway, in all 171 employees are under suspension and in Eastern Railway, about 400.

IN OTHER STATES

Reports received from other States indicate quite a large number of vindictive reprisals.

In the income-tax department, 13 employees still re-

main suspended. Some employees who were taken back to duty have been transferred to remote areas. Charge-sheets against employees contain allegations totally unconnected with the recent strike: some of their past activities, even what took place an year ago, have been taken up as cause for disciplinary action.

What is indeed most astounding is the fact that the Income-Tax authorities in Delhi seized all the records of the Employees Association! They claimed they had a right to confiscate union records since the union was no more recognised!

In the Civil Aviation Department, sixteen employees are still under suspension. The local officers in the Southern Region are reported to be particularly vindictive.

In the railways in Secunderabad 118 workers are still under suspension and services of eight terminated.

In the P & T, it is reported that over 200 employees remain under suspension. In the Madras circle alone, there were 21 dismissals and 13 suspensions and four employees were compulsorily retired. In Mysore, victimisation has taken a heavy toll.

It is reported that during the course of proceedings against employees, original charge-sheets are dropped and fresh allegations brought in, in an illegal manner. Vague and arbitrary allegations as "gross misbehaviour" "intimidation", etc., have been brought in as new charges giving the local bosses a free hand in victimisation.

In Defence establishments, ten employees have been dismissed and there are about 400 cases of suspensions and those charge-sheeted.

In most departments, stoppage of increments as a punishment has been awarded in many cases. In some cases, employees lose Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 per month.

FOR INFORMATION OF DELEGATES TO 26TH SESSION OF AITUC

For delegates travelling to Coimbatore via Madras, there are two express trains leaving Madras in the evening.

The Cochin Express leaves Madras Central Station at 6.45 p.m. and reaches Coimbatore next morning at 7.10 a.m.

The Nilgiri Express leaves Madras Central Station at 7.45 p.m. and reaches Coimbatore next morning at 7.55 a.m.

M. P. MINERS' MEMORANDUM TO RAILWAY MINISTER

Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh, Rajnandgaon Branch, submitted a memorandum on October 31, to Jagjivan Ram, Railway Minister when he came to Rajhara iron ore mines under the Bhilai Steel Project, for the opening of crushing plant, Railway passenger service and Bhilai Steel Project Hospital.

In the memorandum, the workers demanded stoppage of retrenchment without alternative employment and setting up of a committee of representatives of management and workers to find out avenues for employment of surplus personnel in other public and private sectors.

The memorandum further dealt with the question of gradation, efficiency test and housing quarters for the workers. The workers urged upon the Government to set up a Wage Board for steel industry and its allied mines as well as to grant 65 days' bonus as paid in Gua iron ore mines.

The memorandum was handed over personally to the Railway Minister by Prakash Roy, Secretary, Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh. The Minister assured the workers that he would consider the demands.

DELHI 'TIMES OF INDIA' WORKERS' VICTORY

The threatened unemployment of about 400 workers in the Times of India press, Delhi, was averted by the united action of the workers, supported by the Newspaper Employees' Federation.

The management of the Bennet, Coleman & Co., Ltd., proprietors of the Times of India, wanted to close down the job-printing section of the press (National Printing Works, the biggest in Delhi), from November 1.

Workers fought against the closure move and early in November, with the workers resorting to direct action, the printing of the daily itself was severely affected and issues in regular size could not be brought out.

The management was later compelled to abandon the closure of the job-section and also concede the other demands of the workers.

The D.A. of the workers was raised by Rs. 8 with effect from January 1, 1960 and it was also agreed to give two to three months' wages as bonus to the workers.

FOURTH CONFERENCE OF ALL INDIA GILLANDERS EMPLOYEES FEDERATION

The fourth Annual Conference of All India Gillanders Employees' Union was held at Madras from September 21 to 24 when the annual report and accounts were passed.

The conference elected office bearers for the new year including J. Basu as Present and K. C. Bose as General Secretary.

AITUC PUBLICATIONS

FIVE GLORIOUS DAYS (On Central Govt. Employees Strike)	Rs. 3.50
REPORT OF THE TEXTILE WAGE BOARD AND AITUC'S MEMORANDUM TO THE WAGE BOARD	Rs. 3.00
CRISIS AND WORKERS by S. A. Dange (library edition)	Rs. 3.00
SEVENTEENTH TRIPARTITE	Rs. 2.50
GENERAL REPORT AT ERNAKULAM by S. A. Dange (few copies available)	Rs. 1.25
HANDBOOK OF TRIPARTITE DECISIONS	Rs. 1.50
A QUESTION TO TRADE UNIONS ON ESI, PF & PENSION SCHEMES	Rs. 1.50
ADVANCE OF THE JAPANESE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT	Re. 0.50

(postage extra)

Publication Department

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

4, Ashok Road, New Delhi.

I. State Committees

by SATISH LOOMBA

Secretary AITUC, and Gen. Secretary, Punjab STUC

In the All-India Trade Union Congress, we have been making attempts to gear up our organisation, right from the union level to the national level. In the whole set up, the State organisation holds a key position. It is not only the crucial link between the national and local; if it functions effectively, it can become the organisation which supplies active leadership in urgent and complicated problems; guide movements, pool, assimilate and generalise local experience; help in the much-needed and equally much-neglected task of cadre training; cement and build up the movement on a State-wide basis.

Are our State organisations doing this important job? The answer must be in the negative. No doubt, there are many difficulties in the way, but that is no answer to our failure. The difficulties have to be overcome, if the organisational lag is to be bridged.

In this article, I shall attempt to deal briefly with some problems of trade union functioning on the State level, strictly from a practical viewpoint.

By and large, experience has forced us to realise that no union can run without an office. Gone are the days when the office followed the flag of the Secretary! Now, in the complicated business matter of running a local union, a well-run office is a necessity.

The local unions have full-time cadres and a large number of part-timers devoted exclusively to the job of running the union. Many unions have comfortable funds and almost every union has an income which at least equals its expenditure.

But what is the picture at the State level? Offices are not functioning, in several cases, as State offices. There is an utter paucity of cadres and funds do not exist. In the absence of this material foundation, the State organisation cannot obviously go very far. The difficulty arises that since the State organisations are not really of demonstrable use to the local unions, the local unions pay little or no heed to building them up; and since the State organisations have neither the office nor the cadres nor get the funds to function properly, they cannot be in a position to discharge the functions which are expected of them.

I would like to place before the readers our experience in the Punjab in building up the State TU centre. At the mo-

ment, we have four full time functionaries, including one full-time lawyer, a bank balance, a good library and a fairly well-equipped office which could be run better, but is well run on the whole. In 1951, when after the general round-up of leftists and trade unionists, we met in our first conference, there were only two unions in the entire State which were affiliated to the AITUC; now there are 72. We had no office, no funds and only one functionary. Most of our TU bases were left behind in Pakistan. As is well known, we have no concentration of industry in one or even a few big centres; it is scattered in various places all over the State and is mostly small-scale.

In building up the centre, the first step which we took was to relieve the State Secretary of all responsibilities in any local union. This is a vital matter. Unless this is done, the State Secretary, like all others, becomes a victim of localism and cannot act as the coordinator of the movement in the State. Being free from local encumbrances, he could move about from place to place, discuss the local problems and guide the cadres on the spot. He could participate in local struggles personally. Thus he was in live touch with the local unions and, at the same time, could through his person, apply the general experience of the movement.

Along with this, we took steps to run some sort of office to carry on at least the minimum work of corresponding with the unions.

Special effort was made to regularly hold meetings of the State Working Committee and General Council. This is a very important weapon for building up good State organisation. At these meetings, not only general problems were discussed, but the individual problems of each union were reported upon and discussed. This helped the unions by giving them collective advice, while at the same time, built up the State centre as a guiding centre. Conferences were held regularly every two years.

Attention was paid by the centre to court work. From the State centre, we helped in conducting tribunal and Labour Court cases. This again benefitted both the unions and the Centre.

Gradually, the number of comrades functioning at the STUC centre was increased to two, then three and now four. We have taken in relatively inexperienced comrades and in their work, they have been trained up.

Funds for a long time remained a bottleneck and even now the position is not very

happy. The STUC has a monthly budget of Rs. 450 and we have a small bank balance. The sources from which we raise money are: (a) STUC affiliation fee; (b) levy of two annas per member per year from all unions; (c) Rs. 5 tribunal fee from each union per hearing whenever an STUC comrade appears for them; (d) all costs which may be awarded in such cases; and (e) 5 per cent of bonus, etc., won by us, out of which 2½ per cent goes to the union concerned and 2½ per cent to the STUC.

Generalising all this experience, I will suggest that at least one comrade, of a level

who can guide, should be spared from all local trade union work to look after the STUC as Secretary. An office should be set up. The Secretary should regularly tour various places and should be personally present in places where major struggles are on. Regular meetings of Working Committees should be held. And, on the basis of all this work, the stage will soon come when the STUC will be able to realise funds from the unions. Once this starts, the vicious circle is broken and rapid progress is possible.

But, if we go on waiting for funds to come in first, and then to organise, in my opinion, this will never happen. Funds for initial work have to be raised somehow; from one or two unions, from one or two centres, or from other donors. Practical work alone will lead to material funds. This is our common experience when we build a new union, and to build up a State organisation, the same technique is needed.

Special Reserve Fund created under the PF Scheme

A sum of Rs. 20 lakhs has been transferred from the Reserve and Forfeiture Account of the Employees' Provident Fund to a new Special Reserve Fund. (The Reserve and Forfeiture Account is composed of employers' contributions forfeited to the Fund in cases of outgoing members who had not completed 15 years' membership as prescribed by the PF Scheme.)

This step was taken by the Central Government in accordance with the decision reached at the 18th Session of the Standing Labour Committee held on April 26 and 27.

The Special Reserve Fund will be utilised for making payments to outgoing members or their nominee/heirs, if provident fund contributions were actually deducted from the members' wages but were not deposited or were only partly deposited by their own corresponding contributions. In such cases, when payment becomes due, the member or his nominee/heir, as the case may be, shall immediately be paid from the Employees' Provident Fund, the entire amount already received from the employer in his account together with interest thereon. The whole of the amount that may remain thereafter to be paid to the member or his nominee/heir will hereafter be referred to as the 'balance due' to him and will consist of the amount of provident fund contributions recoverable from the employer.

Payments out of this Special Reserve Fund towards the "balance due" will be regulated as follows:

1) 50% of the balance due

shall be paid to the member or his nominee/heir from the Special Reserve Fund along with the payment mentioned above.

ii) Another 20% of the balance due shall be paid to the member or his nominee/heir, on recovery of 50% of the Provident Fund contributions recoverable from the employer.

iii) Payment towards the remaining 25% of the balance due shall be made in proportion to the recovery of the remaining 50% of the provident fund contributions recoverable.

iv) Interest payable on the instalments paid, as stated above, will be paid at the usual rates along with the last instalment provided that adequate amount of damages has been recovered from the employer.

Payments from the Special Reserve Fund will, for the time being, be restricted to the following cases only:

a) on retirement on superannuation of a subscriber or after 55 years;

b) on the death of the subscriber; and

c) in the case of total and permanent disability of a subscriber certified by a Medical Board set up by the Board of Trustees or by an authority decided upon by the Board of Trustees.

The Special Reserve Fund shall be operated upon as an imprest and as soon as the arrears, against which payment has been made from the said Fund, have been recovered from the employers, such amounts shall be paid back into the Special Reserve Fund.

PREPARATIONS FOR 26TH SESSION

Dear Comrades,

Further to our circular letter of October 10, 1960, in connection with preparations for the 26th Session, we have to inform you the following:

1 The Reception Committee has decided that delegates will be charged only Rs. 1.50 per day for food. Lodging will, of course, be arranged free.

2 The weather in Coimbatore in January will be somewhat cool, though not so cold as in North India. Delegates are therefore advised to bring at least pullovers and blankets when they come to Coimbatore.

3 Unions are requested to write to the Reception Committee immediately about the number of women delegates who may be participating in the Session. This information should be sent in advance to enable the Reception Committee to make necessary arrangements for the stay of women delegates. The address of the Reception Committee is given below:

Reception Committee,
26th Session of the
AITUC,

C/o Coimbatore Dt. Mill Workers Union,
10/21 Ranga Konar Road
Kattoor, COIMBATORE,
Madras State.
Telegraphic Address:
AITUCONG, COIMBATORE.

4 As already informed, unions should send names of delegates to the Reception Committee and the Central Office of the AITUC in advance. Time of delegates' arrival in Coimbatore should also be communicated to the Reception Committee in advance.

Send us reports on the preparations being made, by way of mobilising the workers on issues to be discussed at the 26th Session, collections being made for sending delegations, etc., for publication.

5 The Delegate Session will begin on January 5, 1961, since the Working Committee and General Council of the AITUC will be meeting a day earlier.

6 The notice for amendments of the Constitution of the AITUC is circulated herewith.

With greetings,
Yours fraternally,
K. G. SRIWASTAVA
Secretary

the AITUC with full rights to speak and vote.

"The Working Committee will determine the number and names of such delegates for every session."

(7) Add, after Article 27, a new Article:

"28. The funds of the AITUC shall be kept in a bank and the Working Committee shall have the power to nominate such persons from among the office-bearers of the AITUC who are authorised to open and operate such bank accounts."

(8) Article 29: Replace the words "Provincial administrative unit" or "Provincial", wherever occurring, by the words "State|Union Territory."

(9) Article 29: Add, after, clause (a):

"State Committee of the AITUC shall have the right to fix levy on affiliated unions in the State, as may be decided by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the members of the General Council of the State Committee."

(10) Article 29: Delete clause (c)—regarding Regional Councils.

NOTES ON AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

(1) Following the recent amendment to the Indian Trade Unions Act, it is now compulsory for trade unions to have a minimum membership of Rs. 3 per year, or 25 nP per month. Conditions governing application for affiliation to the AITUC stipulate that unions should be registered bodies or should get themselves registered soon after affiliation. Therefore, the amendment is proposed to bring the membership fee clause on par with statutory requirements.

(2) The present rate of affiliation fee was fixed years ago and it is necessary in the interest of stable finances for the AITUC and its State organisations that the rates are revised to a reasonable extent. The rates have been streamlined and the levies payable to State Committees are now included in the central affiliation dues.

(3) The amendment follows from (2) above.

(4) Since there are no more "provincial administrative units", the terms in the Constitution have to be made up-to-date.

(5) With the increase in membership of the AITUC and the necessity to limit number of delegates at Sessions within reasonable proportions, the amendment has been proposed.

(6) Office-bearers or Members of the Working Committee or General Council who are working whole time in the Central Office of the AITUC may not be able to work in

local unions and get themselves elected as delegates. In order to avoid this difficulty, provision for ex-officio delegates is proposed in the Constitution.

(7) There was no provision in the Constitution with regard to finances and opening of bank accounts. The provision is therefore added.

(8) Amendment follows from (4) above.

(9) Due to certain organisational patterns, unions in certain States pay to the State Committees special levies on different accounts. It is not intended to disturb such arrangements or to deny such facilities in other States where such special levies may have to be fixed according to circumstances.

(10) Experience of the last few years shows that it is not necessary to have Regional Councils for our present organisational set-up.

EXTRACTS FROM AITUC CONSTITUTION

Article 5 (v): The minimum fee which a Union desiring affiliation to the AITUC shall charge to its members shall not be less than one rupee per year. The General Council, however, shall have power to permit a lesser membership fee in cases of unions consisting of workers from seasonal or sweated industries.

Article 6. Each affiliated union shall pay to the AITUC

(a) (i) An annual contribution at the following rates: Membership upto 250—Rs. 10.00; Membership from 251 to 500—Rs. 15.00; Membership from 501 to 1000—Rs. 20; and at the rate of two naye paise per member for unions with a membership above 1000;

(ii) WFTU Levy at the rate of Rs. 5.00 per 1000 members, and a major fraction thereof; subject to a minimum of Rs. 2.50 for membership less than 500;

(iii) Annual subscription for Trade Union Record as fixed by the Working Committee from time to time;

(b) A delegation fee of Rs. 2 per delegate;

(c) Such other levy as may be fixed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the General Council;

(d) Every affiliated Union shall pay to the State Committee such levy as may be fixed by the State Committee.

Article 8. The AITUC shall consist of: (i) The Affiliated Unions; (ii) The delegates assembled at the General or Special Session; (iii) The General Council including the Office-bearers; (iv) The Working Committee of the General Council; (v) The Provincial Bodies.

Article 16. For the General or the Special Session of the AITUC, the affiliated unions shall be entitled to elect delegates on the following basis:

One delegate for each union having a membership of 200 or less, and one additional delegate for every complete set

(Continued on page 8)

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Notice is hereby given proposing the following amendments to the Constitution of the AITUC:

(1) **Article 5:** Clause (v): Delete the sentence: "The minimum fee which a Union desiring affiliation to the AITUC shall charge to its members shall not be less than one rupee per year," and replace instead:

"The minimum fee which a Union desiring affiliation to the AITUC shall charge to its members shall not be less than three rupees per year, to be collected monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly."

(2) **Article 6:** Delete Clause (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) and add instead:

"(a) An annual contribution at the rate of fifteen naye paise per member, subject to a minimum of Rs. 25, out of which, upto 33-1/3 per cent of the collections will be given by the AITUC to the State Committees, for meeting their organisational and other day-to-day expenses."

(3) **Article 6:** Delete clause (d), i.e., "Every affiliated union shall pay to the State Committee such levy as may be fixed by the State Committee."

(4) **Article 8:** In clause (v), instead of the word "Provincial", insert "State".

(5) **Article 16:** In Clause (a) delete the words "One delegate for each union having a membership of 200 or less, and one additional delegate for every complete set of 200 members, and a further delegate for the last fraction of 200, if the said last fraction consists of 100 or more members," and add instead:

"One delegate for each union having a membership of 200 or less and one additional delegate for every complete set of 200 members upto a membership of 1000; and on membership over 1000, one delegate for every set of 500 members or major fraction thereof."

NOTE: Unions with less than a membership of 1000 will be entitled to elect an additional delegate for the last fraction of 200 if the said last fraction consists of more than 100 members. For unions with membership of over 1000, the last fraction should be over 250 to entitle them to elect an additional delegate."

(6) **Article 16:** After clause (e), add:

"(f) Office-bearers or Members of the Working Committee or General Council who are working in the Central Office of the AITUC will be ex-officio delegates to the General or Special Sessions of

Union Reports

LETTERS

AITUC DAY OBSERVED

TRIVANDRUM:

The Kerala State Transport Employees' Union in a special leaflet on the AITUC Day gave a call to the workers to observe the day and protest against the attack on TU rights.

The AITUC Day was celebrated in different parts of Kerala State.

CALICUT:

The 13th annual general meeting of the Commercial Employees Union, Calicut, in a resolution greeted the AITUC for its glorious record of 40 years. The meeting also greeted the WFTU on its successful completion of 15 years.

PUNJAB:

AITUC Day was celebrated all over Punjab State. In Amritsar a mass meeting was held on October 31 in which the achievements of the working class in India under the banner of the AITUC were explained to the workers. In Jullundur a joint meeting was held. Similar meetings were also held in Phagwara, Sonapat and Ludhiana.

AITUC PRESIDENT VISITS DOHAD

S. S. Mirajkar, President, AITUC, visited Dohad on October 15 to distribute relief of Rs. 150 each to the dependants of the five railway workers killed during the reckless police firing on July 12.

As the dependants of some of the workers were not in Dohad the amount was remitted to their address by M.O.

Bhalchandra Trivedi, General Secretary, Mahagujarat Trade Union Congress accompanied S. S. Mirajkar when he visited the houses of the workers.

WEST BENGAL STUC TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST PROPOSED BILL TO BAN STRIKES

The extended meeting of the Working Committee of the West Bengal Committee of the AITUC held on October 17, decided to hold the State Trade Union Conference in Calcutta on December 2, 3 and 4.

The meeting appealed to all affiliated unions to contribute liberally to the Relief Fund for the Central Government employees. It also called upon all affiliated unions to launch a campaign against the proposed bill to ban strikes in "essential

MADRAS STATE:

The Madurai General Workers' Union took out small processions wearing badges of the AITUC Day. Bus and municipal workers worked with their badges on. A mass meeting was held on October 30 which was presided by M. N. Adinarayan and addressed by K. T. K. Thangamani, M.P., Secretary, AITUC, V. Karmegham and P. Dandapani.

A resolution demanding reinstatement of victimised Central Government employees and restoration of recognition to their unions was also passed in the meeting.

Port and dock workers of Madras held a mass meeting on October 30 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the AITUC.

Celebrations were also held in Tuticorin, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Salem and Trichy to mark the 40th anniversary.

INDORE:

A meeting held at Indore on October 30, under the auspices of Madhya Pradesh TUC brought forth the main fea-

services" as it would, if passed, affect the other sections of the working class also.

The meeting adopted a resolution condemning the reign of terror prevailing at Raniganj Colliery area and demanded that the harassment of workers by anti-social elements must be stopped immediately.

MAHA GUJARAT TUC MEETS

The Working Committee meeting of the Mahagujarat Trade Union Congress held at Ahmedabad on October 2 deplored the discriminatory attitude of Government of Gujerat in not nominating the representative of the AITUC in Labour Welfare Advisory Board. It has also decided to submit a memorandum to the Government on its labour policy in the state.

The meeting appealed to all unions in Gujerat to contribute to the Assam Relief Fund. It was also decided to organise TU classes in different centres.

The meeting further decided to hold the State Conference at Porbandar in the middle of March.

BOMBAY TEXTILE WORKERS DEMONSTRATE BEFORE INTUC OFFICE

Several thousand textile workers of Bombay demon-

strated on October 12, before the office of the Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh (INTUC) which signed a bonus-pact with the employers which was entirely unfavourable to the workers. The workers demonstrated for nearly one hour shouting slogans condemning the pact with the employers.

A mass rally was organised after the demonstration which was addressed by Bapurao Jagtap, J. B. Shukla and Yeshwant Chavan.

THE 14TH ANNUAL MEETING OF STEAM & MOTOR BOAT CREW ASSOCIATION

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Steam and Motor Boat Crew Association, Alleppey, was held on November 7, in the hall built by the union.

The meeting elected the Executive Committee including T. V. Thomas as President and M. T. Chandrasenan as General Secretary. Kalarkode Narayanan presided.

Md. Elias, M.P., General Secretary, National Federation of Metal and Engineering Workers of India, attended the Conference of Rumanian Trade Unions held in October 1960, at Bucharest, as a fraternal delegate from the AITUC.

AITUC DELEGATIONS

K. M. Sundaram, Secretary, Tamilnad Trade Union Congress and Sadhan Mukherjee of the Central Office of the AITUC are participating in the Seminar on Social Legislations being held at Warsaw from November 3 to 24, 1960. The Seminar is held under the auspices of the WFTU with the cooperation of the ILO and the Polish Trade Unions.

To

The Editor, T.U.R.

It has become very difficult for the labourers of Lingamakki colony to live peacefully owing to the activities of the Police Sub-Inspector.

On February 25 two coffee hotels in Karga, about 3 miles from Lingamakki, were looted by rowdies at the connivance of the police. The hotels are only a distance of nearly 100ft. from Kargal Police Station. After the hotels had been looted, the police brought 3 tins of arrack and got them distributed among the looters. The real offenders who had participated in the commission of the grave offence were let off by the police and the innocent Union workers living at a distance of 3 miles from the alleged scene of offence were falsely implicated as accused persons and a case put up. Besides other atrocities were committed on the workers. We had exposed the above atrocities in a hand bill. Even during the rule of the Britishers, such atrocities were not committed by the Police, on innocent folks. The shoes of the police and their henchmen were made to be licked. All these acts were committed by the police and their supporters since the workers were against the illicit distillers. The workers were taken to the police station, made to lie flat and wooden rollers rolled on their bodies. They were beaten mercilessly, kicked with shoes. Moustaches were forcibly cut. Hands were tied from behind. They were taken in a procession in the bazaar of Dingnadkki, Iduvani, and Kargal. They spat on the faces of the workers. At seeing this the womenfolks of the labourers came running and were kicked with boots. Even children of the workers were beaten.

Our families in Lingamakki are being threatened by the police. One Marimuthu, a member of the Union was taken to the police station and beaten. Young women of the workers have no safety at the hands of the police. Police who drink heavily and roam about are apt to commit any heinous acts. Some drivers in Iduvani were also beaten by the police. The contract works given to the Union members were all got cancelled at the instance of the police. If an enquiry is not held immediately and these atrocities are not put an end to, we would undertake to fast till death as there is no other alternative for us.

P. Pannu Sami
A. T. Paramu
N. Mohamed Ismail
S. V. Thangapandi
K. Bhaskaran.
Office-bearers of Sharvathy Project Dam Workers' Union, Lingamakki, Mysore State.

Employer's Threat To Close Down Colliery

According to a report from the Colliery Mazdoor Sabha, Asansol, the management of the Modern Satgram colliery is, in a planned manner, restricting the raising of coal and creating a situation of semi-lockout.

The Agent is reported to have called the underground loaders' sirdar and trammers' and wagon loaders' sirdars on November 7 and told them that the colliery would be lock-out within a few days and re-start later with new workers.

Already, a large number of semi-skilled, skilled and highly-skilled workers like onsetters, banksmen, underground loaders, trammers, fitters, etc.—workers without whom raising cannot be maintained—have been stopped from joining their duties. Their number would be nearly 200.

A large number of workers have been implicated in false

cases (see earlier report in TUR, November 5).

The Home Minister of West Bengal visited the colliery on November 5. He admitted later that there have been several instances of unfair labour practices.

Earlier, on November 1, at a press conference in Calcutta, Renu Chakravarty, M.P., Dr. Ranen Sen, Vice President, AITUC and Kalyan Roy, General Secretary, Indian Mine Workers' Federation, had drawn the attention of the Government and the public to the state of lawlessness, police repression and denial of TU rights to the workers in Raniganj coal belt.

On November 9, T. B. Vittal Rao, M.P., President, Indian Mine Workers' Federation and K. G. Sriwastava, Secretary, AITUC, met the Union Labour Minister, G. L. Nanda, and drew his attention to the serious situation in collieries in W. Bengal.

Solidarity With Central Govt. Employees

MESSAGES FROM ABROAD

A number of trade union organisations, particularly of railwaymen and transport workers in different countries, have expressed solidarity with the struggle of the Central Government employees and protested to the Government of India against the denial of TU rights.

The Seamen's Union of Australia sent the following resolution on October 26, to the Prime Minister, Government of India:

"We, Seamen's Union members at the October stop-work meeting express our concern and disgust at the policy of revenge by your Government against the railwaymen and civil aviation members whose only crime is that they want better living conditions.

"Every ship on the Australian Coast protests at your brutal treatment of these trade unionists and urge you to put an end to this unjust victimisation."

M. O'Brien, General Secretary, Australian Railways Union, Sydney, in his letter to the Prime Minister, Government of India, dated October 10, stated that the union said that the intention of the Government of India to prohibit strikes by workers in railways, civil aviation, etc., "has caused disquiet amongst railway workers of Australia." The letter added:

"On behalf of the Australian Council of the above organisation (Australian Railways Union) which is the largest transport union in Australia, I ask that you direct that the proposed anti-labour measures be disregarded and instead you seek the assistance of your people to help you raise the standard of the people of your country."

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions, Peking, in a message to the AITUC on October 24, stated:

"Chinese workers note with profound concern the heroic struggle of Central Government employees of India and large-scale suspensions, dismissals, trials and violation of trade union rights suffered by broad masses of workers.

"We extend to you and through you to the Indian workers, our fraternal sympathy and solidarity to their struggle for safeguarding vital interests against repression and for defending democratic and trade union rights.

"We firmly believe that militancy of masses of workers is indestructible and through this struggle, Indian working class will further raise consciousness, strengthen unity and achieve final victory."

Similar messages of solidarity were also received from the Ceylon Motor Workers' Union, the Sindacato Ferroviari Italiani, Rome, the Hun-

COIMBATORE UNIONS TO COLLECT RS. 20,000 FOR AITUC SESSION

The AITUC unions in Coimbatore District, after forming a Reception Committee, have started campaign on a wide scale for the collection of funds to cover the expenses of the 26th Session of the AITUC.

In a meeting held on November 2, unions have taken quotas for the collection of funds. All unions agreed to meet separately other expenses to be incurred by each union in connection with preparation for the conference.

We give below quotas taken by different unions:

	Rs.
1. Coimbatore Dist. Mill Workers' Union	10,000
2. Tamilnad Plantation Workers' Union, Valparai	2,500
3. Coimbatore Dist. General Engineering & Mechanical Workers' Union	1,250
4. Coimbatore Cement Workers' Union, Madukkarai, and Asbestos & Cement Workers' Union, Podanur	1,250
5. Mettupalayam-Nilgris Motor Workers' Union	500
6. Coimbatore Tea & Coffee Workers' Union	400
7. Coimbatore Dist. General Workers' Union and Rice Mill Workers' Union, Tirupur	300
8. Coimbatore Municipal & General Workers' Union	350
9. Tamilnad P.W.D. & General Construction Workers' Union, Aliyar Branch	250
10. Pollachi Municipal Workers' Union, Pollachi	200
11. Tirupur Banian Factory Labour Union, Tirupur	200
12. Coimbatore Cotton Ginning & Oil Mill Workers' Union	125
13. Coimbatore Hotel & General Workers' Union	100
14. Coimbatore Dyeing Factory Workers' Union	100
15. Mettupalayam Lorry Workers' Union	100
16. Coimbatore Dist. Manure Workers' Union	75
17. Mettupalayam Arecanut Plantation Workers' Union and Mettupalayam Hotel Workers' Union	50
18. Coimbatore Hume Pipe Workers' Union and Coimbatore Soda Factory Workers' Union	50
19. Coimbatore Beedi Workers' Union	25
20. Trade Unions in Nilgiris District	1,000
21. Miscellaneous	1,500

CIRCULAR TO UNIONS

(Continued from page 6)

of 200 members, and a further delegate for the last fraction of 200, if the said last fraction consists of 100 or more members....

Article 29. (a) Affiliated unions in every Provincial administrative unit, shall from a Provincial Trade Union Congress Committee. Every Union in the Province, affiliated to the AITUC, shall automatically form a part of the Provincial Committee, and a Union which has not secured affiliation to the AITUC cannot become a member of the Provincial Committee. The Provincial Committee and the individual Unions shall have power to manage their affairs according to their own rules, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

Where a Provincial Administrative Unit consists of two or more linguistic units, separate Provincial Trade Union Committees may be permitted to be formed by the General Council.

(b) The Provincial Committee may enrol as Associate

garian Road Haulage and Transport Workers' Union and the Union of Transport and Telecommunication Workers of Bulgaria, among others.

Member any union which has not secured affiliation to the AITUC, but which proposes to observe the constitution of the AITUC, except sub-rule (a)(iv) of Rule 5. The Associate Unions will have no power of voting at the meeting of Provincial Committees, nor will they be entitled to have any privileges of Affiliated Unions under the Constitution of the AITUC.

(c) Regional Trade Union Councils: Where the General Council finds that if affiliated trade unions in an area are grouped together (taking into consideration homogeneity of language and nearness or affinity of industrial units in the area) in a Regional Trade Union Council, the work of the organisation will be more efficiently done, the General Council may authorise the Provincial Committee to organise such Trade Union Councils. The Regional Trade Union Councils will have their own working constitution, which will be consistent with that of the AITUC and of the Provincial Committees. In matters of representations, etc., to the Government concerning regions, the Regional Council may directly approach the Government but where such matters concern the province as a whole, the Regional Council will only function through the Provincial Committees.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION OF
THE AITUC

Notice is hereby given proposing the following amendments to the Constitution of the AITUC:

- (2) ~~(1)~~ Article 6. Delete Clause (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) and add instead:

"(a) An annual contribution at the rate of fifteen naye paise per member, subject to a minimum of Rs.25;M out of which, upto 33-1/3 per cent of the collections will be given by the AITUC to the State Committees, for meeting their organisational and other day-to-day expenses."

- (1) Article 5: Clause (v): Delete the sentence: "The minimum fee which a Union desiring affiliation to the AITUC shall charge to its members shall not be less than one rupee per year", ~~add instead~~ and replace instead: ~~The~~

"The minimum fee which a Union desiring affiliation to the AITUC shall charge to its members shall not be less than three rupees per year,^M to be collected ~~in~~ monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly."

- (3) Article 6: Delete clause (d), i.e., "Every affiliated union shall pay to the State Committee such levy as may be fixed by the State Committee."

- (4) Article 8: ~~Delete clause (v)~~ In clause (v), instead of the word "Provincial", insert "State".

- (6) ^{16.} Article 16. After clause (e), add:

"(f) Office-bearers or Members of the Working Committee or General Council who are working in the apparatus of the Central Office of the AITUC will be ex-officio delegates to the ~~Annual~~ ^{General} /or Special Sessions of the AITUC with full rights to speak and vote.

"The Working Committee will determine the number and names of such delegates for every session."

(7) (6) Add after Article 27, a new Article:

FUNDS

"The funds of the AITUC shall be kept in a bank and the General Council shall have the power to nominate such persons from among the office-bearers of the AITUC who ~~will operate the bank accounts~~ are authorised to open and operate the bank accounts."

(5) (7) Article 16: In Clause (a), delete the words "One delegate for each union having a membership of 200 or less^H, and ~~and~~ one additional delegate for every complete set of 200 members, and a further delegate for the last fraction of 200, if the said last fraction consists of 100 or more members," and replace instead:

"One delegate for each union having a membership of 500 or less, and one additional ddlegate for every complete set of 500 members, and a further ddelegate for the last fraction of 500, if the said last fraction consists of 250 or more members."

(8) Article 29: Replace the words "Provincial administrative unit" or "Provincial", wherever occurring, By the words "State/Union Territory".

(9) ~~XXXXXX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX~~

(9) Article 29: Add, after, clause (a), "State Committees of the AITUC shall have the right to ~~to~~ fix levy on affiliated unions in the State, as may be decided by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the members of the General Council of the State Committee."

(10) Article 29: Delete clause (c).

NOTES ON AMENDMENTS PROPOSED:

(1) Following the recent amendment to the Indian Trade Unions Act, it is now compulsory for trade unions to have a minimum membership of Rs.3 per year, or 25 nP per month. Conditions governing application for affiliation stipulate that unions should be registered bodies or should get themselves registered soon after affiliation. Therefore, the amendment is proposed to bring the membership fee clause on par with statutory requirements.

(2) The present rate of affiliation fee was fixed years ago and it is necessary in the interest of stable finances for the AITUC that the rates are revised to a reasonable extent. The rates have been streamlined and the levies payable to State Committees are now included in the central affiliation dues.

(3) The amendment follows from (2) above.

(4) Since there are no more "provincial administrative units", the terms in the Constitution have to be made upto date.

(5) With the increase in membership of the AITUC and the necessity to limit number of delegates at Sessions within reasonable limits, the amendment has been proposed.

(6) Office-bearers or Members of the Working Committee or General Council who are working wholtime in the Central Office may not be able to work in local unions and get themselves elected as delegates. In order to avoid this difficulty, provision for ex-officio delegates is proposed in the Constitution.

(7) There was no provision in the Constitution with regard to finances and opening of bank accounts. The provision is therefore added.

(8) Amendment follows from (4) above.

(9) Due to certain organisational patterns, unions in certain States pay to the State Committees pay special levies on different accounts. It is not intended to disturb such arrangements or to deny such facilities to other States where such special levies may have to be fixed according to circumstances.

(10) Experience of the last few years shows that it is not necessary to have Regional Councils for our present organisational set-up.