

1964-65

S.No. 385

File Code ⑦

अखिल भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

RANI JHANSI ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

Andaman -
Nicobar

File No. ~~155~~ 152-A

SUBJECT ~~GOA~~

~~UNIONS~~



AITUC DIGITAL ARCHIVE - 2021

Folder Code: 7 File No. 385 S.No. _____

Digital File Code: _____

File Title: Visit of Jai Sukh Lal Hathi

Year: 1965 / / _____

Metadata: Scanned:

Note: _____

SRI HATHI'S VISIT TO THE ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS.

Sri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi, State Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 22nd to 29th January, 1965. Rumours spread in the entire islands that Shri Hathi is coming here for the purpose of an on the spot study of the turbulent situation prevailing in the Islands. The jubilant workers approached the various authorities through their organisations to meet the Minister and submit Memorandum to him. The Cautious Administration unleashed through various agencies indirect threats of victimisation in case they meet Shri Hathi direct and speak the truth. Undaunted by such threats, the organisations made preparations to meet him at any cost any they succeeded to a certain extent even though a doubt is still in the minds of the workers whether Shri Hathi could pierce through the iron curtain and see the reality. The Non-Gazetted Officers Association has requested Shri Hathi that he should address a meeting of the Government employees. But the iron curtain put up by the Administration came in the way and Shri Hathi succumbed to the desires of the Administration that the Minister should not address the ~~meeting~~ meeting of the Government employees whatever may be the peril involved in the survival of the democracy in the Islands.

/reception

On the dawn of 22nd January, 1965 the date on which the Minister was to arrive at Port Blair, people saw hundreds of P.W.D. labourers engaged all along the route from Aerodrome to the Government House for smearing off the writings on the road and removing the hundreds of posters of slogans " Call Back Maheshwari", "We demand legitimate trade Union rights", "End victimisation" etc. For the first time in the history of Andamans, the Government employees took out a three thousand strong procession and marched to the Government House on 27-1-65. They squatted on both the sides of the road in front of the Government House from 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. and shouted slogans such as 'Bureacracy down down', 'End victimisation' and so on while Shri Hathi was interviewing representative of various Organisations and individuals in the Government House.

To the indignation and embarassment of the architects of the well-knit iron curtain, some of the organisations who failed in the normal methods, availed the opportunities of Shri Hathi's sight-seeing visit for submitting memoranda on their grievences.

Sd/- Pritham S. Lall
Convener
Citizens Committee, Port Blair.

Port Blair,
1/2/1965.

2/1/65
13.2

me permission to send ^{the} news telegraphically.
The communication is very irregular here.
Only by exposing high level corruption
and bureaucratic colonial methods, these
islands can dream a democratic setup.
Hope to get a response soon.

A. I. T. U. C.
Received 2660 5/11/64
Replied.....

Yours Faithfully
Paras Ram.

D/20.10.1964.

Note: My all correspondents should be
sent by registered post.

A/
10/11/64

PARAS RAM,
News Correspondent,
PORT BLAIR,
(Andaman Islands)

SRI HATHI'S VISIT TO THE ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS.

A.L.T.U.C.
Received
364211 13/2/65

Sri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi, State Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 22nd to 29th January, 1965. Rumours spread in the entire islands that Shri Hathi is coming here for the purpose of an on the spot study of the turbulent situation prevailing in the Islands. The jubilant workers approached the various authorities through their organisations to meet the Minister and submit Memorandum to him. The Cautious Administration unleashed through various agencies indirect threats of victimisation in case they meet Shri Hathi direct and speak the truth. Undaunted by such threats, the organisations made preparations to meet him at any cost any they succeeded to a certain extent even though a doubt is still in the minds of the workers whether Shri Hathi could pierce through the iron curtain and see the reality. The Non-Gazetted Officers Association has requested Shri Hathi that he should address a meeting of the Government employees. But the iron curtain put up by the Administration came in the way and Shri Hathi succumbed to the desires of the Administration that the Minister should not address the ~~meeting~~ meeting of the Government employees whatever may be the peril involved in the survival of the democracy in the Islands.

/reception

On the dawn of 22nd January, 1965 the date on which the Minister was to arrive at Port Blair, people saw hundreds of P.W.D. labourers engaged all along the route from Aerodrome to the Government House for smearing off the writings on the road and removing the hundreds of posters of slogans " Call Back Maheshwari", "We demand legitimate trade Union rights", "End victimisation" etc. For the first time in the history of Andamans, the Government employees took out a three thousand strong procession and marched to the Government House on 27-1-65. They squatted on both the sides of the road in front of the Government House from 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. and shouted slogans such as 'Bureacracy down down', 'End victimisation' and so on while Shri Hathi was interviewing representative of various Organisations and individuals in the Government House.

To the indignation and embarrassment of the architects of the well-knit iron curtain, some of the organisations who failed in the normal methods, availed the opportunities of Shri Hathi's sight-seeing visit for submitting memoranda on their grievances.

Sd/- Pritham S. Lall
Convener
Citizens Committee, Port Blair.

Sent to 13/2/65
Port Blair,
1/2/1965.
A.D.
Pl. give this to
New Age.
13-2.

'ALL INDIA DEMANDS DAY IN ANDAMANS'

401124 8/3/65

In pursuence of the Call of the Confederation,
'All India Demands Day' was observed by all Government
employees in the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
At Port Blair the day was observed by taking out a
Massive procession and holding a Rally under the
Banner of the newly formed Co-ordination Committee of
Government Employees. The Rally was presided over by
Shri Bhattacharya, Chairman Co-ordination Committee and
S/Shri B.K.Mukherjee, K.T.Oommen, B.L.Banerjee,
P.K.S.Prasad and many other representatives of various
organisations. ^{a address to the gathering} Resolutions regarding full neutralisation
of D.A., revision of cost of living index, revision of
mimum wages, grant of Andaman special pay to all etc.
were passed.

Dear Comrade Achuthan,

Please see that the matter is published
in Trade Union Record.

P.K.S. Prasad
(P.K.S. Prasad)
Port Blair.

To
Shri M. Achuthan,
Editor, Trade Union Record,
All India Trade Union Congress,
No.5, Jhandewala,
Rani Jhansi Road,
NEW DELHI.

g
12/5
9 man.

704 Section A
Some part

A.I.T.U.C.
Received 3.84.7.24.24/2/65
Replied

MEMORANDUM OF DEMANDS OF THE P.W.D. WORKERS OF THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS SUBMITTED TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS SHRI JAISUKLAL HATHI ON HIS VISIT TO THE ISLANDS BETWEEN 22.1.65 TO 29.1.65.

1. The contract system of labours should be abolished forthwith. People are brought from the mainland on two years contract and immediately on completion of the two years, they are sent back and fresh batches are recruited.
2. The workers who have rendered six months continuous service should be brought on to the workcharged estt. as a matter of course.
3. The workers who have rendered three years of service should be declared permanent.
4. Order No.91 dated 28.11.62 of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration regarding leave etc. to industrial employees should be modified. Under that order, leave cannot be accumulated for more than 20 days. After two three years only an employee ventures an opportunity to proceed on leave. 20 days will not be sufficient even for the up and down journeyx due to sailing difficulties. So, atleast the accumulated leave should be granted in full without any ceiling as at present.

The rate of leave should also be modified in conformity with the rate admissible to industrial staff in the Central Public works Department.

5. There are many workers who have not been brought on to the revised scale of pay and granted increments and arrears accordingly. This should be done forthwith. Appointment of casual labourers on Rs.22/- plus D.A should be discontinued. They should be paid fixed pay of Rs.70/- plus D.A and other allowance admissible under the revised scales.
6. Children's educational allowance should be granted to all employees who have rendered three years continuous service in any capacity what so ever. The test should be only their continuous service for three years under the ~~xxx~~ relevant portion of the industrial disputes act.
7. Leave Travel Concession should be granted to all workers who have rendered one year of service reckoned in accordance with the Industrial Disputes act.
8. People who are working in the jungle areas should be amply protected from the attack of 'JARAWAS'. They should be provided with well protected houses and other equipments for this purpose.
9. Ration should be supplied to the workers engaged in the jungle areas. This can be arranged through Co-operative Societies or by the Government direct. Individuals are unable to come to the town area for fetching their requirements which involves atleast two days absence from work and heavy expenditure.
10. Those who are recruited from the mainland, under the conditions, should be provided with rent free accommodation or house-rent allowance. Majority of the workers recruited under these conditions are getting neither. This should be complied with immediately.

TMA

Ne
24 Feb

11. The increased D.A should be allowed to all those who are in receipt of D.A at present. General instructions should be issued to all Heads of Offices to the effect that whenever there is a revision in the D.A it should automatically be applied to all those who are already in receipt of D.A either at the old rates or at the new rates, as the case may be. The existing cases in which D.A has not been granted should be settled forthwith without any further delay.

12. Workers becoming victims of accidents while on duty are not at present compensated in any way either by way of leave or any other compensation. Therefore in all cases of accidents while on duty, hospital leave rules and workmen's compensation act should be invoked.

13. Certain categories of workers are recruited from the mainland as skilled workers on the basis of the Govt.I.T.A certificate held by them. But they are appointed as unskilled workers here. All those who are recruited as skilled workers and brought to the Islands should be appointed in the same category giving back effect from the date of their joining duty.

14. Private employment of Govt-paid labourers by officers and supervisory staff should be discontinued forthwith. Very recently the number has been reduced considerably but the practice has not been abolished so far. Wherever it is absolutely necessary in public interest separate categories of Cooks and Bearers should be created and provided on a rational basis.

15. Adequate arrangements should be made to ensure payments to the workers on the 1st of every month. In case any difficulty is experienced administratively to enforce this system, particular dates should be fixed for each section of the workers within which payment shall be made so that the workers can know on which date they can expect to receive their wages.

16. People who have gone on leave do not get their meagre leave salary even within a year or so. This practice should be discontinued forthwith.

17. Letters from the Union should be attended to and replaced promptly as a rule.

18. In the P.W.D there was strike in September, 1964. The strike took place between 14th and 20th Sept. whereas the office Bearers were taken to custody on 4th September under D.I.R. and released on 23rd September. They have not been paid their wages for the period of their detention. The salary for the period in which they were detained should be paid immediately.

19. The president of our Union Shri Chatterjee who is also an employee in the Marine Department has been dismissed from service after he has been released from Jail along with other office bearers. An after-thought and meflide flimsy charges were framed against him and without giving any opportunity for defending his case, he has been dismissed from service. He should be re-instated in service immediately.

20. A number of Assistant Carpenters who were appointed on Rs.85/- fixed plus usual allowance are still receiving only Rs.200/- total. The increase in D.A from time to time has not been given effect to in their case. They are also due for regular appointment in the scale. Both the above items should be given effect to immediately and the arrears of D.A paid to the concerned employees.

21. Independent Labour Department should be set up as expeditiously as possible.

ANDAMAN SARVAGENIC NIRMANA VIBHAG
MAZDOOR SANGH.

PORT BLAIR

Ref: 8/64

comrade

Dated 20-10-64

2644 28/10/64 -

I have received your letter on 17-10-64 which was send on 21st September 1964. I was send a letter contains the details of our release and the strike. I hope that will get to you now. Also we were send a representative to meet you and M. Elyas to know about the situation of this island at present.

On 2nd October 1964 the section 144 was call back. But on 3rd October the N. C. O. Association of this island had a possession from began to erupting. They to send their beloved president Sri President. On that possession the chief Commissioner of this island terrified and deat~~er~~ the 144 again on 3-10-64. We were catched about 5000 Singapore from public and send it to District magistrate. But even now the section 144 is not taken

There fore the public and the workers are
face much difficulty to live here in a
Peace ful stage.

Please send the copy of the
questions in last postment, about this island.
an early date. We have necessary for
one leader to organise and work in our
union. Can you send a leader, who
know to speak Hindi and Therughu.

I hope, we will get the reply and
the leader as an early date.

Yours faithfully, yours

K. N. Karanakaran
Secretary. A. S. N. V. M. S

Phoenix Bay
Chatham Is
Post Office

A
1/2
1/2

ANDAMAN SARVAGENIC NIRMANA VIBHAG
MAZDOOR SANGH.

PORT BLAIR

Ref: 13/A

Dated 13-11-64

Dear Comrade,

2816 19/11/64 -

I am sending these letters for
your information and necessary action.

1) The resolutions passed by the public
meeting held on 24th October 1964 for
increasing the D.A. and other facilities.

2) Application address to Labour Commission
about the wages of the period of 1-9-64 to
22-9-64. In that period they were in
jail under the D.I.R 300 b.

And other thing is you please
send the parliament questions which was
ask in the last parliament about the Andaman
Send one leader to work for the unions
and Organise the party.

I hope your reply will get soon
Fraternathy yours.

Karunakar

Trd
13/11/64

K. N. Karunakaran

Secretary

A. S. N. V. M. S

Phoenix Bay

Chattam. P. O

Port Blair

TELEGRAM

HOME MINISTER
NEWDELHI

(R)

PRIME MINISTER
NEWDELHI

WORKERS
AFTER OBSERVING PROTEST DAY TODAY WE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ~~MEMBERS~~ OF
ANDAMANS MEMBERS OF ASWMS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVE TO CONTINUE BOYCOTT
OHMAN COMMISSION APPOINTED BY GOVERNMENT FOR NON INCLUSION OF
REVIEW OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FORMULA IN TERMS OF REFERENCE
AND NON GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF STOP WE REQUEST HOME PRIME MINISTERS
PERSONAL SYMPATHY LEST LOWPAID EMPLOYEES FIND HARD MAKE BOTH ENDS
MEET CONSEQUENT PHENOMINAL PRICE INCREASE

SECRETARY

Not to be Telegraphed.

Dated 24th October, 1964.

Secretary,
A.S.N.V.M.S., Port Blair
Andamans.

From

THE GENERAL SECRETARY
A.S.N.V.M.S.,
Port Blair.

Dated the 6th Nov. 1964.

To

The Labour Commissioner,
Andaman & Nicobar Islands,
Port Blair.

Sub:- Payment of wages for the period from
4-9-64 to 22-9-64.

&&&&

Sir,

I am to inform you that the following workers were detained in the District Jail Rule 30 (i) (b) of the D.I. Rules on the 4th September, 1964 and were released on 22-9-1964:

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Office to which attached</u>
1.	Shri Bhaskar Pillai	Sub-Division IV of the Construction
2.	" Karnakaran	Division No. II, A.P.W.D.,
3.	" Raja	Port Blair.

The above mentioned workers have not been paid their wages for the period, they were in the jail. In this connection, I am to state that the said workers were not absent from duty on their own accord but were compelled by the District Magistrate to be away from their duties, detaining them under the D.I.R. Now they have been released and no case is pending against them, they should have been paid their wages for the detention period. But it is noted with regret that the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. II has refused to pay the wages for that period on the plea, that no work no pay, ignoring the circumstances under which the workers were away from their duties. I, therefore, request your honour to kindly to look into the matter and instruct the Officer concerned to make the payment without any further delay to maintain the cordial relations between and employer and employees.

Yours faithfully,

K. N. Karnakaran

(GENERAL SECRETARY)

Copy to:

- 1) The Chief Commissioner, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair.
- 2) The General Secretary, A.I.T.U.C. New Delhi for favour of information and necessary action.

GENERAL SECRETARY

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

TELEGRAM

C. No.

Date
Stamp

2499

2499

SECOND FOLD

Address

S A DANE

SECRETARY AI TUC NEWDELHI.

Time of Booking _____
Receipt _____
From _____
By _____



by Ashoka Road
Windsor Place

FIRST FOLD

O 1050 CA 8 PORT BLAIR 20

.....DIGLIPUR SETTLERS CONDUCTING HUNGER STRIKE TO SOLVE THEIR
LEGITIMATE DEMANDS (.) ARREST AND HARASSMENT BY POLICE GOING ON (.)
UNION MEMBERS ARRESTED (.) STRONGLY CONDEMNED (.) PRAY IMMEDIATE
GOVT INTERVENTION (.) RELEASE OVER MEMBERS....SECRETARY AI TUC..

/RK/ 2010.

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number, office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.

MGIPAh.—18—5-4-65—20,000 Bks.

Sir,



IRON CURTAIN.

It is high time to unveil the iron curtain of Andamans to bring to light the true picture of these Islands. The Islands are part and parcel of India which is supposed to have a free, democratic and socialistic pattern of society. A feeling has been created in the minds of the people of these Islands that they are now facing an interrogation mark and challenge to democracy in the State. These Islands are, in real sense, under the control of Central Government administered through the Chief Commissioner, but in practice, it is under the imperialistic claws of an individual Shri B.N. Maheshwari who is the Chief Commissioner. To cover up his high-handed ruling and anti-socialistic and anti-national activities he has dropped an iron curtain in its front, in the shape of an Advisory Council consisting of few of his satellities. The Members of the Advisory Council are a handful of local politicians, nominated by the dictator Shri Maheshwari. These Members of the said Council are, in true spirit, should be the representatives of a vast population from all parts of the mainland of India. The selection of the nominees to this Council is decided by virtue of the special character of prospective Members, which is, needless to say, the efficiency and capability of the individual to be a "yes-man" of the dictator and to act to his personal needs even at the cost of the best interests of the public. Then how can these nominees be the representatives of the public? These Advisory Council Members--local politicians--under the shelter of Congress Caps are the ions of the dictatorship coated on the nucleus Shri Maheshwari. Now when the people started realising the undemocratic attitude of this Administration, they started to raise their voices against this dictator. The dictator jammed these voices by his threats and victimisation. But as the amplitude and frequency of the voices of the common public and the element of truth and honesty in them were so high that these could reach the walls of our Parliament and the ears of our leaders. But no attention was given to this.

One Mr. P.K.S. Prasad came to these Islands as an ordinary Upper Division Clerk on deputation from the office of the ~~Director~~ Director of Explosives, Nagpur, for a period of three years. He was elected as President of the Non-Gazetted Officers' Association of this Administration. During the period of his activities as President of the Non-Gazetted Officers' Association he was fully engaged in promoting the betterment of the N.G.Os and to uplift their morale and standards, thus, to build a more healthy and strong nation. He pointed out the anti-socialistic activities and corruptions of the Administration and its satellities which drained a large portion of the national exchequer, and which created discrimination among the Government servants who are the same citizens of India. On this the dictator, to protect his self interest, reverted Mr. Prasad to his parent office within a period of three months. This unwanted and undesirable action added fuel to the fire already existing in the minds of the N.G.Os. about the integrity of this Administrator. All the N.G.Os entreated the Home Minister in telegrams to retain Mr. Prasad to which the authorities paid no heed. Mr. Prasad left these Islands and sought the justice for such harassment in the court of law, and the matter, it is heard, is pending in the High Court of Calcutta. Mr. Prasad came back to Andamans at his own liability and still continuing as President of N.G.O.'s Association.

P.T.O.

On 22nd January 1965, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, the Minister of States in the Ministry of Home Affairs, graced the people of this place with his kind visit to these Islands. He met many people and heard many of them in a manner organised by the Administrator. It is understood, when the N.G.Os' Association requested the Hon. Minister for addressing the members in a meeting, they received a reply conveyed by Mr. Maheshwari that the Minister had no time for this and also that Ministers cannot address meetings of the Government servants. Not only this, but it was also conveyed by Mr. Maheshwari that the Minister would not be meeting the delegation of N.G.Os. On further ~~pursuance~~ the Hon. Minister was kind enough to meet the N.G.Os' delegation and Mr. Prasad. This leads to doubt whether the above action of Mr. Maheshwari was within the knowledge of the Minister or not. The Minister who had no time to address the N.G.Os., could find time very conveniently to address a so-called Trade Union Meeting Organised by Shri Maheshwari through his satellites. Shri Hathi had also found sufficient time to address meeting of Gazetted Officers and to pass a good time in the notorious Andaman Club of Port Blair. The argument put forward by Mr. Maheshwari for not allowing the N.G.Os' delegation to meet the Hon. Minister was that Mr. Prasad was not the President of the Association. But it is understood that the Hon. Minister gave a decision that Mr. Prasad was still the President of the N.G.O.'s Association till the High Court of Calcutta decides the litigation either way. Although the Minister gave so many assurances to the N.G.Os. nothing has come true so far and Shri Maheshwari is left at large to continue his anti-social activities.

Recently on 19th February 1965 Mr. Nittoor Srinivasa Rau, Central Vigilance Commissioner visited the Andaman Islands on tour. A wide publicity was given to this and also to the opportunity for the people to meet him. The interviews with the Vigilance Commissioner was fixed by the Chief Commissioner (the dictator Mr. Maheshwari). Shri Maheshwari screened the people who wanted to meet the Vigilance Commissioner and selected few whose meeting with him would not harm the dictator's interests, and others were rejected. Thus the arrangement made by Shri Maheshwari for the public to meet the Vigilance Commissioner was only an eyewash. Probably, Mr. Maheshwari screened the public with the intention only to avoid the people who are against his anti-socialistic activities, entering the Government House;; as the interview of the public with the Vigilance Commissioner was fixed at Government House and the Vigilance Commissioner was the guest of Shri Maheshwari during his stay of one week. It is interesting to note here that Mr. Prasad was also deprived of the opportunity to meet the Vigilance Commissioner. Does the Vigilance Commissioner know about this? This clearly shows the fear of Shri Maheshwari whether Mr. Prasad might disclose some facts going on behind the iron curtain.

When V.I.Ps visit the Andaman Islands, they are given a good picture of these Islands (well made up) completely keeping them in darkness of the matters behind the iron curtain. If any attempt is put forward to take these V.I.Ps behind this curtain this is controlled by pointing loaded guns.

A Muslim trading concern is well established here and they have monopolised the trade in the entire group of Nicobar Islands. These Islands are declared as Tribal Area only for the convenience of these Traders. Nobody is allowed to enter these Islands without the permission of either Mr. Maheshwari or the Muslim Traders. The Andaman Administration is in the clutches of this Company for all practical purposes. Suspicions are formed in the minds of people here that certain informations and documents such as maps and landing plots, etc. are being passed on to Pakistan by some pro-Pakistanis here. There were instances which caused curiosity and alarm in the public minds, on which no action was ~~not~~ taken by the Administration when reported to them. In the present

days of National Emergency when Pakistan and China have become a regular headache to India by their threats, we should be on high vigilance. But instead the Andaman Administration pretends to be ignorant of the pro-Pakistani activities here which will naturally encourage the enemies to take full advantage of the situation. The reports of occasional detection of Chinese and Pakistani poacher ships in the Bay of Bengal have created a sense of fear in the public minds in Andamans. These poacher ships are seen in Andaman waters on the pretext of harmless fishing fleets. But who knows the great idea behind these fishing fleets? It is learnt that in one of these fishing ships some maps and survey equipments were found.

The progress of the development of Andaman Islands are retarded by this unsatisfactory state of affairs which are caused by the dictatorial administration of the present Administrator and a huge amount of public funds is wasted for no purpose.

Is it not possible to unveil this iron curtain? If so when? Will the authorities please take a serious notice of these, and take immediate steps to remove this iron curtain and bring everything in true light, so that the people of Andaman Islands can also feel secure in our democratic and socialist country.

Yours

Probo-nobo-publico.

PS Lall

Pritham S. Lall.

Convener,

Citizens' Committee, Port Blair.

2
MS
17

PARAS RAM,

News Correspondent,

PORT BLAIR,

(Andaman Islands)

20.10.1964.

152-A

To

Shri S. A. Dange,
General Secretary,
A. J. T. U. C.
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

Though I am not known to you, I am writing this letter to you because you had taken active interest in the National struggle in the past and still active in the matter about which I write this letter.

Before I proceed further, I deem it advisable to say a word by way of self introduction, my wife is sole newspaper agent for English, Hindi and Urdu newspapers + periodicals. Recently she got the agency of Telugu and Malayalam newspapers also. Untill 1962, I used to publish "Andaman News" which reflected my interest in the affairs of these islands.

We have here or rather had a peculiar society a tolerably lovely society. But along with that we ardently desire to make our society almost an ideal society. I humbly request and pray for hearty co-operation, balanced guidance and invaluable help in our humble striving. The territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has only a total population of 63,438 according to 1961 Census. Now it may be a couple of thousands more.

So our problems are simple although some people take pains to make them knotty problems. They can be solved, satisfactorily even during the emergency period.

The remoteness of Andaman Islands on a different footing. Although it has lost part of its original meaning, its significance is not lost even in this getage.

The monopoly trade in the Nicobar group of islands had achieved its aim. If any one try to interfere they will grant responsible government by instalment. In these islands the society is pre-communist. In such a place a monopoly business can thrive well. It can also very successfully resist and checkmate a rival, even a superior rival, however influential he may be. The monopoly is still going strong, with its embassy and ramifications at Port Blair and elsewhere. It is so powerful and invincible that it can easily devour and destroy, the nascent democratic movement of this politically underdeveloped place.

If some of us report about these incidents to mainland papers we would be bluntly refused audience here and our movement would be controlled and shadowed.

Since 3rd September '64 the life in Port Blair came to standstill. The peaceful land noted for its all pervading religious tranquillity had become a scene of sadless and cruelty. Section 144 Cr. P.C. is promulgated on some flimsy grounds, and after a break of two days on 2nd October, again on 4th October '64 the section 144 Cr. P.C. is ~~passed~~ ^{extended} for another month. Rule of terror is spread all over Andamans. The corruption saturated Administration who is treating this territory as their paradise feel best to suppress the fundamental rights of people.

I request you Sir to kindly get my despatches sent from this place published in some daily newspapers, and get

- 22) The practice of transferring office bearers of the Trade Union and those dis-treating the activities of the Union should be discontinued forthwith.

Karm

SECRETARY
A.S.N.V.M.S.,
Port Blair.

PRESIDENT
A.S.N.V.M.S.,
Port Blair.

