



THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

SPECIAL ISSUE

5 September 2018; Before The Parliament



5 September 18 • At Parliament

CITU-AIKS-AIAWU

Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally

Massive Strike in National Capital Delhi

(Report Page - 21)



Okhla, South Delhi



Narela, North Delhi



Mayapuri, West Delhi



5 September 18 • At Parliament
CITU-AIKS-AIAWU

WORKING CLASS

AUGUST 2018
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Defeat This Oppressive Rule

Make 5 September Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally Historic

The Working Class August 2018 is a special issue dedicated to 5 September Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally to be held before the Parliament. Write ups of CITU leadership at the Centre in this issue underlined the objectivity, perspective, realities and purpose of the Rally noting different dimensions and directions of the ongoing movements.

Decided by its GCM, CITU launched four months long countrywide campaign during May – August with milestone movements before reaching Delhi for the Rally. These include JEJAA's 23 May district demonstrations; taking pledge on 30 May CITU Foundation Day; incoming AIKS-CITU jointly courting arrest in most of the 720 districts of the country on 9 August, the historically significant day of national independence movement; mass night awakening (*Ratri Jagaran*) on 14-15 August reminding the commitment to the people in politically free India.

Preparatory work for campaign include holding meetings and workshops at all levels; and publications, distribution and dissemination of booklets, pamphlets, talking points on large number of issues affecting the workers, farmers, people and the country.

Organisational efforts for the Rally have four clear purposes - (i) Maximum mobilisation of CITU cadres in its different level units and unions; (ii) closure organisational coordination between CITU, AIKS and AIAWU at all levels; (iii) maximum number of publication of campaign documents on issues, their utilisation and distribution; (iv) maximum mobilisation of the workers in the Rally, '*Not Less Than 2 Lakh*', the clarion call of the GCM.

Together let us make the organisational call of the Rally as the reality so as to determine the future of the working class movement and political direction in defence of people's livelihood and unity by defeating this oppressive RSS-BJP rule.

Joint Call of 5 September Rally

CITU-AIKS-AIAWU

Sub: Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally on 5th September 2018

As you are aware CITU, AIKS and AIAWU have decided to organise a 'Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally' at Parliament on 5th September 2018. This is the first time that such a joint rally is being held at the national level.

A joint meeting of the leadership of the three organisations, to ensure effective campaign and massive mobilisation, was held at BT Ranadive Bhawan on 13th June 2018.

Hannan Mollah, general secretary, AIKS, Hemalata, president, CITU, S. Thirunavakkarasu, president, AIAWU, JS Majumdar, vice president and AR Sindhu, secretary of CITU and Krishna Prasad, finance secretary of AIKS participated in the meeting.

The meeting agreed upon a common logo and slogan for the campaign. The logo is being enclosed. The slogan, in English, will be:

Unite! Fight!

- Against Pro-corporate, Pro-landlord governments!
- Against Anti-labour, Anti-farmer, Anti-national policies!
- For Policies that benefit All Toiling People!

The main demands for the campaign will be:

1. Curb price rise; universalise Public Distribution System; ban forward trading in essential commodities;
2. Implement concrete measures for generation of decent employment;
3. Declare minimum wage of not less than Rs 18000 per month for all workers;
4. Retract anti worker labour law amendments;
5. Ensure remunerative prices for the peasants as per Swaminathan Committee recommendations; and timely public procurement;
6. Implement debt waiver for poor peasants and agricultural workers;
7. Pass Comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers;
8. Implement MGNREGA in all rural areas and amend the Act to cover urban areas as well;
9. Ensure Food security, health, education, housing for all;
10. Provide Universal social security; No contractorisation of employment and equal wages for equal work for men and women;
11. Implement Redistributive land reforms;
12. Stop forcible land acquisition;
13. Provide Relief and rehabilitation for the victims of natural calamities; Reverse neoliberal policies

However, several local issues may be raised in different sectors and different states, linking them with the anti people policies being pursued by the governments.

There shall be independent as well as joint campaigns on these issues.

All the state committees are requested to call joint meetings at the state level at the earliest and form state level coordination committees for the campaign.

A joint draft leaflet will be sent from the All India centre, to be translated into local languages and distributed extensively. A design for the joint poster will also be sent from the all India centre, which the state and lower level committees should print.

Onto 5 September Mazdoor–Kisan Rally

Hemalata

President, CITU

FOR the first time since Independence three sections of toiling people - workers, peasants and agricultural workers - who create the wealth of the country, will be marching together in the national capital on their common demands.

THEY will raise the specific demands of different sections of workers - in the organised sector, public and private, in the unorganised sector and the scheme workers, of the farmers and the agricultural workers. In addition, the lakhs of workers, peasants and agricultural workers who will march to Parliament on that day will also raise their voice against the policies being pursued by successive governments at the centre since the last over two and half decades, whether led by BJP, Congress or coalitions of different non Left parties. They will demand reversal of the neoliberal policy regime which has been imposing huge burdens on the common people while conferring lavish exemptions, benefits and facilities on the few big corporates, domestic and foreign and the landlord classes. They will demand alternative policies that will benefit the common people as opposed to the neoliberal regime that has been sacrificing our national interests, self reliant economy and sovereignty to satisfy the greed of the profit hungry corporates.

THE discontent against the impact of the neoliberal policy regime is growing among all sections of working people. It was visible in the huge participation of the working class in the country wide general strikes at the call of the joint trade union movement in 2015 and 2016. It was visible in the participation of workers of all sectors from all over the country in the massive three days' joint trade union 'mahapadav' near Parliament in November 2017. It is visible in the innumerable sectoral struggles - of the anganwadi employees, the ASHAs, midday meal workers, safai karmacharis, the industrial workers in the public and private sectors. Lakhs of workers have been participating in these struggles. They have even been able to achieve some of their demands and have been able, to a limited extent, to protect their rights and working conditions.

BUT, these struggles have still not been able to change the direction of the government's policies. The link between their day to day issues and demands and the policies being pursued by the governments is not understood by the vast sections of the workers who have been participating in these struggles. While wholeheartedly taking part in the struggles, during elections they have been voting the same parties who are committed to and have been implementing the same policies, to power. Thus, even when the governments change, the parties leading the governments change, workers find no improvement in their conditions. They are compelled to continue their fight on the same demands.

It is in this process that the BJP led Modi government has come to power utilising the discontent of people against the impact of neoliberal policies being implemented by the erstwhile Congress led UPA government. Instead of taking measures to improve the conditions of the people, as per its pre election promises, it has fast tracked their implementation. It has intensified the onslaught on the hard won rights of the workers. Labour laws are being amended to serve the interests of the big corporates; to turn workers into virtual slaves. Agrarian crisis and peasant suicides continue. Agricultural workers do not find work even for a month in a year in agriculture. Number of work days under MGNREGS has drastically come down. Migration has increased. Illusions among the people about Modi being a messiah ushering in 'acche din', of corruption free governance, of employment generation etc are all fast vanishing. This is evident in the struggles of not only the workers but also the peasants in various parts of the country, in Rajasthan, Maharashtra,

Madhya Pradesh etc. It is also evident in the electoral setbacks suffered by BJP in its strongholds in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the recent period.

HOWEVER this discontent and anger among the people needs to be channelised into struggle against the policies that are aimed to increase the profits of the few big corporates, domestic and foreign, at the cost of the vast majority of our toiling people. It is necessary to expose the politics that subscribe to these policies, the political parties that are committed to these policies. While strengthening joint struggles from the joint trade union platform, from the joint platforms of all sections of toiling people, it is also necessary to create this awareness among the toiling people; the consciousness to identify the real causes of their miseries and recognise their true friends.

IT IS with this objective that the CITU general council, which met in Kozhikode in March 2018, has decided to take up an extensive campaign among the working class culminating in a massive rally near Parliament on 5th September 2018. It has chalked out a detailed five month long programme to put into practice its slogans 'reach the unreached' and 'link up issues with policies; expose the politics behind the policies'. All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) and All India Agricultural Workers' Union (AIAWU) have also decided to join the rally at the national capital. CITU has also decided to observe a district level 'jail bhara' called by AIKS on 9th August. In addition CITU has decided to observe a night long 'samuhik jagaran' in thousands of centres across the country on the night of 14th August to remember the vision and sacrifices of our forefathers - the lakhs of workers, peasants, tribals and all progressive people in the struggle for Independence and to pledge to carry forward the struggle to achieve that vision.

Hectic preparations have been going on during this period after the general council meeting, with the entire organisation being involved in the preparations. The CITU centre has prepared a booklet, six pamphlets and 24 'talking points' on various issues for the campaign. Some more campaign material is under preparation. All these are being translated and distributed among the CITU cadres, activists and workers in all states. In addition, the state and several district committees are preparing leaflets, posters and other campaign material on specific local issues.

State level workshops to discuss concrete measures to strengthen the organisation as well as to concretely plan the campaign have been completed in most of the states. In the few others they will be completed by the first week of August. In many states, district level workshops, sectoral workshops and union level working committee and general body meetings have also been completed. Joint meetings of the state and district level leadership of CITU, AIKS and AIAWU are being held to plan the jail bhara programmes and the joint campaign for it.

The implementation of the tasks taken up in the general council was reviewed in the meeting of the extended secretariat of CITU in June. The CITU secretariat is scheduled to meet again on 2nd August to further take stock.

As per the reports from all over the country, the campaign is receiving enthusiastic response from the workers from all sectors, even more so where the message has reached to the grass root level.

THE 'Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally' on 5th September will surely be a historic event in the annals of struggles of the working people of our country.



Towards a Bigger Combat against the crime
On people and the nation in the Days to Come
Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh March to Parliament on September 5

Tapan Sen
General Secretary, CITU

THE CITU GENERAL COUNCIL meeting held on 25-28 March 2018 in Kozhikode, after four day long intense deliberation has adopted a series of programmes to be observed by CITU unions and its fraternal and associate federations from May 2018 onward finally to converge in massive **“MAZDOOR KISAN SANGHARSH RALLY AND MARCH TO PARLIAMENT” ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2018**. The General Council expressed its sincere gratitude for All India Kisan Sabha and All India Agricultural Workers’ Union agreeing to join the Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally on 5 September 2018.

PROGRAMMES are 1) Massive countrywide mobilization along with other fraternal class and mass organizations on 23 May 2018 at the call of Jana Ekta Jana Adhikar Andolan—a joint platform of workers, peasants, agricultural workers, students youth and women organizations and other associates of the Left, 2) Widespread observance of CITU Foundation Day on 30 May 2018 through countrywide workplace level mobilization and taking a pledge to consistently fight against capitalist order for a change as per CITU’s constitutional goal and prepare itself politically, ideologically and organizationally in that direction, 3) Join in a massive way the district level “Jail Bharo programme” being organized by All India Kisan Sabha on 9 August 2018 and highlighting workers demands and supporting the demands raised by AIKS, 4) Organising mobilization throughout the country on the eve of independence day on 14 August 2018 as many places as possible in the form of “Samuhik Night Long Jagaran” highlighting the aspiration of people in a independent country for better life for all and in defence of secular democratic character of the Indian State as enshrined in country’s constitution. And all these series of programme will converge in massive Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally and March to Parliament on 5 September 2018.

ALONG WITH THE ABOVE PROGRAMME, THE CITU GENERAL COUNCIL HAS ALSO MADE A SERIOUS INTROSPECTIVE EXERCISE ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL SITUATION WITHIN CITU up to the primary unit level, identified self critically the weaknesses and deficit and finalized a document on organization focusing on the organizational task before the entire CITU in the context of its constitutional goal and the most critical situation facing the working class in the country and the urgent task before working class movement to confront and combat in concerted collaboration with its class allies. In fact the series of elaborate programmes of agitation and mobilizations decided by CITU General Council including every detail of its preparatory organizational exercise and extensive campaign has been conceived as critical test for the entire organization and movement.

CITU RECEIVED, while going to the Press, the report from all the state committees and federations about successful observance of the programmes of 23 May 2018 and 30 May 2018 throughout the country. Reports were also received about active organizational initiative for widespread campaign for the forthcoming programmes of 9 August, 14 August and 5 September 2018 being undertaken by the state committees, federations and the affiliated unions aimed at reaching the widest section of working people from all walks of life. Encouraging reports are also received for joint campaigns by the workers and kisan organisations in many parts of the country creating lot of enthusiasms among the ranks of workers, peasants and the agricultural workers.

THIS issue of the CITU journals, both - The Working Class and the CITU Mazdoor, being released in August 2018, is going to be last one before the 5 September 2018 Rally before the Parliament. In the midst of ongoing countrywide campaign, this write up is aimed at focusing on certain concrete issues to focus upon in the final round of campaign.

THE ISSUES before the ongoing agitational and campaign programmes is to rouse the toiling people for a countrywide offensive combat in the days to come against the anti-people and anti-national policies of the government at the centre designed to take the entire country and her people towards disaster only to serve the interest of the corporates, both foreign and domestic and also the landlords class. Demands of the workers, peasants and agricultural workers in the ongoing agitation have already been elaborated in the previous issues and also through numerous pamphlets, booklets and other campaign materials. The sum total of all those demands is a determined urge for an alternative pro-people policy regime for which present regime of neoliberal capitalist order have to be made to retreat and recapitulate towards reversal of those anti-people and anti-national policy measures. If they retreat on their own, which they will not so easily, we have to force upon such retreat and reversal through bigger militant battle.

PRESENT PHASE OF AGITATION, CAMPAIGN AND MOBILIZATION CONVERGING IN 5 SEPTEMBER MARCH TO PARLIAMENT IS MEANT FOR *Preparing the toiling people for such bigger combat, raising their consciousness to enable to identify their real enemy and train the gun against the exploitative and destructive system itself. Our agitation and campaign must reach the entire unreached to convert their anger into realization, to enable them to discover the link between their distress and deprivation with the neoliberal policy regime and the politics of neoliberalism and their agents in polity and enemy of the mankind stands identified and targeted.*

BATTLE MUST GO ON BECAUSE *it is a battle against the neoliberal project of the present Modi Govt of loot and plunder on the people and country's resources to benefit the corporate-landlord combine, against the designs of imposing conditions of slavery on the toiling people taking away their rights to oppose and dissent, and also simultaneously against the philistine and poisonous machinations on the society to divide the people and disrupt their unity on various divisive lines-communalism, casteism, and various hues of parochialism and the likes, so that their attention is diverted from the real issues and the peoples' unity in united struggle stands disrupted.*

THEREFORE, *Our struggle to resist the onslaught on our rights and livelihood is integral to our struggle to defend the unity of the toiling people against the poisonous and divisive onslaught being engineered by the ruling polity on the neoliberal exploitative onslaughts, for saving the country's resources from loot and plunders, for protecting and expanding unity of the toiling people decisively defeating the designs of disruption and communal/ divisive polarization in our ongoing journey towards ending the exploitative regime itself.*

OUR PREPARATORY CAMPAIGN *Must address the people with such comprehensive focus aimed at exposing the politics of neoliberal capitalism, which is simultaneously repressive, authoritarian as well as poisonously disruptive and divisive.*

AS THE CRISIS OF THE NEOLIBERAL SYSTEM GETS DEEPENING EVERY DAY AND ANGER IS SPREADING AMONG THE PEOPLE AT LARGE, THE RULING POLITY HAS BEEN RESORTING TO WORST FORM OF MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN about their so called successes in granting relief to people on different counts. In fact, the word misinformation is an understatement, it is a lie campaign projected as truth with the help of corporate run media. It is so unscrupulous that it reminds again the famous saying of a working class leader of Marx's time, T J Dunning as quoted by Marx in his Das Capital Volume 1, 150 years ago, which is still relevant. It is about the inbuilt

unscrupulousness and desperateness in the capitalist system in quest of profit at any cost by any means. The more it is in crisis, such unscrupulousness becomes more desperate and aggressive. As T J Dunning said, *“With adequate profit capital is very bold. A certain 10% will ensure its employment any where50 per cent positive audacity; 100 per cent will make it ready to trample all human laws; 300 per cent and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, not a risk it will run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged. If turbulence and strife will bring a profit, it will freely encourage both.”*

LET US CITE A FEW EXAMPLES OF SUCH UNSCRUPULOUS FALSEHOOD being propagated from the highest seats of governance with the active support of the mainstream media. ï% FIRST, ON EMPLOYMENT GENERATION which has become the biggest victim of the aggressive neoliberalism pursued during last four years of Modi regime; it has turned negative. Labour Ministry’s survey about employment generation in the eight most labour intensive sector including construction, IT, textile etc has recorded that during the years from 2014-15 to 2016-17, employment generation was to the tune of around 5.5 lakhs; this figure, if counted together with the job-losses due to closure and shutdown of industries during the same period, displayed an absolute decline in overall non-agricultural employment. Side by side the ILO-RBI data reveals that of the 27 sectors of the economy, employment in the primary and manufacturing sector, covering more than half of that 27 sectors, has actually declined during first two years of Modi rule while there were some marginal increase in construction, financial and business services, mostly informal in character. In the face of this grim situation, the Ministers, including the Prime Minister quite recklessly spoke loudly about huge employment generation during last two years, which are all white lies. The Prime Minister in his interview in the Swarajya Magazine has stated about employment generation in formal sector of 41 lakh between September 2017 and April 2018. The Finance Minister, while delivering his budget speech (2018-19) claimed an employment generation of 70 lakh in the previous year 2017-18. The Labour Ministry claimed as new employment generation of 21 lakh as per expenditure incurred in Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) envisaging payment of employers’ contribution towards provident fund for new employment created by the Govt of India. Can any body match these widely differing figures conveniently vomited by different ministers of the same Govt like 41 lakh, 70 lakh, 21 lakh etc vis-à-vis the actual official data and survey report of 5.5 lakhs in three years. Nobody can do so since they are unalloyed falsehood being propagated by the Govt at different occasions as per their convenience without any hesitation. What else can be more fraudulent?

ï% SECOND EXAMPLE IS ON HEALTH CARE. Budget speech announced a comprehensive health care scheme for hospitalized treatment for 10 crore families granting Rs 5 lakh per family per year through medical insurance route. This is being popularly touted as Modi-care and named as Ayusman Bharat Scheme. The Scheme has not yet been started and even the budget did not sanction any worthwhile cognizable amount; but shrill and noisy campaign has been going on through advertisements in media spending public money and supplementary campaign by the mainstream media. After all, the scheme of Ayusman Bharat can no way take off before the forthcoming Parliamentary election. But the Modi Govt and its bandwagon which is already in election mode has been making loud noise on the same projecting an achievement although there has not yet been a single beneficiary of that scheme. But even if the said scheme takes off, what it will actually mean for the people? This will mean money will flow from Govt exchequer to Insurance companies, mostly private ones as premium for the said health care scheme and side by side Govt health care system including the primary and subsidiary health centres and district and state level hospitals will start getting gradually dismantled or handed over to private hands via PPP route. On the other hand it will be big business fortune for the private insurance companies as their track record suggests. After announcement of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the private insurance companies collected Rs 21500 crore as premium within one year from the Govt kitty but settled the insurance claim of affected farmers of only Rs 4270.55 crore, which is less than 20%

of the total premium earning, meaning thereby more than 80% margin earned by the Insurance Companies in one year only on crop insurance account. For insurance based public health care as being planned by Modi administration, same result like crop insurance is going to be the inevitable reality. Another big fraud is being engineered on the people just to ensure effortless profit for the private insurance tycoons, including foreign entities.

THERE ARE MANY SUCH EXAMPLES OF SUCH FRAUD AND DECEPTION engineered on the people by the Modi Govt but we will end by citing the example of the latest of such fraud as of now, i.e., the Govt announcement on so called enhancement of Minimum Support Price for Kharif crops for the farmers. The Govt has been touting this announcement as a historic decision for the benefit of farmers and as usual that has been getting wide publicity in the mainstream media. But in reality this has been a historic betrayal to the farmers and the greatest fraud and deception engineered on the agricultural population. After four years of their regime the Modi Govt announced the so called enhancement of MSP for Kharif Crops, completely ignoring their commitment in BJP's election manifesto and the Finance Minister's assuring statement in the last budget speech in the same direction. In reality the MSP for most of the Kharif crops as announced by the Govt reflects actually a decline in real terms (taking account of the inflation in the input prices) compared to MSP announced last in the year 2013. Moreover given the consistent rise in input and fuel costs during last four years, even the enhanced MSP will be well below the current cost of production of most of the Kharif crops leading the farmer sustain a loss ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 1825.50 per quintal. And yet the Govt of the day has been touting their MSP enhancement as a big bonanza to the farmers.

SUCH GOVT SPONSORED FRAUD ON THE MASS OF THE PEOPLE HAS BECOME THE HALLMARK OF THIS MODI GOVT. Not only that, under cover of such fraudulent and deceptive exercise being made with lot of noises, what is going on has been the dubious mechanism of subsidizing the corporate landlord lobby from the national exchequer built up by common people through their productive activities and also shouldering increasing burden of indirect taxation. And such subsidization through huge direct tax concession along with increasing accumulation of unpaid direct tax by the same corporate community, paying for employers' obligation on provident fund in the camouflage of employment generation, promoting large scale temporarisation of employment relations through apprenticeship, contract system and fixed-term employment, promoting business of private insurance in the name of public health care, promoting privatization of all public transport system including Railways and various other dubious ways are pushing the entire people and the country's economy towards disaster. And this entire process exposes the desperate bid of the capitalist class under present crisis ridden neoliberal format to go on committing crime on the people and the country; "there is no crime, which they will hesitate or scruple" and that is the real face of the present ruling polity and the system they are thriving on.

FORTHCOMING STRUGGLE front-lining for the first time the joint and concerted countrywide agitation and action of the workers, peasants and agricultural workers together will definitely pave the way in the days to come for a bigger militant combat against the ruling polity and their policies of criminality on the people as well as on the country as whole, in order to save the people and save the country.

FRAUD, DECEPTION AND CRIMINALITY WILL NOT PASS !



Class Perspective of **5 September Mazdoor-Kishan Sangharsh Rally** Swadesh Dev Roye Secretary, CITU

Mazdoor-Kisan Sangharsh Rally (Sangharsh Rally) scheduled in New Delhi on 5 September 2018 is an important necessity in terms of the aims, objectives and organizational path incorporated in the Constitution of CITU and articulated on the documents: Task on TU Front and also the Organisational Document adopted at Bhubaneswar in 1993 and Updated through an elaborate process this year as per the decision of the Puri conference of CITU.

In order to contribute its best by the CITU for the cause of united struggles of the working class in the country and achieving desired result from such united struggles to strengthen the organization of CITU to advance towards its ultimate goal of complete emancipation of toiling classes, independent activities and actions by CITU unions is a must. We must always remember the perception of CITU on united struggles. The success of united front and united struggles has to be measured not in successful implementation of the programmes of struggle. At the end of each such united struggle, we must make an assessment how far organizationally we have advanced as a result of such struggles. The importance of the 5 September Sangharsh Rally must be understood keeping in mind the above organizational perspective of CITU.

It is a well laid down and long tested organisational principle of CITU that unity and united front tactics do not succeed unless the organization working for it has a growing independent approach to the masses through its independent work. Neglect to such work leads to tailing behind others and jeopardize the struggler for unity. It will be suicidal for the CITU and its trade unions to forget or tone down its independent and militant activities in the name of unity.(Task on TU Front)

Goal: Socialism; Path: Class Struggle

Regarding the ultimate goal of the working class, the aims and objectives set forth in the Constitution of CITU has *inter alia* declared “*The CITU believes that the exploitation of the working class can be ended only by socialising all means production, distribution and exchange and establishing a Socialist State. Holding fast the ideal of socialism, the CITU stands for the complete emancipation of the society from all exploitation ...*” (Section 3 (A))

Regarding its commitment to class struggles the CITU Constitution has enunciated: “*It firmly adheres to the position that no social transformation can be brought about without class struggles and shall constantly repeal attempts to take the working class along the path of class collaboration ...*” (Section 3 (D) 9)

Struggle for trade union unity is an instrument of sharpening the class struggle and deepening class-consciousness. It is an instrument of bringing ever-larger numbers of workers to the point of class struggle, and rejection of the line of class collaboration. It is an instrument of changing the correlation of forces existing inside the trade union movement - the correlation between the forces standing for a revolutionary trade union line and those standing for a movement within the frame work of the present system.

The Upgraded Document on Organisation

CITU leaders from top to bottom, the cadres and the rank and file must consciously correlate the implementation of the tasks charted out in the upgraded Organisational Document and the campaign for mobilising workers for the 5 September Mazdoor-Kisan Sangharsh Rally.

The war cry of CITU: “*Reach the Unreached and Expose the Politics behind the Policies*” demands new organizational strategy, tactics and practice. At the same time the Kozhikode General

Council call for CITU's mobilization for the September Rally must not be less than Two lakh also warrants extra ordinary political – ideological commitment, organizing skill and zeal to fulfill the Kozhikode call. It is, therefore, necessary to clearly understand that the renewed organizational task has been linked with an immediate, extra ordinary independent Action Programme of CITU – the Mazdoor-Kishan Sanghrash Rally.

Ideological Understanding

A very significant task enunciated in the Organisational Document is political and ideological education of our leaders and cadres. One of the topics exclusively discussed in the Organisational Workshops at all the States and Districts levels currently in progress is this basic organizational task. We must not forget that necessary organizational zeal, skill and commitment cannot be instilled in the leaders and the cadres in our trade union movement without developing proper ideological devotion.

To achieve the desired long term success from the Mazdoor-Kishan Sanghrash Rally greatly depends on our political-ideological campaign in course of mobilising workers for the September Delhi March. Our campaign must not only be concentrated on immediate economic demands, it must be directed to expose the anti-people policies of the Modi Government and prepare for fight for alternative people-oriented policies.

“Increasing the influence of the revolutionary line and decreasing the appeal of the non-revolutionary line organisation must be vigorously pursued to imbibe revolutionary consciousness among the working class. Without this the struggle will never create the ground for the working class to discharge its historic task.” (Tasks on TU Front) The disjoint between the ideology and the trade union work must be addressed in the campaign for 5th September Sanghrash Rally.

Comrade EMS in his pamphlet “Collective Bargaining in the Struggle for Peoples Democracy” has said “*The trade unions and other class-mass organizations are the primary weapons of class struggle. They however are not the only weapons of class struggle, which, in fact, has three faces – economic, political and theoretical.*”

EMS continued to say, “*The basis is the economic struggle which is the initial form in which the class finds its feet. Together with the fighting mass organizations of other sections of the toiling people, the trade unions fight the day-to-day economic battle, to which however are added two other forms – political and theoretical. Only by mastering all the three forms of class struggle can the working class lead other sections of the toiling people in the struggle against class oppression, defeating capitalism and its allies.*”

Cautioning the working class against the danger of fighting only the effect and not the cause, it has been noted “At the same time and quite apart from the general servitude involved in the wages system, the working class ought not to exaggerate to them the ultimate working of these every day struggles. They ought not to forget that they are fighting with effects, but not with the cause of those effects; that they are retarding the downward movement, but not changing its direction; that they are applying palliatives, not curing the malady.” (Communist Manifesto). CITU's independent programme provides opportunity to unleash political and ideological campaign and propaganda linking with agitation and action. The 5th September Sangharsh Rally is certainly one such unique opportunity.

Neo-liberalism and United Struggles in India

The country has witnessed encouraging action oriented united fight against the policies of neo-liberalism from its very inception in India. The role of the left trade unions in general and that of CITU in particular in laying the solid foundation for the ever longer united struggles is an appreciated fact. The history of the working class movement pertaining to the period since 1991 till today shall be always remembered for unique composition of trade unity and the 17 countrywide united strike

action and the historic event of 'Mahapadaav' in Parliament Street, New Delhi continuously for three days (9-11 November 2017).

The present political and economic situation vis-à-vis the working class movement has been elaborately discussed in the Upgraded Document on Organisation under the caption Changed Situation: Aggravation of crisis and Onslaught on Workers, People and Society. The authoritarian style of functioning the Modi Government, height of onslaught of neo-liberalism and fascistic communalism constitute a huge challenge to the working class. *"This necessitates much more resolute united resistance by the working class."*

In the situation the task before CITU is to reenergize its organizational capacity to contribute effectively to push forward the united struggles. Further, the forthcoming period is going to witness more attack by the ruling polity of the day. This is the background and challenges before the ambitious independent campaign and action of the Mazdoor-Kisan Sangharsh Rally of 5 September.

The Fight Against the Systemic Crisis of Capitalism

In course of our campaign for the Sangharsh Rally, our leaders and cadres must put before the people the facts, features and formulations about of the systemic crisis of capitalism which is not only continuing but aggravating with the passage of time throughout the capitalist world.

Trade War initiated by the US President Donald Trump has engulfed the entire world economy focusing capitalist economies and is getting intensified. The export oriented economies are bound to be worst hit. In this connection we must recall with class conviction that the champion of neo-liberalism – the US imperialism is abandoning the policies of neo-liberalism now and embracing the so called protectionism. 'Regonomics' and 'Baker Plan' are no longer capable to provide relief to capitalism from the crisis of its own creation.

Under the onslaught of Finance Capital driven globalization the working class has been facing barbarous onslaught from the big business both domestic and overseas. Cases of trade union busting and attack on trade union rights are increasing in the developing countries, which are destination of choice for the MNCs. In such a situation, the right to freedom of association and right to collective bargaining supplemented by Right to Strike are very crucial.

However such attack in the era of systemic crisis of capitalism coupled with the outbreak of 'Trade War', the working class all over the world is confronting extreme onslaughts on life and livelihood. The real wage is going down, the share of wages in value added to production is sliding, and living standard is going down. Social security measures are dismantled. Labour legislations protecting employment have been replaced by laws that enhance the arbitrary power of employers to fire workers, reduce compensation for firing and hire temporary and casual labour. The condition of the toiling people in India under Narendra Modi led NDA Government is rather despicable.

Keeping in mind the challenging situation and different aspects of our organization and struggle discussed above, let us mobilize the total machinery of CITU up to the grass root level to make the 5th September Mazdoor-Kishan Sanghrash Rally at New Delhi a trade union event Delhi has not witnessed in the memorable past. Let the September Action usher in a new era of unity and struggle to fight for the alternative policies put forward in the campaign materials produced at CITU centre in terms of the main booklet, the pamphlets and the taking points.



On The Working People Major Attacks of Modi Govt. in 2018

J. S. Majumdar
Vice President, CITU

Massive countrywide campaign has been launched by CITU, its units, unions and federations to make the Mazdoor–Kisan national rally of CITU-AIKS-AIAWU in front of the Parliament on 5 September 2018 a historic event. Waves of campaign, which began in May, and its conclusion, in the present phase, in the massive rally on 5 September in the national capital will significantly contribute to the country's democratic movement. Widely contacting the masses through grass root campaign and the massive rally have focused agenda to defend the rights and livelihood of all toiling sections and unity of the people. These obviously lead to the ultimate defeat of the present government at the Centre which has been attacking on the livelihood of the people in massive scale and disrupting people's unity with deception and diversions.

Even less than a year before next Lok Sabha election, RSS-BJP led Modi government has been continuing its attack on the livelihood of different sections of the working people covering these misdeeds with deception, which is the hall mark of this government. Following is the chronicle of some major attacks perpetrated by Modi government in this calendar year 2018.

Fixed Term Employment

On 1 February, 2018, as a big concession to corporates to replace permanent employees and their burden of annual incremental wage till retirement age and, accordingly, dearness allowance, house rent, bonus, gratuity, EPF etc; by Fixed Term Employees in all sectors; the union finance minister Arun Jaitley put it in the union budget that (i) there would be 'Fixed Term Employment' in All Sector, with statutory benefits of EPF and ESI, and for that (ii) the government will pay management's part of EPF contribution for 3 years as incentives. The indication is very clear that replace permanent employees by 3 years fixed term employees. In his budget speech, Arun Jaitley also called this as creation of 'Formal Jobs'. Finally, 'Fixed Term Employment' was notified on 16 March, 2018 through amendment in Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules.

Betrayal of Peasants with Deception Again

Before 2014 Lok Sabha election, BJP and now prime minister Narendra Modi had promised to the peasants of the country to implement Swaminathan Committee's recommendation on Minimum Support Price (MSP), but had gone back from that promise after coming to power.

On 4 July, 2018, after long four years, BJP government with much fanfare announced MSP for Kharif crops for the financial year 2018-2019 touting it as cost+50% and is being 'historic'. In a statement same day the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) condemned it as 'historic betrayal' to the peasants.

The government calculated cost as A2+FL where A2 stands for farmer's out of pocket expenses on inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation, hired labour, hired machinery etc and FL stands for cost of unpaid family labour.

Whereas Swaminathan committee recommended Comprehensive Cost as C2 which includes A2+FL+ rentals / interests on own land and fixed capital.

Interestingly, costs of industrial production of goods and services include *land*, labour, *capital*, and enterprise. (*Italics added*).

According to the calculation by the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP) itself there are vast differences between the government-announced MSP and the MSP if it would have been based on Swaminathan Committee's recommendation as shown below.

Crop	A2+FL/ Quintal	C2/ Quintal	MSP (2018-19) / Quintal	C2+50%	Difference Between C2+50 & MSP/ Quintal
	CACP Costs for 2018-19				
Paddy	1166	1560	1750	2340	-590.0
Jowar Hybrid	1619	2183	2430	3274.5	-844.5
Bajra	990	1324	1950	1986	-33.0
Ragi	1931	2370	2897	3555	-658.0
Maize	1131	1480	1700	2220	-520.0
Arhar	3432	4981	5675	7471.5	-1796.5
Moong	4650	6161	6975	9241.5	-2266.5
Urad	3438	4989	5600	7483.5	-1883.5
Groundnut	3260	4186	4890	6279	-1389
Sunflower Seed	3592	4501	5388	6751.5	-1363.5
Soyabean	2266	2972	3399	4458	-1059.0
Sesamum	4166	6053	6249	9079.5	-2830.5
Nigerseed	3918	5135	5877	7702.5	-1825.5
Cotton (Med. Staple)	3433	4514	5150	6771	-1621.0

(From: AIKS statement)

It is very clear from the above, even based on the enhanced MSP, announced by the government, farmers will be facing a loss on all the Kharif crops ranging from Rs.590 to Rs.1825.50 per quintal and the Modi government's claim on huge benefit to the farmers is nothing but a total fraud on the people.

AIKS statement also said that there is huge disparity in cost calculation by Central agencies and the States' agricultural departments, centrally determined costs being much lower; and both are below farmers' actual costs. The MSP recommended by State governments (including BJP ruled States) based on their cost calculations are much higher than MSP announced by the Central government.

AIKS also pointed out that no step has been taken to ensure assured procurement. Without assured procurement any such announcement is only notional. Public procurement is taking place only in few crops like paddy and wheat and that too below 20% of total production. In most other crops there is no procurement in most States.

The tall claim by Modi government, on benefitting the farmers though enhancement of MSP of Kharif crops, is nothing but fraud and deception on the people at large.

Deception in Job Creation and No Record of Rising Unemployment

Since 1 February, 2018, Modi government started hiding realities on 'Creation of Jobs' and stopped collecting data on 'Jobloss' and 'Unemployment' altogether.

Labour Bureau under the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has stopped Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey after the last survey in 2016 as it exposed Modi government's failure in job creation and disturbing figures of unemployment. "In place of creating more jobs, the government stopped carrying out the Annual Employment-Unemployment Surveys thereafter," says DNA newspaper on 6 March, 2018.

Initiated by PMO and aided by NITI Aayog, Modi government since 1 February 2018 started projecting job creation on the basis of new addition of EPFO accounts claiming these to be 'Formal Jobs' as stated in the 2018 budget speech of Arun Jaitley.

New EPFO accounts reflects new addition in number of accounts in 'Formal Sector' and not 'Formal' or Regular Jobs. These include large number of accounts of contractor workers.

Again the total number of new EPFO accounts also reflects high attrition rate in same jobs particularly in IT & IRES sector and service sector.

Govt. Dismisses Workers Beneficial EDLI Scheme

On 26 June, 2018, delaying it for more than a year, the union labour minister informed in the tripartite CBT meeting of EPFO that the union law and finance ministries unilaterally rejected the unanimous recommendation of CBT, chaired by the union labour minister himself, about workers EDLI scheme accruing a minimum assurance benefit of Rs 2.50 lakh for the employee who dies while in service; and a graded loyalty cum life benefit of Rs 30,000 - Rs.50,000 for the employees retiring after 20 years of contributory service. Both the benefits are self funded by EPFO.



Killing Minorities by Lynching Continues in BJP Ruled States

Despite Supreme Court's order to take all steps to prevent mob lynching, punish the guilty and make specific law by the Parliament against mob lynching; the mob lynched of minorities and others continues unabated by Sang connected storm troopers in different parts of the country. Latest being the inhuman and barbaric killing of another Haryana poor milk farmer Akbar at Lalwandi under Ramgarh police station of Alwar district of Rajasthan on Friday, the 20 July, 2018.

Alwar, under Basundhara Raje led BJP government has become the cleansing by lynching site by communal forces. It is the third killing of a minority milk farmer after Pehlukhan and Umer Khan on the plea of cow protection. It is possible only in a country where human beings are killed in the name of animal, said AIKS general secretary Hannan Mollah in a statement.

Due to continuous hate campaign against the Minority and Dalits, the different RSS outfits are creating a situation under which such barbaric crimes are committed continuously in BJP ruled states. As the killers are not punished, rather they are garlanded by BJP minister in Jharkhand; these criminals are encouraged to such killings. Even after Supreme Court's order the administration under BJP government and their cohorts are not changing their act of crime against humanity, the statement said.

AIKS demanded immediate arrest of all the criminals giving them exemplary punishment sincerity and swiftly for deterrence to such crime of lynching in future; immediate payment of rupees one crore compensation by Rajasthan government for maintenance of Akbar's large family; and to ensure that such crimes are not repeated in the state.

Strengthening Workers Peasants Alliance

Possibilities and Initiatives

A. R. Sindhu
Secretary, CITU

CITU constitution says *“The CITU promotes relations of solidarity with the peasants and agricultural workers in the fight for land, against usury and rent, and high taxation and lend every help to the forces of agrarian revolution, to support in full the struggle of the agricultural workers for higher wages and decent conditions. The CITU believes that no lasting improvement in the economic conditions of the working class is possible without a complete liquidation of the feudal land relationship, and ending the monopoly of the big landlords.”*

Comrade B.T. Ranadive pointed out *“The support to the peasants and agri-workers’ agitation is not just a demonstration of solidarity and sympathy with them. It is part of the working class endeavor to build a powerful workers’ and peasants’ alliance in the cause of agrarian revolution and supporting the demand of the agricultural workers. Without this alliance the present social set up cannot be changed, the bourgeois-landlord classes cannot be ousted from power.”* Comrade B.T. Ranadive had again and again reminded us of this task. In 1983, he had noted *“A dangerous weakness of India’s trade union movement is its isolation from Agricultural workers and the mass of Peasants. This is bound to be fatal in a country where the Agricultural workers and Peasants form the overwhelming majority of People.”*

Elaborating this further, Bhubaneswar Document points out that *“The need, for abolition of capitalist exploitation and intensification of our effort to educate the workers in that direction, has assumed enormous importance. To achieve this and to fight back the new offensive by the ruling class; the entire toiling masses are to be brought together effectively. This is the stupendous task facing the working class and the CITU.*

“The task cannot be fulfilled unless the working class; the most advanced detachment, plays a leading role. Unfortunately, we have not made our class aware of its role in the present period which is primarily responsible for its inability to discharge its responsibility.”

15th conference of CITU discussed this issue in a commission paper ‘A strong Worker-Peasant Alliance – Urgent need of the hour’ and adopted the recommendations of the commission as the tasks of the conference. The adopted paper directs *“Considering the gravity of the rural distress and the level of exploitation and the deplorable living conditions of the vast majority of the rural poor, it is most urgent to focus on the fight against the landlord rural rich nexus. Given the increased presence of the trade union movement in the rural India and the changed character of the rural proletariat, CITU has to play a very crucial role, both direct and indirect, in this.*

“While developing this class struggle, it is will be imperative that we have to take on the caste and gender oppressions which are predominant forms of class oppression in many parts of the country. It is also quite natural that the unity of the exploited classes has to be based on the war against all divisive forces such as communal elements.

“CITU must organize support and solidarity actions in each and every struggle of the agricultural workers and poor peasants. Solidarity is not merely issuing press statements, but mobilizing workers in support actions- rallies, demonstrations, mobilizations etc., collecting funds for the support of their struggles, conducting mass campaigns etc., and also becoming a part of activities. In natural calamities like flood and droughts our unions must jump into relief activities.”

CITU continues to take many initiatives at various levels in this direction. Peasant struggles are supported with resources, solidarity and joint actions and campaign etc. in various states

including in Maharashtra for the Kisan Long March and in Rajasthan peasant struggle. In Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu etc draught relief activities were conducted.

We have been observing worker-peasant solidarity day on 19th January in memory of the martyr agricultural workers who were shot dead by the ruling classes in Tamilnadu, U.P. and in other parts of the country on that day in 1982 joining the first ever general strike in independent India by the working class called by the National Campaign Committee.

The Worker Peasant Sangharsh Rally, to be held on 5 September 2018 is the first ever national mobilization of the basic classes in our country. CITU General Council has decided to utilize this action programme not only to consolidate and expand CITU, but also to overcome the biggest weakness of the trade union movement, as BTR pointed out, in playing a leading role in addressing the issues of the poor peasant and agricultural workers, our class ally.

All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers (AIFAWH) has been trying to take up this task. In Karnataka, A.P., Telangana, Punjab etc. AIFAWH has experience of Anganwadi workers organising ASHA, MDM workers, construction workers, poor peasants, MNREGA workers and others in coordination with the leadership of the concerned organisations.

The experience of project 'Save ICDS' taken up in united A.P. in five projects set the example in this effort. To begin with the issues of better infrastructure and facilities of the Anganwadi centres itself was taken up. Meetings of beneficiaries were held, issues were discussed and plan was made to take up the issues. With regular interaction with the village people we can identify other issues to be taken up, convince people and take lead in forming committees in coordination with the organisations of identified sections of the people and take up struggle on issues.

The 8th conference of AIFAWH held in January 2016, had decided that all its state units, after discussion with CITU state committees, shall take such initiative in coordination with other organizations to organize at least one more mass organization in at least one block in every state. The organizational workshop held in 2017 reviewed the implementation. Encouraging reports came from different parts of the country. Anganwadi district committee in Jalna of Maharashtra had organized MNREGA workers in 25 villages in 2 months and took up the issue of their pending wages.

5 September Rally and its campaign have been discussed in AIFAWH working committee and it is decided that AIFAWH would take up the campaign among the agricultural workers and peasantry. In the national midterm review meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, targets were fixed for campaign through leaflets and concrete plans were adopted for organizing the peasants, agricultural workers, MNREGA workers in selected projects in coordination with the CITU, AIKS and AIAWU. A target was fixed to distribute among these sections 10 lakh leaflets on their issues. Contacts will be made during the campaign and meetings will be organized at village level where the leaders of the organisations of each sections will also attend. Efforts will be made to bring them in the 5 September Rally and form the organisation of these sectors. After the rally review will be made and measurers will be taken to further consolidate these organisations. If implemented with proper plan, this will be a model to be replicated by the rural workers unions.

In every sense the 5 September Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally will be unique and historic.
(Underline added for emphasis)



INDUSTRY & SECTOR

Banking

Modi Government Panicked, Withdraws FRDI Bill

Ultimately, the Modi cabinet in its meeting on 18 July, 2018 decided to withdraw the draconian Financial Resolution & Deposit Insurance Bill (FRDI) 2017 (*The Working Class August, 2017*) which was introduced in the Parliament on 11 August, 2017.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had stoutly and publicly defended the FRDI bill in his election speeches in Gujarat. *"In fact, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told an election rally in Gujarat that the Congress was 'spreading lies' that the FRDI Bill will lead to 'bankrupt banks taking away people's hard-earned deposits'. 'Do you think I will let that happen?' he had asked,"* reported Indian Express on 18 July, 2018.

Yet, the Modi government decided to withdraw the Bill even without waiting for the report of the joint parliamentary committee to which the Bill was referred. Reason for such U-turn is 'huge public backlash', commented by *Business Today* on 19 July saying, *"Modi govt plans to withdraw controversial FRDI Bill amid public backlash"*. Because, *"The FRDI Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha last August, had drawn protests from the Opposition, the bank unions and the public alike over its 'bail-in' clause"*, it says.

Opposition to the FRDI Bill was one of the issues on which the bank employees and officers observed countrywide bank strike on 22 August, 2017 at the call of United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) stated the statement of Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI). *"During the course of our independent campaign against the privatisation spree of the present central government in recent period, we highlighted the derogatory provisions of the Bill particularly the 'Bail in' clause that was intended to protect the willful defaulters at the cost of the depositors' money"* said BEFI general secretary Pradip Biswas.

Entire media highlighted a single point that the Bill led to *"panic withdrawal of cash by depositors and eroded public trust. The basis for these fears is a controversial "bail-in" clause in the Bill that says that in case of insolvency in a bank, the depositors will have to bear a part of the cost of the resolution by a corresponding reduction in their claims."*

Now Tying LIC with Corporate Bank Defaulters

Modi government pressurized LIC to acquire 51% share of debt-ridden IDBI bank and thereby paying Rs. 13,000 crore to the government. This is a big fraud shifting to LIC the burden of huge NPAs and loss of IDBI, caused by the corporate defaulters, on perpetual basis.

IDBI which was initially established as a subsidiary of RBI was taken over by the government as a development bank and later became a commercial bank by 2003 Act. It is the first and the worst bad bank with highest NPAs of Rs.55,000 crore due to corporate defaulters and incurred huge loss of Rs.8,238 crore in 2018. Now the burden and the management of this bank is thrust upon LIC. In league, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) gave permission to LIC to acquire 51% IDBI shares violating its own norms of not allowing LIC to hold more than 15% shares in banks.

All India Insurance Employees Association (AIIEA), the largest organisation of LIC employees, in a letter to the chairman of LIC on 25 June, 2018 has expressed its serious concern about this move and raised the question of trust and confidence of the policy holders.

CITU in a statement on 1 July opposed this move which is help the corporates who have dragged IDBI into such huge losses through NPAs and the government itself mopping up over Rs.13,000 crore from LIC to meet its fiscal deficit. LIC is the only insurance company which is having a track record of 92% of claims settlement and is having the highest confidence of the public. This move of the government will lower the small investors like workers, presents, middle class employees and professionals' confidence in LIC. This act of the government is also to favor private players in insurance sector, the CITU statement said and demanded to withdraw the decision.

In a statement on 30 June, CPI(M) also condemned BJP government asking LIC to bailout the worst NPA defaulter bank, the IDBI; mopping up Rs.13,000 crore from LIC for itself and dismantling all regulatory mechanism to protect the rich defaulters from repaying their loans.

Public Sector

Victory of DCI Workers – Officers Struggle in Vizag **Government Withdraws Move to Privatise DCI**

This 13 July, union shipping minister Nitin Gadkari informed the press that Modi government's decision of 1 November, 2017 for strategic sale of public sector Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) has now been dropped. NITI Aayog had recommended DCI's strategic sale by divesting entire 73.44% government's share in it.

"Sustained struggle by employees, changing political scenario after TDP walked out of the BJP-led NDA coalition and apprehensions over its fallout on the general elections due next year have led to the Centre's decision to drop privatisation of Dredging Corporation of India (DCI)," concluded national daily *The Hindu* in its report on 14 July.

The announcement of dropping DCI's privatisation proposal caused wave of jubilation among the workers and officers of DCI and other workers and the people in Vishakhapatnam. A rally was brought out to celebrate the victory of their struggle. After all, the supreme sacrifice of N. Venkatesh, the young DCI employee in Vizag who ended his life on 4 December, 2017 in protest against the central government's move of DCI's privatisation did not go in waste.

Since government's decision to privatise DCI; the employees including officers were on lightening strike, 3 days strike and on continuous relay hunger strike in protest and were joined by the workers of other trade unions. CITU president Hemalata and general secretary Tapan Sen addressed the workers-officers on relay hunger strike in Vizag. In an unique expression of solidarity, the people of Visakhapatnam voted against privatisation of DCI with overwhelming majority of 98.8% of more than a lakh casted votes in the people's ballot.

CITU general secretary Tapan Sen, the then MP, wrote to the prime minister opposing DCI's strategic sale highlighting concerned parliamentary standing committee's observation in the report that *"It seems some sort of anarchic decisions are being taken with the vested interests in Government to make DCI a sick unit which resulted in taking over of the dredging work by the private companies at exorbitant rates."* (*The Working Class, January and February, 2017*)

There was wide support from political parties. Janasena leader Pawan Kalyan, YSR Congress M.P Vijayasaireddy, state secretaries of CPI(M) P. Madhu and of CPI Ramakrishna visited the agitation camp and extended their support. The chief minister assured the delegation, led by CITU state president Narsingarao on 7 December, that Rs.5 lakh compensation would be paid to Venkatesh' family and taking up the issue with the central government. Chief minister informed that the central government had not even consulted the state government before taking the decision on DCI privatization.

Minister Nitin Gadkari informed that three major public sector ports - Visakhapatnam Port, Paradip Port and New Mangalore Port - would acquire DCI shares. On 7 December,

STATES

Karnataka

CITU Union's Big Victory in BEL Workers' Election

BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
JALAHALLI POST, BENGALURU-53

No:429/TRA/W/58/15-21/08
SECRET BALLOT FOR IDENTIFYING NEGOTIATING TRADE UNIONS. ELECTION DATE: 23.06.2018
Date: 23.06.2018

SL NO	UNION'S NAME	TOTAL VOTES POLLED BOOTH NO'S WISE					POSTAL BALLOT	TOTAL	%
		1	2	3	4	5			
	TOTAL VOTES POLLED	458	361	299	179	225	17	1539	
1	BEWUF	140	124	84	57	63	7	475	30.86
2	BEMS	30	20	17	14	13	4	98	6.368
3	BEWU	235	190	170	92	131	6	824	53.54
4	BEYKS	53	27	28	16	18	0	142	9.227
	TOTAL	458	361	299	179	225	17	1539	

RETURNING OFFICER

For deciding 'Negotiating Trade Union', the workers of public sector Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore Complex elected CITU affiliated Bharat Electronics Workers Union (BEWU) as the single largest union securing 53.54% of total 1539 valid votes of the workers in the secret ballot held on 23 June. Out of four contesting unions, INTUC affiliated BEWUF was distant second with 30.86% votes. AITUC affiliated BEYKS was in 3rd position securing 9.22% votes. BMS affiliated BEMS was in the last position with only 6.36% votes.

CITU state committee extended warm greetings to all BEL employees for the confidence that they expressed towards CITU in this election and assured that BEWU would defend the interests of all the workers in pursuing their issues with the management; in defending BEL from poaching by private sector and anti-people, anti-workers policy attacks by RSS-BJP government at the centre and JD(S)-Congress government in the state.

Delhi-NCR

Strike for Minimum Wage, Safety and Other Demands

Anurag Saxena

At the joint call of Delhi units of 11 central trade unions (CTUs) – CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, UTUC, LPF and MEC - the strike of the unorganised sector workers in NCT Delhi and adjoining areas of Noida and Ghaziabad in NCR on 20 July was successful mainly demanding enforcement of notified minimum wage of Rs.13,896 for unskilled workers in NCT Delhi; fixation of Rs.20,000 as minimum wage at current price level; common wage board for entire NCR region; safety measures at work places; regularisation of contract workers; registration and welfare benefits to construction workers; to stop removal of street vendors; constitution of all labour related tripartite committees; new recruitment in municipal corporations

and government departments; implementation of 7th pay commission at par; and against fixed term employment and proposed labour laws amendments by the Central government.

Background of the Strike

The demands have significant background. Though, after long drawn serious struggles, the minimum wages were notified on 3 March, 2017, the same is yet to be effectively implemented. It may be recalled that in absence of safety measures, 28 workers were killed in separate industrial fire accidents this year alone. During election, AAP Party promised regularisation of jobs of the contract workers. The construction workers welfare benefits have been stopped since Delhi police under central government started investigation on FIR against the labour department and welfare board officials two months back. Street vendors are being removed under 'smart city project' and to favour the multinationals.

Strike Preparation and Campaign

Strike decision was taken in the 7 May joint meeting of all CTUs. On 2 June 2018 a joint convention was held at AITUC Bhawan in New Delhi where activists and leaders from all sectors participated and decided to print one lakh handbills and 7,000 posters jointly. Area level joint meetings / conventions were held in East, West, South and North Delhi; and in Ghaziabad and Noida. Joint tempo campaign was conducted in the 18 industrial areas of Delhi and in 5 industrial areas of Ghaziabad and 4 industrial centres of Noida and Greater Noida. More than 200 street corner meetings were held during this campaign in industrial areas as well as in workers colonies. Sectoral joint handbills were printed and distributed among construction workers, street vendors and scheme workers. All CTUs participated in the strike campaign in Delhi. But, only CITU, AITUC, HMS and INTUC participated in joint strike campaign in Ghaziabad. In Noida, except CITU, all the other unions withdrew from the strike call.

CITU Delhi state unit separately printed 10,000 posters, 12,000 stickers and 20,000 handbills especially focusing on the issue of minimum wages for industrial workers. Almost all CITU unions held general body meetings. Separate campaign material handbill and posters were printed by respective unions on their own demands supporting the strike. In all around 3 lakh handbills and 35,000 posters were printed. DSMRO conducted the campaign in a very meticulous way. It printed 2,000 folder handbills and conducted meetings in 11 hospitals of Delhi. Supportive actions were conducted by Delhi Jal Board employees, Airport employees unions, Transport department etc. To sensitize the workers street theatre shows were conducted at 16 places covering all the regions.

Impact of strike

Around 1.5 lakh workers participated in the strike in Delhi. Industrial activities were completely paralyzed in Narela industrial area, Badli industrial area, Rajasthani Udhayog Nagar, Wazirpur Industrial Area, GT Karnal Road Industrial area of North Delhi. Similar impact was seen in Mangolpuri Phase-I, Udyog Nagar, Peera Garhi, Mayapuri Industrial area phase-I, phase-II, Nariana Industrial area all in West Delhi; and Okhla Industrial area Phase-I, phase-II and phase-III of South Delhi. Partial impact was witnessed in Patparganj Industrial area and Jhilmil, Friends Colony industrial area. There were huge processions of workers in almost all the areas reflecting the anger among them.

In Ghaziabad district Sahibabad site-4 industrial area saw the maximum impact of the strike. At 8 points picketing started early morning at 6 am. Here women activists took the lead in boycotting the work. Industrial activity was affected in Anand Industrial area, Merrut road Industrial

area, South of GT Road and Dasna Mssourie Industrial area. Around 1.9 lakh workers participated in the strike in this area.

In Noida Gautam Budh Nagar district successful picketing and processions were organized at 8 points. Thousands of workers participated in these processions. One of which was concluded at city magistrate office and another one at district magistrate's office in Surajpur area where it was converted into a public meeting. These meetings were addressed by district trade union leaders and Kisan leaders. Memoranda with charter of demands were submitted to the city magistrate and district magistrate. Hosiery complex was most affected with 80 per cent workers numbering around 60,000 were on strike. In total more than 1 lakh workers participated in the strike in this area. Around 1026 sales and medical representatives participated in the strike.

The police detained around 6 persons including Anurag Saxena (CITU) in Patparganj and 2 activists in Badli Industrial area. The Central Warehousing Corporation in Ghazipur area of East Delhi remained shut due the workers strike. All 200 contract workers of Indira Gandhi International Airport staged dharna at Mahipalpur bus stand in support of the strike. Around 800 workers of Delhi Jal Board also staged dharna in front of their head office (Varunalaya Bhavan). The Construction workers had organized dharna at 16 places. The central march to Delhi assembly which started from civic centre at 11.00 am and the participation was mainly from DBC and Safai Karamcharis, street vendors, domestic workers, and Anganwadi workers. The public meeting at Delhi Secretariat was addressed by Anurag Saxena (CITU), Vidyasagar Giri (AITUC), Satyabrata Puniya (INTUC), Rajendra (HMS), Santosh Rai (AICCTU), Nasim (UTUC), Subash Bhatnagar (NMPS), and SNS Kushwaha (Rehri Patri). Dhiren Sharma (AITUC) presided over it.

It was after a gap of almost 10 years that Delhi, Ghaziabad and Noida workers decided to go on strike on its own initiative.

In the meanwhile in a significant development on 18 July 2018, the Delhi Contract Labour Advisory Board meeting took a historic decision deciding that Delhi government would take all the outsourced contract employees on its direct payrolls in all the department of Delhi government. The joint trade unions platform congratulated the workers of Delhi NCR for their huge participation in the successful strike in Delhi, Ghaziabad and Noida. (*Anurag Saxena is CITU Delhi state general secretary*)

Haryana

60,000 Govt. Employees Courted Arrest En Massé

As media estimated, more than 60,000 employees of all departments of state government; semi-government; cooperatives; boards; municipal corporations, councils and committees; universities and scheme workers, braving summer heat and rains, brought out processions, staged demonstrations and en massé courted arrest in all district headquarters across the State of Haryana on 28 June in response to the call of Sarva Karamchari Sangh Haryana.

'Jail Bharo' agitation was in protest against state government's betrayal in implementing agreements, signed during earlier agitations, and against the policy of privatisation and outsourcing of public services; and to remind the BJP state government about the promises made in their last election manifesto.

The 'Jail Bharo' was in continuation of the employees agitation demanding strengthening of public services departments by permanent recruitment against vacant posts; reversal of policies

of privatisation, outsourcing and contractorisation; ordinance to protect the services and interests of the workers affected by the annulment of the policies for regularisation notified in 2014 by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 31 May, 2018; abolition of contractor system and regularisation of part time and contract employees in all the departments; restoration of old pension scheme and ex-gratia scheme; increment in house rent, medical allowance and all other allowances since January, 2016 as per election manifesto to provide wages and pension equivalent to Punjab; doubling children education allowance, fulfilling the promise of Rs.15,000 as minimum wage; cashless medical facilities to the employees, pensioners and their dependents based on the actual expenses; recognition of AnganwadiMDM, ASHA and village watchmen as government employees providing minimum wage; and implementation of agreements signed with ASHA, Anganwadi, MDM and urban local bodies and other employees organisations.

'Jail Bharo' agitation was supported by CITU and its affiliated unions of ASHA, Anganwadi, Mid Day Meal workers and of Grameen Safai Karamcharis also joined the Jail Bharo programme. In all 22 districts. Women employees participated in large numbers and spearheaded the movement. Sarva Karamchari Sangh, Haryana declared its firm determination to further intensify their statewide agitation during monsoon session of the state assembly. (*Input: Subash Lamba*)

Massive Agitation and Victory of Asha Workers

Asha Workers Union of Haryana, affiliated to CITU and Haryana Sarb Karamchari Sangh, achieved a big success and ended their ongoing agitation of state level indefinite *Ghra Dalo Dera Dalo* since 16 July in Karnal, the chief minister's home town; with victory celebration on 20 July when Haryana government issued notification giving effect to the already signed agreement between the union and the government on 1 February, 2018.

20,000 Asha workers had been participating in the *Dera Dalo* agitation for this single demand of notification of the agreement. The Mahapadav of Dera Dalo agitators was addressed by Asha workers national leader Rajana Nerula, CITU state president Satbir Singh and general secretary Jai Bhagawan and state leader Binode Kumar; Sarb Karamchari Sangh leader Subhash Lamba; union's state president Prabesh and general secretary Surekha and others.

Notified benefits to Asha workers include Rs.4,000 as fixed wage effective from January, 2018; Rs.300 per delivery in general category, and Rs.400 rural and Rs.300 urban institutional delivery under JSY; Rs.250 each for vaccination; Rs.350 for ANC, Rs.550 for counseling all effective from 1 April, 2018; Rs. 3 lakh as ex-gratia payment to the family in case of death of a Asha worker; service weightage to be given to a Asha worker in recruitment of MPHWS and staff nurse etc.

Earlier, for implementation of the agreement Asha workers resorted to indefinite strike since 7 June, 2018 which was called off on 15 June on signing minutes with the government. Yet, the notification was not issued earlier. (*Inputs: Surekha*)

Punjab

Anganwadi Union's 3 Days Long March

About 5000 Anganwadi employees, coming from different parts of the state, in their working uniforms and red caps, and red flags in hands, started 3 days Long Protest March from the city of Fatehgarh Sahib on 28 May. The Long March was organised by CITU's Anganwadi employees union, Anganwadi Mulajim Union (AMU) and was led by CITU's Anganwadi employees' national federation AIFWAH president Usha Rani, union's state president Harjit Kaur Panjola, its general

secretary Subhash Rani and the chairperson of the union Dharamjit Kaur. CITU state leaders including state general secretary Raghunath Singh, vice president Chander Shekhar, Jatinderpal and others also joined them.

During the March, they were welcomed at several places and food and refreshments were provided by the people of nearby towns and villages. The March reached Chunni Kalan on 28 May at night covering a 15 km distance. On 29 May the march began at 5:30 a.m. from village Chunni and reached village Sohana at 7 p.m. covering about 17 km distance. On the second day also marchers were provided food and refreshments by different mass organizations and panchayats.

On 30 May, the March started at 6 a.m. for Chandigarh covering about 9 km distance in the scorching sun and reached the border of Punjab and Chandigarh, where the March was stopped at a huge barricade manned by big contingent of armed police. Unmoved, the determined thousands of marchers sat on the road and staged dharna. When there was no response from Government of Punjab, the protesting Anganwadi employees lied down on the road under the scorching sun. 30 of them fell unconscious and had to be hospitalized. Then the protesting Anganwadi employees started moving towards the barricade to break it. The district administration contacted the ministers. The cabinet minister Balbir Sidhu met the leaders of protesting union. He came to the dharna place and announced about fixing a meeting between the chief minister and AMU leaders on their demands. The March ended with this assurance.

West Bengal

4000 Banks' Security Guards Retrenched in West Bengal Alone Security Guards from ATMs Withdrawn

CITU general secretary Tapan Sen in his letter of 19 June has drawn the attention of the union finance minister Arun Jaitley about 21 public sector and private banks throwing out of jobs around 4000 security guards, recruited on contract basis in ATMs, and keeping the ATMs without security guards in West Bengal.

Tapan Sen's letter was in support of the 7 unions' joint memorandum of 7 May to the union finance minister. Those include BEFI affiliated Bank Contractual & Contract Workmen Union; BMS affiliated West Bengal Thika Mazdoor Sangha; CITU affiliated Kolkata Zila Security & Allied Services Workmen Union; AITUC affiliated Security and Allied Workers Union West Bengal; INTUC, West Bengal Committee; All Bengal Contract Security Workers Union and West Bengal Banking Sector Contract Security Union.

Earlier, 20 March 2018 Tapan Sen, the then MP, met the union labour minister with a delegation of these contractor employees in banks on en mass retrenchment of the security guards during July-August, 2017; nonpayment of due wages; non-implementation of union labour ministry's notification of 1 January 2017 payment of minimum wages. Since then several times these issues and failure of central labour laws enforcement authorities in speedy conciliation on issues of victimisations and inspection on enforcement of laws were taken up with the union labour minister.

The reasons of retrenchment of 4000 security guards seem to be the installation of CCTVs in ATMs replacing the guards. It is in clear violation of RBI norms and Government of India's direction on keeping proper arrangement of security guards in three shifts against any possible fraud or criminal acts. It is estimated that the cash transfer companies and franchisee companies taking over banks cash transfer jobs from RBI to ATMs and their management are fraught with danger for public with ATMs without having security guards.

BEFI and CITU are demanding reinstatement of all victimised 4,000 contractual security guards of the banks; payment of minimum wages at central rate to bank contract employees as per union labour ministry's circular of 19 January 2017; payment of due wages for 12 hours work; depositing deducted amounts as EPF and ESI contributions and legal steps against the management for failure; and effective role of the central labour enforcement authorities on these issues in West Bengal.

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NUMBERS (GENERAL) FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
(BASE 2001=100)**

State	Centre	Apr 2018	May 2018	State	Centre	Apr 2018	May 2018	
AP	GUNTUR	278	280	MHR	MUMBAI	290	289	
	VIJAYWADA	276	278		NAGPUR	325	327	
	VISHAKHAPATHNAM	280	281		NASIK	303	305	
ASM	DOOM DOOMA TINSUKIA	260	261		PUNE	293	298	
	GUWAHATI	249	250		SHOLAPUR	294	300	
	LABAC SILCHAR	258	259	ORI	ANGUL TALCHER	302	303	
	MARIANI JORHAT	244	244		ROURKELA	301	301	
	RANGAPARA TEZPUR	244	244	PUD	PUDUCHERRY	307	306	
BIH	MUNGER JAMALPUR	307	306	PUN	AMRITSAR	295	296	
CHD	CHANDIGARH	289	290		JALANDHAR	292	290	
CHS	BHILAI	312	318		LUDHIANA	278	278	
DLI	DELHI	264	264	RJN	AJMER	265	264	
GOA	GOA	319	319		BHILWARA	275	274	
GUJ	AHMEDABAD	266	268		JAIPUR	275	273	
	BHAVNAGAR	270	270	TN	CHENNAI	267	267	
	RAJKOT	276	279		COIMBATORE	273	274	
	SURAT	258	260		COONOR	293	295	
	VADODARA	264	265		MADURAI	277	279	
HRY	FARIDABAD	261	261		SALEM	274	278	
	YAMUNANAGAR	276	275		TIRUCHIRAPALLY	284	284	
HP	HIMACHAL PRADESH	257	256	TEL	GODAVARIKHANI	293	298	
J&K	SRINAGAR	269	269		HYDERABAD	249	251	
JRK	BOKARO	282	284		WARRANGAL	295	298	
	GIRIDIH	314	314	TRP	TRIPURA	260	264	
	JAMSHEDPUR	336	337	UP	AGRA	317	320	
	JHARIA	317	318		GHAZIABAD	292	290	
	KODARMA	333	338		KANPUR	302	301	
	RANCHI HATIA	333	336		LUCKNOW	291	290	
KNT	BELGAUM	295	297		VARANASI	289	290	
	BENGLURU	288	287	WB	ASANSOL	313	313	
	HUBLI DHARWAR	312	312		DARJEELING	267	265	
	MERCARA	297	229		DURGAPUR	313	315	
	MYSORE	297	229		HALDIA	320	320	
KRL	ERNAKULAM	301	304		HOWRAH	277	280	
	MUNDAKKAYAM	303	305		JALPAIGURI	280	281	
	QUILON	330	332		KOLKATA	273	275	
MP	BHOPAL	289	288		RANIGANJ	263	264	
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Punjab Anganwadi Workers Long March

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Long March from Fatehgarh to Chandigarh



Sit-in Protest at Chandigarh Border Barricade

Haryana Asha Workers Ghera Dalo Dera Dalo

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Haryana Jail Bharo - 28 June

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The Pride of the Nation Dredging Corporation of India

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(Courtesy: The Hindu)

Before : Hemalata and Tapan Sen joining protests at Vizag



After : Victory Rally at Vizag



