



# THE WORKING CLASS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CITU

## Countrywide Workers Protest

3 July 2020

In front of Shram Shakti Bhavan, New Delhi



National leaders of CTUs and of CITU in the Protest (Report page 4)

# Coal Workers 3 Days Strike

The striking coal workers staged demonstrations, held rallies and organised picketing on strike days in different parts of the country. (Report page 5)



---

---

## WORKING CLASS

JULY 2020

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor

K. Hemalata

Working Editor

J.S. Majumdar

Members

Tapan Sen

R. Karumalaiyan

Amitava Guha

H. S. Rajput

---

Inside

Page

**Countrywide Workers' Protest - 3rd July 2020** 4

**Coal Workers 3 Days Massive Strike** 5

**Commercial Coal Mining by Private Players - Tapan Sen** 6

**Coal Workers Strike & People's Opposition - J S Majumdar** 11

**Autocratic abrogation of Labour Laws by States - Swadesh Dev Roye** 16

**Observing Foundation Day** 19

**Consumer Price Index** 26

**Contract Workers Strike in Vizag Steel Plant** 27

---

---

## Editorial

### Emerging Three Epicentres of Working Class Movement

Apart from various ongoing establishment-wise, industry-wise and local/state-wise united movements; in the national plane three epicentres of working class struggles are developing fast.

The first is the result of sudden imposition of unplanned Covid-lockdown with devastation effect on and tragedy for 14 crores migrant workers making them job-less, earning-less, shelter-less and hungry and forcing them to return to homes in arduous way, in absence of rail and road transports, facing restriction on their movements and police brutalities. This created a totally new situation in rural India. Huge job demand under MNREGA has increased in rural India by the migrant plus local workers not having any other source of earnings. The Supreme Court's judgment and PM's 20 June announcement about the *Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan Yojana* in 116 districts, which recorded more than 25,000 returned migrant workers, in 6 states of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha recognize this fact. There are migrant workers in other states and within the states also.

The second epicentre is the coal workers 3 days total strike against private commercial mining; privatisation of coal reversing the process of nationalisation of coal and 100% FDI through automatic route. The coal workers are fighting for defending public sector and protect country's valued natural resources and setting tone for the workers across the PSUs and government departments to built resistance movement against privatisation; corporatisation on way to privatisation; and defend national assets.

The third is the united trade union movement as reflected in 3 July massive protest and the incoming 9 August workers-peasants united movement on workers, peasants and people's demands. CITU has to initiatives at all levels to simultaneously to build movement surrounding these epicentres in coming days with clear understanding, concrete demands and concrete action plan and building organisational network specifically in rural areas. Situation has arisen, but without trade union's initiatives and effective intervention, it may not develop in right direction.

# TUs UNITED MOVEMENT

## Countrywide Workers Protest

**3 July 2020**

### **Demanding –**

- Implementation of no-retrenchment of workers and full payment of wages during lockdown period, as per earlier order of the Central Government, which, however, was withdrawn after 54 days; • Rs.7500 cash transfer to all non-income-tax-paying-households including unorganised labour (registered or unregistered); and • Universal ration;

### **Protesting Against –**

The Central Government, choosing Covid-19 lockdown, • pushing through its agenda of disinvestment and privatisation, • 100% FDI in core sectors; • steps taken favouring corporates, Indian and Foreign, to usurp natural resources and businesses of the country while mouthing *Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat*;

- Aggressive push of earlier decisions of privatization / corporatization / commercialization in Defence, Coal, Space Science, Atomic Energy, Insurance, Banks and PSUs; and
- Imposing DA freeze on 48 Lakh Central Government employees and DR freeze of 68 Lakh pensioners;

At the united call of 10 Central Trade Unions (CTUs) and fraternal National Federations; after successful protest by over 4.35 Lakh workers at over 25.7 Thousand places in 418 districts of the country; Lakhs of workers at more number of places with much bigger participation joined the nationwide protest on 3 July, coal workers 3 days strike coinciding added to the momentum.

The national leaders of CTUs also joined the protest in front of Union Government's Labour Ministry's office at Shram Shakti Bhavan in New Delhi. CITU national leaders at the centre including the President Hemalata and General Secretary Tapan Sen; national Secretaries S. Dev Roye, A. R. Sindhu and A. Guha; Treasurer M. L. Malkotia, Ranjna Nerula and J. S. Majumdar joined the protest on the street with flags and placards in hand.

The CITU centre in Delhi is inundated with photos and reports of the enthusiastic, massive and widespread countrywide workers united protest which burst out of Covid-19 lockdown barriers, maintaining health protocols, on 3 July in a surge challenging BJP's Central and State governments anti-labour, anti-people and anti-national measures being aggressively pursued taking advantage of Covid-19 lockdown restricting public activities and protests under a centralised authoritarian regime guided by fascistic ideology.

Detailed reports will follow shortly in the coming editions of CITU journals. (03.07.2020)

# INDUSTRY & SECTOR

## Coal

### **Coal Workers 3 Days Massive Strike**

The 72 hours coal workers strike from 6 to 6, beginning in the morning of 2 July, witnessed unprecedented response about 5.3 Lakh permanent and contract workers joining the strike on the very first day from the very first shift setting tone for next two days. The significance of this strike is in its national interest and in defence of country's self-reliance in coal production.

The strike was complete in CIL, in all its subsidiaries including CMPDIL and in SCCL in Telangana; in all areas, collieries and offices. All production, dispatch and transshipment activities and all drilling activities by CMPDIL came to a grinding halt for the entire 72 hours.

Among the subsidiary coal companies the strike was 100% by permanent, contract and outsourced workers in BCCL, CCL, WCL, MCL, NCL and SECL. The emergency staff joined duties voluntarily without recording attendance. In WCL even security staff joined the strike.

Facing attacks by police and ruling TMC goons and arrest of the leaders of Joint Forum at Jhanjra Project in West Bengal, the strike in ECL was 100% in majority areas and 70%-90% in 6 areas in West Bengal portion averaging over 90% for the ECL on the first day. The police was forced to release the arrested workers unconditionally on the very first day after massive protest locally. In NECL in Assam, the strike was over 90%. In the SCCL in Telangana, the strike was 100% on the first day.

The intensity of strike with bigger participation was witnessed on the next two days. The strike participation was more on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> day in all coal companies of CIL including ECL. However, the ruling party TRS union joined the strike only for one day on 2 July. Despite TRS union not joining, the strike in SCCL in Telangana was above 85% on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren came out openly in support of the 3 days coal workers strike. Tribal organisation in Jharkhand brought out solidarity rally. (04.07.2020)

### **CITU's Congratulatory Message to Striking Coal Workers**

CITU in a statement today congratulated 5.3 Lakh coal workers and the united coal unions for the successful and total strike in all collieries and establishments in the country on the first day of the 3 days strike.

In ECL, strike was above 90% despite the state government sponsored TMC hoodlums with police support opposing the strike and manhandling the strikers, police arrest of several striking workers, leaders and activists. Yet, the strike cannot be broken owing to determination en masse of the workers.

Coal workers massive strike is the first ever countrywide sectoral strike during the Covid lockdown defying and resisting the dubious move of the Govt to push through its wholesale privatization project of putting the national assets and PSUs on the auction in favour of handful of private corporates, both foreign and domestic.

This strike has shown the way to the trade union movement as a whole, particularly in those sectors where privatization is being attempted to by Modi Govt, on how to combat and resist such destructive exercise and defend the interests of the workers, people and the nation.

(02.07.2020)

---

# Commercial Coal Mining by Private Players Path for Self-Destruction - Not Self-Reliance

## **Defy and Resist**

**Tapan Sen**

The destructive exercise for mining of coal for commercial purposes by private sector has already been set in motion by the Prime Minister in the midst of continuing prohibitory lockdown on collective public response against the same, particularly by the working people. But collective opposition by workers could not be deterred; it has been mounting.

### **Govt mobilised corporates and diluted prerequisites in coal mines auction**

Although handing over the discovered coal blocks (land having coal reserves) is supposed to be done by auction, the concerned agencies in the Govt have been overactive in approaching the prospective bidders in the private sector including major foreign entities to persuade them in taking part in the bidding process; this is being done in view of their previous experience of not getting any response to their earlier initiatives of inviting expression of interest from the prospective bidders after the enabling legislation for commercial mining of coal by private sector including foreign entities was enacted in 2015.

This time the Govt has become desperate to see their project of wholesale privatization of coal asset of the country is implemented. The Modi Govt's desperation for this project has gone to such an extent that they are not hesitating to dilute the basic parameters/prerequisites for qualifying as bidders in coal mining like previous experience in mining, conditionality of captive mining, deposit of advances calculated on a percentage of total coal-reserves in the concerned coal block under auction switching over to revenue sharing instead of sharing of the prices charged per ton/produced etc. Many more such dilution of the obligations of the prospective mining agent in the private sector are in the offing to facilitate handing over country's coal resources 'at any cost and by any means' for plunder by private sector, including foreign entities, much to the detriment of national interests.

### **Coal workers defending country's natural resources**

The working class movement and the coal workers movement in particular have been opposing this destructive move of the Govt from the day one through various agitations including strike action against this project of privatization and foreignisation of country's vital coal resources which is a crucial indispensable raw material / energy source for the country's industrial economy in entirety besides meeting fuel-requirement of a large section of country's households. May be such continuity in organized opposition by the coal workers did create the echo-system that led to phenomenon not materializing successful auction of coal blocks for the private players. And, now, the coal workers are preparing for a massive three days strike action on 2-4 July 2020. Country's entire trade union movement extended their solidarity to the striking coal workers and will be holding numerous solidarity demonstrations throughout the country.

### **The blatant lies**

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while launching the auction process anew in the presence of major private corporate giants on 18 June 2020, announced that the privatization of coal mining will lead to all round development of the economy in the concerned areas and also will make the

country self-reliant in respect of coal and energy through reducing dependence on import of coal which is at present 235 million tonnes per annum.

Honourable Prime Minister sought to build up his story of so called “*self-reliance*” based on half-baked and half-truth concoction of selectively picked up figures of projected coal production by private players, employment prospects, local area development etc, indirectly maligning the frontline role of public sector Coal India Ltd in supplying coal to nation.

## **The Experience**

Let us recall, during the pre-nationalisation private ownership regime, the total coal production was only around 50 million tonnes in our country despite being a country of 4<sup>th</sup> largest coal reserves in the world. As because private sector produces only for maximising profit and not for augmenting the production and mapping/exploration of country’s coal resources for country’s benefit. Post nationalization and after birth of Coal India Ltd, not only coal production increased phenomenally, but also under public sector initiative only, the mapping of coal reserves spread over throughout the country increased many times; total coal production reached around 710 million tonnes through Coal India Ltd, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) and captive mines attached with power sector and various other industries - an increase by more than 14 times than the private days.

Not only that, coal industry under public sector developed a new record of safe mining, with the decline in fatal accidents over the years, till the time again when introduction of outsourcing of coal production under neoliberal prescription involving private contractors started taking place.

## **Govt responsible for restraining coal production**

Even then it cannot be claimed that Coal India is producing to its optimal capacity. But for that Coal India or even SCCL cannot be blamed. Production can be increased further by at least 200 million tonnes more ( *vis-à-vis* Modi Govt’s projection of additional coal production of 225 million tonnes through commercial mining by private sector) provided necessary *expansion in infrastructure for transporting coal* to the consumers - both industries and households are put in place by the Govt on the one hand and *internal tax regime on coal is appropriately corrected* to make coal price reflective of the cost of production and not distorted by the faulty tax structure. For example, since 2005 the decision taken by the Govt to put in place three coal corridors viz. Shibpur to Tori, Jharsuguda to Barapalli and Raigarh to Mand have not been operationalised owing only to deliberate bungling by the Govt although the Coal India Ltd has paid to concerned Govt agency its major share of expenses for building such corridors. Every action by the Govt under neoliberal regime is one of sabotaging the work of PSUs for weakening its capacity and potential only to justify privatization of national assets and not allowing the already three coal corridors to operationalise even in 15 years’ period is the blatant reflection of such sabotaging activity.

## **Fallacy of coal imports**

Secondly, Prime Minister has talked loudly about reducing import of coal through privatized coal mining although as per his own statement through privatized coal mining the domestic coal production can be augmented by around 15% only.

Let us examine the depth of concoction of facts in this regard. The country is at present importing 235 million tonnes of coal over and above the domestic production of around 710 million tonnes. Out of this imported quantum, around 90 million tonne is metallurgical coal required by certain industries which is not sufficiently available in our country making it an unavoidable import. Another 35 million tonnes of import pertains to the coal of specified lower ash-content to meet the

requirement of certain industries including some of the power plants making it an unavoidable import. The need for low ash-content and metallurgical coal could have been partially addressed through development of coal washeries in the country. In fact number of coal washeries were developed under PSU at initial stage. But, the change in the Govt policy towards import orientation has led to winding up those washeries.

Another component of coal import, mainly by coastal power plants and power plants situated far away from the pit heads of the collieries, amounting around 110 million tonnes were due to cost of transport and the internal tax regime making the imported coal cheaper than domestic coal reaching from pit ahead to concerned consumers' destination. Owing to the perverse policy of the Govt, such distortion in the prices of domestic coal for certain destination (including transport cost and tax) led to import of coal to the present level.

Will the Prime Minister please say as to whether for the private sector mines he will have a different transport cost/tax regime? If so, why it will not be for Coal India which is quite competent in reducing import by augmenting production? If not, how is the Prime Minister is going to address the problems of import which is no way connected with Coal India's or SCCL's ability to produce but with distortion created in the market by the perverse neoliberal policy of the Govt designed to serve the foreign players and their domestic partners?

Privatisation of coal sector or commercial mining by private entities can in no way address the problems of import flagged by the Prime Minister himself. Whatever is actually required for that is not being done by the Govt to promote import and justify privatization by any means.

### **Gross overestimation**

Prime Minister's estimate of 225 million tonnes production out of this 41 coal blocks is a gross over-estimate. Private miners will produce for profit only and that depends on market. One thing that has been made clear in the foregoing paragraphs is that the private mining is not in a position to address the problems of import. Among the domestic consumers, power sector is the major consumer of coal and country's power sector is at present operating at least 40 per cent below its generation capacity owing to economic slowdown. Other industries consuming coal as its raw materials are also in the grip of slowdown reflecting in their low capacity utilization. Economic revival depends on reversal of the ongoing neoliberal policy regime and it has to be led by aggressive demand-generating public investment. Pampering private sector only cannot bring back economic revival; it will only lead to loot and plunder of national resources.

Further, mines in private hands are fraught with inevitability of wastage of coal resources. Whatever experiences the country has with private sector mining, either in captive mines of private companies operated by private contractors or by illegal mining by coal-mafias in league with local administration or in outsourced mines by the PSU; in most of the cases private sector mining, operated by private contractors, do not prefer going for mining at the deeper level. This led to abandoning of mines having coal reserves left, without proper safety leveling/sealing creating huge problems of subsidence of land, underground fire and loss of lives, besides wastage of huge minable coal reserves. Numerous such fatal accidents have taken place in West Bengal, Jharkhand and other mining areas in the country which are matters of record.

### **Befooling the people about employment generation**

Prime Minister has also talked loudly about employment generation owing to privatization of mining and did not hesitate to give astronomical figures compared to his peak-level production estimate of 225 million tons from 41 coal blocks. It is a gross over estimate only to befool the people and justify this destructive exercise. We are aware of his speeches on two crore employment



generation per year vis-à-vis the established fact that during his tenure since 2014, employment generation in the country has been continuously going down every year drastically as well as quality of employment has also plummeted to almost level of destitution; in the latest year it has declined in absolute terms. No doubt some employment may be generated through private mining, but had it been under public sector, it could generate sustainably along with quality.

### **False claim of development of tribal areas**

He has also talked about development of tribal population residing in the new coal bearing areas. Mostly, our mines are in the areas with a major tribal population and it is the job of the concerned government to work for development of the people. Can anybody justify as to why the states having huge and rich mineral reserves are still categorized as the poor states in terms of development - BIMARU states. Whatever development of people in the coal mining areas have taken place is mainly due to community development initiative by the public sector coal companies while generally the ruling governments in most of those areas are busy in appeasing and serving the capitalists and contractors class. Hence all noises of local development by the Prime Minister, while preaching privatization lack credibility and cannot be taken seriously at all.

On the other hand commercial mining by private sector and foreign entities, if allowed to be executed, will lead to serious erosion of the self-reliance not only in coal sector but it will be disastrous for the entire industrial economy besides making the targeted coal bearing areas a *mafia* by the contractor-local administration nexus.

Most of targeted coal-bearing areas in 41 locations are in the forest areas and handing those over to private contractors will dislodge the local tribal population. As per estimate by many environmentalists, around thirty thousand tribal families will be under threat of being dislodged in Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh; and that had been the history wherever such private mining was allowed. Secondly, to facilitate auction process, the manner all categories of norms pertaining to environment-maintenance, land-use, rehabilitations are being deregulated, diluted and liberalized evading democratic process of consultation with the Gram-Sabhas etc in violation of the Forest Rights envisaged in the concerned enactment, it is going to be a disaster and is bound to generate resistance and unrest disturbing the entire process altogether.

Already Hemant Soren Government in Jharkhand has filed petition in the Supreme Court against the coal blocks auction on the very ground that it would cause disastrous impact on the tribal population in the state and challenged the Prime Minister's contention saying that the decision was taken without any assessment of socio-economic impact on the tribal population.

As per the present legal dispensation, more than fifty per cent of the landed area under these targeted 41 coal-bearing blocks are in "no go area" in dense forest zone. But all these lawful stipulations are destined to be trampled with for profiteering by the private miners.

### **Free trading despite coal's public utility, industrial and economic development**

Thirdly, the entire exercise of commercial mining by private sector including foreign entities, if allowed to be executed, will lead to complete deregulation of trading of coal both in domestic and international market. Prime Minister minced no word in allowing the market forces to freely play in the coal sector and he described this as an unlocking operation. What does it actually mean? Only a few countries numbering five or six are having coal reserves and India is in the fourth position but in terms of production India is probably the second biggest producer. On the other hand coal, besides meeting the household needs, is also an indispensable raw material for many vital industries viz., Power, Steel, Aluminum, Fertiliser, Cement etc. Even on date, at full capacity utilisation level,

country's power generation depends on coal to the tune of 72 to 75 per cent. Power sector caters to all industries and households, besides the industries directly using coal as raw materials.

Trading of this coal needs a stronger regulation and monitoring to draw and maintain a balance between the industrial as well as household requirement, completely blocking the export route.

### **Pitching for free export, leading to deindustrialisation and eroding self-reliance**

But free play of market in coal sector along with the provision of 100 per cent FDI through automatic route will mean there will be no embargo on export of coal and in such free trade regime; destination will be determined by price availability. In such a situation, in the ongoing policy regime, while import of coal cannot be fully contained, export market of coal will be more attractive not being subjected to local tax-regime; and such deregulation of trade provoking export of coal in the background of most of the countries in the world are not having adequate coal reserves, will mean the domestic industries including power sector will be starved of essential and indispensable raw materials, provoking further de-industrialisation of the national economy.

At the same time, while private sector including foreign entities will be offered coal bearing blocks for commercial mining, public sector Coal India Ltd and SCCL will be deprived of regular replenishment and replacement of the coal blocks with exhausted coal reserves under them as a corollary; free market philosophy inevitably coincided with such reality. This will lead to gradual dismantling of public sector entity in the coal sector till now servicing the economy with more than 85% of its coal requirement –an essential fuel as well as industrial input. It will lead to erosion of self-reliance not merely in coal sector but in the entire economy.

### **Path of self-destruction, not self-reliance**

Privatisation, the hallmark of neoliberalism, is an exercise of facilitating loot and plunder of natural and national assets. Coal privatization is an integral part of this neoliberal exercise designed for destruction of the domestic economy and self-reliance converting a manufacturing economy into market of foreign products. Preaching and pleading for such destructive design in the name of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' is sheer deception on the people.

The retrograde design of commercial mining of coal by private players and foreign entities along with 100 per cent FDI through automatic route and complete deregulation of trade is a path for self-destruction and not self reliance.

It cannot be allowed to be executed and working class movement must rise to the occasion.

**Defiance and Resistance is the way before us**

**We will overcome.**

*(1 July, 2020)*

---

## **Coal Workers Strike & People's Opposition; Against Coal Mines Auction for Private Commercial Mining**

J. S. Majumdar

### **Workers wide-spread movement against private commercial coal mining**

In an unprecedented display of workers unity and spread of movement, as the biggest industrywise action during Covid-19 lockdown, about 1.5 Lakh coal workers, irrespective of their trade unions affiliation, were in the field actively participating in the All India Protest Day on 10 June in all 535 collieries in 8 coal-bearing States and offices of all the subsidiaries of public sector Coal

India Ltd (CIL) and Centre-State joint sector Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) in Telangana in protest against private commercial coal mining and against the first time auction, for that purpose, of 41 coal blocks in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra which was to take place on 11 June, 2020.

The call to observe Protest Day on 10 June and Black Day, by burning effigy, on 11 June was given by four recognised coal workers federations of CITU, AITUC, INTUC and HMS. The workers and unions of the other federation of RSS-affiliated BMS also joined the protest at most of the places. Same evening the Government postponed the scheduled auction of the coal mines. Yet, effigy burning on 11 June took place in about 150 major collieries.

### **Unusually guided auctioning of coal mines**

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally took upon himself the responsibility of coal mines auctioning after the failed auction on 11 June. In an unusual move, the Government announced that the Prime Minister would inaugurate e-auction of 41 coal mines on 18 June. On 14 June, again the coal workers federations met and sent notice to the Prime Minister and the Coal Minister stating that if the Government went ahead with auctioning of coal mines on 18 June, the workers would resort to direct action.

On 18 June, the Prime Minister inaugurated e-auction of those 41 coal mines through video conferencing which the Government announced as part of 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. This auctioning of the 41 coal mines for private commercial mining was jointly organised by the Union Ministry of Coal and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The star-studded panel in this inaugural session of 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' through coal mines auction included Vedanta Group's Anil Agarwal, N. Chandrasekaran of Tata Sons and others.

In his inaugural address PM Modi said Covid-19 crisis must be converted into an opportunity by 'unlocking' the coal from nationalised sector to private sector for commercial mining. "This will be one of the big stepping stones towards our journey towards a \$5 trillion economy," said Tatas Chandrasekaran in this event. "This landmark reform will unlock country's natural resources, stimulate the economy and catalyze India's path to a 5-trillion dollar economy. FICCI is happy to be the industry partner at the launch of this major initiative," said FICCI President Sangeeta Reddy.

This coal mines auction will be different in all aspects. In a statement Coal Ministry stated, "The auctions have terms and conditions which are very liberal, allowing new companies to participate in the bidding process, reduced upfront amount, ... liberal efficiency parameters, ... 100% FDI through automatic route ...". The private commercial coal mining shall be on revenue sharing basis instead of earlier fixed rupee/tonne basis as was announced by the Finance Minister Sitharaman in her fourth of the five tranches of Covid Relief Package.

In another unusual move, after the inauguration of the auction on 18 June, actual e-auction will take place on 18 August. This two months time is taken for mobilisation of bidders and selection of the biggies most of whom are reluctant to invest due to problems related to land issues and the opposition of the workers and the people. The Government announced that the bidding process will be held in two stages. The coal ministry will hold meetings with potential bidders between June 25 and July 18 before the bidding and the last date for bid submission is August 18.

The Government has already selected the private companies pending formal bidding. "With easy entry and exit norms for commercial coal auctions the government expects participation from Indian companies like Hindalco, JSW Energy, Jindal Steel & Power, Adani Group and Vedanta besides global miners like Peabody, BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, reported *The Economic Times*.

Modi Government has lined up foreign and domestic corporates for private sector commercial mining of coal. As against that the workers are lined up to strike supported by solidarity action by wide sections of the people.

### **3 Days strike & solidarity action**

About 3 Lakh permanent and 2.5 Lakh contract workers of CIL and SCCL are all set for three days strike from July 2 to July 4. Responding to the joint call of all five recognised coal workers federations, including of BMS; all other federations and unions of other central trade unions and independent unions, including all rival factions of some unions, submitted, joint or separately, 3 days strike notice to the management, ministry and labour authorities.

Coal Mines Officers Association of India also raised same demands, supported the coal workers strike on July 2-4 July and decided solidarity actions in all coal companies on strike days.

### **Trade unions, farmers and others support & solidarity action**

CITU, central trade unions and Bhumi Adikar Andolan (platform of all farmers' organisations) extended support and called upon the working class and farmers to stand in solidarity with the coal workers' demands and strike. Electricity employees' federation gave call to their workers for solidarity action on strike days. Left parties in Jharkhand – CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) and Marxist Coordination Committee – expressed support and called upon the people of Jharkhand to stand in solidarity with the striking workers. At national level Left parties expressed support to coal workers strike.

### **Jharkhand Government filed case in Supreme Court against auction of coal blocks**

The day after PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the auction of 41 coal blocks, the Jharkhand Government filed case in the Supreme Court praying for cancellation of the present auction process. Addressing a press conference on 20 June, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren referred to the ongoing agitation by the coal workers unions and justified filing of case in Supreme Court on the ground that there was no pre-consultation with the State Governments when land is a State subject; that there was no prior socio-economic assessment of its devastating impact on the vast tribal masses and on other residents; and that it will have devastating effect on the environment due to the huge forest coverage of these blocks. While Prime Minister said that Covid-19 is an opportunity for the auction; Jharkhand Government's petition said that the pandemic would prevent fair participation, auction and price.

### **For staging demonstration, FIR filed against coal workers' leaders**

For staging joint demonstration in front of PSU Coal India's subsidiary BCCL's headquarter at Dhanbad on 18 June to submit notice for 2-4 July strike against coal block auction; FIR has been filed against 50 trade union leaders at Saraidhela police under several provisions of Disaster Management Act on alleged ground of violation of 'social distancing' norms. FIR has been filed on the written complaint of a magistrate deputed under the Act. However, Jharkhand Government has given instruction to Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad not to pursue the FIR.

### **Village panchayats in Chhattisgarh; Forest & Environment Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra opposed coal blocks auction**

The Sarpanchs (Chiefs) of 22 Panchayats in Chhattisgarh, in separate letters to the Prime Minister demanded rescinding the decision of auction to protect forest and agricultural lands.

As most of the coal blocks are in the forest area, including Elephant Reserve forest, the Chhattisgarh Forest and Environment Minister wrote to the Union Coal Minister not to auction these coal blocks in Chhattisgarh.

Maharashtra Forest & Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray in a Twitter message said, "I have written to the Union Minister for @moefcc Prakash Javadekar ji on the issue of the proposed auction of a mine site near Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, opposing the auction. We cannot have such destruction of our wildlife corridors." (26.06.2020)

## Coal Minister's discussion with Coal Unions Failed

1 JULY: The United Front of the coal workers unions issued a statement informing about the failure of discussion held today between the United Front of the unions and the Union Coal Minister Prahlad Joshi. In the 1 hour and 20 minutes long discussion through video conferencing, the Coal Minister said the Government's policy is to strengthen Coal India. But, to meet the coal requirement in the country and to reduce import, the Government adopted the policy of commercial mining. The Minister requested the unions that looking into the Corona crisis and bad economic condition of the country the strike call should be withdrawn.

The Unions told the Minister that the Government wants to take coal industry back to pre-nationalisation stage which the workers cannot accept. The Unions also said that coal production in the country cannot be increased through commercial mining as has been proved by the facts.

The Unions told the Minister that till the Government withdraws their policy of coal's commercial mining, the strike decision stands. With this, the discussion ended.

## **CITU Congratulated Coal Workers for 3 Days Successful Strike Against Coal Privatisation & Commercial Mining**

CITU congratulated all 5.3 lakh permanent and contract coal workers for successful strike in CIL and SCCL at the united call of all coal workers federations and unions as a heroic resistance to Modi Govt's move to privatise the entire coal sector through unregulated commercial mining and trading by private sector including foreign entities through 100% FDI. The strike was almost total in all the three days and coal production and dispatch came to a grinding halt despite hell bent effort by the Govt and ministry to break the strike. The workers of the outsourced mines also joined the strike in a big way. Despite the hindrance of mobility of leaders and activists due to lockdown, the pit-level workers and activists took initiative in making the strike total in all the three days.

The coal workers' three days strike marks the pioneering assertion of the working class movement in the country in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic against the brutal onslaught on the lives and livelihood of the working people and desperate wholesale privatization bid of the Govt taking advantage of the lockdown restrictions. This brave intervention by the coal workers must spread to all other sectors in order to resist decisively the disastrous move of the Government to put the country's assets and resources on sale and impose conditions of slavery on the working people through drastic pro-employer changes and unilateral suspension of all labour laws.

The coal workers strike has drawn spontaneous support from all sections. The joint platform of peasants' movement has extended support to the strike action; entire trade union movement stood in solidarity to the strike action; and solidarity demonstrations were held in all the three days in petroleum, electricity, steel and various other industries and establishments in all States.

The Joint Platform of Coal Federations has started consultations among themselves for the next course of joint action including further strike action with determination to resist the exercise of commercial mining and auction of coal-blocks. Resistance struggle will continue to defeat the destructive game plan of the Govt.

---

## Scheme Workers

### **MDM Workers observed Demands Day**



In response to the call of CITU-affiliated Midday Meal Workers Federation of India; thousands of Mid Day Meal (MDM) workers observed Demands Day on 26 June in most of the States, including Karnataka, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Assam (despite heavy rains and flooding), Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, AP, Kerala, Manipur, Chhattisgarh and UP by staging demonstrative programmes and submitting memoranda to the local authorities and sending the same to the State and Union Ministers of Education and Health in pursuance of their 8 point demands including Rs.7500 as wage during Covid lockdown period; Rs.600/day allowance during work at Covid centres with Safety and Protective measures and insurance coverage; regularisation and payment of minimum wage etc.

At present a pittance of Rs.1000/month to each, that too only for 10 months, are being paid to around 27 Lakh MDM workers who are engaged in providing midday meal to school going children. In many States they have been engaged on duty in the shelter homes and isolation centres during Covid-19 lockdown for which they are neither being paid, nor provided any safety kits and protective gears nor have insurance coverage. Many of them got infected and some died due to infection at Covid centres.

---

# ASHA Workers observed Demands Day

## For their Safety and Health for All



**Haryana & Punjab**



**West Bengal & Kerala**



**In solidarity with ASHA workers Agitation  
CITU national leaders at CITU centre in New Delhi**

At the call of All India Coordination Committee of ASHA Workers of CITU; thousands of ASHA workers and facilitators and other frontline health workers, in the fight against the Covid-19, came out on 25 June in most of the States including J&K, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam, Odisha, Gujarat, AP and Kerala pursuing their 14 point demands for improvement of their working conditions; special payment, safety measures and insurance coverage for their Covid related work; and for better and universal public health services; demonstrating in front of PHCs, CHCs etc and submitting memoranda to the local authorities and sending the same to the Health Ministers of States and Centre.

Despite arduous and risky nature of their work, going door to door to survey Covid infections and guiding the public about safety measures; they are not even provided the necessary protective gear. Many have been infected and several of them have died.

---

# **Autocratic Abrogation of Labour Laws by States; 'Epic Centre' is in New Delhi**

**Swadesh Dev Roye**

The Governments of the BJP-ruled states and some others too have announced suspension of operation of Labour Laws, fully or partially. Most atrociously, the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have virtually abolished all the Labour Laws, said to be temporarily[?]

The Governments of the states of Haryana, Himachal, Karnataka, Bihar, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Assam, Tripura, Rajasthan, Punjab, Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have suspended vital provisions of various labour Laws. Daily working hours has been extended up to 12 hours; threshold under different statutes has been increased from 20 to 50 workers; from 20 to 40 workers; from 100 to 300 workers. Consequently, huge number of enterprises are facilitated beyond the purview of basic labour laws like Industrial Disputes Act 1947, Factories Act 1948, Contract Labour (Abolition & Regulations) Act 1970 etc.

It is important to note that two prominent states in the economic map of the country are happily missing in the list of states above. The LDF Government of Kerala immediately after the announcement by above states declared that it shall not take any such anti-labour steps. The JMM-led Government of Jharkhand also made similar announcement.

## **PM-Party-CM Nexus**

An ominous development must be noted without fail. The Labour Ministries of the Centre and the States have been totally sidelined. Democratic requirement of consultation with labour has been sacrificed at the altar of authoritarian regimes. PM-Party-CM chain of authoritarian command has been activated. As reported in the media, between April 3 and 10, the BJP held discussions with four groups of stakeholders on the package of economic reforms. From the official briefing, media has quoted Gopal Agarwal, the party's spokesperson on economic issues, "*There are many bottlenecks we need to remove. Cost of acquiring land and the legal and procedural delays are issues. Similarly, we need reforms in the labour sector,*" The consultation venue has been shifted from Labour Ministry to the BJP office and the participants have been confined within the RSS 'parivar'.

## **States Acted as Pilot Projects of the Centre**

State Governments abrogating Parliament-enacted laws is a shocking development, never mind labour is in the concurrent list of the Constitution. There is no such parallel in our country till the advent of Narendra Modi Government. It is necessary to recall that in 2014 under the direction of Prime Minister Modi in August 2014 the Vasundhara Raje-led BJP Government of Rajasthan carried out anti-labour amendment to three labour statutes – (1) Industrial Disputes (Rajasthan Amendment) Act 2014; (2) Contract Labour (Rajasthan Amendment) Act 2014 and (3) Factories (Rajasthan Amendment) Act 2014. Moreover, Regulations for right to represent by Trade Unions were also hardened by raising the stipulation of minimum membership strength from 15 percent to 30 percent of total workers.

## **Four Codes Supersede All Forty-four Labour Statutes**

CITU has produced volumes of documents – critical notes to Government, presentation to Parliamentary Standing Committee, many agitation and propaganda materials against the



authoritarian act of bundling all the Forty-four Labour Laws into Four Labour Codes. Naturally the present exercise is obviously centering round the current developments noted above. However, the aforementioned onslaught of the state governments have certainly been guided and inspired by the intent and content of the Labour Codes. And precisely, the attack on the 'Right to Eight Hour Working Day' must be comprehended in terms of the Labour Code on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH). We shall, therefore, very briefly examine few points from this particular Code on Labour.

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019 has been drafted to repeal as many as thirteen Labour Laws including The Factories Act, The Mines Act, Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, Building and Other Construction Workers Act, Plantation Labour Act, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, Motor Transport Workers Act. The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Code is claimed to be bodily slim and trim. But the fact is that from OSH requirements point of view it is dangerously anaemic. Now the question of OSH has very serious bearing on four sectors - Factories, Mines, Dock and Construction industry. The four corresponding independent long standing OSH Statutes, noted above, for these four very accident prone industrial sectors certainly should not have been bundled together into in the Code for OSH.

It is a matter of grievous concern that in the process of bundling, many crucial accident preventive clauses have been deleted and/or diluted. For example, it may be recalled that in Factories Act 1948, a new detailed Chapter: IVA - Provisions Relating to Hazardous Processes was added in 1988 after the horrific Bhopal Gas Tragedy in 1984. In the OSH Code this very important new Chapter has been seriously diluted, compromising the safety requirements, in favour of the employers' class. It shall not be exaggeration to say that the devastation of Bhopal gas tragedy and Chasnala coalmine disasters are being given an invitation by the Modi Government.

### **Many Matters Left to Political Executives**

In the Labour Codes many crucial matters have been left open ended and Central and State Governments have been empowered to take decision through administrative orders without requiring approval of Parliament and Assembly, as the case may be. It is a deceptive design to exploit labour. We put below some shocking samples.

Several statutory safeties sensitive tripartite Forums have been superseded by a single bureaucratic body called 'National Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board'. More so, to add salt to the injury, the composition, constitution, functions, tenure, jurisdiction of the omnibus Board has been left to be decided by the 'Appropriate Government'. Greatest damage has inflicted on the three legislations dealing with Contract Labour, Migrant Labour and Mine Workers. The historical statutory tripartite authority called CACLB has been abolished and the powers have been vested with the Political Executives. In the Code on OSH alone around two hundred crucial matters have been left to be decided by bureaucrats. For example in certain crucial matter "*a certificate signed by a Secretary to the Central Government in the Ministry of Labour shall be conclusive.*" Inter-state Migrant Labour Act has been abolished and compensated with three clauses of nineteen sentences inserted in the OSH! It is irony that this should have happened right in the thick of world-shaking inhuman episode of migrant workers in our country.

### **Assault on Right to 8-Hour Working Day**

Including UP, MP and Gujarat 17 states have annulled the statutory 8-hour working day provided in the Factories Act 1948 and imposed 12 hours working day. The assault on Right to 8-hour working day must be construed as an attack on the very foundation of trade union movement.

At this point it would be significant to turn to the provision on working hour made on the OSH Code. The Factories Act 1948 conclusively provided weekly and daily working hours at 48 hours and 9 hours respectively with half an hour compulsory rest after every five hours of work. But the **Code on OSH** has dismantled all these concrete provisions. Instead all these fundamental issues – weekly, daily hours of work, rest-time, spread-over etc. have been kept open empowering the appropriate Government to decide. Although Parliament is yet to take the final call on OSD Code, it appears, as if the listed states Governments have already started implementation!

8-hour working day is the foundation for ensured sound scientific occupational health. This is the core issue of OSH. And for that matter the issues provided in the Factories Act 1948 are non-negotiable pre-conditions for safe and healthy workplace with working condition which is again contributory factors for efficient production and productivity. Capitalist class believes in the ‘inhuman doctrine’ of profit first, people last and therefore they criminally compromise even OSH requirements at the cost of human lives aided by the present day Government of loot and plunder.

In his address to the first Congress of the International Working Men’s Association held at Geneva in 1866 Marx said, *“A preliminary condition, without which all further attempts at improvement and emancipation must prove abortive, is the limitation of the working day. It is needed to restore the health and physical energies of the working class, that is, the great body of every nation, as well as to secure them the possibility of intellectual development, sociable intercourse, social and political action. We propose 8 hours work as the legal limit of the working day”*.

### **The Challenge and Fight Ahead**

The Governments have signaled to the capitalist class that rule of law on labour matters has been annulled and now it is lawless barbaric ‘Jungle Raj’. The end motive of the capitalist class behind the noise for ‘ease of doing business’ and allergy at the so called ‘rigidity of labour laws’; is nothing but unlimited profit to be amassed by increasing extraction of surplus value and reduction of wage cost. Now it is rightly apprehended, *“what stops a firm from firing all existing employees and hiring them again at lower wages”!* Relevant to note, so far as UP, MP and Gujarat are concerned the existing registered trade unions are no longer legally empowered to function and no new trade union shall be registered.

However, cancellation of existing and/or denial of registration of new trade unions cannot gag the vocal power and silence the fire power of the working class. This is the teaching of eternal history of working class struggles spread over centuries. Joint struggle of the working class defeated the atrocious IR Bill introduced by the Janata Party Government. The implementation of the anti-labour recommendations of Second National Commission of Labour constituted by Vajpayee-led BJP Government was totally stalled. Modi Government has become desperate to become dearest to capitalist and dreaded to working class. Today it is a do or die challenge to the working class. Covid-19 pandemic cannot stop the march forward of the working class; the rebellious march by millions of migrant workers is eternal example.

The Platform of Ten Trade Unions has already carried out a joint action. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 around 10 lakh workers rallied in small gatherings on the street at about one lakh locations throughout the country protesting the onslaught on Labour Laws.

The next action is on 3<sup>rd</sup> July National Protest Day with much bigger number of locations and participants to prepare for a long drawn direct action of ‘Non-cooperation and Defiance to continue for six months against the anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-national policies of the Government; and a nationwide General Strike at appropriate time.

---

# 50 Years of CITU

## Statewise Report on Observing Foundation Day 2020

*(Continues from previous edition)*

### Punjab



All 13 district committees of CITU and also separately by 11 state level unions observed CITU's Foundation Day in all 22 districts, including the UT of Chandigarh, on 30 May 2020. Together, more than 56,000 workers formed roadside human chain at 41 places; held rallies and public meetings at 226 places; and celebrated the Day at their 3655 respective residences.

## Rajasthan



The CITU Foundation Day 2020 was observed at 90 places in 18 districts in which 3570 workers participated including at 33 places in Sikar district with participation by 1350 persons.

Seminars were organised at Jaipur and Sreeganganagar. 35 leading functionaries attended at Jaipur including 10 women. In Hanumangarh district flag was hoisted at 1800 houses and human chain was organised at the district headquarter.

Among the state level unions, the CITU's road transport union organised the programme at 15 depots joined by 275 workers and RMSRU of medical & sales representatives organised programme in the union's 17 units joined by 100 members.

## Tamil Nadu



Pending reports from four major centres, 11,680 workers/members joined CITU Foundation Day 2020 programme on 30 May at 1,400 centres across the State. They include 1600 workers at 152 centres in Kanyakumari; 1200 workers at 54 centres in Tirupur; 1000 workers at 45 centres in Chennai South; 700 workers at 45 centres in Tanjore; 657 workers at 322 centres in Dharmapuri; 650 workers at 126 centres in Tirunelveli ; 340 workers at 62 centres in Dindigul; 482 workers at 19 centres in Nagapattinam and 460 workers at 86 centres in Salem districts. Workers/members along with family members and friends participated in these programme.

CITU flag was hoisted at all district committee offices. Celebration was organised at the factory gates of major industries including Trichy Bhel, Salem Steel, Madras Harbour, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Kamaraj Port. In all the 230 plus bus depots and transport union offices, decorated with festoons, CITU flag was hoisted. Small meetings were also held and slogans were raised in the Covid red zones.

As part of the preparation, social media campaign was held in all platforms; posters were uploaded and shared within almost all the groups. As part of the Golden Jubilee campaign, CITU Social Media uploaded the speeches of A. K. Padhmanabhan, A. Soundararajan and G. Sukumaran on the struggles, organisation and future tasks in the face book pages. General Secretary Tapan Sen's live speech was shared with members and its Tamil version is being uploaded.

During the month of June, the Social Media planned to upload a 2-minute video every day on the experiences of the struggle, views on the organisation and members' expectations from the unions.

## Telangana



CITU Foundation Day was celebrated at 3,043 places, including at 2,415 village centres and 628 town centres, in 410 Mandals and all 34 districts in the State with 40,611 workers participation.

CITU flag was hoisted at 1,879 places and human chain was organised at 560 places.

## Uttar Pradesh





The Foundation day was celebrated raising slogan, '50 years of unity and struggle' at 64 places participated by about 500 members in 18 districts including Allahabad, Bulandshahar, Ballia, Gazipur, Shonebhadra. Gonda, Lucknow, Bareilly, Itawa, Varanasi, Basti, Chandauli, Kanour, Shahjanpur and Meerut districts.

At the state centre CITU flag was hoisted by veteran leader and vice president of CITU state committee K. N. Bhat in presence of leading functionaries of CITU and its unions.

### Uttarakhand





CITU Foundation Day 2020 was celebrated in Uttarakhand by organising human chain and seminars in which 494 members joined including 318 members in Dehradun, 42 at Chamauli, 32 at Rudraprayag, 30 at Tihri, 22 at Almora and 50 members at Hardwar.

### West Bengal



Covid-19 lockdown and devastating impact of *Amfam* cyclone restricted large centralised programmes on the CITU Foundation Day 2020. The Day was observed at 1894 places in all districts with 36,000 members' participation by hoisting CITU flag, forming human chain, wearing badges and displaying placards.

State President Subhash Mukherjee hoisted the flag at the state centre. On this occasion Subhash Mukherjee, General Secretary Anadi Sahu and Deepak Dasgupta addressed the members on line through social media.



Many district committees and state level unions organized popular lectures and speeches through social media. Some had short meetings with limited number of members. Cultural programme was organized through social media with folk songs of various districts of Bengal, performed by the workers of those districts; Shyamal Chakraborty recited poem. Deepak Dasgupta, Somnath Bhattacharya and some other leaders spoke on Face book Live organized by different districts.

Blood donation camps were organized at 6 places in North 24 Parganas, in West Midnapore and in two other districts. Many district committees and unions organized reliefs for Amfan affected people and distributed food materials, medicines, sanitizers, gloves etc.

State Road Transport Federation hoisted CITU flag in all depots in which 1500 workers participated at 55 locations. Coal workers celebrated the Day at 33 places of ECL with 1500 workers participation. In more than 100 tea gardens the Day was celebrated with 4000 workers participation. State Federation of Municipal Workers organised programme in 32 municipalities across the State with 1500 workers participation. Federations of construction, jute, steel also observed the Foundation Day appropriately.

---

## CITU Calls

# **Resist Railways Privatisation**

In a statement on 2 July, CITU denounced Modi government for issuing RFQ (Request For Qualification) inviting foreign and domestic corporates for operating 109 pairs of high speed passenger trains to run on the Indian Railway network by the drivers and guards of Indian Railways. The other employees will be of the private operators responsible for procuring, operating and maintaining the trains and safety of the passengers.

Modi government's is putting Indian Railways, the pride of India and its precious wealth, on sale. The government has chosen the lockdown period to fast-track this anti-national policy.

Already the BJP Government has permitted 100% FDI in manufacturing and maintenance of rolling stock, signalling and electric works and dedicated freight lines. In the name of redevelopment of railway stations it has started handing over the railway stations along with their huge lands to the corporates.

The motive of the private players will be maximising profits, not providing cheap mode of transport to the people. Rather mass of the people, availing railway transport, will be subjected to heavier burden of unaffordable railway fares.

The Government's claim of Rs.30,000 crore investment and employment generation has no meaning as the drainage due to loss of revenue to the Indian Railways in these revenue generating routes and high speed trains will more than neutralise the said hypothetical figure. The employment loss due to privatisation of Indian Railways production units, in its workshops and maintenance units etc will be many times more than the employment created by the private players. Most of the jobs, that will be created, will be precarious jobs, not permanent jobs with decent wages and social security.

CITU called upon the major railway employees' unions to take the initiative to build strong struggle of resistance and defiance to this anti-people and anti-national move of the BJP Government. The coal workers have already shown the way of such defiance and resistance against privatisation move in coal sector through the massive and total 3 days strike on 2-4 July. The defence employees are ready to resist and defy privatisation of the defence sector, 99.9% employees expressing their support to go on strike in their strike ballot.

CITU called upon the entire trade union movement, the working class and the people to join together to put up powerful resistance against this move of privatising and selling of Indian Railways to the benefit of profit making hungry corporates, both domestic and foreign.

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

State	Centre	April 2020	May 2020	State	Centre	April 2020	May 2020
AP	GUNTUR	300	302	MHR	MUMBAI	320	324
	VIJAYWADA	306	306		NAGPUR	404	406
	VISHAKHAPATHNAM	305	306		NASIK	381	384
ASM	DOOM DOOMA TINSUKIA	310	300		PUNE	367	367
	GUWAHATI	294	292		SHOLAPUR	349	352
	LABAC SILCHAR	285	289	ORI	ANGUL TALCHER	346	350
	MARIANI JORHAT	279	279		ROURKELA	329	327
	RANGAPARA TEZPUR	264	264	PUD	PUDUCHERRY	333	334
BIH	MUNGER JAMALPUR	363	355	PUN	AMRITSAR	355	353
CHD	CHANDIGARH	323	325		JALANDHAR	334	332
CHS	BHILAI	334	333		LUDHIANA	312	311
DLI	DELHI	315	314	RJN	AJMER	299	299
GOA	GOA	348	348		BHILWARA	306	304
GUJ	AHMEDABAD	294	300		JAIPUR	326	323
	BHAVNAGAR	310	312	TN	CHENNAI	289	291
	RAJKOT	316	320		COIMBATORE	302	300
	SURAT	287	286		COONOR	343	346
	VADODARA	283	284		MADURAI	316	311
HRY	FARIDABAD	290	288		SALEM	310	301
	YAMUNANAGAR	313	312		TIRUCHIRAPALLY	318	321
HP	HIMACHAL PRADESH	282	280	TEL	GODAVARIKHANI	345	348
J&K	SRINAGAR	303	300		HYDERABAD	275	279
JRK	BOKARO	311	313		WARRANGAL	332	338
	GIRIDIH	362	363	TRP	TRIPURA	274	277
	JAMSHEDPUR	377	377	UP	AGRA	383	381
	JHARIA	375	374		GHAZIABAD	351	351
	KODARMA	410	407		KANPUR	361	360
	RANCHI HATIA	418	417		LUCKNOW	365	358
KNT	BELGAUM	320	321	WB	VARANASI	351	351
	BENGLURU	306	306		ASANSOL	354	356
	HUBLI DHARWAR	348	351		DARJEELING	283	280
	MERCARA	316	316		DURGAPUR	338	341
	MYSORE	321	323		HALDIA	405	406
KRL	ERNAKULAM	331	335		HOWRAH	306	303
	MUNDAKKAYAM	339	342		JALPAIGURI	290	286
	QUILON	375	377		KOLKATA	299	302
MP	BHOPAL	339	342		RANIGANJ	309	310
	CHHINDWARA	323	329		SILIGURI	294	291
	INDORE	297	298				
	JABALPUR	335	334				
					ALL INDIA INDEX	329	330

CITU Journal  
**The Working Class**  
(Print Copy)  
Be Subscriber  
(Each copy – Rs. 10)

- **Individual Subscriber** - Annual subscription – Rs.100/- for 1 copy;
- **Agency** - Minimum 5 copies; 25% discount as commission;
- **Payment** - By cheque - Drawn in favour of “The Working Class” payable at Canara Bank, DDU Marg Branch, New Delhi – 110 002  
By bank money transfer - SB A/C No. 0158101019569;  
IFSC Code: CNRB 0000158;  
With email / letter intimation

---

# STATES

## Andhra Pradesh

### **Contract Workers Strike in Vizag Steel Plant**



The lockdown, apparently imposed to combat the deadly virus COVID-19, is being utilized against the working class depriving them of their livelihood. The central government and its public sector unit did not implement its own decision and direction about not to retrench workers and not to cut their wages during lockdown period.

About 16,000 contract workers are engaged in different jobs in Vizag steel plant and the township of the central public sector Rashtriya Ispat Nigam limited (RINL). A large section of them lost their jobs due to scaling down of production. Of the contract workers full complement, only 10% of them got full 26 days work in April, 25% in May and 40% in June; while 50% got only 15 days in April, May and June; and rest of them got less than 10 days work. So, the lockdown imposed under the Disaster Management Act succeeded in pushing almost 10,000 contract workers of RINL and their families into deeper disaster by ruining their livelihood and lives.

In this situation CITU and SWFI affiliated Steel Plant Contract Labour Union formed a united platform with other such unions of AITUC, INTUC, HMS and YSRTUC and resorted to demonstrative agitations demanding full payment to all contract workers during lockdown period. As there was no response from the management and the government, the unions jointly served strike notice on 8 May. Even with the intervention of the RLC (C), the just demand was ignored.

Ultimately, all contract workers, except those who were in emergency duties in the hospitals, project and sanitation; were on 2 days complete strike on 26 and 27 June 2020 in the historic struggle of defiance and resistance during Covid-19 lockdown.

The permanent workers played active supportive role including campaigning and in staging dharna in front of all HODs in both the days of strike. Every unit of SAIL also extended their solidarity to the strike. *(Inputs: Lalit Mohan Misra)*

---

# In Solidarity with US People's Struggle

24 June 2020

In response to the call of WFTU, National Solidarity Day with U.S. People's Struggle against racial, social and economic discrimination was observed on 24 June 2020 in different parts of India jointly by all WFTU affiliates.



Delhi – NCR



Bihar, Odisha



MP, Rajasthan



Punjab, Telangana