

Towards Socialism

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THE NATION NEEDS ANOTHER AUGUST KRANTI

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In the AICC session at Bombay, the Congress adopted the historic resolution on 8 August, 1942,

stating:

"... it is no longer justified in holding the nation back from endeavouring to assert its will against an imperialist and authoritarian government.... The Committee resolves, to sanction... the starting of a mass struggle on non-violent lines on the widest possible scale.."

Within hours after the AICC meeting had concluded on the night of 8th August, most of the leaders including Mahatma Gandhi were arrested. The public reaction was immediate and spontaneous. There were hartals, processions and demonstrations everywhere. The police had to resort to all repressive measures at many places. In Delhi alone, on 11th and 12th August police had to open fire at 47 places in which 76 people were killed. In Satara in Karnataka, the peasantry started underground guerrilla resistance to British rule which continued till 1944. The revolutionary violence occurred on a large scale not only in British India but also in the native states. The revolt was spearheaded by the students, workers and peasants. There were strikes in factories, schools and colleges. The Police Stations, Post Offices and Railway stations which were considered the symbols of British authority in India, were attacked, set on fire and wrecked.

The government reacted sharply and let loose a reign of terror. There were several cases of unarmed crowds being machine-gunned from the air. The revolt was short-lived but intense. The government succeeded in suppressing the revolt but not before more than a thousand people had lost their lives in the state violence.

Though the revolt failed but it succeeded in achieving two things. Firstly it gave expression to India's anger against imperialism and her determination to be free, in a very clear-cut manner. Secondly the revolt made it crystal clear to the British rulers that the days of imperialist domination of India were numbered. After the rising of August, 1942 it was very clear that the exit of the British from India was only a question of time.

Now the nation needs another August Kranti, may not be exactly like the one in 1942 but definitely with the same aim as the August Kranti of 1942. The main aim of August Kranti was to "assert will against imperialism". Asserting will and fighting against imperialism is much more needed at this time as compared to the pre-independence days. The domination of imperialism in the post-independent India has become much wider and stronger than it was in the pre-independence days. Now there is hardly any field of life which is not being overwhelmingly dominated by imperialism.

The nation needs to be liberated from the present-day neo-imperialism. The exploitation of the poorer section of our countrymen is still going on. We are not really independent. What we gained in 1947 was not the real independence but just transfer of power. The fate and destiny of our country is not being decided by the so-called "We the people of India..." rather it is being decided by the imperialist countries led by U.S.A. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had dreamt of an India free from exploitation and aggrandizement, Shaheed-e-Azam S. Bhagat Singh had died for the downfall of imperialism, but unfortunately it is still alive. The real tribute to all those who laid down their lives in the August Kranti or during any stage or front of the freedom struggle will be the end of imperialism for which another 'AUGUST KRANTI' is required. We must not forget that the 'blood of the martyr is the seed of revolution', hence we must be prepared to pay the price for the war against imperialism. We must prepare ourselves for the great fight by remembering the words of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: "It is only when the blood of freedom-loving Indians will flow, India shall get freedom".

When train - journey is no more safe, can Railway Minister avoid her responsibility

It has now become a nightmare for the train passengers whether they can reach their destination safely. During the last ten months sixteen railway accidents occurred, causing the death of 259 persons, out of which two were in West Bengal and those two were so terrible that it caused the death of 213 passengers, along with injury to thousands. If minor accidents are taken into account, there have been 162 accidents since May 2009, in which 428 people died. In respect of frequency of accidents, and severity too, perhaps the present railway ministry surpassed all previous records. But most unfortunately, the Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee has always engaged herself in searching for some foul games or sabotage behind the accidents, instead of critically examining technical faults or human failures causing the accidents and taking remedial measures to prevent

further damages. When the Jnaneswari Express met with the disastrous accident on 28 May 2010 causing the death of 146 passengers, indications were there that the Maoists were behind the violent derailment. CBI enquiry is going on and we hope that the truth will come out. But in case of the latest accident that took place between 2 to 3 p.m. of 19 July 2010 at Sainthia station (of Birbhum district, West Bengal), at least Maoists can not be blamed. Still the Railway, along with the political parties like the Congress and the Trinamool Congress are scenting some foul games of the Left Front behind the accident. The basic fact was that a highly speeding Uttar Banga Express rammed into the Vananchal Express that was just leaving the Sainthia station. The impact of the crash was so violent that one of the Vananchal Express coaches mounted pedestrian overbridge ahead of it. As per the expert opinion, 'the fundamental safety procedure in the railways is that when a track is occupied, the signaling system will not let in another train.' So the possible reasons for this tragedy on the tracks that claimed at least 67 lives can be : either the driver of the Uttar Banga Express, who died in the collision, disregarded the signal or the signal failed. Further question arose, why should the driver disregard the signal at the cost of his own life. Pointed fingers are therefore towards the mechanical failure and utter lack of modernization and overall maintenance of the tracks and the working system. This is evident everywhere in the countrywide network of railways. Can the Railway minister escape the blame for ignoring this vital aspect of maintenance and modernization? A recent startling revelation is that the railways did not heed CAG recommendations submitted just a year ago pointing out the drawbacks of implementation of the signaling and telecommunication system under the Corporate Safety Plan (CSP). If the railways have initiated any corrective measure, possibly that could have averted the Sainthia collision. The present railway minister appears to be engaged only in railway-politics aiming towards capturing power in West Bengal. For which, she is wasting crores of railway fund in indiscriminately opening new railway lines in the state and publicizing that profusely. But the basic needs of railways are utterly ignored.

There are numerous reports of coaches being detached from engines of running trains, accidents at unmanned crossings, derailment of coaches of prestigious trains like Rajdhani Express, spoiled food being supplied to passengers of trains like 'Duranta', inordinate delay and irregular running of train and so on. All these indicate utter failure of railway administration. There are examples of rampant corruption in railway. Miss Banerjee has recently appointed of her close associates, at fabulous monthly remuneration of Rs. 50,000/- + perks to look after passengers' amenities! One of her own selected man (in Maharashtra region) is involved in scam of (Crores of rupees in leaking of recruitment examination questions). A huge number of vacancies in vital maintenance department are left unfulfilled. The absentee railway minister can not escape the moral responsibility for all these lapses and failures and tragic deaths of railway passengers. Majority of the MLAs of West Bengal Assembly are justified in demanding resignation of such a railway minister. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh should also be equally blamed if he prefers to close his eyes and ears on the present callous maintaining callous railway administration matter only for maintaining his coalition majority.

We need relentless fight for right to Forests, Water & Land

Dr. Barun Mukherji, M.P.

Right to forest, water and land is a fundamental basic right of the poor and the tribals. But they are traditionally deprived of it and are mercilessly exploited by a handful of privileged classes. Of late, this deprivation and exploitation have reached the peak due to wanton, indiscriminate and illegal mining. And obviously, this is done through an unholy corporate houses and politicians nexus. This causes not only an extensive damage to the livelihood of the local poor, tribals and other forest dwellers, but at the same time it causes irreparable harm to the environment. A recent media report say that an estimated 1.64 lakh hectares of forest land has been diverted for mining in India. Mostly coal, bauxite and iron ores are targeted, which are located in wide jungle areas of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Jharkhand, West Bengal Chhattisgarh and other areas. It is further estimated that only iron-ore mining used up 77 million tones of water in 2005-06 which was enough to meet the daily needs of three million people. Forest dwellers are thus forcefully evicted, of which not even 25% are compensated or rehabilitated and precious water resources are diverted to satisfy the greed of the corporate houses, including foreign investors, and enormous amounts of land production are destroyed. It has thus reached a stage of war situation between the poor forest dwellers and the greedy corporate houses patronized by the corrupt politicians. It is hightime to unite these hapless exploited classes to launch an all out fight against the illegal mining operators.

It must be kept in mind that this illegal mining has to distinctive all effects, one is environmental degradation and the other is large-scale displacement of poor people. Without taking into consideration the remedial measures that the mine explorers should have taken, the greedy corporate houses and the corrupt politicians rung after huge profits only. The BJP-led Karnataka government is in the midst of great controversy and conflict due to two of its cabinet ministers -- the Reddy Brothers' direct involvement in iron ore mining in Bellory district of state. The

governor of the state Sri Bharadwaj has openly criticized the corrupt practices of Reddy brothers and asked for their removal from the cabinet. But the state Chief Minister, along with the top national leadership of BJP, are shielding the corrupt Reddy brothers, who are also claiming themselves as pure as gold. This has indeed an adverse impact on the whole country.

Similar is the case with the proposed Posco steel plant in Orissa. Interestingly, here the state government's decision to grant mining license to Posco has been set aside by the High Court. In a setback to the Rs. 51,000 crore Posco steel plant planned at Paradeep, the Orissa High Court on 14th July 2010 set aside the state government's recommendation for granting the South Korean steel major a license for prospecting on 2500 hectares of the Khandadhar iron ore mines in Sundargarh district. We are yet to see the next steps in the matter. We must also make a note of the continuing public protests and movements against ousting of people for construction of dams etc. Here also is the main question about resettlement and rehabilitation of ouster in several states like Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat etc.

There are other instances of scam in respect of illegal mining. Madhua Koda, the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, was arrested in connection with a Rs. 4300 crore scam. Vedanta group's operations in Orissa is another example. A recent study on their "construction of the Lanjigarh alumina refinery and prospective mining of the adjacent Niyamgiri hills asserted that both the state and the Central Government had breached obligation to respect and protect the human rights of the Dongria Kondh and other communities affected by mining and refinery projects." Bauxite mining planned in the Visakha Agency area in Congress-led Andhra Pradesh is also expected to wipe out hill slopes with paddy fields and with it the livelihoods of their tribal population. In fact it is estimated that there are about 15000 illegal mines spread areas the country as against 8700 legal mines. The most dangerous aspect of such illegal mining and its consequent damage to livelihoods of poor tribal people are facilitating spread of Maoist extremisms in the affected areas. An expert opinion indicates that 60 percent of the country's mineral-rich districts is dangerous for country's internal security.

All these aspects must be taken into consideration while addressing the forthcoming draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill 2010. Primary consideration must be recognizing the right to natural resources to local communities, avoiding destruction of green fields and ensuring a comprehensive compensation and resettlement and rehabilitation package for the oustees. In fine, we must ensure the right to forests, water and land to the tribal poor and the traditional forest dwellers through relentless fight.

NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR FOOD SECURITY BEING HELD IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 1, 2010

The CPI(M), CPI, AIFB and RSP have jointly organised a national convention against price rise and for food security and employment on 1st July 2010 at Mavlankar Hall, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. Comrade Prakash Karat, Com. A.B. Bardhan, Com. Debabrata Biswas and Com. T.J. Chandrachoodan have addressed the convention. Eminent agricultural scientist Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, noted economist Dr. Jayti Ghosh and Sr. Journalist P. Sainath also expressed their views in details in the convention. The presidium of convention consist of Com. Brinda Karat, Com. S. Sudhakar Reddy and Com. G. Devarajan.

The following declaration was adopted in the convention.

Expresses its deep concern

that the relentless increase in the prices of essential food commodities including wheat, rice, edible oil, sugar, pulses and vegetables has led to an intensification of deprivation among large sections of the population at a time when global reports show that India continues to have the highest numbers of malnourished and undernourished citizens in the world, the largest numbers of underweight children, anemic women and people who are victims of hunger. India is ranked a low 66 out of 88 countries in the Global Hunger Index

Holds that

The policies of the Central Government are in the main responsible for price rise and the attempts to blame State Governments is nothing but a shield by the Central Government to conceal its own utter failures to control prices and reverse its wrong policies

These wrong policies include:

(1) the deliberate weakening of the public distribution system (PDS) and the subsequent erosion of the important role of the PDS to act as a countervailing pressure against high market prices. This is a policy designed to make consumers dependant on the market, thus putting millions at the mercy of profiteers and black marketeers.

(2) the Government's refusal to restore allocations of foodgrains to the States which have been reduced on an average by 73 per cent in the last five years with some States like Kerala suffering a cut of over 80 per cent. Even though the Central Government has a huge buffer stock of 60 million tonnes, in a most inadequate decision the Government has now decided to release just 3 million additional tonnes of foodgrains to the States in the next six months but at prices which are still higher than the APL prices by 42.7 per cent for rice and 38.52 per cent for wheat. The Government prefers that the foodgrains should rot in the open or be eaten by rats rather than ensure that it be distributed at affordable prices.

(3) permitting future trade in essential commodities including wheat, several varieties of pulses, edible oils, even vegetables like potatoes. The huge increasing volume of trade in futures in commodity exchanges impacts on spot prices by pushing up these prices reflecting naked profiteering, yet the Government has refused to ban future trade

in essential food commodities

(4) the administered hikes in the prices of petrol and diesel which have had a cascading impact on the price of other commodities. The Central Government's taxes on petroleum products and diesel constitutes a significant portion of the present price structure of these commodities bringing substantial revenues to the Central Government while the people suffer the impact in increasing prices. The present moves to further raise prices of petrol and diesel will be disastrous and this Convention warns the Government against taking any such decision.

This Convention demands price control measures of food items which are an integral part of any policy which seeks to ensure food security by

(1) strengthening the public distribution system and restoring allocations to State Governments at APL issue prices (2) ban on future trade in essential commodities (3) cut in prices of petrol and diesel (4) strong measures to curb blackmarketing and profiteering in essential commodities

This National Convention on Food Security

Strongly criticizes

the Central Government delay in bringing an effective legislation to ensure food security to our citizens. On the contrary the draft being discussed by the Group of Ministers will lead to food insecurity not food security since it reduces the present allocations, cuts the numbers of those eligible and virtually scraps the present Antodaya system.

Worse, the present draft by making the system of targeting and division of the population into above poverty line (APL) and below poverty line (BPL) a part of the law, actually legalizes exclusion of vast sections of the poor on the basis of highly dubious definitions of poverty. In that sense this present draft and the conception of food security it represents will be a step backwards and if accepted it will do much more damage than if there was no law at all.

This Convention condemns

the present low level politics going on in the name of poverty estimates and definitions and the bargaining going on as to how many families may be included or excluded as if it is not the lives and futures of millions of people at stake but the price of a commodity in the market place. The issue is not at all whether "at least some more people should be included in the BPL" to keep this or that leader happy, but the entirely unscientific basis of the present exercise. This is further shown in the widely differing estimates of poverty by three officially constituted committees which range from 77 per cent to 50 per cent to 37.5 per cent (for rural India) of the population.

In a country where the vast majority of people are in the unorganized sector with no fixed income and no protection against price rise, when it is estimated by the Government's own Commission on the unorganized sector that 77 per cent of the population have an expenditure level of less than twenty rupees a day, the requirement of a universal system of public distribution to guarantee foodgrains and other essentials at fixed affordable prices is self-evident.

This Convention reiterates

That only a universal public distribution system can guarantee at least minimum food security which means scrapping the present targeted system and divisions of APL and BPL on issues like food, health, education.

It demands

That the Government bring a revised Food Security Bill in the coming session of Parliament with the following minimum features:

- 1. It should be a universal right**
- 2. It should guarantee at least 35 kg of foodgrains per nuclear family**
- 3. The price of foodgrains must be fixed at two rupees a kilo. The choice should include millets (coarse grains) which are a staple food in many parts of India and are highly nutritious.**
- 4. It must have provisions to ensure food security to pre-school and school going children through a legal guarantee for mid-day meals and allocations for the ICDS**
- 5. It must ensure the inclusion of a range of other essential commodities, at controlled prices as is being done by several State Governments**

This Convention

Recognizes the crucial role played by farmers in ensuring food security. It stresses that land reforms and distribution of surplus land to the landless accompanied by requisite allocations for development of that land will give a big boost to food security apart from helping millions of landless to increase their means of livelihood and in this context it condemns the total absence of land reform on the agenda of the central Government

The low growth rate in agriculture reflects the lack of priority given to the development of agriculture and the rights and welfare of the farming community by the Government. This Convention demands a substantial increase in expenditure to build the rural infrastructure, for provision of electricity, irrigation facilities, extension services for the farmers.

The Government's indifferent approach to self-sufficiency in foodgrain production is reflected in its policies to encourage cash crops for export purposes. The recommendations of the Farmers Commission headed by M.S. Swaminathan had made extremely valuable and farmer friendly recommendations to meet the conditions of acute distress facing Indian farmers reflected in the large numbers of farmer suicides, while making recommendations to also ensure food self-sufficiency. However the Government has not implemented those recommendations.

The callousness of the Government is reflected in its cut in fertilizer subsidy by over 3000 crore rupees. The present crisis in seed availability, the huge increase in the price of seeds, the monopolies being established by big seed corporations, the increasing costs of inputs for foodgrain production are making agriculture non-viable for substantial sections of farmers in our country, 70 per cent of whom are small or marginal farmers. These are dangerous portents of what lies in the future if India has to once again become dependant on expensive imports of foodgrains and be held ransom by powerful food corporates.

This Convention demands a pro-farmer set of policies which will ensure inputs at controlled prices, a fair price for produce, a stronger network of procurement centers, encouragement for production of foodgrains and pulses. It demands a special package for adivasi farmers most of them working on most unproductive plots of land to encourage through fair prices and procurement, the production of millets and coarse grains suited to dry and non-irrigated land.

This Convention resolves to intensify the struggle to reverse the policies of the Central Government which have led to increasing misery of the people, price rise and food insecurity and for an effective food security legislation based on a universal system of public distribution as described above.

This Convention calls for a month long campaign and struggle throughout the month of August starting from the village and block level and in town and city mohallas to take the message to the people. These campaigns may include dharnas, padyataras, jeep jathas, processions, prabhat pheris, demonstrations and gheraos and may be decided at the local and State level.

The call of this Convention is to reach out to the mass of people to assert their rights to food security and control of price rise.

Change Government Policies!

Stop the loot of the poor through price rise!

Scrap Targeting! Stop excluding the poor in the name of APL! Establish a Universal Public Distribution System

Bring the Stocks out of the Godowns and Feed people not rats!

AIFB CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET AT KOLKATA

The Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc met at New Delhi on 2,3 & 4th July 2010.

The meeting condoled on the death of Com. (Prof.) Amar Singh Kushwaha, Vice President All India Forward Bloc. The meeting observed one minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

Following political resolutions have been adopted after threadbare discussion.

NATION-WIDE CAMPAIGN:

The Central Committee resolved to intensify mass action programme from the grass root level on following Basic Tasks and Demands:

Basic Tasks :

- (i) Propagate - Rebuild India in Netaji's Way - Netaji's India a Socialist India.
- (ii) Intensify the campaign "Government must declare Netaji's birthday as "Desh Prem Divas". Reject Action Taken Report (ATR), accept Mukherjee Commission Report.
- (iii) Fight against 4Cs i.e., corruption, criminalization, communalism and casteism.
- (iv) Fight against neo-imperialism
- (v) Land to the tiller.
- (vi) Save Land, Water and Forest from the hands of MNC's

Demands :

- (1) Stop MNC's entry in agriculture, cottage industry and SSI units.
- (2) Remunerative prices for agriculture produce.
- (3) Institutional credit to the peasantry at 4% simple interest.
- (4) Scrap the future trading in agricultural produces.
- (5) Central Legislation for agriculture workers.
- (6) We need universal PDS.
- (7) Project should be taken in consultation with people/gram sabha.
- (8) We want rehabilitation act and rehabilitation for the displaced persons.
- (9) No privatization of mining sector, stop privatization and outsourcing.
- (10) Free compulsory quality education for all at the age group of 6 to 14 years.
Stop Commercialization and privatization of education.
- (11) Health and Education must be in public sector
Health - Education for all
- (12) Employment for all in MNREGA for 200 days in rural and urban both areas.
- (13) Empowerment of women, pass immediately the Women's Reservation Bill in original form.
- (14) Implement Ranganath Mishra Commission's Report on reservation for minorities.

On the basis of these 14 point programme and on the light of new development such as petrol price hike, farmers' crisis etc. the party will launch a nationwide campaign from 9th August to 15th August 2010 to build up mass uprising against the anti-people policies of the government. The programme will focus on sectoral issues on each day. The respective Mass organizations of the party will take initiative to organize the said programme.

9th August 2010 Farmers's Issue AIAKS

10th August 2010 Worker's Issue TUCC

11th August 2010 Youth Issues AIYL

12th August 2010 Student Issues AISB
13th August 2010 Women & Teachers Issues AIAMS & Teachers Cells
14th August 2010 People's mass action AIFB Units
15th August 2010 Cultural Issues Party and Cultural Fronts

All the lower units of the party and the mass organizations are requested to convene their respective meetings and to chalk out detailed programme to carry forward the said campaign successfully.

MASS PROGRAMME ON JUDICIAL ACTIVISM:

The Central Committee has decided to organize nationwide campaign on the increasing judicial interference on the matters related to executive and legislature. The Bhopal gas Tragedy Verdict and the banning of public meetings at road side by the Kerala High Courts are the recent examples in this regard. All the state units are requested to organize mass campaign against this undemocratic attitude and violations of fundamental rights.

ONE YEAR OF UPA-II BEARS IMPRINT OF PRO-RICH AND ANTI-PEOPLE POLICIES

While presenting a report card on first anniversary of UPA-II government on 1st June 2010, the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh admitted that inflation is a major challenge for the government, which he softly termed as 'pressure on prices'. In fact, food inflation has skyrocketed to 16.49 percent by the end of first week of May 2010. Manmohan Singh in his UPA-II report card has called for calibrated reduction in fiscal deficit to enable the government to strengthen social and economic foundations. But the actual position is very grim. The fiscal deficit had shot up by 25 percent to Rs. 4,12,307 crore (equivalent to 6.6 percent of India's GDP) in 2009-10 compared to the year ago period when it stood at Rs. 3,30,114 crore during 2008-09.

Apart from the economic front, the UPA-II also miserably failed to effectively deal with the challenges of Naxalism and Terrorism. Unfortunately, it simply bypassed the problem by saying it is for "the state government to deal with various issues related to Left-wing extremism (LWE). The central government supplements their efforts in several ways" like assistance in training and sharing of intelligence. Being keen to keep the coalition partners in good humour, the government has skirted problem areas like poor railway safety and poor progress of railway corridors, corruption in 2G spectrum allocations, miserable failure of agriculture sector etc. The report card, thus being deviated from reality path, is more a propaganda camouflaging its areas of gross failures to contain price rise, to address Maoist problems, to check corrupt and irresponsible ministers, etc.

The United Progressive Alliance-II (UPA-II) government is at least very happy that they need not depend on the support of the Left for its very existence. This assured position has given them enough incentive to go back to their original economic reforms programme which they could not freely follow during the UPA-I regime. Moreover, they are not bound by any Common Minimum Programme (CMP) now. The first year of the UPA-II regime has witnessed therefore a major thrust of the government's neo-liberal policies which helped corporate houses to flourish while the poor became poorer. The union budget has gifted to the corporate houses tax concessions to the extent of Rs. 80,000 crore. But the government can not give necessary budget support for implementation of the RTE Act. It is estimated that Rs. 1.71 lakh crore is necessary for implementation of the RTE Act in next five years. The union government is harping mainly on the states in 55:45 ratio for implementation of the much publicized Right to Education, but majority of the states have already indicated their inability to provide the necessary fund. It appears that the UPA-II government is more interested to utilize the RTE Act as a publicly - value than to its actual implementation.

During the one year of the UPA-II, the government has followed many of the programmes left unfinished in the UPA-I regime. One such major programme is disinvestment of profitable PSUs like SAIL, Oil India, NTPC, NHPC, CIL, NLC, etc. The government has set the target of raising Rs. 25000 crore during the current year. Ultimately this would lead to denationalisation in wide spread private sector areas and encouraging private sector. The UPA-II is thus

strengthening the capitalist economy which is detrimental to the interest of the aam admi. To begin with, the government has vigorously started PPP model in many major sectors, including Railways. This would eventually destroy the PSUs. Ironically, we may recall what Prime Minister has said during his reporting on UPA-II that "I promise you funds will not be a constraint when it comes to the core concerns of the aam admi"

The UPA-II has miserably failed to contain the price-rise, while it aims to weaken the Public Distribution System. In spite of repeated demands by the Left and other opposition, the government continues to refuse banning forward trading, particularly in food grains, only to safeguard the interests of some profit-hungry corporate houses. Hike in the fertilizer price and reduction of fertilizer subsidies as well, is a great blow to the poor farmers, thousands of whom have been forced to commit suicide under heavy debt burden. The UPA-II has been over-enthusiastic to further increase the petroleum-diesel prices and has caused further inflation. At the fag end of the first year of the UPA-II, a major concern would be the added inflationary pressure on account of hike in prices of

non-food articles following the cabinet decision to increase prices of natural gas. With the government more than doubling the prices of natural gas to \$4.20 per million British thermal unit, gas based power as well as public transportation is expected to cost more and thereby add to overall inflation. In fact, higher gas prices will have cascading effect on uses industries. The cost of power, compressed natural gas (CNG), piped natural gas (PNG) and fertilizer for farmers is likely to go up substantially due to anti-public policies of the UPA-II.

One year of UPA-II has also disappointed millions of unemployed youths. Privatisation and commercialisation of education is also a bitter experience of the first year of UPA-II. Higher education and quality health care are now meant for the privileged elite society. Traditional Indian education system has also been threatened with the UPA-II paving the smooth passage of Foreign universities to Indian soil. UPA-II also could not prevent the scam on IPL, 2-G spectrum allocation on illegal mining. The vast difference in prices garnered for 3G spectrum and 2G spectrum clearly points out to the corrupt practices indulged in by the communication minister A. Raja. But the Prime Minister continues to guard him for the sake of their coalition partner. UPA-II government's failure to tackle Maoist menace is also a matter of great concern. The government could not take into confidence all the concerned states to formulate a comprehensive policy to fight Maoist violence. Even the Prime Minister's shocking silence in case of another coalition partner from West Bengal, who is very often publicly opposing government policies, is also a matter of further concern. UPA-II government's unholy and undesirable compromises on various issues only to save coalition partnership have become harmful for the national interest.

Introduction of Nuclear liability bill highlights UPA-II's shameful surrender to US pressure, which began with the signing of Indo-US Nuclear deal. The bill provides for a maximum liability of Rs. 500 crore on the part of the operator in case of an accident. The provision, the opposition members say, puts a cap on compensation and violates the rights of a citizen guaranteed under the constitution.

Shamefully, on the other hand, the UPA-II failed to enact an essentially needed Food Security Bill, while the agricultural productivity continues to be alarmingly low. The UPA-II also failed to pass the Women's Reservation Bill and at the same time it shows reluctance to implement the Ranganathan Commission's report on minority reservation. It also passed the National Green Tribunal Bill to help the big corporate houses for quick and favourable disposal of environment violation cases. In fine, the one year of UPA-II bears the imprint of a government pursuing anti-people and pro-business houses policy.

When the UPA II is completing its one year, the government is sinking under neck-deep corruption charges. The latest revelation of 2G spectrum allocation scandal is the biggest corruption case of India ever heard. It was calculated that, the nepotism of the Communication Minister Mr. A. Raja caused a loss of whopping figure of 1,90,000 crores to the national exchequer. The Prime Minister, while addressing the media person at New Delhi after completing his one year term, virtually admitted that there is prima facie corruption in the allocation of 2G spectrum allocation in comparison with 3G spectrum allocation. But mere admission of the complaint or an enquiry under the same corrupt minister will not discover the truth. Therefore, the Prime Minister should expel the corrupt minister and constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to enquire the entire gamut of the spectrum allocation. The controversy erupted from the IPL Cricket Match, which eventually led to the resignation of Sashi Tharoor. The MoS for External Affairs is another scandal emerged during this period. Sharad Pawar and Praful Patel, two Cabinet Ministers of NCP are also deeply involved in this gambling. The Prime Minister is keeping silence on ignoring the demand of Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The government is maintaining criminal silence on the ongoing corrupt practices in the implementation of NREGA in different states and allowing the Ambani brothers of Reliance group to plunder the natural resources including oil and gas.

The performance of the last one year of the Congress(I) led UPA II government clearly shows the commitment of the government to push further the neo-liberal economic policies and to satiate the interests of the domestic corporates and the international corporate houses. The government has failed to keep up the momentum of implementing the pro-people policy initiatives, which started during the UPA I period, when the Left parties have extended their external support to the government, such as Women Reservation Bill, Forest Right Act 2006, packages for the rehabilitation of the displaced people and the demand to link the MNREGA wages with consumer price index (CPI) etc. The UPA II government is blindly allowing the MNCs to exploit the natural resources especially the mines without consulting the state and local bodies. Therefore it is crystal clear that the UPA I was acted upon a Common Minimum Programme mutually agreed by the Left parties targeted the general public while the UPA II is acting without any policy contour but an aim to satiate the interests of the rich, corporates, MNCs and their imperialist masters.

The UPA-II has failed to give a political direction with regard to combat the religious fundamentalism forces. The communal outfits are carrying forward their nefarious agenda and even organizing 'paid riots'. The Hindu fundamental are organizing minority religious worship places and putting the blame on Muslim people. The Ajmer Blast and the Malegaon riot are the examples in this regard. The Islam 'Jehadi' groups are freely working in India in different names with the help of ISI of Pakistan. They are meticulously utilizing the border areas of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal to carry forward their fundamental agenda. All these groups are having external contacts and assistance. The UPA-II has miserably failed to tackle the issue of terrorism

in the name of religious fundamentalism.

On foreign policy front, the UPA II shows no difference from its previous edition especially the subservient attitude towards the US imperialism. The proposed Civilian Nuclear Liability Bill is the latest example in his regard. At the same time the government has taken some positive initiative to continue the dialogue with Pakistan, strengthening the co-operation of India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) co-operation, Brazil, South Africa, India, China (BASIC) unity and the cooperation of Brazil, Russia, India China (BRIC). The position taken by India along with these countries in the negotiation of climate change is encouraging.

DESH PREM DIVAS

The party has decided to strengthen its campaign for pressurizing the Union government to declare Netaji's birthday as 'Desh Prem Divas'. After the successful citizen conventions, dharnas and deputations to the Governors, the party will approach all the national, state and regional parties except the Congress (I) to adopt a resolutions in the respective Legislative Assemblies in this regard. A draft resolution is attached herewith for submitting to the legislative party leaders. A five member committee has been constituted for planning and monitoring the campaign for 'Desh Prem Divas' The committee consists of Com. Subrata Bose (Convenor), Com. (Dr.) Barun Mukherjee M.P; Com. G. R. Shivashankar, Com. V.P Saini and Com. Janardhan Pandey. All the state committees are requested to streamline the campaign and to organize mass programmes to achieve our goal.

AIFB STATE OBSERVERS:

The Central Committee has decided that the following Comrades will be the observers for the party in different states.

1. Andaman & Nicobar :	Com. Naren Dey
2. Andhra Pradesh :	Com. G. R. Shivashankar,
3. Assam :	Com. Shyamal Roy & Com. Bhaktipada Ghosh
4. Bihar :	Com. Hafiz Alam Sairani
5. Delhi :	Com. G. Devarajan
6. Haryana :	Com. V.P. Saini
7. Jammu & Kashmir :	Com. G. Devarajan, & Com. (Dr.) Mortaza Hossain
8. Jharkhand :	Com. Bir Singh Mahato
9. Karnataka :	Com. Dr. Barun Mukherjee
10. Kerala :	Com. Naren Dey
11. Madhya Pradesh :	Com. Bir Singh Mahato & Com. S.P. Tiwari
12. Maharashtra :	Com. Subrata Bose
& Com.	(Dr.) Mortaza Hossain
13. Manipur :	Com. Shyamal Roy & Com. Bhaktipada Ghosh
14. Nagaland :	Com. Shymal Roy & Com. Bhaktipada Ghosh
15. Orissa :	Com. (Dr.) Barun Mukherji
16. Puducherry :	Com. P.V. Kathiravan
17. Punjab :	Com. G. Devarajan
18. Rajasthan :	Com. Bir Singh Mahato & Com. S.P. Tiwari
19. Tamilnadu :	Com. Naren Dey, Com. U. Muthu
20. Tripura :	Com. (Dr.) Barun Mukherji
21. Uttar Pradesh :	Com. Janardan Pandey, Com. Jiban Saha & Com. Narahari Mahato
22. Uttarakhand :	Com. G. Devarajan & Com. Narahari Mahato
23. West Bengal :	Com. Debabrata Biswas

STEEP HIKE IN PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IS ANOTHER CRUEL BLOW TO THE PEOPLE

Countrywide Protest Hartal on July 5

The decision of the UPA government to inflict a steep rise in the prices of petrol, diesel, kerosene oil and cooking gas w.e.f. 1st July 2010 is a cruel blow against the people who are already suffering due to the runaway increase in the prices of food and essential commodities. The price of petrol has gone up by Rs. 3.50 per litre, diesel by Rs. 2 per litre, kerosene oil by Rs. 3 per litre and cooking gas by Rs. 35 per cylinder.

This undesirable anti-people decision of the government has come at a time when the food inflation rate is around 17 per cent and the general inflation rate has reached double digits. India has the dubious distinction of having the highest rate of consumer price inflation in the world. The UPA government has decided to deregulate the price of petrol and leave it to the market to determine. Going by the Kirit Parikh Report, the government is going to decontrol prices of all petroleum products, including diesel. This is going to prove disastrous for the economy and the country.

The government is giving false arguments to justify these measures. The prices of petrol and diesel were

increased by Rs. 3 per litre only three months ago at the time of the Union Budget. International oil prices have not risen substantially in this period. Neither is the government prepared to rationalize the taxation structure on petroleum products which is adding to a price of petrol and diesel in a large measure. It is a myth that such a step is being taken to protect the public sector companies from under-recoveries. The so-called under-recoveries are entirely based on notional prices calculated without any reference to the actual cost of production. Even two years ago the PSUs have paid dividend of Rs. 90000 crore. In fact, the deregulation is only to help private companies who withdrew from the market because of the government price controls. Now they will be free to enter the market to make profits. By deregulating petrol prices, the government has opened the way for continuous increases in the prices of petrol. By increasing the price of diesel and kerosene oil, the farmers and the poorer sections are going to be badly hit. The LPG increase will further burden the middle classes. The Congress-led government has shown its callous and anti-people character by these measures.

The Left parties demanded the immediate scrapping of the price increases and called upon all their units to jointly launch protests against these hikes by observing All India hartal on 5th July 2010.

The Left parties consulted other secular opposition parties. Along with the Left parties, 13 other parties like AIADMK, Telugu Desam Party, Samajwadi Party, Biju Janata Dal, Janata Dal (S), Indian National Lok Dal etc. joined the countrywide hartal on July 5. BJP also called hartal on the same issue on 5th July.

The hartal had record success expressing peoples spontaneous opposition against price hike. Metropolitan cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai came to standstill. States like West Bengal, Tripura, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamilnadu, Andhra, Karnataka, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh etc. joined the hartal. Transport was off the street, offices-industries-educational institutions were almost deserted. 5th July hartal was an indication of all out opposition to the UPA government in the coming days. AIFB displayed special posters, hoardings, flexes throughout the country.

BANGLADESH BHARAT PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S FORUM : WOMEN'S CHAPTER

As decided by Tri-national Dhaka meeting, the Conference of National Women's Chapter was held at Netaji Market auditorium, Lalbagh, Murshidabad on 9-10 July 2010.

Delegates from Mumbai, Karnataka, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bangladesh attended the conference. Delegates from Uttar Pradesh had joined the conference with a "JANASANDESH YATRA", marching 1100 K.M. from Gorakhpur.

3 documents in English were placed before the meeting, discussed and adopted subject to translation in vernacular languages. Mrs. Afroza Haq Rina, president of the Steering committee (from Bangladesh).

On 10th July at 8 A.M. after garlanding the Netaji Statue a march started from Netaji Market and reached the Graveyard of Siraj-ud-Doullah at Khose Bagh opposite the river Bhagirathi.

200 women delegates joined the march. At first the open session was presided by Dr. Mortaza Hossain, Minister, Govt. of West Bengal. Opening song was presented by Gopa Mukherjee and Rita Chakrabarty.

Dr. Leo Rebello, Sudha Reddy, Mukul Pandey, Afroza Haq Rina, Anuradha Dev, Chandreyi Alam, Ashalata Majumder, Aparna Biswas, Amal Krishna Biswas, and Dr. Murtaja Hossain spoke in this open Session.

Dr. Leo Rebello urged a time frame to achieve the goal of this peace movement. Mrs. Sudha Reddy stressed upon the pluralistic and equal status of the women in the society. Mukul Pandey narrated the Jana Sandesh Yatra he brought from Gorakhpur, U.P. with a mission of demanding confederation of these three countries. Mrs. Afroza Haque Rina proposed to construct a joint SAARC security mechanism. Mrs. Anuradha Dev appealed to keep this forum free from any political affiliation and building positive women's attitude towards women. Mrs. Chandreyi Alam pointed the necessity of some legal frame work in these three countries for the rights and dignity of the women. Mrs. Asalata Majumder told the condition of Dalit women over and above the general condition of the women of this racist society. Mrs. Aparna Biswas spoke on the horrific condition of women especially in the border region and refugees. Amal Krishna Biswas, head master of Local Govt. High School welcomed the delegates and assured his all sorts of cooperation. Dr. Murtaja Hossain in his presidential speech thanked to the initiative of the forum and hoped for the rapid action and expansion of this forum. He expressed disappointment on present visa system.

President of National Chapter and Chairperson of Tri-national Chapter Mr. Debabrata Biswas, explained that the B.B.P.P.F. is obviously a political organisation but neither a branch organisation of any Political Party nor it should be. It is neither a funded or non funded N.G.O. under the society Act in any of these three countries. He further said that any person, organisation or party who unconditionally agree to fight against imperialism of any design and all sorts of communalism-religious fundamentalism, can take part in this forum. He told it clearly that BBPPF is a movement, a political social and cultural movement. He

expressed concern over the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, particularly the State sponsored terrorism. He reiterated the event of Dhaka Conference dated 10&11th May 2008 in the emergency period. People were confused and political activities were totally stopped. But it is true that after that BBPPF conference, the then care taker Govt. of Bangladesh announced on 12th May to start the political dialogue, to lift emergency and to resume general election at the end of November. This was held properly. In Pakistan also people fought against emergency, to restore democracy and to reinstate Ifteqar Chowdhury C.J. People won.

In the delegate session Gopa Mukherjee, Rita Chakrabarty, Sudha Reddy, Afroza Haq Rina, Anuradha Dev, Chandreyi Alam, Ashalata Majumder, Aparna Biswas, Maksuda Begum, Shovan Ghatak, Bithika Singha, Manuara Bibi took part.

Mrs. Alokanda Sarkar, Nasrin Sultana and Mahfuj Alam's troupe performed their respective caricature, parody, recitation and patriotic songs etc. in the cultural program session.

Resolutions adopted unanimously declared that:-

- (1) Start joint supervision in regards to flesh trade.
 - (2) Start interaction and communication among these three countries to exchange experiences, data and feed back in regards to women's problem and to ensure economic and political empowerment of women.
 - (3) To work to ensure maximum participation of women in Parliament and policy making institution.
 - (4) To start a process to make a Tri-national charter to change the discriminating law, prejudice, system, practice in their own society.
 - (5) Women chapter express their commonness with the main political, economic, social declaration of Bangladesh Bharat Pakistan People's Forum
 - (6) Tri-national women's Forum vehemently declares to form a non-communal (secular) South Asia.
- Further, it was decided that henceforth member and delegates will tell NARI instead of MAHILA in Bengali.

Conference unanimously elected a provisional committee as follows:

National Women Chapter(preparatory)

Sudha Reddy (Karnataka)
Anuradha Deb (Kol. W.B.)
Chandreyi Alam (Kol. W.B.)
Alokanda Sarkar (Kol. W.B.)
Ashalata Majumder (Kol. W.B.)
Aparna Biswas (24S. W.B.)
Rita Chakrabarty (Kol. W.B.)
Gopa Mukherjee (Kol. W.B.)
Paromita Bhowmick (Jal. W.B.)
Krishna Basu (Jal. W.B.)
Dr, Muniza Khan (U.P.)
Putul (Delhi)
Sabita Mandal (Mdbd. W.B.)
Maksuda Begum, (Mdbd. W.B.)
Manuara Bibi, (Mdbd. W.B.)
Bithika Singha Roy, (Mdbd. W.B.)

Tri-national Women Chapter(preparatory)

Afroza Haq Rina (B.D.)
Sudha Reddy (Bharat)
Anuradha Deb Kol. (Bharat)
Chandreyi Alam Kol. (Bharat)
Rita Chakrabarty Kol. (Bharat)
Gopa Mukherjee Kol. (Bharat)

This conference was possible due to relentless effort of Sri Bibhas Chakrabarty (MLA), National Committee Member who was the main architect, Sri Surajit Basak, national Committee member and the Convener of the Reception Committee, Ali Hossain, State Committee member and Sri Samar Das, State Committee member worked as a team with a big reception committee.

ALL INDIA AGRAGAMI MAHILA SAMITI MET AT KOLKATA

All India Agragami Mahila Samiti, Central Committee met at ICMARD Building, Ultadanga, Kolkata. 15 members from different states participated in the meeting. Central Secretariat members of All India Forward Bloc were also present.

The meeting elaborately discussed about the organisation and how to make success the National Conference of AIAMS to be held on 4-6 December 2010 at Kolkata.

Tasks to be done :

1. AIAMS will organize state level convention with the help of party state unit by August, where central observer from AIAMS and AIFB will attend.
2. Membership drive to be completed by before 31st August 2010. At time of enrolment, we must give more importance on working women from organised and unorganised sectors (Biri Sramik, Tea Garden workers, Jari Women Workers, Agri women workers etc.).

The meeting has decided that the following women leaders will visit different states.

Assam: Com. Dolly Roy & Nilima Guha ; **Tripura :** Com. Dolly Roy & Nilima Guha ; **Jharkhand :** Com. Purnima Biswas & Com. Aparna Sengupta ; **Orissa :** Com. Dolly Roy ; **Karnataka :** Com. Bithika Mondal and Com. Aparna Sengupta ; **Tamilnadu :** Com. Sree Kumar Amma and Sherly Santosh ; **Bihar :** Com. Purnima Biswas, Com. Aparna Biswas, Aparna Sengupta ; **Kerala :** Com. Sreekumari Amma ; **Maharashtra :** Com. Bithika Mondal & Com. Aparna Sengupta ; **Delhi :** Com. Sofia Sultana & Com. Aparna Sengupta ; **Uttarakhand :** Com. Sofia Sultana, Com. Aparna Sengupta and Com. Shashi Agnihotri ; **Madhya Pradesh :** Com. Purnima Biswas and Com. Aparna Sengupta

"SUBHAS SCHOOL OF POLITICS" - A PERMANENT PARTY SCHOOL "

The first permanent centre of 'Subhas School of Politics' established at Shyam Nagar, North 24 Paraganas, Kolkata, West Bengal. Com. Ashok Ghosh, General Secretary AIFB Bengal Committee and Secretariat member of Central Committee inaugurated the programme. Flag was hoisted and Netaji's portrait & Martyrs' columns' were garlanded. Three days political training class successfully organised on 22, 23, 24 June 2010. In these political Class, 10 from Assam, 24 from West Bengal, 7 from Orissa party and mass front activists participated.

During the class Dr. Barun Mukherji, M.P. and Secretary AIFB took the class on "AIFB - historical perspective, objectives & justification and Chronology of Party Congress. After the lunch break continuing his class he speaks on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose - Life & Struggle, Political thoughts & ideology, Rebuild India in Netaji's way, Netaji's India-- a socialist India, Socialism in Indian way, under Indian condition."

Com. Debabrata Biswas spoke on "Party Building process (Dhanbad Party Congress Document 2005) and organisational policy ; Party & Mass Fronts - mutual relationship. Mass Fronts -- historical background, necessity and objectives ; 2010 - the year of Mass Front". He also spoke on AIFB future programme - Tasks ahead 15 Tasks".

Prof. Ashok Mukhopadhyay spoke on "What is meant by Socialism: Its philosophy and Economy ; application of Socialism in different countries. Capitalism vs. Socialism Prospects of Socialism".

Com. Saral Deb Party took the class on party constitution.

Com. Hafiz Alam Sairani and Com. Haripada Biswas conducted the participants response session. At the end certificate Awarded in the valedictory session to participants.

TUCC TO PROTEST AGAINST ESI IRREGULARITIES

Bangalore : Members of the Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (TUCC) will stage a protest on 14th July 2010 in front of the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Model Hospital in Rajaji Nagar against irregularities and mismanagement of the scheme of the scheme and the hospital.

TUCC President Com. G.R. Shivashankar told reporters that though employees getting less than Rs. 10,000 a month have been contributing 1.78 percent of their salary and the employer 4.75 percent towards ESI Scheme, the facilities being provided at the hospitals are grossly inadequate.

Recently, the Government increased the income limit for ESI coverage from Rs. 7,500 per month to Rs. 10,000.

Every year, the amount collected under the scheme comes to about Rs. 200 crore, he said, alleging the amount was not spent properly.

The union staged a protest last year in front of the Rajaji Nagar ESI Hospital and submitted a 28 point charter of demands.

However, not a single demand has been addressed and hence, the July 14 protest, Com. Shivashankar said. He demanded that the Ministry of Labour disclose the amount collected under the ESI scheme and its expenditure.

ALL INDIA AGRAGAMI KISAN SABHA CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET AT KOLKATA

The All India Agragami Kisan Sabha Central Committee Meeting held at Kolkata from 2 July to 4 July 2010. In the meeting, Central Committee urges upon the lower committee to give more thrust on

- (a) enrollment of membership ;
- (b) to finalise the details programme of conferences
- (c) action programme on ten points charter of demand, which has been finalise in the last central committee meeting.

August Kranti Divas: This year All India Agragami Kisan Sabha will observe 9th August, the historical August Kranti Divas, to highlight the Kisan's problem and miseries still prevail after 63 years of Independence by organising street corner meetings, in block and district headquarters with proper publicity.

We are to highlight our slogan "Save Farmers - Save India (Kisan Bachao - Desh Bachao)"

TUCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET AT KOLKATA

Central Committee Meeting of TUCC was held on 4th July, 2010 at ICMARD, Kolkata. Com. G.R. Shivashankar, President, TUCC presided over the meeting. Amended agenda note was put up for discussion. After long and threadbare discussions, understated resolutions were adopted.

ISSUES OF WORKERS AND COMMON MAN

i. The most important issue confronting the common man today is the sky rocketing prices of essential commodities in the market and recent increase of prices in petroleum products which will make the situation worse, punching salt in the suffering wounds of the common man throughout the country. UPA-II which published widely its focus towards "Aam Aadmi" had miserably failed to contain the prices of retail market which expected to soar from 16.97% to 18.03% due to increase in prices of Petrol, Diesel, Cooking Gas (LPG) etc. according to economic survey of the country, they allowed the Hoarders, black marketeers, speculators to rule the market and fix the prices at their will. Needless to say PDS system which is under control of Government literally failed to deliver its responsibilities to supply food grains to BPL / Poor people on concessional rates, this made situation most deplorable.

ii. UPA-II had initiated their economic reforms agenda by divesting shares of 18 PSU's at a tune of Rs. 58000 crores at first step. Hence the profit making PSU's which nurtured by public money for last several decades and accumulated profit through hard work of its employees are thrown away in the market for sale on nominal prices, shows the intention of the Govt. to play in the hands of Big Corporate Houses, MNC's and capitalists of the country.

iii. On 3rd Dec. 1984, the most saddish and unfortunate incident unprecedented in the history of Independent India happened in the Union carbide plant of Bhopal, where leakage of poisons gas turmoiled the life of Bhopal people, killed 15274 of them, created 25000 of them as physically disabled and partially effected 5.49 lacs common people of the city by courtesy Mr. Warren Anderson, CEO of UCC, U.S. nicknamed that time as "Murderer of Bhopal" and the other boards of Directors, suffering people are yet to be identified and provided adequate compensation and rehabilitation package.

iv. The biased and impractical judgement by the Respected CJM, Bhopal had shocked the humanity and exposed the nexus between political leaders, beaurocrats and judiciary which allowed the guilty persons to escape the guilty persons unpunished or partially punished, hence left the poor affected people shivering in pain for livelihood and to save the future of their children.

v. The most vulnerable people of the society i.e. unorganized sector workers are yet to get enrolled in any comprehensive social security system which can address their hardship in longer way and provide them an opportunity for decent life. These 44.42 crore workers are under BPL and unsured of job by which they can feed their family, had been left wondering to see the magical proposal of Hon'ble Finance Minister, Govt. of India who proposed only 1000 crore of Rupees in National Budget for 2010-11 to provide social security to all of them.

MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES

TUCC's NPCEF will organise a mass Dharna before Coal India Ltd., Kolkata on 23rd August, 2010, for which Preparatory Meeting will be conducted on 17th July at Maithan (Jharkhand) and Sanctoria (W.B.), Com S.P. Tiwari and Com. Saral Dev will be present and sensitise the issue among coal leaders and also initiate further process to conduct NPCEF Conference.

District wise demonstrations and dharna will be organised on each common people and workers demand in the month of 10 July to 15 August 2010 and then mass Dharana in each state Capitals proposed to be held between 15 to 30th August 2010, 10th August will be Common day of demonstration throughout the country.

TUCC will whole heartedly organize people to participate in the All India General Strike on 7th September 2010 as declared by the National Workers Convention organised by sponsoring committee of Central Trade Unions (including TUCC, INTUC, HMS, CITU, AITUC, AICCTU, AIUTUC, UTUC and LPF) held on 15th July 2010 at Mavlankar Hall, New Delhi.

TRADE UNION CALLED FOR ALL INDIA GENERAL STRIKE ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2010.

Meeting as the second National Convention of Workers on 15th July 2010, representatives from nine trade unions demanded that the Government contain rising prices and create a National Fund for the Unorganised Sector.

They have called for a nationwide general strike on September 7.

The Convention comprised representatives from Trade Union Coordination Committee (TUCC), All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), All-India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), , All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), United Trade Union Congress (UTUC), Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), and Labour Progressive Front (LPF).

In a statement issued here, the Convention said, "Despite the trade unions demanding effective steps to curb price rise, particularly food price inflation, food prices are escalating as high as 17 per cent." "Despite the trade unions opposing the disinvestment in the profit making public sector, the latest disinvestment is being pushed through in BSNL, SAIL and NMDC," it added.

The union members also alleged that fund allocation for covering the social security of the unorganised sector remained nominal. Despite the trade unions expressing deep concern at uninterrupted violation of labour laws and trade union rights, situation is becoming grim and repressive very day.

Thus, the unions have demanded that the Government contain price rise of essential commodities through measures like universal Public Distribution System.

"Steps should be taken to create a National Fund for to provide national floor level social security for unorganised workers, including contract/casual workers in line with the recommendations of National Commission on Enterprises in Unorganised Sector and Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour," the statement added.

"If the Government does not concede to the demands, the unions will prepare for a march to Parliament," the members said.

The convention reiterates the unanimously formulated demands once again as under:

- Price rise of essential commodities to be contained through appropriate corrective and distributive measure like universal PDS and containing speculation in commodity market.
- Concrete proactive measures to be taken for linkage of employment protection in the recession stricken sectors with the stimulus packages being offered to the concerned entrepreneurs and for augmenting public investment in infrastructure.
- Strict enforcement of all basic labour laws without any exception or exemption and stringent punitive measures for violation of labour laws.
- Steps to be taken for removal of all respective provisions based on poverty line in respect of eligibility of coverage of the schemes under the unorganised workers social security act 2008 and creation of national fund for unorganised sector provide for a national floor level social security to all unorganised workers including the contract/casual workers in line with the recommendation of national commission on enterprises