

IndustriALL Global Union

**Steering Committee Meeting on
ICT, Electrical & Electronics**

on 9 April 2014

and

7th Asian Metalworkers' Liaison Conference

on April 10-11, 2014

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Venue:

New World Hotel Saigon

COUNTRY REPORT

INDIA

Working People Trade Union Council

Tamil Nadu – India

R. SAMPATH

Vice President

Working People Trade Union Council

K. MURUGA PREMAN

General Secretary

Ashok Leyland Employees Union

COUNTRY REPORT

INDIA

India is emerging as one of the leading economy in the world and is expected to be the third largest world economic country by 2030. Indian economy attained 9% growth four years back and due to global slow down since then it has adverse impact on the economy, thereby the economic growth has come down by 5% for the last two years. Yet, the growth rate is considerably higher than the US, Europe and Japanese economy.

Food Production

India has become normally self sufficient in food production, catering more than 1.2 billion people but also capable of exporting substantial surplus to other countries. In rice production, India has become No.1, while in Wheat; it is No.2 in the world. Also India is No.1 in milk production in the world.

Automobile Industry

India manufactures more than half a million Tractors and has become number one in the world. Mahindra & Mahindra is number one in the manufacture of Tractors, while TAFE is number three in the world.

Automobile Industry is growing fast steadily. The annual production of four wheelers, three wheelers and commercial vehicles has crossed three million, while the two wheelers has also crossed 15 million a year.

Indian Economy

The revival of global economy will help accelerating the growth of Indian Economy. In the current fiscal, it is expected that the economy will grow around 6%.

Indian economy of the three sectors, viz; Agriculture, Industry and Service, contribute substantially to the whole economy. Industries contribute 25%, Agriculture contributes 15% and Service sectors contribute for the remaining 60% of the Indian economy. Almost 50% of the Indian population, Agriculture and other 50% depend upon Industries and Service sectors owned by the Government and Private players.

Political Situation in India

India is the largest democratic country in the world. For the last six decades, the people enjoy a vibrant democracy. The elections to the Parliament are to be held once in five years and now the electioneering is going on for forming a new Government. The election will be held in April – May 2014. Even if there is a change or no change in the Government, there will not be much impact in the governance. Further, there is no difference in economic policies between the major political parties that is likely to come to power.

In India, there is a separation of powers, between Legislative, Executive and Judiciary. The independence of the judiciary is something unique in the world and many a time succeeded in restraining the executive, exceeding its limit as ordained in the constitution. Our constitution is unique, in the sense it has the features of both unitary and federal.

India is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-lingual country. The States are formed on linguistic basis. India enjoys absolute press and media freedom and it is called Fourth Estate. India is a secular State and almost all the world religious people are living in the country, i.e. while majority are Hindus, other minorities consist of Muslims, Christians, Jews, Parses etc. All are well protected in the country. There is not even a complaint of religious discrimination by the State.

Trade Union Movement in India

The trade union movement in India is a century old. During the colonial era, till we attained independence in the year 1947, the Trade Unions were in the forefront of the India's Freedom Struggle Movement. Nearly five decades after independence till the days of globalization, the Trade Union Movement was very militant and responsible for Labour Welfare and Labour Rights Protective Legislations.

In the post independence era, the Trade Unions were formed on the basis of ideology, which led to multiplicity, weakening unity and bargaining power of the working masses. There are more than 10 National Level Unions in the country. Yet 90% of the work force is not unionized.

The employers successfully use multiplicity of the Union to divide the work force and rule them. The employers succeed in casualizing the permanent jobs, while the law of the land guarantees the right to permanency of jobs and equal-pay for equal-work. The employers make use of disunity of the workmen and they succeed in converting the formal jobs into informal jobs and exploiting the

work force by paying them very meager wages. In some places the employers pay not even 1/5th of the wages fixed for the same jobs done by the permanent work force.

Working People Trade Union Council [WPTUC]

Our Trade Union Federation called WPTUC stands and works for "One-Union in One-Establishment" and ensures election of leadership only through democratic means. The functioning and decision making of the Union is only through democratic process.

The Automobile industry is concentrated in three regions in India viz. (1) NCR Region, (2) Maharashtra and (3) Chennai in South. The WPTUC has succeeded in the Chennai Region for the last 4 decades in establishing one union in one industrial undertaking, electing the leadership periodically and the decision making within the union through the democratic process. The unions affiliated to WPTUC are able to achieve decent salary and decent work to the members of the irrespective unions. But it is in a small area. In the vast country of India this is not the case. In the absence of trade union organization and multiplicity in the trade union organization enable the employer to easily violate the law of the land and exploit the workers.

The employers successfully employ the workmen even in the permanent jobs the contract workmen or in the name of Casuals, Trainees, Apprentices and Consolidated paying them poor wages.

All the Unions lament now that the employers and the Governments ignore them and treat them as irrelevant. This situation prevails only due to non-unionization of the workmen, lack of unity among the workmen owing to multiplicity. The only answer for this is "Unity of the workmen" that can be achieved only through "One-Union in One-Establishment" and "One-Federation for One-Sector" of the industry. This can be achieved only through the democratic means.

In view of the above, it is high time that the national level Unions realize this crying need and ensure merging the multiple Unions together as One Union for One Establishment through democratic process. Then only the unions will be reckoned as a force and recognized. This would alone protect the rights and welfare of the workmen.

Working People Trade Union Council
Tamil Nadu - India