

The growing value of All India Trade Union Congress, its formation and the role in PSPCL

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Abstract- All India trade union congress is a significant organization. It is a organization which works for the welfare of employees. It is an old organization from the time period of Lala Lajpat Rai. He was a patriotic who realizes the troubles and sufferings of employees and took initiative to solve the problem of employees. They try to solve these problems by every and each possible methods. With passage of time employees themselves became aware about their rights and different organization came into existence. The representatives of this organization fight for the rights of their employees. They observe the painful working condition of employees and put their full potential to sought out these problems.

Key Words- Significant, welfare, employees, patriotic, realizes, troubles, sufferings, initiative.

All India Trade Union Congress play important role in present time because now a day there is a time of privatization and industrialization. In every field of life we can see competition. Poor become poorer and rich become richer. The reason of the poverty of the poor is that they have not enough money which they can spend in their business. They try to rise above from the petty conditions of life but they are not able to do so because of dire class differences. Different organizations come in to existence because people or employees feel the need of it. They prefer to form organizations according to their need. They feel need of these organizations because they want to have some representatives who can represent their demands and needs in front of government or any relevant authority.

We can say that All India Trade Union Congress is a kind of blessing for workers who suffers from the bad working conditions and lack of facilities. At first representatives try to present their demands in a simple and peaceful way but at last when government or relevant authority is not ready to meet their demands then they compel to use other methods as agitation and strikes. It works actively in PSPCL also. The workers of PSPCL have their own problems which need to tackle. AITUC has very important place in PSPCL. In 2016 there was a campaign started and the main slogan of that campaign was that 'Work to Rule'. They fixed the time period of their campaign from 21july- 15 August. The name of PSPCL was then PSEB. They did protest because they said that their genuine demands were not accepted that's why they were compel to did protest however they were not willing to do it. Few persons took the initiatives of that injustice and took step.¹

There were some leading personalities who played significant role on that period of time one of them was Sathi Gurbaksh. He was the president of sub division urban. His position was strong so that's why his statements were also valued by persons. He raises the genuine demands of employers. He has dared to challenge if their demands were not met then they will increase their agitation to great extend. The main demands which were significant were about pay scale. They demand for grade pay, promotions according to the sonority of workers, come back of contract system.

“The Punjab State Electricity Board was constituted as an integrated power utility under the Electricity (Supply) Act 1948. It continued discharging the generation, transmission and distribution functions up to April 2010. It was necessary for the Punjab government to unbundle the Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) under the provisions of the Electricity Act 2003. The main problems and in other words we can say the roots of problems have started in PSPCL because of privatization. We know very well that private sector always think about the benefits of their own class. There are different kinds of challenges in PSPCL which cannot be disregarded at any cost. The significance of AITUC enhances when they take attention towards their problems and find out the different ways to sought it out.²

The AITUC is an old organization on the time of India's freedom movement. The purpose of the establishment of this organization is sacred and real because the man who took initiative for it is a man of great ideals and ethics. Lala lajpat Rai was the President of AITUC and he was a man of great patriotism. He was a man of emotions for country and was so much serious about the welfare of man. He wants to give secure and lively atmosphere to workers in which they can work and earn their livelihood. Where there is no injustice with them.

“The All-India Trade Union Congress AITUC had been the oldest and top most among the all trade union federation in India. It had been related with the political affiliation of Communist Party of India. On the basis of provisional statistics form labor ministry, AITUC had high number membership all over India about 14.2 million in the year of 2013. In 2013 1.4 million members were there in the AITUC, according to the statistics survey from the Labor ministry. On October 31 1920, AITUC was founded, and Lala Lajpat Rai was the first president.³

“The formation of a number of central trade unions in India like All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Central of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) and others has a history of its own and is intimately connected with the socio-political conditions. It is ‘politics’ that gave birth to the Indian trade union movement and it is ‘politics’ again that accelerated or related its growth at different points of time”.⁴

If we discuss about the importance of AITUC in PSPCL. The most important idea here need to discuss is that PSPCL is an organization has a long history of human society several differences between workers group and employers have been lasting in the form of strike, feral, look out, pen down etc against exploitation. All the roots of the struggle lie in the unequal distribution of money and the sources. The owner class has money to invest in business so that's why they invest in business and grow in life. “It would be interesting to concentrate on the nature

and intensity of labor unrest in Bombay prior to the formation of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) because it was in Bombay that AITUC was formed.

“In December 1927, members from British Trade Union Congress were assisted by local Congressman to get first-hand knowledge of the deplorable working conditions in Assam’s tea gardens. Later, the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) sent Hari Krishna Sahu to organize the tea garden labor in Assam. In May 1928, he visited Dibrugarh and formed a trade union committee with Kedarnath Goswami as secretary and several citizens as members. He was arrested and imprisoned for a month.⁵

Formation of the AITUC:

All India Trade Union Congress was established in 1919 which was the direct result of the establishment of International Labor organization (ILO) in 1919. The purpose behind the establishment of the AITUC was to secure a nominating body for representing Indian labor at the International Labor Conference the constitution of ILO required that labor representative to the Conference be nominated by the government concerned in consultation with the most representative of central labor organization in the country. The formation of a central labor federation at such an early stage in the history of the Indian labor movement due to the requirements of the constitution of ILO.

The trade unions are mainly created for the welfare of the employee. These two trade unions that are AITUC and BMS are old and large trade organizations India as well in Andhra Pradesh”.

“The AITUC has set impressive traditions in militant working class struggle throughout its glorious history. The working class of Sri Lanka and our Federation has constantly drawn on Her strength and example, not only by virtue of our geo-geographical proximity, but because at every stage we faced similar problems, concerns, and anxieties although the issues were much more complex in your vast environment and strategic position.⁶

Tenth Session of the AITUC and the Split

It was under the shadow of the growing clash of ideologies and policies between the militant communist wing and the reformist trade union leadership that the tenth session of the AITUC was held at Nagpur in December 1929. The conference adopted a number of resolutions deciding to boycott the Royal Commission on Labor and denouncing the Asiatic Labor League against imperialism and to the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat. All these decisions were against the policies pursued by the moderate leadership of the AITUC.

The left-wing leadership which can control the AITUC consisted of diverse elements and lacked coherence. As a result, a further split took place in 1931 when communist section separated itself from the main body to form the Red Trade Union Congress. This split took Place mainly on the question of Independent Political role of the working class, a view-point held by the communist leadership. The AITUC, before it could complete even twelve years of existence, suffered two major splits dividing and weakening the Indian Trade union movement. These splits can said to be the beginning of a series of crises which have been tormenting the Indian trade union movement as is evident from its subsequent history.⁷

Constitution of AITUC:

The A.I.T.U.C. founded in 1920 and now dominated by the communists, aims to establish a socialist state in India and to socialize and nationalize the entire means of production. Distribution and exchange its thesis is that labor and capital cannot be reconciled within a socialistic system and that trade unions are organs of class-struggle. The objectives of the All Indian Trade Union Congress (A.I.T.U.C.) are the follows:

- (a) To establish a socialist state in Indian;
- (b) To socialize and nationalize the means of production, distribution and exchange as far as possible;
- (c) To ameliorate the economic and social conditions of the working class;
- (d) To watch, promote, safeguard and further the interest's rights and privileges of the workers in all matters relating to their employment.¹² AITUC has implemented the most crucial task assigned.

There is no doubt that existence of AITUC in PSPCL improved the bargaining power of the workers with their employers and played important role in improving the standard of living of the workers. But, the number existing order unions has also started diminishing, regularly reducing the size of it.

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