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No.7(32)/68-NCL(C)
Government of India,
National Commission on Labour
D-27, South Extension, Part II

New Delhi-3, dated the 22nd August, 1968.

To

The Chairman and Members of the
National Commission on Labour.

Sub:- Replies/Memoranda received from the Andhra
Pradesh Agricultural Labour Union.....

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of the Memorandum
received from the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Labour
Union.

Yours faithfully,

P.D. Gaiha

(P.D. Gaiha)
Director



K-536

MEMORANDUM OF THE ANDHRA PRADESH AGRICULTURAL LABOUR UNION:

On Part IX Rural and unorganised labour of the Questionnaire issued by The National Commission on Labour.

THE Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Labour Union is organising the agricultural labourers in Andhra Pradesh area for the last twenty years and in the recent period the organisation has spread to almost all the districts of the state.

On 19th March 1968 a march to the Assembly was organised in which about 50,000 agricultural labourers participated and a memorandum of demands was submitted to the speaker with over five lakhs of signatures. The observations made in this memorandum are applicable to conditions in Andhra Pradesh.

QUESTION NO. 205

There are about six million agricultural workers in Andhra Pradesh out of whom about over 5 lakhs are children.

Apart from the agricultural labourers there are the barbers, cobblers, washerman and others. Most of the agricultural labourers stay in separate localities or hamlets in the village. In spite of the programmes of community development and social welfare, the social conditions of these sections remains as earlier. In most of the villages they cannot fetch water from the common well for drinking water. Though in the schools the children of all classes study together in social relations no change has occurred. In the rural areas the caste feelings amongst the landlords and the well to do peasants is so intense that those who are at the lowest rank continues.

In one village some brass utensils were stolen from the house of a landlord and the houses of all the harijans were searched as if on the basis of caste all are to be suspected.

In another case one harijan boy was burnt to death at Kanchikacherla.

In another place one harijan was beaten to death.

Such are the incidents that occurred only during last six months. These are but a few examples that show the attitude of the landlords and the so called higher castes.

In a number of villages the agricultural labourers and poor peasant have been cultivating government fallow lands for the last five to ten years. Now that the government decided to allot such land for cultivation, the existing cultivators who have reclaimed the land are being evicted and the plot is either allotted to an exserviceman or political sufferers. At some places such displaced cultivators are allotted new plots which

have again to be reclaimed.

Most of the agricultural labourers were not allotted house sites. Shri D. Sanjiviah while he was the chief Minister said that if house sites are allotted to harijans in the villages at the present rate even after 100 years most of them would not have house sites.

Thus the economic position of most of them remains very low and the social position continues to be as before. Only a small number of harijans who could rise to a high position in beauracrazy are treated as equals by the landlords or persons of higher castes. Such a teacher in a village who might have more educational qualification than the landlord he is not expected to sit on a chair along with landlord but has to stand and talk to him.

The remedial steps of the government has only helped to create a small strata of a educated harijans or a few well to do peasants, but by all the majority continues to remain in the old conditions.

The system of elections to the assemblies and Parliaments and to the panchayats, and spread of education in the children of the harijans has created a new consciousness of asserting their self which very often clashes with the so called upper classes who also economically in a better position.

The social status and also the economic position of the harijans and the agricultural labourers can improve if land is distributed amongst them.

QUESTION NO.206.

The employment position of the agricultural labourers according to the report of the second agricultural labour enquiry committee is as follows:-

EMPLOYMENT OF MEN.

Zone	Employment of Casual agricultural labourers		Total	Self employ-ment	Total
	Agri.	Non-Agri.			
Rayalaseema	176	16	192	40	232
Coastal Andhra	165	21	186	42	222
Telangana	211	26	237	43	280
State	176	21	197	42	239

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN

Rayalaseema	134	5	139	32	171
Coastal Andhra	111	8	119	26	145
Telangana	198	11	209	19	228
State	140	8	148	25	173

There has been improvement in the conditions of agriculture during the last ten years. But despite the improvements, we should remember that the labour force has increased by about 20 percent between 1956-57 and 1966-67 and all improvements at best have helped to absorb the new entrants to labour force. The back log of unemployment continues to be serious.

Such is the employment position of the agricultural workers after taking into account the employment possibilities created by the construction activities undertaken by various departments. There is about 60 lakh acres of fallow land which could be brought under cultivation. The government has been avoiding its allotment so far.

Apart from this if the ceiling law was properly implemented then there would be enough surplus to be distributed amongst the agricultural labourers and poor peasants. But instead of the ceiling law being implemented what happened was illegal transactions, nominal division, of properly and actually large number of peasants were evicted under the plea of self cultivation.

1. Radical land reforms and distribution of land amongst the landless and the poor peasant alone can create the necessary economic basis for enhancement of both the social and economic status of the agricultural workers.
2. Large scale rural development works should be taken up in accordance with the requirements of the region.
3. Adoption of intensive agricultural methods and diversification of agricultural operations.
4. Development of agro Industries for which there is enough scope in Andhra Pradesh.
5. Starting of cottage industries on modern technical basis.

QUESTION NO. 207.

All the seven suggestions made by I.L.O. are feasible for adoption and implementation in the Indian context.

QUESTIONS 208 and 209 do not concern agricultural workers.

QUESTION 210 AND 211

Now coming to the wages of agriculture labourers. The minimum wages act provides for fixation of minimum rates of wages for agricultural workers. In 1956 minimum rates were notified for the agency areas. In 1961 minimum rates were notified for the whole state but the rates notified were lower than the prevalent rates. Now again 1968 the Minimum rates as revised have been notified. The rates notified for Telangana and Rayalaseema though law are higher than the existing rates, but for coastal districts with perimial water supply the rates are lower than the prevalant rates. Last year there have been

number of strikes in the coastal districts through which the agricultural labourers have achieved higher rates.

These are two types of labourers, the attached and the casual labourers. The following table given by the Agricultural labour enquiry committee gives an idea of the rates of the attached and casual labourers.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR HOUSEHOLDS
(CASUAL AND ATTACHED)

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Casual</u>	<u>Attached</u>	<u>Total</u>
Royalaseema	91.0	9.0	100.0
Coastal Andhra	91.2	8.8	100.0
Telangana	60.9	39.1	100.0
State	82.9	17.1	100.0

In Telangana area the attached labourers are larger in percentage and their annual remuneration is between Rs. 250 to 450 ~~or~~ or 8 to 10 bags of paddy with prerequisites.

In cuddapah, Anantapur and Chittoor Districts of Royalaseema cash payment is between Rs. 100 to 200 plus three meals, 2 pairs of clothes etc.

In the Delta areas the annual payment is between 18 and 25 bags per year. The casual labourers women in Telengana get 75 paise daily to Re.1.00 and men for the unskilled operations from Re.1.00 to Rs. 1.50.

If the family income of a husband wife of an unskilled labour is calculated for the days they get employment, the total income provides for hardly 35 paise per head expenditure through out the year.

In Royalaseema the existing rates are Re. 1-00 to 1-50 for women, Re. 1-50 to 1-50 plus meals for the unskilled operation

In Delta areas the women get 1-50 to 3-00 a day and men 1-50 to 3-50 a day.

Thus in the prevailing circumstances the wages notified by the state government in June '68 provide for certain increase in Telengana and Royalaseema areas lent not in the coastal districts.

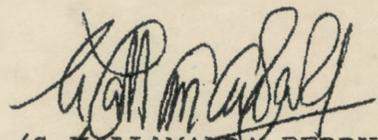
For implementation of the notified wages there is practically no machinery keeping in view the stupendous task. There is only one inspector of labour in the district and it is impossible for him to cover even a few villages.

The government has issued orders that the village level workers should propogate the minimum rates and should persuade

the landlords to implement. In the villages landlords are so powerful that the village level worker with no authority shall not even dare to raise the issue with the landlords.

The A.P. Agricultural labour union has urged on the government to have atleast one Inspector of labour for each Taluk and utilise all possible means to publicise the Minimum rates.

The Guarantee for the implementation of the minimum rates and other rights provided under the act is the organisation of agricultural labourers and a reasonably suitable governmental apparatus for the implementation of the provisions of the act.



(G. TALLAMANDA REDDY)

General Secretary.

Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Labour Union.

Himayatnagar,

Hyderabad-29. (A.P.)

D/30-7-1968.