



## GROWTH OF BHARATIYA MAZDOOR SANGH IN INDIA

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper attempts to growth of BMS in India. There are thirteen major Central Trade Union Organisations (CTUOs) in India. According to the survey conducted by the Indian Labour Ministry, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) is the first largest Central Trade Union Organisation (CTUO) in the country since 1989. BMS is productivity oriented non-political CTUO. For the furtherance and realisation of its aims and objects BMS applies all legitimate means consistent with the spirit of nationalism and patriotism.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

AITUC was formed on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1920 under the presidentship of Lala Lajpat Rai, an eminent leader. On the very first day, it enjoyed the support of 64 existing trade unions with 1, 40,584 members. INTUC was established on 3<sup>rd</sup> may, 1947 under the Presidentship of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the iron man of India, and with the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi. On the very first day, it enjoyed the support of 200 unions with a membership of 5, 75,000 workers.

HMS was formed in December 1948 under the General Secretaryship of Ashok Mehta, a great public figure, and on the foundation day, it had 119 unions and 1,03,798 members. Similarly UTUC, formed in April 1949, had 254 unions and 3, 31,991 members on the very first day. The same was the case with all other national trade union centres, which were groupings or re-grouping of the already existing and functioning trade unions. None of them was required to begin from the scratch.

But BMS had to start from the scratch. The BMS structure was evolved from the bottom to the top, and not imposed from above, - as is generally the case. To begin with, small unions were formed at the local level. Their formation was followed by the organisation of bigger unions, state level industrial federations, state-level BMS units and national industrial federations. And, after full twelve years, the first All India convention was held in Delhi on August 12-13, 1967.

In that conference, the national executive of BMS was elected for the first time. All these years, the BMS was functioning without national executive or all India office bearers. This experiment of building up an organisation from the grass roots has been unique, - the only one of its kind in the public life of India. Dr.S.D.Punekar, a renowned authority on labour economics, in his speech at the 3<sup>rd</sup> All India session of BMS at Bombay in 1972 pointed out this distinct feature: "This type of development - formation of constitutional body after 12 years of its continued growth is a unique example in the history of the labour movement of the world." Now-a-days BMS is functioning with national executive, all India office bearers and members.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The following are the main objectives of the present study

- To examine the growth of BMS in relation to other Central Trade Union Organizations in India.
- To study the Phenomenal growth of BMS

### **METHODOLOGY**

For the present study, secondary data were collected from the books, journals, websites, publications of Labour Ministry, Government of India, National Productivity Council, International Labour Organisation and Bharatiya Labour Research Centre and annual reports of BMS.

### **LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The study suffers from certain limitations:

The hesitation of CTUOs in submitting the returns regarding membership to the Ministry of Labour has caused delay in completing the verification process. Consequently verified membership figures are available only upto 2002 as announced by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India in 2007.

### **VERIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS**

The Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) [CLC(C)], Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India, undertakes general verification of membership of trade unions affiliated to CTUOs from time to time for giving representation to workers' organisations in the international and national conferences, committees, councils, wage boards, etc.

After the verification as on 31.12.1968, Government had initiated verification of membership as on 31.12.1970, 31.12.1972, 31.12.1974, 31.12.1977, 31.12.1979 but could not complete the same because of the absence of consensus amongst the CTUOs.

Then the CLC(C) asked the CTUOs to furnish their claims as on 31.12.1980. All the CTUOs except AITUC and CITU submitted their claims as they obviously did not want their real membership exposed. The particulars of AITUC and CITU were collected and compiled from the records of the Registrars of Trade Unions. The final verified results of membership as on 31.12.1980 were published on 30.08.1984. The results of the verification of membership as on 31.12.1989 were published by the CLC(C) on 16.07.1994. The results of the latest verification of membership as on 31.12.2002 were published by the CLC(C) on 04.07.2007.

The researcher analyses the growth of BMS vis-a-vis other CTUOs in India, based on the results of verified membership published by CLC(C) in August 1984, July 1994 and July, 2007.

### **PHENOMENAL GROWTH OF BMS**

The BMS was started in 1955. After 12 years, in 1967, BMS had 2,46,902 members. In 1984, BMS was declared by the Government of India as the second largest CTUO in India with 12,11,355 members, <sup>next</sup> to INTUC. In 1994, it was declared as the first largest CTUO with 31,17,324 members. The claimed membership of BMS as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1994 was 45,12,600. In 2007, BMS retained the first position with 62,15,797 members. The claimed membership of BMS as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2002 was 83,18,348. The increase in the membership of BMS ranges between 1.50 lakh and 2 lakh every year.

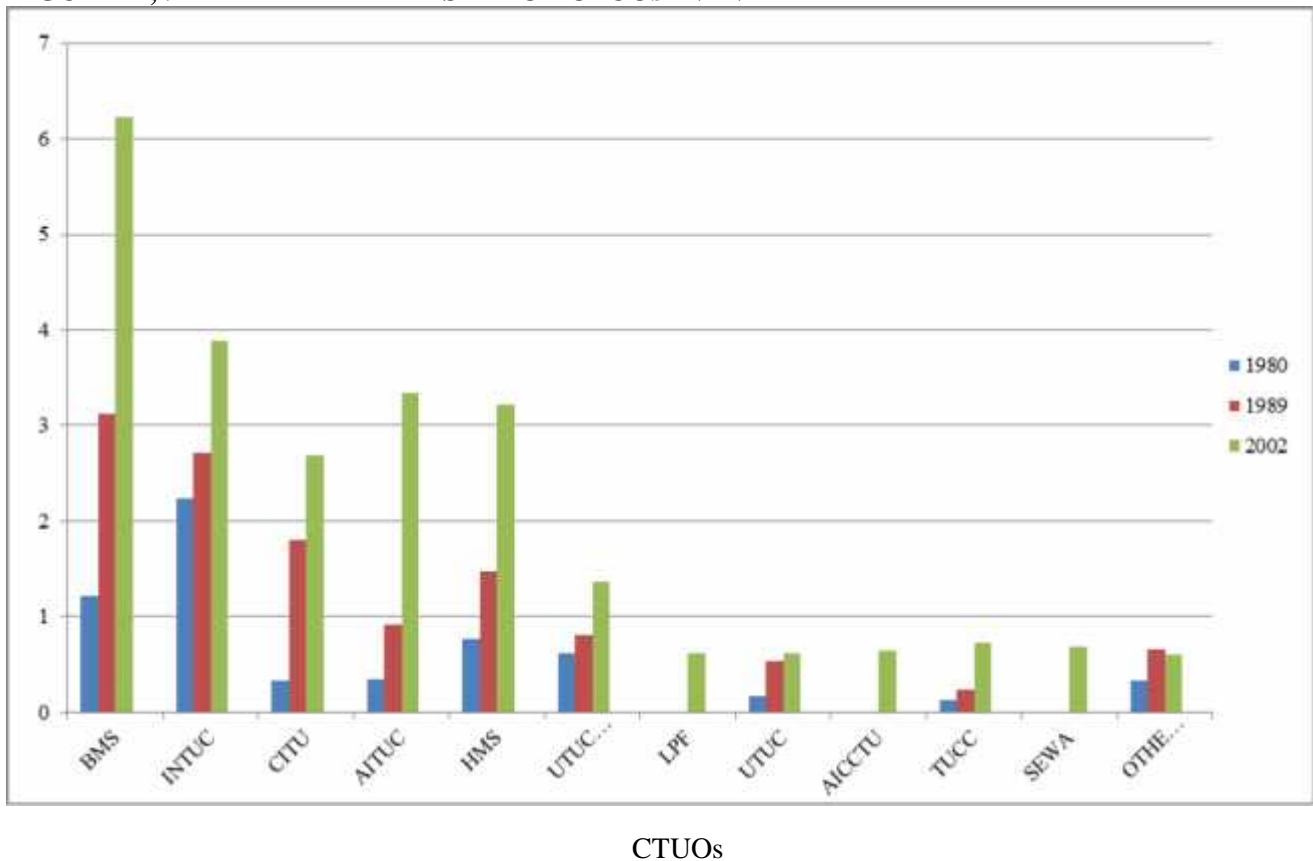
The verified membership figures of all the thirteen CTUOs as on 31.12.80, 31.12.89 and 31.12.2002 are presented in Table - 1 and Figure - 1. There is significant growth in the membership of BMS vis-a-vis other CTUOs. The figures in parentheses represent the percentage of verified membership of each CTUO to total verified membership of all CTUOs. The percentage of change refers to the percentage of increase or decrease in the membership over 1989 figures. BMS has one fourth of total membership of all CTUOs as per the latest verification. When compared to 1989, its membership has increased by 99.40 per cent. The INTUC stands second with 15.82 per cent of total verified membership. It has gained 43.80 per cent when compared to 1989. AITUC occupies the third position with 13.59 per cent verified membership.

Its membership has increased by 261.90 per cent. HMS occupies fourth place with 13.10 per cent of total. It has gained membership by 117.59 per cent. CITU is in the fifth position. It has gained 48.93 per cent. UTUC (LS) occupies the six place with 5.56 per cent in the verified membership. (Except others (NIFTU-KOL, NIFTU-DHAN and NLO) which has lost membership by 9.84 per cent, all other CTUOs have gained membership. The percentage of increase in the membership of AITUC, HMS and TUCC are more than the percentage of increase in the total membership of all CTUOs (100.54 per cent).

Table 1, VERIFIED MEMBERSHIP OF CTUOs IN INDIA

Year	BMS	INTUC	CITU	AITUC	HMS	UTUC(LS)	LPF	UTUC	AICCTU	TUCC	SEWA	OTHERS	TOTAL
1980	1211345 (19.77)	2236128 (36.50)	331031 (5.40)	344746 (5.63)	762882 (12.45)	621359 (10.14)	0 (0.00)	165614 (2.70)	0 (0.00)	123048 (2.01)	0 (0.00)	330663 (5.40)	6126816 (100.00)
1989	3117324 (25.41)	2706451 (22.06)	1798093 (14.66)	923517 (7.53)	1480988 (12.07)	802806 (6.54)	0 (0.00)	539523 (4.40)	0 (0.00)	230139 (1.88)	0 (0.00)	669087 (5.45)	12267928 (100.00)
2002	6215797 (25.26)	3892011 (15.82)	2677979 (10.88)	3342213 (13.59)	3222532 (13.10)	1368535 (5.56)	611506 (2.49)	606935 (2.47)	639962 (2.60)	732760 (2.98)	688140 (2.80)	603219 (2.45)	24601589 (100.00)
Percentage of change	99.40	43.80	48.93	261.90	117.59	70.47	0.00	12.49	0.00	218.40	0.00	-9.84	100.54

FIGURE 1, VERIFIED MEMBERSHIP OF CTUOs IN INDIA



Source: CLC (C), General Verification Results of Membership of CTUOs, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India.

### FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. According to the latest survey conducted by the Indian Labour Ministry, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh has emerged as the first largest CTUO in the country out of 13 major CTUOs.



2. BMS was declared by the Government of India as the second largest CTUO next to INTUC in 1984. In 1994 and in 2007.

### CONCLUSION

The results of this study suggest that the growth of BMS is the highest among all the Central Trade Union Organizations. It is followed by INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU and UTUC (LS).

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