

Many of the AIOC's workers are living in places far from the place of work (in some cases this distance amounts to 10 kms.) and they have to walk this distance twice per day. During the summer of 1945 forty of these workers died from heat on the road. The AIOC has refused to supply these workers with transport facilities.

The AIOC has 5000 houses and possesses a large number of buses and cars which are put at the disposal of the British, Indian and Iranian Managers and senior staff free of charge. About 2000 houses have been allotted for the long-term service workers. In accordance with the records of the AIOC there are 34,000 workers in Abadan, out of whom only 2,500 have houses and 1,500 workers are living unofficially in these houses. The rest of the workers are living in hole-like houses of their own.

The workers' quarter in Abadan, which is called "mud-hut area", is very dirty and lacks sanitary conditions. The huts are dark and damp, and in the rainy days the unpaved lanes outside them are filled with mud. Several families of workers have to use one W.C., and the water supplied to the workers is rationed and they have to stand in queues to get their daily water requirements.

But the health conditions of workers are more heartrending. It has, repeatedly, been noted that the AIOC Hospital has refused to accept sick workers who were at the point of death, and consequently the workers die either on their way to the hospital or while applying for admission to the hospital. Moreover, great discrimination is made in the hospital. As a result of these activities the patients once went on strike and refused to eat the rotten food supplied to them in the hospital.

As regards insurance against accidents and other privileges which, in accordance with the constitution of the WFTU, should be granted to the workers, the AIOC had made every effort to deprive them of these lawful rights. A worker, who has lost a foot or an arm, received a bonus of Rials 900 to 1200.

The AIOC endeavours to misrepresent the facts by empty propaganda, while it exploits the workers and deprives them of their lawful rights and economic privileges.

In Abadan there are many asphalted streets, good houses, clubs, cinemas, cafes, swimming pools, etc. There are regular bus, electric and water services. But all these facilities are monopolized by a few employees of the company and the agents of the employers; the workers are deprived; why they even lack educational facilities or a public library in which to read books or newspapers.

Under these difficult conditions the C.U.C. undertook to fight for the welfare of the workers, and as a result of its direct negotiations with the Managers of the AIOC it succeeded in obtaining a few privileges for the workers.