(1) September 16 : Saturday

i. Almost all workers went on strike.

ii. In the morning a crowded gate-meeting of striking workers was held.

iii. In the afternoon the leaders of the striking workers met the Labour Minister of the State, Sanat Mehta, at Circuit House, Baroda.

iv. At 4.30 p.m. another gate-meeting of the workers was held.

v. In the evening, some staff members including a few top executives were beaten up. In this connection, the management and the AKU filed complaints and counter complaints against each other to the police.

vi. At night, some staff members staying in Alembic Colony complained that they were harassed by the striking workers as at night their door-bells were rung frequently or their doors were continuously knocked by the workers.

(2) September 17 : Sunday

i. The workers totally abstained from the factory. It was also a holiday for staff members and other executives. Therefore, the impact of strike was more visible.

ii. In the morning a gate-meeting of workers was held.

iii. In the afternoon, the staff members held a meeting in Sayaji Baug and decided to join the strike.
iv In the evening another gate-meeting of the workers was held.

v. Bhalchandra Trivedi, SK and the other leaders of striking workers met the staff members to form a joint action programme.

vi. It was rumoured that contractor's workers had entered into the factory from the Nava Yard gate on Eastern side.

vii. More volunteers were enlisted for picketing at different gates of the factory.

(3) September 18 : Monday

i. Staff members joined the strike. Therefore, there was a total strike in the factory.

ii. In the morning, a joint meeting of workers and staff members was held.

iii. In the afternoon the workers of Chemical Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) of Sarabhai Chemicals came into a procession to support the strike of Alembic workers. The procession was converted into a meeting and was addressed by the leaders of both groups, assuring mutual support.

iv. In the evening another gate-meeting was held.

(4) September 19 : Tuesday

i. Labour Minister of the state, Sanat Mehta, met the representatives of employees and the management at Gandhinagar. But no compromise was arrived at. Since all the leaders were at Gandhinagar, no gate-meeting was held.

ii. Sanat Mehta requested Khadilkar, the Union Labour Minister, to appoint a National Tribunal for this dispute.
iii. A press note was released from Gandhinagar by the Government of Gujarat stating that the employees of Alembic in following ten centers had gone on strike:
Baroda, Akola, Aurangabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kanpur, Patna, Muzzaffarpurnagar, Gauhati and Delhi.

iv. Workers of New India Mills and Sarabhai Chemicals under the leadership of the Workers’ Committees (Communist League) and Chemical Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) respectively came in processions at the main gate of the Alembic Chemicals in the afternoon and also at night to express their support.

(5) September 20: Wednesday

1. In the morning a gate-meeting was held. It was announced in the meeting that from the next day the security staff would also join the strike.

ii. The management made an announcement on a black board that the workers of Jaipur branch had withdrawn their strike from September 19,

iii. AR, Chairman of Alembic Company, held a press conference in which he declared that there was no possibility of appointing the National Tribunal. He also told the reporters that only at two other places that is, at Jaipur and Aurangabad, there was a strike and only at Aurangabad the strike had continued. He added that in Baroda about 3000 workers were on strike causing the daily loss of Rs. 6 lakhs to the company in terms of production. PB who was present in the press conference stated that Sanat Mehta had disapproved of the workers’ strike. PB also complained that the management personnel were being harrassed by the striking workers.
iv. In the evening, the processions from Jyoti Ltd., (of BMS Union), Sarabhai Chemicals (of BMS Union), Sayaji Iron (of BMS Union), New India Industries and Dinesh Mills (both of the Workers' Committees of Communist League) came to Alembic factory in order to express their sympathies with the striking workers. Some of these processions were converted into meeting which ended with shouting slogans.

(6) **September 21 : Thursday**

i. In the morning a gate-meeting was held.

ii. The management declared that Alembic Colony's road was closed for public. It also issued a notice to the striking workers to resume work within 3 days i.e. on or before September 23. If they failed to do so, they were warned that their services will be terminated and new workers would be recruited in their place.

iii. As a counter move, the AKU declared a programme of fast (hunger strike) by the female employees and women folk of the workers' families in the heart of the city near Gandhi's statue. It was also announced that on the same day the workers of Alembic would move in a procession in the city.

iv. The leaders of the striking workers sought the help of Sanat Mehta to expedite the appointment of the National Tribunal.

v. At the gate-meeting held in the evening, the leaders of AKU announced that they would address a press conference the next day.
(7) September 22: Friday

i. In the morning a gate-meeting was held.

ii. In the press conference held at AITUC office by the AKU leaders it was announced that leaders of the striking workers were going to meet Khadilkar, the Union Labour Minister, soon.

iii. The workers of the Sarabhai Chemicals (of HMS Union) came in a procession to the main gate of the Alembic factory.

iv. A meeting with AR was sought, but AR refused to talk with them unless they withdrew the strike.

v. It was rumoured that, the striking workers coming from nearby villages were becoming restless as the strike was being prolonged.

vi. The picketing at the different gates of the factory was tightened.

vii. At the gate-meeting held in the evening it was announced that the next day's programme of hunger strike of women would be held as per the schedule but the workers' procession was cancelled in order to tighten the picketing, as the management's notice-period was going to expire on September 25.

(8) September 23: Saturday

i. Since it was the last day of the management's notice-period, the atmosphere was charged with tension.

ii. The gate-meeting in the morning was abruptly discontinued due to the news that some employees were going to resume
the work through the second gate of the factory located on the Western side, near the new colony of Alembic on Gorwadside.

iii. One staff member announced a donation of Rs.1000/- to the union and two other staff members announced the donation of Rs.500/- each.

iv. About 100 women went on token fast of one day at the Gandhi Nagar Gruh, near Mahatma Gandhi's Statue to draw the attention of the city on the Alembic strike.

v. PB, the Production Manager, took out a procession of staff members from the New Alembic Colony to resume the work through the Western gate. They were hooted by the striking workers picketing near that gate. One of the staff members, who was in the procession, was beaten up.

vi. A crowd of workers was running helter-skelter stopping private vehicles which resulted into police interference. KL and MG of the H&L Union of Sarabhai Chemicals came into confrontatlon with the police on this issue.

vii. In the evening important trade union leaders of the city were invited to address the gate-meeting.

viii. The fasting women were brought from the city in two S.T. buses specially hired for them. When they reached the meeting spot they were warmly received and cheered. Their leaders were garlanded and then they went into the Alembic Colony in a procession shouting slogans, violating the orders of the company prohibiting entry into the colony through the main gate. This electrified the whole atmosphere.
On their return to the meeting spot near the main gate of factory they broke their fast.

ix. The workers of the HIMS Union of Sarabhai Chemicals came in a procession in the evening.

(9) **September 24 : Sunday**

i. In the morning's gate-meeting, the workers took a vow to continue the strike till their victory.

ii. The company issued a notice stating that the services of those employees who did not join the work were discontinued and therefore, they were asked to collect their dues from the factory office (Loksatta, September 9, 1972, p.1).

iii. Simultaneously, the AKU also issued a notification announcing that in spite of the threats given by the henchmen of the management to the workers living in Alembic Colony and in the nearby villages the strike continued. (Loksatta, September 9, 1972, p.9).

iv. Workers of the Sarabhai Chemicals, (HIMS Union), of the New India Industries and Dinesh Mills (Workers' Committees), and of the Jyoti Ltd. (BMS Union) came into processions at the Alembic gate.

(10) **September 25 : Monday**

i. A pandal was set up by the AKU near the Western gate (Gorwa) to keep a watch on the employees staying in the New Alembic Colony, in order to prevent them from entering the factory from the Western gate of the factory.

ii. PB, the Production Manager, brought out a procession of
about 150 staff members from the new colony to resume the work. They were hooted at by the striking workers. Therefore some of the processionists ran away. Only a dozen or two staff members could report for the work.

(11) September 26 : Tuesday

i. PB, once again led a procession of the staff members from the new colony to resume the work. This time it was attacked by the strikers. As a result, the police had to resort to lathi charge due to which some of the workers were injured.

ii. In the evening, about 5 employees who were loyal to the management were beaten up.

iii. The auto rickshaw drivers' association of Baroda published a leaflet signed by about 30 members in support of the striking workers of Alembic and appealed its members to join the Baroda Bandh programme as and when announced.

(12) September 27 : Wednesday

i. The management hired some transport buses to bring workers from city to resume the work. Some of the workers who came by these buses were beaten up.

ii. A meeting was held by the leaders of the strike with the management to resolve the dispute. But it was unsuccessful.

iii. AKU published a leaflet complaining about the management's inhuman and provocative behaviour. It also stated that the union had filed a complaint to police against BG, an officer of the factory, for injuring a worker and against CH, an alleged henchman of the management, for moving with a Gupti and giving threats to kill some of the strikers. It
further mentioned that the girl who sang in one of the meetings of the workers and who was living in the Colony was not permitted to pass through the Alembic Colony by the management.

iv. The leaders of the different trade unions of Baroda belonging to HMS, BMS and AITUC resolved in a meeting to support the Alembic strike and appealed to the workers of the city to be prepared for Baroda Bandh on a day to be announced later.

(13) September 28 : Thursday

i. The management continued to bring the workers in hired buses from the city.

ii. Strikers picketed at all important S.T. Stands of the city for preventing their co-workers from entering into the buses. Some of those who entered these buses were forcibly dragged out.

iii. Those workers who were dragged out of the buses were brought in a truck by the management.

iv. The contract workers were pushed into the factory through the Nava Yard gate, on Eastern side.

v. The leaders of AKU met Chimanbhai Patel, the then Minister for Industries of Gujarat, and requested him to use his good offices to resolve the dispute.

vi. PB, while talking to the newsmen announced that: (a) the Labour Commissioner of the State had declared the strike as illegal, (b) since the company was interested in resuming
the production it was not going to declare lock-out, (c) more than 500 employees had resumed the work on September 28 and two departments had already started working and other departments would reopen shortly, (d) from the next day the management had arranged to bring workers in special buses under police protection, therefore, many more workers would resume the work, (e) someone had sent a false telegram in his name to the Home Secretary of the Gujarat Government stating that the police of Baroda in general, and of the Sayaji Ganj police station in particular did not cooperate with the management. (Sandesh (Baroda edition) September 29, 1972, p.3).

(14) September 29 : Friday

i. A news appeared in a daily that the strike of the employees of Alembic was illegal and that the Labour Commissioner was believed to have issued orders to take necessary steps in this regard. (Sandesh (Baroda edition) September 29, 1972, p.1).

ii. Management brought workers in special S.T. buses to resume the work.

iii. The workers of Alembic and Sarabhai Chemicals went to the S.T. Depot to protest against providing special buses to the management to break the strike. They got an assurance from the Depot Manager that the S.T. buses would not ply right upto the Alembic. Instead, they would stop the buses at Model Farm, a place slightly away from the factory. So that
the strikers could do picketing.

iv. In the evening's gate-meeting it was announced that RN and PK, the AKU leaders, had left Baroda for Delhi to meet the Union Minister, Khadilkar. Sanat Mehta was expected to join them the next day. It was also announced that the National Tribunal would be appointed soon and Khadilkar had assured them that there would be no victimization.

v. In the evening a huge procession of the employees of Alembic and Sarabhai Chemicals went to the city and was converted into a meeting.

vi. In the meeting it was announced that a procession of all workers of Baroda was scheduled to be held the next day.

vii. A meeting of all trade union leaders of Baroda was held at night to decide the probable date of Baroda Bandh in support of the Alembic workers' strike.

**September 30 : Saturday**

i. A news appeared in a local daily that Khadilkar, the Union Labour Minister, had informed Sanat Mehta, his counterpart at the state level that there was no valid ground for appointing a National Tribunal in this dispute. *(Loksatta, September 30, 1972, p. 10)*

ii. The management of S.T. Depot stopped sending special buses for Alembic management under the pressure of the union of S.T. employees. Therefore, management started using the buses of the Company's Alembic School to bring workers from the city.
iii. A telegram was read by SK in the evening's gate-meeting which was sent by the AEF's leader PK from Delhi stating that: (a) National Tribunal was about to be appointed (b) final decision would be known on Saturday, September 30, 1972 and (d) continue the strike till further message.

iv. It was rumoured that the contract workers resumed work in good number.

v. The procession of all workers of Baroda, which was scheduled to be held on this day was postponed to the next day. It was also announced that the next day, at the end of procession, AR's effigy would be burned.

vi. The employees of Sarabhai Chemicals belonging to the union of HMS, were expected to go in a procession to the office of the local daily Loksatta to protest against the so-called news black-out regarding the Alembic strike.

(16) October 1: Sunday

No major event took place.

(17) October 2: Monday

i. AR, met Ghanshyam Oza, the Chief Minister of the State, to apprise him about the strike which was declared illegal by the Labour Commissioner. He reportedly complained to the Chief Minister, that Sanat Mehta, the Labour Minister of the State was evading action against the workers who had gone on illegal strike. He further reported to the Chief Minister that Sanat Mehta was persistently trying to refer the issue to the National Tribunal in contravention
to the opinion of the Labour Minister and the Law Minister and the Law Minister of the Union Government. AR also urged the Chief Minister to intervene in the dispute. According to the press report, the Chief Minister had directed the concerned officers of the Labour Department to discuss the issue directly with him. AR also apprised the minister for industries Chimanbhai Patel who shared his concern about the strike (Times of India (Ahmedabad edition) October 3, 1972, p.5; Loksatta, October 4, 1972, p.10).

(18) October 3 : Tuesday

i. The Chief Minister, Oza, met the leaders of AKU and advised them to withdraw their strike with immediate effect. According to the AKU leaders, they were requested by Oza to withdraw their strike in view of Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Gujarat to attend a conference of Congress delegates. The leaders of the strike had a prolonged discussion with the officers of the Labour Department and finally they agreed to call off their strike unconditionally from the next day.

ii. On the other hand, while these discussions were going on, in the evening a procession of different unions of Baroda was taken out. In this procession, unions belonging to AITUC, ENS, CITU, ENS and those of the employees of the Central Government participated. This procession was converted into a meeting in the Jubilee Baug in which it was
declared that on October 6, 1972 (Friday) the Baroda Bandh would be observed in support of the strike of the Alembic employees.

(19) October 4 : Wednesday

i. The leaders of AKU called off their strike unconditionally as per their understanding with the Government.

ii. Their dispute was referred to the industrial tribunal of the state for adjudication.

iii. The programme of Baroda Bandh, scheduled to be held on the October 6, 1972, was cancelled.