The management of Landbank was pursuing the policy of discrimination which was anti-employee and undemocratic. The employees were resenting it individually. The Employees Union represented to the management with its Charter of 19 demands on April 9, 1978, but the management did not pay any attention to it. The Union charged in a memorandum to the Chief Minister that the management had suspended about 10 employees, charge-sheeted another 10, transferred about 50 employees and retrenched 40. It was further alleged that the Chief Executive had also appointed 70 persons to various posts and suspended some employees for their trade-unionism. After a few days, the Union also alleged misappropriation of Rs. one lakh by the management for the purpose of stationery, furniture, fixture and renovation of guest house and office building by "production of wrong quotations, over-charges, wrong sampling", etc.

In order to get the suspensions revoked of the office-bearers and to hold an enquiry into the affairs of the Bank, a deputation of the Employees Union met the Minister concerned. It was alleged by the Union

1. The Tribune, May 28, 1978
asserted that he was never consulted in the suspension of the employees.

It was on August 8, 1978 that the Union started a dharna. On August 16, 1978, they had a rally and a 'siapa' of the Chief Executive in front of the office building. As there was no visible signs of reapproachment between the Union and the management, the Union resorted to hunger strike. The General Secretary of All India Landbank Employees Union took a lead by starting 48 hours strike on the 59th day of the agitation of the employees Union.

The genuine demands were now supported by all other trade unions, local employees unions, the M.L.As (ruling and opposition). The employees again met the Minister on November 28, 1978, when he promised to resolve their dispute. But the assurances given by the Minister were not implemented.

Then some of the employees started indefinite hunger strike between January 15, 1979 to January 20, 1979. In

5. Indian Express, October 6, 1978.
the meantime, 27 ruling M.L.As took up the matter in the State Assembly (Starred Question No.1185). As a result of it, there was settlement between the management and the employees. The Union claimed that according to settlement (which took place after 190th day of the dharna started by the employees), all retrenched employees would be reinstated and cases of victimisation reviewed and other demands would be considered by the management.8