

- ▶ **differentiated between the labour** in the Indian-owned factories and those in the British-owned factories;
- ▶ **believed that labour legislations would affect the competitive edge** enjoyed by the Indian-owned industries;
- ▶ **did not want a division in the movement** on the basis of classes;
- ▶ **did not support the Factory Acts** of 1881 and 1891 for these reasons.
- **1870:** Sasipada Banerjee started a workingmen's club and newspaper Bharat Shramjeevi.
- **1878:** Sorabjee Shapoorji Bengalee tried to get a bill, providing better working conditions to labour, passed in the Bombay Legislative Council.
- **1880:** Narain Meghjee Lokhanday started the newspaper Deenbandhu and set up the Bombay Mill and Millhands Association.
- **1899** The first strike by the Great Indian Peninsular Railways took place, and it got widespread support.

■ All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)

- AITUC was founded on October 31, 1920.
- The Indian National Congress president for the year, **Lala Lajpat Rai, was elected as the first president** of AITUC and **Dewan Chaman Lal as the first general secretary**.
- **Lajpat Rai was the first to link capitalism with imperialism**— "imperialism and militarism are the twin children of capitalism".
- **The Gaya session of the Congress (1922) welcomed the formation** of the AITUC and a committee was formed to assist it.

■ Trade Union Act, 1926

- **Recognised trade unions** as legal associations
- **Laid down conditions for registration and regulation** of trade union activities
- **Secured immunity, both civil and criminal**, for trade unions from prosecution for legitimate activities, but put some restrictions on their political activities.

■ Trade Disputes Act, 1929

- Made **compulsory the appointment of Courts of Inquiry and Consultation Boards** for settling industrial disputes;
- **Made illegal the strikes in public utility services** like posts, railways, water and electricity, **unless each individual worker planning to go on strike gave an advance notice of one month** to the administration;
- Forbade trade union activity of coercive or purely political nature and even sympathetic strikes.

■ Meerut Conspiracy Case (1929)

- In March 1929, the Government arrested 31 labour leaders, and the three-and-a-half-year trial **resulted in the conviction of Muzaffar Ahmed, S.A. Dange, Joglekar, Philip Spratt, Ben Bradley, Shaikat Usmani and others**.