

# HIND MAZDOOR SABHA

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President

S. Venkat Ram

All communications  
to be addressed to

General Secretary

Dr. Shanti G. Patel, M. P.

Our Ref : 1090/80

November 13, 1980.

Dear Ananta,

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I enclose herewith cuttings from 'Kannada Prabha' of 10th and 11th inst. which contain my Article on "The State of the Text Books in Karnataka". I have spoken to you and some friends at your University last time when I was there and I would very much like you to join issues with the culprits. You have not responded to my letter about the Cultural Workers' Trade Union. Briefly the idea is that the issues which agitate the cultural workers such as an author getting 10 to 15% royalty and a Book-seller getting 25 to 30% royalty, the partisan politiking in respect of the State and the Central awards for literature and cinema, the commercial circuits blocking completely the arts cinema (an outstanding example could be Mrinal Sen's "Ek Adhuri Kahani" which is a story of the sugar workers which is not exhibited on the commercial circuit) and in the light of facilities like the Bhabha or Ford Foundations Scholarships for artists and writers and generally a lack of a cultural policy in India. I would like our friends to form a trade union of cultural workers, affiliated to the HMS and fight their own battles. That would give us a great deal of prestige, no doubt, but it is not our intention that the cultural workers should stage any plays or do any other such things for our organisation. The central idea is that the cultural workers must act in a trade union like manner on their own issues. For your information, the HMS is an organisation of workers committed to democratic socialism both as a means and as an aim. It is free from control by Governments and political parties and, by definition, from employers. I had discussions with Prof. Dilip Chakraborty and Prof. Sandip Das in Calcutta and also with Shri Dinkar Sakrikar at Bombay. I think you should take the lead.

All the best,

Yours sincerely,  
*S. Venkat Ram*  
(S. VENKAT RAM)  
PRESIDENT

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Encl: as above.