

LETTER

## IN SEARCH OF FORMS

Discourse on globalisation remains a fashionable thing in the academic world, but it is a central subject for serious study, thinking and discussion for those who think with genuine concern on questions related to the emancipation of the toiling masses as well as those who are engaged in untiring efforts to build the working class movement on a new ground.

True the age of globalisation has also redefined the role of nation-states. The boundaries of nation-states are more open for the movement of capital while the movement of labour now faces even more restrictions and conditions. In the unbridled drive of privatisation, education, health and all such things have been declared mere products and given away to market forces, but the government, bureaucracy and judiciary are now playing an even more active role in controlling labour. Even before, the bourgeois labour laws provided only a limited security for the economic interests and political rights of workers but now it seems that the labour laws and labour court have become totally irrelevant. Working class has lost the basic rights of job-security, working hours, minimum wages, overtime, housing which it had won as a result of long struggles, and the conditions for building a movement on these issues are not the same as they were one hundred or fifty years before.

**Katyani**, President  
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[To commemorate the first death anniversary of Arvind Singh, Rahul Foundation organised a seminar on 'Labour Laws and New Forms of Working Class Resistance in the Era of Globalisation' in New Delhi on July 24, 2009]