

CHAPTER 41

TRADE UNIONS

41.1 Trade Unions are voluntary organization of Workers as well as Employers formed to protect and promote the interest of their members. They are the most suitable organizations for balancing and improving the relations between the employer and the employees. Trade Unions have made headway due to rapid industrial development. The workers come together to maintain and improve their bargaining power on wages and working conditions. The first organized Trade Union in India named as the Madras Labour Union was formed in the year 1918. From the beginning itself, Trade Unions were not confined to workers alone. From 19th Century itself there were Employer's associations in the form of Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Associations etc. to protect and promote the interests of their members in a concerted manner. After independence, expansion of industrial activity and growing worker's Trade Unions acted as a spur for strengthening and expansion of employers' organization.

41.2 Latest available information for trade unions, compiled by Labour Bureau , pertains to year 2012. Time series comparison of the information is severely limited by the fact that it is based on responding states only and even within the responding states it is based on unions that had submitted their returns. However, till 2008, Labor Bureau had estimated the number of registered unions by incorporating the latest available information of the non responding states as given in the preceding table. The data thereafter pertains to responding states/UTs only. As per Trade Unions in India, 2012, Labour Bureau, during 2012, out of total registered trade unions 16154, only 4785 unions (i.e.29.6 per cent) submitted their returns for the year 2012 and the average membership per union was 1919 members. Only 15 States/Union Territories have submitted returns during the year 2012. Among these States/Union Territories, Karnataka accounted for the largest number of registered trade unions (3726) followed by Punjab (2687). Out of the total of 16154 registered unions, as many as 16098 unions (99.7 per cent) were of Workers Unions and remaining 56 (0.3 per cent) were of Employers' Unions. Out of 16098 Workers Unions, 94.3 per cent were State Unions and remaining 5.7 per cent were Central Unions. State Unions are those unions, whose activities/objectives are confined to the boundaries of the State, while Central Unions have activities/objectives beyond a State boundary.

Note: Statistics on Trade Unions is constrained by non reporting by several states . Even in the States that submit returns, information for a large number of trade unions is not available due to non filing of their returns.

Name of Chapter : 41, Trade Unions		
Sr. No.	No. of Table	Name of Tables
1	41.1	Number, Membership, Income, Expenditure And Funds Of Registered Trade Unions
2	41.2	Number Of Registered Trade Unions
3	41.3	Number Of Workers And Employers Unions Submitting Returns And Their Membership By Industries(NIC-2004 & NIC-2008)
4	41.4	General Funds of Registered Trade Unions(Workers & Employees Unions)

References:

- Trade Unions in India 2012 , Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment