

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani + Calcutta.

25th August 1973

B.T. Ranadive, President of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions has issued the following statement:

The CITU endorses the demand of the power engineers from various States who have been compelled to resort to strike action to secure them. Their protest against the suspension of their president is thoroughly justified since the Punjab Government's action seems to be directed more towards crushing their organisation than a genuine attempt to fight corruption. Mr. Harbans besides has suggested a way out and there should be no difficulty on the part of the authorities to accept his proposal.

The engineers besides are fighting for an all-important demand which is of great importance to their people and the democratic movement. They demand parity in pay scales and status at all levels among technical and administrative services and restructuring of the secretaries of all technical departments. These posts requiring expert technical knowledge are today the close preserve of the bureaucrats of the IAS.

The inferior status accorded to the technical and medical men and preference for the IAS bureaucrats is not accidental. The ruling powers cherish more the services of those connected with the apparatus of repression than of those connected with the apparatus of production and health. They consider the bureaucrats to be the main prop of their rule. This distorted arrangement must go and those who are contributing to the nation's production efforts must get their due.

For: favour of publication:

To-
The Editor,

S. S. Ranadive

.....