

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta-13

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

6th December 1970

Com. B.T. Ranadive, President CITU has issued the following Statement to the Press : -

"The Centre of Indian Trade Unions condemns the recalcitrant attitude of the jute mill-owners during tripartite negotiations in Delhi which was responsible for the failure of the negotiations. The Central Government also has failed to take a firm stand during negotiations and to compel the jute barons to concede the long standing demands of the jute workers. The strike of over two lakh jute workers from 7th December has now become inevitable and the entire responsibility for this lies on the jute magnates and the Central Government.

The CITU calls upon the jute workers to be prepared for a long drawn struggle till the jute barons are made to see reasons and come down for a reasonable settlement with the unions in jute industry. The CITU appeals to all unions in West Bengal, irrespective of their affiliations to support the just struggle of jute workers.

The CITU fully supports the call of the Rashtriya Sangram Samiti for observing general strike and Hartal all over West Bengal on 8th December in protest against the use of P.D. Act and other draconian laws to curb the trade union and democratic rights. The CITU is confident the working class and the people of West Bengal, true to their militant traditions, will show their determination to fight against all suppressive measures of the Congress Government and for the establishment of popular Government in the state at an early date.

The CITU welcomes the fact that almost all central Trade Union organisations are supporting this protest action. This will enhance the sense of working class unity and solidarity which is absolutely essential to beat back the offensive of the Congress rulers.

The CITU also welcomes the fact that several political parties are lending their support to this mass action. The grim reality of repression and fighting mood of the masses are forging an indestructible unity before which the present rulers of West Bengal will have to retreat. The CITU calls upon all workers and toilers to cement this unity against the common foe on 8th December which is bound to go down as one more historic day in the life of the people of West Bengal.

To
The News Editor

for favour of publication.

SECRETARY.