

Gram: CITUCENT

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
172, Lenin Sarani : Calcutta - 13.

7th September, 1972.

PRESS STATEMENT:

CITU SUPPORTS THE STRUGGLE OF RAILWAYMEN
IN SOUTHERN AND SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAYS.

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

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions strongly condemns the Union Government's arbitrary order banning the agitation of the drivers and firemen in Southern and South Central Railways.

The drivers and firemen have been agitating since long for 6 to 8 hours duty per day in view of the arduous nature of the work. The Government has however refused to treat their work even as "intensive" and they are forced to work as long as for 14 or even 16 hours a day. Their other demands include adequate promotion facilities, equal pay and allowances for all the firemen & withdrawal of break in service imposed in the wake of strike in 1970.

The Railway Board instead of taking immediate steps to introduce minimum human working conditions to the running staff is forcing the drivers and firemen to work excessively higher hours throwing overboard even the principle of eight hour working day. The Railway and the Labour Ministers have now come forward with threatening statements against the workers.

The CITU congratulates the drivers and firemen for their united action and appeals to all workers in railways as well as in other industries to rally behind the drivers and firemen in their just struggle.

The CITU demands that Government should immediately enter into negotiations with the leaders of these railwaymen and settle their grievances without any delay. The CITU further demands withdrawal of all vindictive measures against the drivers and firemen who are participating in the struggle.

M. K. Paniker
Secretary.

The News Editor,

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favour of publication.