

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta-13 ++ Phone : 23-3708

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16th Jan. 1974

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

The CITU congratulates the 2½ lakh jute workers of West Bengal and thousands from Kanpur and other centres for their united strike to ensure their just demands. They relate to such questions as standardisation of wages, Dearness Allowance and full neutralisation on an all-India basis, 20 per cent bonus, revision of wages and grades in implementation of the 1972 agreement among others. The usual excuse of no profits cannot be pleaded by the employers as the jute industry is having an exceedingly prosperous time. The bosses are bursting with money but they have turned down the demands of the workers compelling them to resort to strike action.

The jute workers have also raised the demand for nationalisation of the industry without compensation - a demand which has the full support of the people. They have further asked the Govt. to purchase jute from the growers at Rs.80 per maund at 1973 prices, showing their concern for the interests of the peasantry.

The farcical relief, offered under the treacherous settlement adds only insult to injury. The CITU denounces the role of the W.Bengal ministry which has acted as the sycophantic lackey of the jute capitalists. The moneybags have called the tune and the W.Bengal Govt. is playing it. Under the double pressure of the ruling party and the Govt. the INTUC leaders have deserted the workers.

But the workers have repudiated this treachery, foiled the game of the disruptors and are facing the employers with solidarity and unity in their ranks. This unity of the fighting organisations and workers must be strengthened every day. The CITU pledges its full support to the struggle and is confident that the jute workers will emerge victorious.

For favour of publication:

To The Editor,

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