

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani,
Calcutta -13
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Com. B.T. Ranadive, President CITU has issued the following statement to the press:

The CITU congratulates the working class and the people of West Bengal - the workers, peasants, agricultural workers and office employees - on their magnificent rally behind the ULF, headed by the CPI(M) in yesterday's elections. The emergence of the CPI(M) and the ULF as the biggest single bloc constitutes a big defeat for the capitalist and landlords, for their party - the Congress and its servitors.

The advance of the people is all the more striking considering the fact that every effort was made to intimidate the voters through murders, arson and terrorisation. Some of the best sons of the working class and the peasantry fell victims of this attack of the assassins. The CRP, the armed forces, the combing operations were all calculated to create panic and terror among the electorate to secure votes for the Congress.

The rallying together of the people has been achieved despite the betrayal by a number of parties who by splitting the democratic vote and often openly joining hands with the Congress, have done their best to contribute to the victory of the latter. The electors have routed the splitters also.

The electorate have further given a rebuff to the Congress in the parliamentary elections from the State. When the Indira Congress was sweeping the polls in other States, it has to content itself with one-third of the parliamentary seats from West Bengal, the CPI(M) capturing as many as 50 per cent of the seats.

The election results show that the organised working class has maintained its unity, rebuffed the attempts of the splitters and to divide the working class vote. The ULF whose candidates included a large number of trade union leaders, members of the General Council of the CITU, has triumphed in the major working class areas. Notable has been our victory in Durgapur, where the President of our Hindustan Steel Employees Union has been returned with added vote, after the latter during the Durgapur strike, repudiating the lying propaganda that our Unions were isolated from the workers.

The CITU wishes to stress before the workers that the unprecedented victory of Indira Congress in the parliamentary elections presages further attacks and assaults on the working class and the masses. It has consolidated the strength of the bourgeois landlord party, which now armed with the mandate, will be ruthless in its dealings with the people.

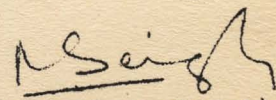
It is therefore all the more necessary to unite the ranks of the working class and the people.

In West Bengal it is the primary duty of all democratic parties to see that the Congress does not steal back into the power and the masses are not victimised due to the split among the democratic forces. The CITU calls upon all trade unions, irrespective of their organisational and political affiliations to exert all their strength to ensure support for the installation of a democratic ministry of the ULF. The entire working class must unite and frustrate all attempts to bring the Congress back to power. It must raise its protest against the machinations of some leaders who are conspiring to sell their support to the Congress.

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

Editor,

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