

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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ON BIHAR STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD
WORKERS' STRIKE

Com. M. K. Pandhe, Secretary CITU has issued the following statement to the press:

"The Centre of Indian Trade Unions strongly condemns the 'high and mighty' attitude of the SSP-led Bihar Government in dealing with the just demand for a wage rise of over 30,000 workers of the Bihar State Electricity Board, who are on strike since 15th January last.

The Karpuri Thakur Government which swears in the name of socialism has been following the same discredited policy of the former Congress Governments in rejecting the genuine demands of the workers. Instead of granting immediate wage-rise to the workers the Government is putting forward the proposal of a new dilatory Wage Board. It has even refused to grant any interim relief, which naturally resulted in failure of negotiations. Therefore, the Bihar Government is alone responsible for the inconvenience caused to the people due to the strike.

The CITU denounces the threats given by Shri Karpuri Thakur Bihar Chief Minister, to the Electricity Board workers of the so called strong action if they do not withdraw their strike at his dictates. He has also raised the usual bogey of violence and sabotage to malign the workers and create a gulf between them and the people.

The CITU congratulates the workers of Bihar State Electricity Board for their united and determined struggle despite the use of army technicians and home-guards as black-legs by the State Government and assures them of its solidarity till their demands are won.

While fully supporting the strike of these workers the CITU demands immediate grant of a rise in the wages to the workers and release of all arrested leaders. It calls upon the working class of Bihar to rally behind the heroic electricity workers.

(M. K. Pandhe)
Secretary

Editor,

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for favour of publication.