

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

From: CENTRE

CENTRAL OFFICE

172, LENIN SARANI, CALCUTTA-13

11th September 1972

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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Com. Niren Ghosh and Monoranjan Roy, Members of Parliament have sent the following letter to Shri T.A. Pai regarding the agitation of Loco Running Staff in Southern and South Central Railways.

172, Lenin Sarani,
Calcutta-13.

"Niren Ghosh and
Monoranjan Roy
Member of Parliament
(Rajya Sabha)

Dear Shri Pai,

"We are deeply concerned over the situation in the Southern and South Central Railways arising out of the spontaneous agitation of the Loco Running Staff. Several trains had to be cancelled all over these two Railways.

"It is indeed surprising that a railway officer should have refused to receive the memorandum of the workers in Mysore region on the plea that the Union was not recognised by the authorities. Instead of taking action against the arrogant bureaucrat the Government has invoked DIR and resorted to the use of territorial army as black-legs to cow down the workers. Over 50 leading workers have been arrested under DIR for demanding the settlement of their longstanding grievances. We strongly record our protest against this anti-worker attitude of the Government and demand immediate withdrawal of the draconian measures.

"We consider the attempt of the Government to sidetrack the attention of the people by bringing in the issue of supply of foodgrain to drought stricken areas. However, the authorities who have been forcing these running staff to work for 14 to 16 hours a day against all international norms, are mainly responsible for this affair.

"We have noted from your press statement that you have not been informed about the grievances of the employees by the authorities and you are prepared to discuss the matter after the withdrawal of the strike. We would request you to ponder yourself whether it is not inhuman to permit the existing harrowing working conditions for the running staff in Indian railways when you say that you do not want to make an issue of prestige is it necessary to impose preconditions for negotiations ?

"We earnestly hope that you would settle the issue by directly negotiating with the representatives of the workers without any further delay. We also hope that the Government will declare that no worker will be victimised for participating in the agitation.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Niren Ghosh)

Sd/-
(Monoranjan Roy)

Shri T.A. Pai,
Minister for Railways,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

The News Editor,