

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

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23rd April 1974 16th April 1974

PRESS STATEMENT

Re: Dr. D. P. Chattopadhyaya's
views on raw jute prices.

Com. Niren Ghosh, M.P., Secretary, CITU has issued the following statement to the press:

"My attention has been drawn to press reports of Commerce Minister Dr. D.P. Chattopadhyaya saying at the IJMA Annual General meeting that the jute growers are not getting a fair deal and complaining that the jute industry is not co-operating in this respect. I am constrained to observe that this hypocritical outpouring of Dr. Chattopadhyaya is only meant to befool the public. It is his Ministry which in close collaboration with IJMA has ensured in practice that the entire raw jute trade remains in the grip of 9 monopoly houses. The Jute Corporation of India is a special device for this purpose and wholly dominated by IJMA.

It is also clear from the 5 man Committee set up after Dr. Chattopadhyaya became a Minister, on which 3 nominees of the IJMA were taken to fix week to week price of purchase of raw jute.

An infrastructure exists for State purchase of the entire jute crop. We will suggest that at the ensuing conference on raw jute called upon our insistence on 27.4.'74 at 10.00A.M. at Tea Board Office. We also feel that purchase and sale of raw jute by private agencies should be banned with immediate effect. Further, the entire proceeds realised from export duties on jute products must be set aside and advanced to the poor and medium jute growers in the form of a crop insurance scheme.

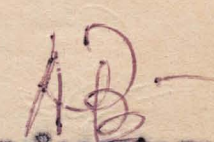
I take this opportunity to appeal to all mass democratic organisations and the peoples of the jute growing States to take up also the issue of monopoly purchase of entire raw jute crop by the Centre at Rs.80/= per maund in course of current campaign against high prices and artificial non-availability of food and other essential commodities, corruption, inflation etc."

The News Editor

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for Secretary

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