

PRESS STATEMENT

6th December 1974

CITU PROTESTS AGAINST USE OF DIR
TO WATERDOWN RECOMMENDATIONS OF
EXPERT COMMITTEE ON PRICE INDEX=

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

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions strongly condemns the West Bengal Government for involving DIR to waterdown the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Consumer Price Index Numbers for Calcutta and depriving lakhs of workers in West Bengal their rightful DA to the tune of Rs. 2.50 crores per month.

The Expert Committee, whose secretary was a senior official of the Labour Department, found the index fraudulent and linking factor between different series defective. Full implementation of the recommendation would have enabled the workers to receive additional DA varying between Rs. 60/= and Rs. 100/= per month. By this order, the workers now have to be satisfied only with a paltry rise by Rs. 16/= and in some cases Rs. 18/=. The adoption of this arbitrary method is clearly intended to serve the employers by enriching their coffers and to create a background for suppression of any movement on this issue. In this connection, the stand taken by the INTUC to welcome the order will only help the employers in defrauding the workers and disrupt their movement.

The CITU cannot ignore the fact that this brazenfaced order is promulgated in the wake of the decision of 2.5. lakh jute workers in West Bengal to launch a continuous strike from January 6 on demands including the implementation of the Expert Committee. The Government choose this path despite its earlier commitment in the West Bengal State Labour Advisory Board which only proves its mala fide intentions in the matter.

The CITU demands immediate withdrawal of this draconian order and full implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

The CITU calls upon the workers of West Bengal and urges all the Central Trade Unions to launch joint and powerful movement against this order so that the West Bengal Government is compelled to accept the recommendations of the Expert Committee in full.

The News Editor

++++-----6-
For favour of publication/circulation