

Gram: CITUCENT

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
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PRESS STATEMENT:

18th August, 1972.

CITU SUPPORTS ALL INDIA STRIKE
OF CEMENT WORKERS

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

The CITU congratulates 75,000 cement workers who downed their tools from 17th August all over the country to press their demand for Rs.70 as interim relief. The cement workers of India have achieved remarkable unity of the Central T.U. Organisations like INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU and others which has made this strike a grand success. The cement workers have only demanded wages at par with steel workers and taking into account the high profitability of the industry it can easily pay wage rates demanded by the workers.

However, the employers went back from their earlier commitment made in the tripartite meeting held in New Delhi on 11th July last to decide the quantum of interim relief through bilateral negotiations and started linking the interim relief with the overall wage structure of the workers. They also wanted corresponding price rise in price of cement in order to pass the entire burden on the consumers. The Union Labour Minister Shri Khadilkar instead of bringing round the employers to accept the reasonableness of workers' demands asked the workers to accept Rs.20 only as interim relief and withdraw the strike notice. The Union Government has thus been openly siding with the employers.

The CITU appeals to the cement workers to further strengthen their unity and remain firm till their demands are fully met by the Cement Magnates.

The CITU appeals to all the trade unions to mobilise the support of the working class behind the just struggle of the cement workers in cement industry and bring pressure on the Government of India and the Cement Manufacturers to concede the demands of workers.

M. C. Ranadive
Secretary.

The News Editor,

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favour of publication.