

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

President :
B. T. RANADIVE
General Secretary :
P. RAMAMURTI

172, Lenin Sarani,
Calcutta-13.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

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LETTER OF COM. B.T. RANADIVE, PRESIDENT, CITU
TO BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER ON ELECTRICITY STRIKE

Com. B.T. Ranadive, President, CITU, has written the following letter to Shri Karpuri Thakur, Chief Minister, Bihar State on the strike of 30,000 electricity workers in Bihar:

26th January 1971

Shri Karpuri Thakur,
Chief Minister,
Bihar State,
Patna.

Dear Shri Karpuri Thakur,

The CITU wishes to protest against the manner in which your Government is dealing with the 30,000 workers of the Bihar State Electricity Board who are on strike since 15th January 1971. The opposition of your Government to the just demand of the workers for a wage rise only highlights that your Government is following the same anti-working-class policies pursued by the discredited Congress Governments in the past in Bihar. Though the Government is led by the B S P which swears in the name of socialism it has resorted to use of army technicians and home-guards to break the strike. Let me bring to your notice that the BSP and its trade union wing Hind Mazdoor Panchayat have always protested against such strike breaking measures by the Government. It clearly shows the anti-working-class character of your coalition with the Syndicate and Jan Sangh.

Instead of granting immediate interim relief your Government has proposed a dilatory Wage Board which is virtually a downright rejection of reasonable settlement of pressing grievances of the workers. The opposition to granting of interim relief is nothing but an attempt to impose wage freeze on the workers as is advocated by the Achutha Menon Government with the support of the Indira Congress.

The CITU strongly condemns your Government's repressive measures against the heroic Electricity Board workers and demands immediate release of all the arrested workers and withdrawal of all orders of termination of services of several thousands of workers. Your Government has even surpassed Congress Governments in victimisation measures.

The CITU demands immediate settlement of workers grievances through direct negotiation with the workers' representatives and categorical assurance on behalf of the Government that no worker will be victimised for participation in strike.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- B. T. Ranadive
President

The Editor,
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for favour of publication.