

Gram: CITUCENT

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CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
172, Lenin Sarani : Calcutta - 13.

17th August, 1972.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE:

CITU SUPPORTS STRIKES ON
BONUS IN MAHARASHTRA

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

The CITU congratulates 90,000 employees of Bombay Municipal Corporation, 40,000 employees of Maharashtra State Transport and about 20,000 employees of BEST Undertaking in Bombay for their magnificent strike^s demanding 8.33 per cent bonus and is happy to note that the working class of Maharashtra has unitedly rallied behind the just demands of these employees.

The Naik Government, instead of conceding the longstanding demands of the workers is resorting to repressive measures against the striking workers. The Government assumed powers to ban the strike by declaring the industries as essential services and hundreds of workers and their leaders have been arrested to intimidate the workers. Open threats of total suppression of strike are given to the workers by the official spokesman almost daily. The Government has further decided to get the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act amended with the view to obstruct the implementation of the unanimous decision of the Bombay Corporation to grant the workers 8.33 per cent bonus. This is gross interference in the internal affairs of the Corporation and amounts to suppression of democratic rights of civic authorities. The CITU strongly condemns these measures and demands their immediate withdrawal.

The CITU reiterates its demand that all the workers and employees in public, semi-public and private sectors should be paid a minimum of 8.33 per cent bonus without any preconditions whatsoever.

The recent statement of the Prime Minister that these strikes is anti-national is a usual cheap stunt of the ruling party to hoodwink the masses and cover up the anti-labour policies of the Government. The opposition of the Government for a higher bonus is exposing the false claim behind the oft repeated slogans of "Garibi Hatao" and "Socialism". The CITU is confident that the working class of Maharashtra will give a powerful rebuff to this slanderous accusation by organising one day successful General Strike throughout Maharashtra.

The CITU appeals to the workers and the T.U. movement in India to fully support to united struggle of Maharashtra who are not fighting the battle for them alone but for the entire working class of India.

M. K. Pandey
Secretary.

The News Editor,

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favour of publication.