

Gram: CITUCENT

Phone: 23-3708

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

11th September 1972

PRESS COMMUNIQUE:

RANADIVE CALLS UPON KARUNANIDHI TO RELEASE
ALL ARRESTED WORKERS IN LOCO RUNNING STAFF
AGITATION

Com. B. T. Ranadive, President, CITU has written the following letter to Shri M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister, Tamilnadu regarding the agitation of Loco Running Staff in Southern and South Central Railways:

"Dear Shri Karunanidhi,

"The agitation of Loco Running Staff in Southern and South Central Railways is continuing for about a week and the attitude of the Tamilnadu Government is causing serious concern all over the country.

"Though the press has reported to-day your support to some of the demands of the Loco Running Staff it is surprising that your Government should have arrested nearly one hundred employees under the DIR. When the Central Government leaders are openly issuing threats to the agitating workers it was expected that your Government would have at least not resorted to repressive measures like this. Perhaps you are aware that Com. E. M. S. Namboodripad refused to use the DIR during the 1968 Central Government employees despite Centre's dictates.

"When your Government claims to be fighting for more autonomy for the States your present action of arresting such a large number of workers at the behest of the Central Government is thoroughly inconsistent with your declared policy. There is no constitutional reason why you should arrest these employees since law and order is a State subject.

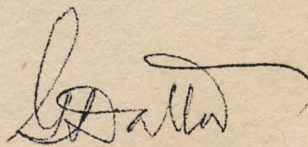
"I would therefore request you to release immediately all the workers arrested during this agitation and give all moral support to the Loco Running Staff who are fighting against the most inhuman conditions imposed on them by the Railway authorities.

"With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(B. T. Ranadive)
President.

Shri M. Karunanidhi,
Chief Minister,
Government of Tamilnadu,
Madras."


for Secretary.

The News Editor,

_____ for favour of publication.