

ON STRIKES OF TEXTILE WORKERS
IN BOMBAY, COIMBATORE AND
AHMEDABAD

October 12, 71

Com. B.T. Ranadive President CITU has issued the following statement to the press on textile workers strike in Bombay, Coimbatore and Ahmedabad:

"The Centre of Indian Trade Unions congratulates the two lakh textile workers of Bombay for their strike in support of 8 1/3% minimum bonus. Despite the efforts of the Government and the millowners to underestimate its impact this strike has been a grand success. By their determined action the textile workers of Bombay have broken the stranglehold of the INTUC and given a good rebuff to the Central Government for going back from the earlier public assurances given by Union Labour Minister Shri Khadilkar.

"The strike in Bombay would have been more spectacular had there been a united committee for popularising and conducting the strike. The struggle will be immensely strengthened if such a joint committee is formed even now to lead the struggle unitedly.

"The CITU Congratulates the Coimbatore Textile workers who have organised a joint committee of CITU, AITUC and HMP unions to lead the strike on bonus. In Ahmedabad also a joint Committee has been formed of CITU, AITUC, Republican Party of India and a section of INTUC, which has given a call for indefinite strike from October 13. Spontaneous strikes have already taken place in Ahmedabad in two mills and CITU hopes it will spread in other mills too. The CITU is glad to note that these strike struggles have given a big blow to the Bonus Act which is heavily loaded against the workers.

"The CITU demands that the mills and factories taken over by the Government should also be compelled to pay 8 1/3% minimum bonus irrespective of profit and loss.

"The CITU congratulates its affiliated unions for their struggle to build united actions in Bombay, Coimbatore and Ahmedabad which have resulted in forming united committees in Coimbatore and Ahmedabad. It is confident that these struggles would be developed in other centres and industries and the Government will be forced to honour its commitment.