

27th July, 1970.

Press Release.

CITU DEMANDS RS.70 AS INTERIM RELIEF TO CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) in a memorandum to the Third Pay Commission has demanded an interim relief of Rs.70/- to all the Central Government employees drawing total emoluments upto Rs.350/-. For employees drawing more than Rs.350/- as total salary, the CITU has demanded an interim rise of 20 per cent of their total emoluments.

Quoting from official statistics, the memorandum has noted that between 1955-56 and 1967-68 the real wages of the Government employees have fallen by 20 per cent. This decline in real wage standards has taken place at a time, when the per capita national income in real terms during the last two decades has gone up by about 23 per cent. The rise in the national income has been pocketed by big business which can be seen from the growth of private sector investment, the memorandum noted.

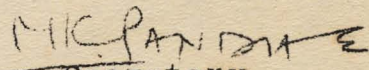
The memorandum surveyed the recommendations of various commissions appointed by the Central Government and criticised the Government for its "callous refusal" to grant need-based minimum wages to the Government employees. "As the saying goes on among the employees, the Government is dragging them towards a Dying wage standard instead of taking them towards a living wage standard."

The memorandum sharply criticises the Government for its failure to hold the price-line and called upon the Pay Commission to "take into account the gross injustice done to the Government employees during the last two decades."

With regard to the problem of capacity to pay, the CITU has taken the position that the Central Government will have enough capacity to pay, without resorting to additional indirect taxations, if the tax evasion by big business houses is plugged and wasteful expenditure of the Government is avoided.

The Memorandum has given details about the existing rates of wages paid to unskilled workers in various industries and argued that generally minimum wages are above Rs.200 in organised industries. The lowest paid Government employees are to-day paid only Rs.141 which justifies the demand for interim relief of Rs.70/- to bring the wages of Government employees at par with the workers in other industrial establishments.

The CITU has demanded that interim relief should be granted with retrospective effect from 1st Feb. 1969.


Secretary
Centre of Indian Trade Unions.