

Gram: CITUCENT

Phone: 23-3708

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

Press Communiqué.

19 January 1973.

RANADIVE CONDEMNS REPRESSION
ON KERALA STATE GOVT. EMPLOYEES.

Com. B.T. Ranadive, President CITU has written the following letter to Shri Achutha Menon, Kerala Chief Minister, to-day.

Dear Shri Achutha Menon,

On behalf of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, I have to convey to you our organisation's strong protest against the repressive measures taken by your Government against the Kerala State Government employees who are on strike to secure their legitimate demands.

Your Government has arrested nearly three thousand employees which may constitute a record for any State Government. The use of the abhorrent Essential Services Maintenance Act to suppress the strike constitutes a repudiation of all democratic norms. May I bring to your notice that the Party to which you belong - the Right C.P.I. - is protesting against a proposed ordinance in West Bengal to ban strikes and demanding its withdrawal ?

The demands of the striking employees - the appointment of a pay Commission, interim relief - are legitimate and just, and they should have been met fully. Instead your Govt. jails thousands and deprives the suspended workers of subsistence allowance which is due to them under the rules. Democracy loses all meaning if a worker or employee is to be treated as an outlaw for defending his legitimate rights.

The CITU urges your Government to release all the arrested employees, withdraw the suspension orders against them and bring about a quick settlement of their demands.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- B.T. Ranadive
President.

Shri Achutha Menon
Chief Minister
Government of Kerala
Trivandrum.

The Editor

For favour of publication.

MIC PANADIVE
Secretary.