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Charan backs strikers

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LUCKNOW, May 16: Mr. Charan Singh, chairman of the Bharatiya Kisan Dal, today supported the demands of the striking railwaymen.

If there was sense in granting dearness allowance even to IAS officers getting more than Rs. 1,000 per month, if there was sense in granting bonus to workers in other public-sector units and if there was sense in awarding a salary of Rs. 400 to 750 to peons and loaders in the LIC, State Bank and Indian Airlines, then there was every sense in the demands of railway workers.

The present situation, added Mr. Charan Singh, had been created by the government's own incompetence. It could have been avoided had the government not arrested Mr. George Fernandes when talks were still continuing with him.

Mr. Charan Singh also condemned the arrest of Mr. Raj Narain, leader of the Samyukta Socialist Party, when he was on his way to Ghaziabad to attend a function at an educational institution. His arrest obviously stemmed from the government's desire to stifle all political opposition.

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