

The Cashewnut Workers' Union

MAIDAN ROAD, MANGALORE-1.

(AFFILIATED TO THE ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS)

ಕೇಶ್ವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ವರ್ಕರ್ಸ್ ಯೂನಿಯನ್, ವೈದಾನ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು-೧.

Ref..No..1/66...

Date 4th. Jan.. 1966.

To: The General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
New Delhi,

108 7/1/66

Dear Comrade,

You will be aware that the Cashew workers have been on strike for the D.A. and bonus as per the Act. Bonus for the year 1964 due for payment. We demanded bonus and strike started. In the month of December after about 2 months of strike these managements have filed writ petitions in the Mysore High Court and stay has been granted by the High Court on 17-12-1965. The Nos. of Writ Petitions are
W.P.No. 2394 - M/S. Fernandes Brothers Cashew Factory
W.P.No. 2395 - Swasti Cashew Industries (P) Ltd.,
W.F.No. 2396 - M/S. M.G.A. Pai & Sons Cashew Factory.

A perusal of the affidavit will show that the attack is on section 10 and section 36. We do not know what position the Government will take to defend the Act. We learn that similar writs have been filed in the High Courts. We feel that A.I.T.U.C. should intervene to defend section 10 and move the Central Government to file petitions for early hearing of these petitions all clubed together in each High Court so that we can at least press early payment of minimum bonus.

So far ~~xxx~~ as our state is concerned we request you to write to K.F.T.U.C. and Comrade Narashimhan to get further details. We also request that our best lawyer comrades in respective regions may be asked to appear for ~~xxx~~ the workmen in the cases.

Please inform us your views on the above and our suggestion thereof.

We also draw your attention to our request for help for relief measures and to conduct the criminal cases in the Cashew Strike..Kindly let us know what you intend to do in the matter.

With greetings,

XXXXXXXXXXXX
Yours faithfully

Yours fraternally

[Signature]
For President.

Encl:1

THE CASHEW NUT WORKERS' UNION

MAIDAN ROAD, MANGALORE-1.

(AFFILIATED TO THE ALL INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS)

ಕೇಶವನಗುಡ್ ವರ್ಕರ್ಸ್ ಯೂನಿಯನ್, ಹೆಡ್ ಆಫೀಸ್ ಮೈದಾನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು-೧.

Ref: No. 6/66.

Date 16 - 1 - 1966.

To: The General Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
New Delhi.

A. I. T. U. C.	
Received	20/1/66
Replied	

Dear Comrade,

The strike in the cashew factories continues over the issue of D.A. & Bonus. The writ filed by the Management against the award of the Tribunal granting 50 paise D.A. was heard in the Mysore High Court up to 6-1-66. The Court has reserved the judgement. It may be pronounced by month end.

In the meantime all efforts at settlement have failed. The hunger-strike before the houses of the owners continues. The morale of the workers is high even after 3 months of strike. But we are in great financial difficulties to continue the strike. All our funds are exhausted and we have borrowed up to Rs. 2000/= already. We request the A.I.T.U.C. to send some help to the strike fund urgently.

We will do our best to achieve victory. Please reply to this and our earlier letters. We do not know if Sanghvi has written reply to your letter of 10-12-1965 on our behalf.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally

B. S. Srinivasan
General Secretary.

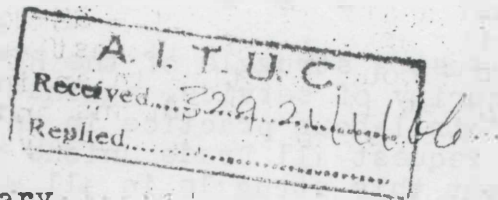
Sent Rs 2000/-
YAS
21/1/66

11/146
REMCO EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

(Reg.No.107)

70-A, A.S.Char St.,
Bangalore-2

Date: 16-1-1966.



To

The General Secretary,

ALL INDIA TRADE UNION (CONGRESS)
NO. 5, JHANDEWALLAN, RANI CHANJI ROAD
NEW DELHI

A N A P P E A L

Dear Friend,

You might be aware that the REMCO employees have decided to go on a hunger strike from January 17th to 22nd 1966 in front of the factory gate, as a first step towards further action.

This action of hunger strike has been forced upon us due to the most intransigent, adamant and arrogant attitude of the Management. Way back in July 1965, there was a stay-in-strike for 5 days from July 27th to 31st in which more than 1200 employees including 200 women employees participated. This strike came about due to the fact (a) the Management gave chargesheets to more than 26 employees on flimsy grounds, (b) the Management did not consider payment of Ad-Hoc allowance which they had assured to consider, (c) Bonus for the year 1965 was not paid. At the intervention of the Labour Department of the Government of Mysore and in particular on the open assurance of the Deputy Labour Commissioner to the employees on strike at a General Body meeting held on 1-8-65, that efforts to settle all issues would be made at the Conciliation level and that there would be no victimisation of employees due to the strike, the employees called off the strike and went back to work.

The employees expected normalcy to be restored and Management to keep quiet without further harassing the workers. However, they latter took in into their heads to issue chargesheets for about 49 to 50 workers on allegations of participation/instigation in strike, stopping the vans of the Officers etc. etc. There-fore has been no allegation of violence of any kind. Though we requested the Management several times since August 1965 to drop the proceedings and not precipitate matters, the Managing Director was bent upon taking action. On December 31, 1965, 13 workers were dismissed. 36 more are awaiting the axing by the Management.

We also approached since then the Labour Department as well as the Government. All our discussions brought forth words of sympathy but no concrete action to force the Management of this State Sector Industry which victimised employees in total disregard of the assurances held out by a high official of the Labour Department. Even the Ministers words till now have not borne fruit.

As all our efforts at negotiated peaceful settlement have failed, as a last resort, we have resolved to take recourse to direct action. It has been decided to conduct, as a first step, hunger strike for 6 days from 17-1-1966 to 22-1-1966 opposite the factory gates. The next step will be decided later.

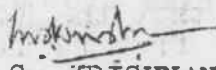
P.T.O.

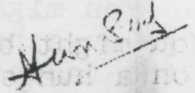
This struggle is not just a struggle of the REMCO workers. It is a struggle for security of service, against authoritarianism, victimisation and unfair labour practice in an industry owned by the Government. We request all Trade Unions and the working class of Bangalore to support this struggle in all ways.

We also appeal to you to attend a meeting of Trade Union representatives convened on 24-1-1966 at 5.30 PM at the Office of the Bangalore District Engineering Workers Union, 70-A, A.S.Char Street, Bangalore-2. Your valuable suggestions and support is essential. We are awaiting for the same.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,


(M.S. KRISHNAN)
PRESIDENT


(M. MUNISWAMY)
SECRETARY

146

27 Jan 1966

General Secretary,
Cashewnut Workers Union,
Maidan Road,
MANGALORE 1, Mysore State

Dear Comrade,

With reference to your letter of 16 Jan., we are sending you herewith a cheque for Rs. 200 as token help from the AITUC for the striking workers. Please acknowledge receipt.

We are pursuing the matter with the Union Labour Minister.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

He
(K. G. Sriwastava)
Secretary

Encl: Cheque No. *A 613420 dated 27.1.66*

The Davangere Cotton Mills Employees' Association,

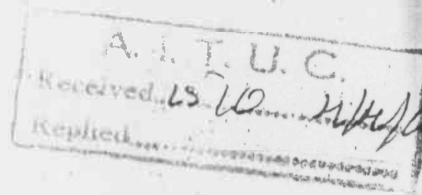
(Reg. No. 44)

Chitradurga Road, : DAVANGERE.

Ref. No. 2/66

Date 1st April, 1966

The Secretary,
All India Trade Union Congress,
Bani Jhansi Road,
Jhansi, U.P.,
NEW DELHI.



Dear Comrade,

ENCLOSED please find a copy of our letter to the Wage Board for Textile Industry.

WE had a strike of 2000 workmen in Davangere Cotton Mills, Davangere Mysore State. One of the issues is Interim Relief. We wanted Rs.20/- with effect from 1-1-65. The Management turned down the request on the ground that the issue is before the Wage Board. However conciliation proceedings were held by the Labour Department. We don't know whether the Government will refer the dispute to adjudication. At any rate, workmen are deeply discontented. Three other issues relate to removal of the Secretary of the Union from work, promotion to automatic looms on basis of seniority and payment of bonus for 64-65.

WORKMEN are particular about Interim Relief.

MAY I request you to take up this matter with the Wage Board and see that something is done.

WE are sending our Affiliation papers. We would be obliged if you can send us a temporary/provisional affiliation certificate. This will help us for purposes of representation before authorities under Industrial Disputes Act. Our Union is run exclusively by workmen.

WE are prepared for any All-India call such as a strike in this regard that may be given by you.

With Greetings

✓ *Neelappa*
(NEELAPPA)
PRESIDENT.

The Davangere Cotton Mills Employees' Association,

(Reg. No. 44)

Chitradurga Road, : DAVANGERE.

Ref. No. 1/66

Date 1-4-1966

The Chairman,
The Central Wage Board for Cotton Textile Industry,
B. N. M. B. A. Y. Hyderabad

Dear Sir,

Re: One day Protest strike in Davangere Cotton Mills,
Davangere, Mysore State--Demand for Interim
Relief

---000---

I AM to inform that the 2000 and odd workmen of Davangere Cotton Mills, Davangere, staged a one day Protest Strike on 1-4-66.

THE Workmen are deeply aggrieved that so far no Interim Relief in the matter of D.A./Wages has been given by the Mills.

IT is unfortunate that so far the wage-board has not been enabled to come to an early conclusion regarding interim relief. The news that the big mill owners in textile industry have given notice for reduction of D.A. has further perturbed the men.

WE would urge upon the Board in view of the serious discontent among workmen to give an early decision on the question of interim relief. In this connection, please permit us to draw your kind attention to the special circumstances of centres like Davangere. Though this is an important textile centre in the State, the Wage Level is generally very low. The cost of living Index Number in this City has crossed the 700 mark. The lowest wage for the month of February in Davangere Cotton Mills is about Rs.80/- all inclusive; in other units it is as follows:--

Sree Sankara Textiles	Rs.45/-
Sree Siddeshwara Textiles	38/-
Sri Ganesar Textiles	40/-
Sree Chandrodaya Mills	70/-
Sree Yallamma,woollen,cotton & Silk Mills	44/-

Thus there is great disparity in wages. In addition the wages are very low. In two mills the D.A. is stated to be linked to be cost of living Index Number, but the D.A. is very inadequate. It is Rs.43/- for 700 C.P.I. Figure in D.C. Mills. In view of this low wage compared to other similar centres an early decision regarding relief is called for. It is also to be noted that the First Wage Board did not fix any D.A. rate for Mysore State. This was taken advantage of by the managements here and a low wage was fixed. The lowest minimum total emoluments are to-day lower than what a chhapra i.e., Class IV servant is paid by the State Government. Hence it is necessary that the Wage Board give special and immediate attention to the low wage areas like Davangere. You will appreciate, we believe our feeling that some States like Mysore, were left to find their solution by the I Wage Board. We trust that you will not allow such

such an attitude to be repeated.

WE once again request for an early decision on the matter of Interim Relief.

THANKING you,

Yours faithfully,

N. C. J.
PRESIDENT