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No.2/239/63-I&E  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT.

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From

Shri R.L.Mehta,  
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary,  
~~Indian~~  
All India Trade Union Congress,  
Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi.

113 SEP 1963

Dated New Delhi, the

Subject:- Lockout of the Rolling Mills,  
Pondichery.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter dated May 28, 1963 on the above subject and to say that the Government of Pondichery with which the matter was taken up have intimated that the ~~Pondichery Rikung~~ Rolling Mills which had stopped working due to power cut started normal functioning since July 8, 1963.

Yours faithfully,

*V.V. Rama*

for Joint Secretary.

*Copy to ...  
No. 414*

*V. Subbiah  
Pondichery T. U. Council  
Vellala St.  
Pang*

True Copy

No.2/239/63-I&E  
Govt. of India  
Ministry of Labour & Employment  
- - . - -

From

Shri R.J.Mehta,  
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To

The Secretary, AITUC, New Delhi.

New Delhi , dated the 3 Sept. 63.

Sub:- Lockout of the Rolling Mills, Pondicherry.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter dated May 28, 1963 on the above subject and to say that the Government of Pondicherry with which the matter was taken up have intimated that the Pondicherry Rolling Mills which had stopped working due to power cut started normal functioning since July 8, 1963.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

for Joint Secretary.

May 28, 1963.

To,  
The Joint Secretary to the Government of India,  
Ministry of Labour and Employment,  
I & E Division,  
New Delhi.

Subject:- Lock out of the Rolling Mills.

Dear Sir,

We are enclosing herewith a copy of representation dated the 24th May 1963 from Pondicherry Rolling Mill Labour Union.

This lock out is against the Code of Discipline and the Industrial Truce Resolution. Will you please intervene and restart the Mill.

Yours faithfully,

*U.S.*  
(K.C. Srivastava)  
Secretary.

Encl:- one as above.

Copy to the Union, for information.

# Pondicherry Rolling Mill Labour Union

(A. I. T. U. C.)

7, Vellala Street,

PONDICHERRY.

2 copies

24th May 1963

The Labour Inspector,  
Pondicherry.



Sir,

Sub: Lock out of the Rolling Mills.

We wish to bring to your notice the sudden lock-out declared by the Management of Pondicherry Steel Rolling Mills from 22nd instant by putting up on the notice board on 21st evening. This was done by the management without previously discussing with the Trade Union the crisis that has overtaken the Mill forcing the lock-out and without giving sufficient notice. We don't know whether your office was acquainted with the facts of the situation of the Mill necessitating the lock-out. We feel for the following reasons that this lock-out is illegal and the Govt must declare it as such.

It is stated in the notice ~~put~~ up on the Board that "as we are completely run out of raw material the Mills will remain closed from tomorrow 22.5.63 to until further notice".

Firstly, it must be examined whether the ground for the lock-out is genuine and bona fide. It is said that there is a shortfall in the supply of billet from the Bhilai. If this is true, the Govt must come to the rescue of the industry by taking measures to procure enough supply of raw materials and save the industry and the labour employed from the crisis of unemployment. We urge the State Govt to take urgent steps in the matter.

Secondly, we wish to state here that the management of this Mill is actuated more by the desire to amass profit by hook or crook than running the industry in a reasonable way within the bounds of law serving both its own interest and that of the labour.

As far as we know this Mill need not have to come across this crisis, had they utilised the billets supplied by Bhilai judiciously and primordially to the needs of this industry. We have knowledge of the fact that about 100 tons of billets were transported from the Mill godown to another factory in Madras some six months back - quite possible for an attractive price. Had the management not resorted to this dealing, this crisis could have been averted. It is essential that in the interest of running this industry and of labour, the Govt go into the question and put an end to corrupt practices.

Even admitting that there is short supply of billets, the Management can run the Mill by utilising the miss-rolls lying at present in the mills to the extent of about 100 tons. These mangled miss-rolls may be re-rolled employing thereby the full complement of labour for another 20 days. But, we understand that the Management intend to sell off this material to some other industries outside and already a consign-

# Pondicherry Rolling Mill Labour Union

(A. I. T. U. C.)

7, Vellala Street,

PONDICHERRY.

-2-

.....19

ment has gone out. This must be stopped forthwith and the management must be asked to run the Mill as long as possible with the misc-rolls available.

Thirdly, we urge that the management shall be made to pay lay-off compensation to all workers from 22nd instant until such time as they are fully employed.

We request you to take urgent steps through the effective intervention of the Govt.

1. to procure billets to the Mill at the earliest
2. to force the management stop the selling of miscrolls and to utilise them for running the Mills.
3. to pay lay-off compensation till such time as the labour is fully employed.

Earnestly praying for your early action,

Yours faithfully,

*Dessaints. Dominique*

(PRESIDENT)

Copies to:

1. The Chief Commissioner, Pondicherry.
2. The Manager, Pondicherry Steel Rolling Mills, Pondicherry
3. The Home Minister, Govt of India, New Delhi.
4. A.I.T.U.C.,

June 20, 1963.

Dear Com. Subbiah,

Further to our letter of June 14th, I had a talk with Shri Nandaji on 18th June. He seems to be convinced with our stand and is awaiting report from his officers. We will follow it on.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

*K.G.*  
(K.G. Sriwastava)  
Secretary.

To,  
Com. V. Subbiah,  
General Secy.  
7, Veilala Street,  
Pondicherry.

June 14, 1963.

Dear Comrade Subbiah,

Yesterday I had written to the GOI on receipt of your telegram and letter. To day I have again written, and copy of the letter to Nandaji is enclosed.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

*Satish Loomba*

( Satish Loomba )  
Secretary.

Encl: one letter.



AITUC

Phone: 106

# TRADE UNION COUNCIL

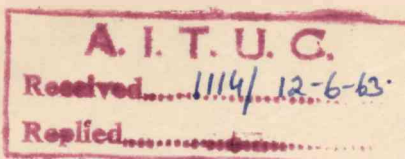
(Affiliated with the A I T U C)  
(PONDICHERRY STATE)

President:

*V. Subbiah*

General Secretary:

~~B.K.K. Ramalingam~~



7, Vellala Street,  
PONDICHERRY.

.....8-6-19 63.

*2 copies*

Sri. K.G. Srivastava,  
Secretary,  
A.I.T.U.C.,  
Delhi.

Dear Com. K.G.,

I believe you would have received my previous letters and telegram sent to you on 7th Inst.

In two textile Mills, Rodier and Bharathi Mills, the piecers in the spinning departments made up their mind to operate on the exact workload stipulated by the Textile Award dated 24th Nov. 1955 which is still in vogue here and refused to attend on additional workload which was gradually and surreptitiously imposed on the labour through unfair methods. The management refused to allow the piecers to work on the workload stipulated under Textile Award and stopped the spinning frames on 6th June 1963. Besides, the Rodier management also closed down other departments and laid off about 3500 workers in the mill. The management further suspended ~~two~~ elected delegates of our Union comrades Bakthan and Krishnan on the trumped-up charges that they fomented the strike.

The Rodier Management branded the refusal of the piecers to operate higher workload as an illegal strike and virtually locked-out the Mill without officially declaring it as such. The situation still continues, throwing out of work in the total workers in Rodier Mills, and partially in the Bharathi Mills.

I sought an interview with the Chief Secretary yesterday, 7-6-63, evening when the I.G. of police and under-Secretary for Labour were present during the discussion which went on for more than two hours. I have pointed out in the Course of the discussion ~~I have pointed out in which~~ as how the Govt. failed to bring the management to task for the deliberate and consistent violation of the Textile Award and the provisions of the All-India Textile wage Board recommendation as regards the modernisation in the mill. Besides, I drew their attention as how the Labour Inspector's office acted in ~~the~~ most ineffective way and allowed issues to go in default without timely ~~inter~~conciliation and settlement for several months. At the end, I made the following proposals in that conference.

1. To appoint an Arbitrator i.e. one-man Ad Hoc Tribunal, one who has some knowledge of the Textile problems.

This Arbitrator can take up the workload and wage issue of three textile Mills in Pondicherry as a common issue in the



Secondly, immediately after the Chinese aggression broke out in October 1962, the Trade Union Council wrote to the Chief Commissioner as also to the Councillor to Government of Pondicherry that a tripartite conference of Mill employers, Trade Union representatives and Government should be called to conclude an Industrial Truce in view of the Emergency and that pending issues should be disposed of. But this proposal was not taken up by the Government. In the circumstances, if the Government now choose to lay the blame on the Trade Union, it is obvious that they are not justified.

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June 14, 1963.

My dear Shri Nanda,

I am enclosing copy of letter which we have received from Com. V. Subbiah, President, Trade Union Council, Pondicherry.

As you will see from this letter, the situation in the Textile Mills there has become very serious and merits your personal and immediate intervention.

May I request you to please ~~to~~ treat this matter as most urgent and issue the necessary instructions. I would also suggest that if you could find it convenient to meet a representation of the AITUC at Delhi it would help in the matter.

Awaiting an immediate reply,

Yours sincerely,

*Satish Loomba*

( Satish Loomba)

Encl: as above.

Copy to General Secretary, Trade Union Council,  
Pondicherry.

PRIME MINISTER

NANDA LABOUR MINISTRY

LALBHADUR SASTRI HOME MINISTRY

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

AITUCONG

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NEW DELHI.

DESPITE PROLONGED REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST ARBITRARY INCREASE  
WORKLOAD TEXTILE MILLS PONDICHERRY NO ACTION TAKEN STOP RODIER  
AND BHARATHI MILLS SPINNERS PEACEFULLY PROTESTED AGAINST INCREASED  
WORKLOAD SINCE SIXTH STOP MANAGEMENT'S ADMANT AND TAKING VINDICTIVE  
ACTION LOCKING\_OUT DEPARTMENTS PRAY URGENT INTERVENTION APPOINT  
ARBITRATOR WITH TEXTILE KNOWLEDGE INVESTIGATE WORKLOAD.

SUBBIAH

TRADE UNION COUNCIL.

light of the Agreement dated 26th December 1962 concluded between the South India Mill owners Association and Trade Union in the Madras State.

2. To expedite the conciliation and final adjudication on all ~~pending~~ issues.

3. The old spinning piecers will work only the workload stipulated under the Textile Award of 1955.

4. To cancel the suspension of the two elected delegates of Rodier Mills.

The Chief Secretary contended that the refusal of the piecers to work on higher workload in practice would tantamount to a strike and that this was an illegal strike under conditions of emergency. I refuted this argument on the above grounds and circumstances in which this situation has developed for which the Mill managements alone are responsible. Secondly, immediately after the Chinese aggression broke out in October 1962, the Trade Union Council wrote ~~the~~ to the Chief Commissioner as also to the Councillor to Govt. of Pondicherry that a Tripartite conference of Mill employers, Trade Union representatives and Govt. should be called to conclude an Industrial Truce in view of the Emergency and that pending issues should be disposed of. But this proposal was not taken up by the Govt. In the circumstances, if the Govt. now choose to lay the blame on the Trade Union, it is obvious that they are not justified.

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Please treat this matter very urgent and meet Sri. Nanadaji (or anyone at that level) and explain to him the entire condition here and the present developments. Please write to me as to the action taken from your side.

Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

O. Subbiah